

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 02 April 2026



## Index

Sr. No.	Topic
1.	High Court Initiative to Make the Judicial System Child-Friendly
2.	Yuva Saathi Kendra
3.	2nd National Rebounder Ball Championship
4.	News in Shorts 1. Smriddhi Vyas and Radhika Soni 2. Prof. B.M. Sharma
5.	Census-2027
6.	SAMRAT SAMPRATI
7.	Jojari-Luni-Bandi River System
8.	Nuclear Power Project in Rajasthan
9.	New Income Tax Act
10.	E20 (Ethanol-Blended Petrol)
11.	Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)
12.	Global Chokepoints Amidst the West Asia Conflict: Significance and Crisis
13.	Key Warships of the Navy
14.	Sanand as India's Semiconductor Hub: A Bridge to Silicon Valley

--:1:--



### High Court Initiative to Make the Judicial System Child-Friendly



#### Why in News?

- The Rajasthan High Court has issued a circular initiating a move to create a child-friendly environment within POCSO Courts and Juvenile Justice Boards—forums responsible for hearing cases involving children.



#### Key Points:

- Under this initiative, it is no longer mandatory for judges, lawyers, and public prosecutors serving in POCSO Courts and JJ Boards to wear traditional uniforms while in court.
- This order has been implemented across the state's 64 POCSO Courts and 36 JJ Boards.

## Yuva Saathi Kendra

### Why in News?

- Under the aegis of the Rajasthan Government's Youth Board and the State Youth Policy 2026, the government has established a digital portal and a 'Yuva Saathi Kendra' (Youth Companion Center) at the Youth Hostel in Jaipur.



### Key Points:

- Target Group:** This initiative is being launched for youth aged 15 to 29 years.
- Facilities related to education, employment, entrepreneurship, and counseling will be available here under one roof.
- Single-Window System:** Everything—ranging from startup registration to job alerts—is available at a single location.
- Clinical psychologists will be present at these centers to conduct yoga, meditation, and counseling sessions aimed at stress reduction.

## 2nd National Rebounder Ball Championship



### Why in News?

- The 2nd National Rebounder Ball Championship was held in Jaipur from March 29 to 31, 2026, with Tamil Nadu emerging as the Overall Champion.



### Key Points:

#### Rajasthan's Performance:

- In the Junior category (Under-17 and Under-14), Tamil Nadu secured the first position, while Rajasthan won silver medals in both categories.
- In the Women's category, Rajasthan won the gold medal.

## NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>Smridhhi Vyas and Radhika Soni</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In the UTT 87th Inter-State Sub-Junior and Cadet National Table Tennis Championship, Rajasthan's Smridhhi Vyas and Radhika Soni won the silver medal in the Under-15 Girls' Doubles category.</li></ul>
2.	<p><b>Prof. B.M. Sharma</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Prof. B.M. Sharma, former Vice-Chancellor of Kota University, has been honored with the Gandhian Brij Kishore Singh Award-2024 by the Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Motihari (Champanan), for his book Satyagraha Ki Pathshala: Gandhi Ashram.</li></ul>



## NATIONAL

### Census-2027

#### Why in News?

- The first phase of Census-2027 commenced on April 1, 2026.



#### Key Points:

##### Census-2027:

- This is India's 16th census and the 8th census since independence.
- The last census was conducted in the year 2011.
- This is the world's largest and the first digitally conducted census. It will also feature a 'self-enumeration' option.
- Self-enumeration is a secure, web-based facility. Through this, information can be submitted online in 16 languages prior to the door-to-door survey.

--:6:--

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 02 April 2026



- It will be conducted in two phases: House Listing (HLO) and Population Enumeration (PE).
- For the first time in independent India (it was last conducted in 1931), this census will include a nationwide caste enumeration. This caste enumeration will cover all communities, including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- **Conducted by:** The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (on a decennial basis).
- **Legal Basis:** The Census Act, 1948, and the Census Rules, 1990.

UTKARSH

CIVIL  
SERVICES

--7--



## History and Culture



### SAMRAT SAMPRATI



#### Why in News?

- The Prime Minister inaugurated the Emperor Samprati Museum at Koba (Gandhinagar), Gujarat, on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti.



#### Key Points:

##### Samrat Samprati:

- Samrat Samprati was a king of the Mauryan dynasty and the grandson of Emperor Ashoka. His father's name was Kunala, and his mother's name was Kanchanmala.
- He is known by the names Indrapalita, Sangata, and Vigatashoka. Accounts of his life can be found in Jain texts such as Sampratikatha, Parishishtaparva, and Prabhavakacharita.
- He played a pivotal role in propagating Jainism and the principles of Ahimsa (non-violence) across the Indian subcontinent. He is also referred to as the 'Jain Ashoka'.

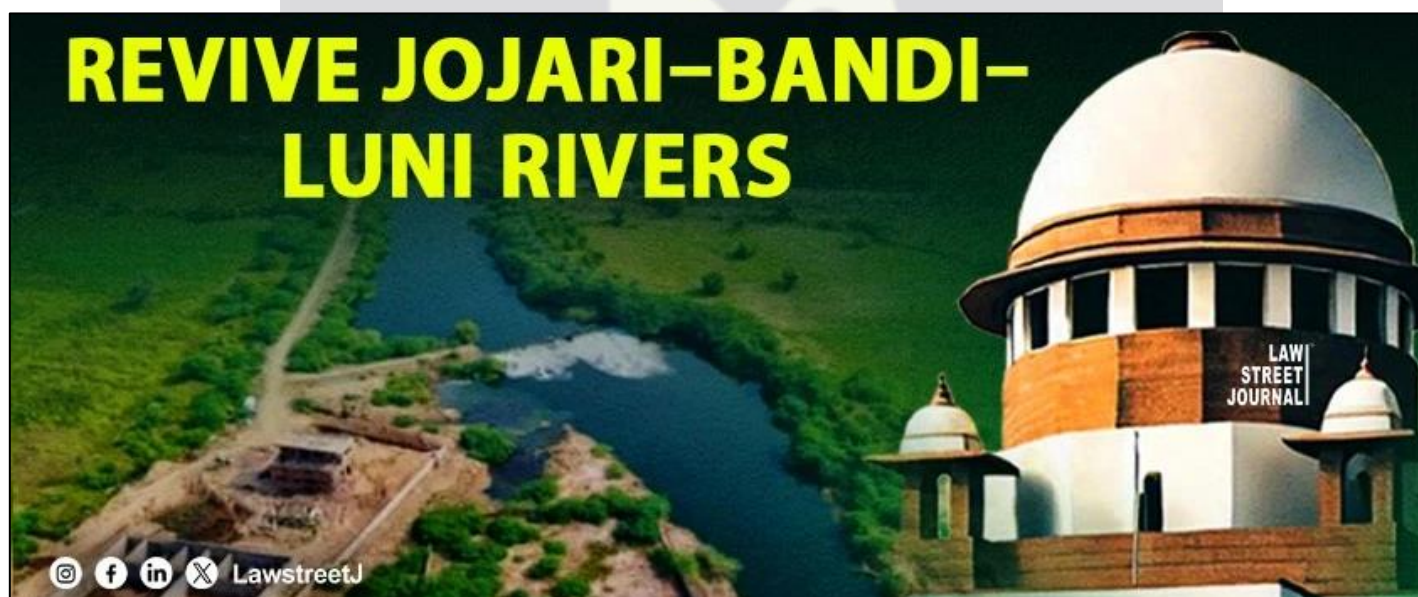
--8:--

## Geography and Geology

### Jojari-Luni-Bandi River System

#### Why in News?

- A high-level committee appointed by the Supreme Court has highlighted that industrial pollution has transformed the Jojari-Luni-Bandi river system into a toxic cocktail. This mixture comprises sludge, untreated effluents, and municipal waste.



#### Key Points:

##### Jojari-Luni-Bandi River System:

- The Luni River originates from the western slopes of the Aravalli Range, near Ajmer.
- It flows into the Rann of Kutch.
- Its tributaries include the Jojari, Bandi, Mithri, Lilri, Sukri, Jawai, and others.

--:9:--



## Economic Developments



### Nuclear Power Project in Rajasthan



#### Why in News?

- The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has granted approval for excavation work for the construction of Unit-1 and Unit-2 of the Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Nuclear Power Project.

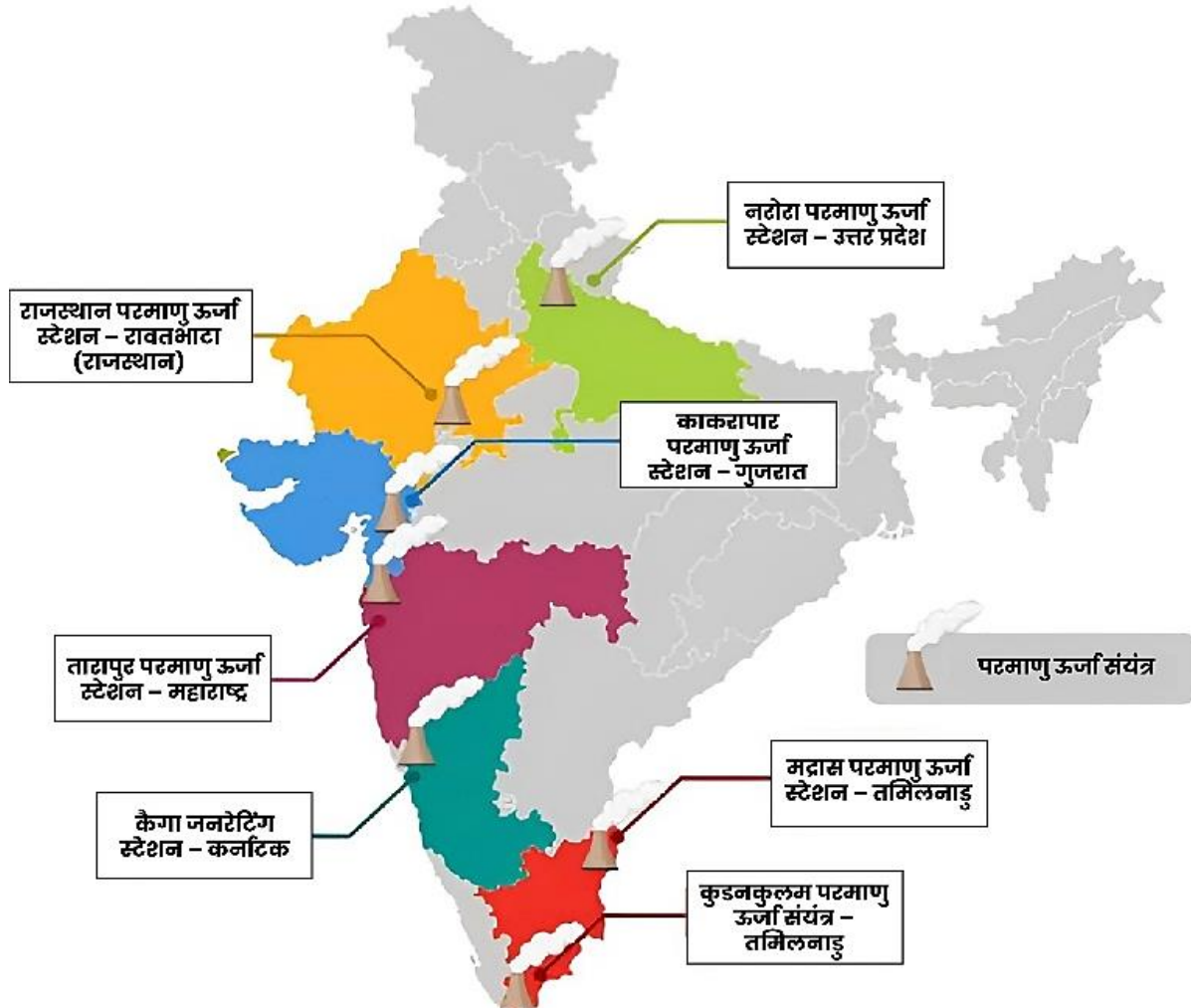


#### Key Points:

#### Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Nuclear Power Project (MBRAPP)

- **Location:** In Banswara, Rajasthan, near the Mahi Dam built across the Mahi River.

### भारत में वर्तमान में संचालित परमाणु ऊर्जा संयंत्र



--:10:--

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 02 April 2026



- **Capacity:** 4 x 700 MWe PHWRs (4 indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor nuclear power units).
- PHWRs utilize natural uranium as fuel, and heavy water (deuterium oxide) as both a coolant and a moderator.
- **Development:** By Anushakti Vidyut Nigam (ASHVINI). This is a joint venture between the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC).
- **Project:** This project is part of India's "Fleet Mode" initiative.
- Under this initiative, 10 nuclear power plants, each with a capacity of 700 MW and featuring identical designs and procurement plans, are being constructed across the country.

## Steps Taken to Boost Nuclear Power Generation in India

- **Nuclear Energy Mission:** Announced in the Union Budget 2025-26, this mission focuses on Research and Development (R&D) in the field of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). Its objective is to develop at least five indigenously designed and operated Small Modular Reactors by the year 2033.
- **Nuclear Energy Target:** 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by the year 2047.
- **SHANTI Act, 2025:** This Act consolidates and modernizes the legal framework pertaining to nuclear energy in India.
- **SHANTI stands for:** Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI).

## Nuclear Energy Capacity in India

- As of March 2026, India currently has 24 operational nuclear power reactors across 7 power plants. Their total installed nuclear power capacity is 8,780 MW (excluding RAPS-1 – 100 MW).
- The Central Government plans to increase this capacity to 22,480 MW by 2031–32.
- In 2024–25, the share of nuclear energy in India's total electricity generation was approximately 3.1%, making it the fifth-largest non-fossil fuel source of electricity.

-:11:-

## New Income Tax Act

### Why in News?

- The New Income Tax Act, 2025, came into force on April 1, 2026. The Income Tax Act, 2025, has been enacted to replace the six-decade-old Income Tax Act, 1961.



### Key Points:

#### Objectives:

- To enhance predictability and transparency within the tax system;
- To reduce the burden of regulatory compliance; and
- To provide taxpayers with a simple and streamlined process for filing income tax returns.

#### Key Provisions

- **Simplified Language and Structure:** The number of sections in the Act has been reduced from 819 to 536, while the number of forms has decreased from 390 to 190.

--:12:--

- The provisions regarding Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) and Alternate Minimum Tax (AMT) have been bifurcated into two distinct sub-sections.
- **Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT):** Its objective is to bring into the tax net those companies that, despite earning substantial profits and declaring dividends, previously paid no tax due to various tax exemptions and concessions.
- **Alternate Minimum Tax (AMT):** Its provisions are similar to those of MAT; however, this tax applies to non-corporate taxpayers (such as individuals, partnership firms, etc.).
- The provisions of the Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) apply exclusively to corporate taxpayers.
- **Concept of "Tax Year":** The previous distinct concepts of "Financial Year" and "Assessment Year" have been merged into a single, unified term: "Tax Year."

## Continuity in Core Elements of Income Tax:

- No changes have been made to the tax rates or tax structures applicable to individuals and companies.
- There are no changes to the provisions concerning offenses and penalties.
- Most definitions have been retained in their original form.
- The processes for information collection and tax assessment have been made "faceless."
- **Undisclosed Income:** For the purpose of assessing cases arising from income tax raids, the definition of "undisclosed income" has been expanded to include Virtual Digital Assets. Previously, this included cash, gold, silver, jewelry, or other valuable items.
- **Access to Virtual Digital Space:** Income Tax authorities are now permitted to access the virtual digital space during search and seizure operations.
- The virtual digital space encompasses email servers, social media accounts, online investment and trading accounts, as well as websites containing details related to asset ownership.

## E20 (Ethanol-Blended Petrol)

### Why in News?

- As per the directives of the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the sale of E20 fuel (petrol + ethanol) will become mandatory across the country starting April 1, 2026; this fuel must possess a minimum Octane Rating of 95 RON.



### Key Points:

- RON (Research Octane Number) serves as an indicator of fuel stability. It denotes the level of pressure generated during fuel combustion within a vehicle's engine.

#### E20 Fuel:

- It is an 80:20 blend of petrol and ethanol.
- According to the National Biofuel Policy, 2018 (amended in 2022), the target of blending 20% ethanol into petrol is now to be achieved by the Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2025-26, rather than by 2030.
- Benefits:** It improves fuel performance and strengthens energy security.
- Concerns:** A potential reduction in fuel efficiency in certain vehicles, and the risk of corrosion or damage in older vehicles.

--:14:--

## Schemes and Policies

### Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)

#### Why in News?

- The Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) has completed 10 years. It is a restructured form of the Indira Awaas Yojana, which was launched in 1996.



#### Key Points:

- **Launch:** Year 2016

#### Key Features of PMAY-G

- **Objective:** To provide "Housing for All" in rural areas.
- This scheme provides financial assistance to eligible rural families to construct a pucca (durable) house equipped with basic amenities. Families that do not own a house, possess a dilapidated house, or reside in kuccha (temporary) houses consisting of only one or two rooms are eligible for this scheme.

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 02 April 2026



- **Target:** Initially, the Central Government set a target of constructing 2.95 crore houses for the period spanning the financial years 2016–17 to 2023–24. The government has now approved the continuation of the scheme for the next five years (2024–25 to 2028–29), with a target of constructing an additional 2 crore houses.
- **Financial Assistance:** The minimum size of a house has been fixed at 25 square meters. Under the scheme, eligible families are provided with financial assistance of ₹1.20 lakh in plain areas and ₹1.30 lakh in hilly states.
- **Financing:** The cost of financial assistance for house construction is shared between the Central and State governments in a 60:40 ratio in plain areas, and in a 90:10 ratio in the North-Eastern and Himalayan states.
- **Selection of Beneficiaries:** Based on the 'deprivation parameters' of the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011, which are subsequently verified by the Gram Sabhas (Village Assemblies).
- **Monitoring of the Scheme:** Implementation and monitoring are carried out through an end-to-end e-governance model. The 'AwaasSoft' software and the 'AwaasApp' are utilized for this purpose.
- The implementation of the scheme is also monitored through social audits, Members of Parliament (DISHA Committee), officials from the Central and State governments, and monitoring at the national level, among other mechanisms.

-:16:-



## INTERNATIONAL



### Global Chokepoints Amidst the West Asia Conflict: Significance and Crisis



#### Why in News?

- According to a report, more than two-thirds of energy trade conducted via maritime routes relies on a few key chokepoints. These include strategic passages such as the Strait of Hormuz and the Strait of Malacca.



#### Key Points:

- These strategic maritime routes—or chokepoints—are influencing the severity of conflicts, energy prices, and global financial stability, even beyond the immediate battlefields.

#### What are Chokepoints?

### प्रमुख वैश्विक चोकपाइंट्स



- Chokepoints are strategically vital, narrow maritime passages. They are of paramount importance to global trade.

## The Significance of Chokepoints

- **Lifelines for Trade and Energy:** Chokepoints are critical to international maritime trade. Disruptions at these points can cause significant bottlenecks within global supply chains.
- **Economic Impact:** Any obstruction at these chokepoints leads to increased freight costs, longer transit times, and higher insurance premiums. This fuels global inflation and adversely affects the economies of nations dependent on imports.
- **Hubs of Geopolitical Tension:** Given their immense strategic importance, these chokepoints are frequently susceptible to risks such as military blockades, regional conflicts, and piracy.
- **The Threat of Climate Change:** Environmental shifts are creating new forms of obstruction. For instance, water scarcity in the Panama Canal is currently disrupting global supply chains.
- **Risks in Industrial and Digital Sectors:** Chokepoints are no longer confined to geography; they are now evident within industrial and digital systems as well.
- **Example:** The processing of rare earth minerals relies heavily on refining capacities that are largely concentrated in China.
- **Another Example:** Over 90% of the maritime cable capacity connecting Europe and Asia passes through the Red Sea corridor, making it a critical chokepoint for digital services.

## Potential Solutions for India

- These include diversifying energy sources and supply chains, promoting renewable energy, and considering alternative transport routes—such as the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).
- In alignment with India's 'MAHASAGAR' vision, there is a need to strengthen military capabilities to ensure the freedom and openness of sea lines of communication.

## 🕒 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 🕒

### Key Warships of the Navy

#### 📣 Why in News?

- The Indian Navy has received several key warships, marking a major achievement in the field of indigenous defense manufacturing.



#### 📌 Key Points:

##### Key Warships Received:

- **Malvan:** This is the second 'Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft' (ASW SWC). It has been indigenously designed and built by Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- It is named after the historic coastal town of Malvan. It reflects the rich maritime heritage associated with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- **Capabilities:** Underwater surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, and mine warfare.

-:19:-

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 02 April 2026



- **Three advanced naval platforms built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata:**
- **Indigenous Stealth Frigate 'Dunagiri':** This is the fifth vessel of the Nilgiri class (Project 17A). It is capable of striking designated targets using missiles.
- **Fourth Survey Vessel (Large) 'Sanshodhak':** It conducts hydrographic survey operations in both coastal and deep waters.
- **Agrey:** This is the fourth of the eight 'Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts' (ASW SWC). It is designed to destroy enemy submarines.

UTKARSH

CIVIL  
SERVICES

--:20:--

## Sanand as India's Semiconductor Hub: A Bridge to Silicon Valley

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India inaugurated a semiconductor assembly and testing facility established by Micron Technology in Sanand, Gujarat.



### Key Points:

- This project is part of the India Semiconductor Mission and reflects India's efforts toward becoming a global semiconductor manufacturing hub.
- Prime Minister Modi described it as a "bridge between Sanand and Silicon Valley."

--:21:--

## India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

- It was launched in 2021 by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) with the objective of building a comprehensive semiconductor ecosystem, encompassing design, manufacturing, assembly, testing, and packaging (ATMP).
- **Financial Outlay:** An incentive package worth \$10 billion.
- **Components:** Semiconductor fabs, display fabs, ATMP/OSAT (Assembly, Testing, Packaging), and Design Linked Incentives (DLI).
- **Progress:** Several semiconductor projects have been approved across Gujarat, Assam, and Karnataka.
- India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 was unveiled in the Union Budget 2026-27, focusing on semiconductor equipment and materials to create a "full-stack Indian semiconductor ecosystem."
- A roadmap to achieve 3-nanometer and 2-nanometer technology nodes; the goal is to join the ranks of top semiconductor nations by 2035.

## Key Government Schemes

- **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme:** Provides financial and infrastructural support to chip design startups, targeting over 100 domestic semiconductor design firms.
- **PLI Scheme for Electronics Manufacturing:** Boosts the demand-side ecosystem linked to the growth of mobile manufacturing.
- **Chips-to-Startup Program:** Access to EDA tools and fabrication support, covering over 300 institutions.
- **National Critical Minerals Mission and Rare Earth Corridor:** To reduce dependence on China and Taiwan.