

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 08 April 2026



Index

Sr. No.	Topic
1.	Western Regional Agriculture Conference – 2026: Jaipur
2.	Rishabhdev Fortnight (April 1 to 15)
3.	News in Shorts 1. Empowering Rajasthan Youth: A Legal Literacy Initiative – 2026 2. IPS Vinay Kumar: The Governor's New Aide-de-Camp (ADC) 3. 2 Participants from Rajasthan Emerge as Winners in 'Junior Editor – 8' 4. 3 Players from Rajasthan Selected for Under-19 Women's High-Performance Training Camp 5. Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet (GRAM) 6. 'Apno Khet, Apno Khad' (Our Farm, Our Fertilizer) Campaign 7. 'Dharti Mata Bachao' (Save Mother Earth) Campaign
4.	Dol Prasad Aryal
5.	Rini Sampath
6.	Borouge Petrochemical Plant
7.	Independent Russian Orbital Station – ROS
8.	12th India Rubber Expo, 2026
9.	Swachhata Pakhwada, 2026
10.	Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)
11.	Andhra Pradesh Reorganization (Amendment) Bill, 2026
12.	Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)
13.	Vietnam's New President
14.	Myanmar's New President
15.	World Health Day, 2026: April 7
16.	Artemis II Mission

--:1:--



RAJASTHAN



Western Regional Agriculture Conference – 2026: Jaipur



Why in News?

- The Western Regional Agriculture Conference – 2026 was organized in Jaipur on April 7, 2026.

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण विभाग
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि में
नए युग की शुरुआत

किसानों की आय वृद्धि,
आधुनिक तकनीक और
नवाचार पर केंद्रित

पश्चिमी क्षेत्रीय कृषि सम्मेलन
2026

सहभागी राज्य:
राजस्थान | मध्य प्रदेश | महाराष्ट्र | गुजरात | गोवा

7 अप्रैल 2026
होटल मैरियट, जयपुर, राजस्थान

--:2:--



Key Points:

- **Organizer:** Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Participating States:** Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Goa.
- **Objective of the Conference:** To provide a new direction to the agricultural sector and to formulate effective strategies aligned with changing climatic conditions.
- It is noteworthy that regional agriculture conferences have been initiated keeping in mind the geographical diversity of the country. In this sequence, the first regional agriculture conference was held in Jaipur.
- The next regional conference is proposed to be held in Lucknow (Northern Region) on April 17, 2026.
- This is the country's first regional conference where senior scientists from ICAR, agricultural experts, progressive farmers, FPOs, NAFED, NCCF, and all institutions involved in the entire value chain—from 'seed to market'—came together on a single platform.

Other Important Points:

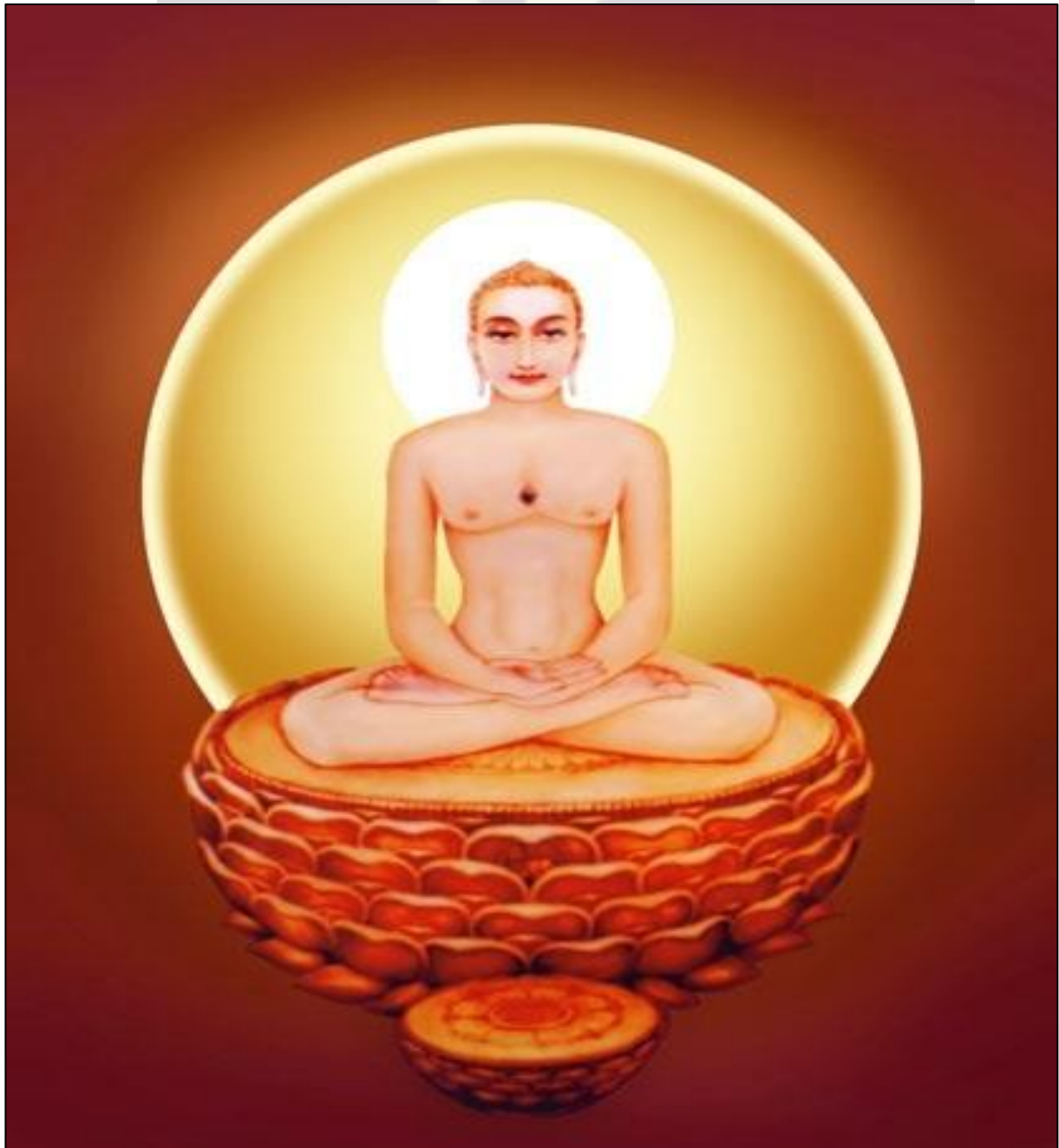
Three Priorities for Indian Agriculture:

- **Food Security:** To make the country completely self-reliant in food grains, particularly in the pulses and oilseeds sectors.
- **Enhancing Farmers' Income:** To reduce the cost of cultivation and ensure a fair price for produce.
- **Nutritional Security:** To formulate policies aimed at making nutritious food available to the general public.

Rishabhdev Fortnight (April 1 to 15)

Why in News?

- The Government of Rajasthan is observing "Rishabhdev Fortnight" in all government and private schools across the state from April 1 to April 15, 2026, to mark the birth anniversary of Lord Rishabhdev—the first Tirthankara of Jainism.



--:4:--



Key Points:

- Its primary objective is to familiarize the new generation with the humanitarian principles of Lord Rishabhdev and the rich history of Indian culture.
- **Organizer:** Department of Sanskrit Education, Rajasthan.
- **Note:** The Rajasthan Madrasa Board organized programs based on the themes of non-violence (Ahimsa), truth, and cultural dialogue in the state's madrasas, minority hostels, and residential schools from March 12 to March 15, 2026, on the occasion of Lord Rishabhdev's Janma-Tapa Kalyanak (birth and ascetic initiation anniversaries).

Facts for Prelims (Rishabhdev):

- The first Tirthankara of Jainism.
- **Symbol:** Bull (Vrishabha).
- A detailed account of his life is found in the Adipurana (authored by Jinasena).
- According to Jain tradition, Rishabhdev taught society the 'six arts' (Shad-Kala): Asi (swordsmanship), Masi (writing/script), Krishi (agriculture), Vidya (knowledge/education), Vanijya (commerce), and Shilpa (crafts).
- **Mention in the Rigveda:** The Rigveda contains explicit references to two Tirthankaras: Rishabhdev and Arishtanemi (the 22nd Tirthankara).
- In the Srimad Bhagavatam, Rishabhdev is regarded as one of the 24 avatars (incarnations) of Lord Vishnu.

NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Empowering Rajasthan Youth: A Legal Literacy Initiative – 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Recently, the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA) launched an ambitious scheme titled ‘Empowering Rajasthan Youth: A Legal Literacy Initiative – 2026’.Main Objective: To raise awareness among school students in Rajasthan regarding the law and their rights.Under this initiative, a campaign titled ‘Transformative Tuesdays’ is being conducted, which commenced on April 7, 2026.
2.	<p>IPS Vinay Kumar: The Governor’s New Aide-de-Camp (ADC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Vinay Kumar D.H. was recently appointed as the new Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the Governor of Rajasthan, Haribhau Bagde.
3.	<p>2 Participants from Rajasthan Emerge as Winners in ‘Junior Editor – 8’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Two participants from Rajasthan secured the first position among the winners of ‘Junior Editor – 8’—the largest competition organized by the news media group, Dainik Bhaskar.Saneer Pareek (Jaipur): First place in Category C (Classes 9 and 10).Payal Kumawat (Jaipur): First place in Category D (Classes 11 and 12).

4. **3 Players from Rajasthan Selected for Under-19 Women's High-Performance Training Camp**

 - Recently, the BCCI Selection Committee selected three female cricketers from Rajasthan for the Under-19 High-Performance Training Camp organized by the National Cricket Academy (NCA).
 - This camp is being organized with the objective of preparing emerging talents for the international stage (specifically, the Under-19 World Cup).
 - **Selected Players from Rajasthan:** Happy Kumari (Jhunjhunu), Tanika Sharma (Dausa), and Maina Siyol (Jodhpur).
 - **Note:** Happy Kumari from Jhunjhunu was acquired by the Gujarat Giants (GG) for ₹10 lakh in the WPL 2026 auction.
5. **Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet (GRAM)**

 - **Dates:** May 23 to 25, 2026.
 - **Venue:** Jaipur.
 - **Objective:** To familiarize the state's farmers and livestock breeders with new methods and technologies, promote innovation, ensure market access for farmers, and encourage investment in the agriculture and animal husbandry sectors.
 - **Summit Partner:** Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
6. **'Apno Khet, Apno Khad' (Our Farm, Our Fertilizer) Campaign**

 - **Duration:** April 6 to 30, 2026.
 - **Main Objective of the Campaign:** To improve soil health and reduce farmers' dependence on chemical fertilizers.
 - **Organizer:** Department of Agriculture, Rajasthan.
7. **'Dharti Mata Bachao' (Save Mother Earth) Campaign**

 - **Duration:** April 1 to 15, 2026.
 - **Main Objective of the Campaign:** To preserve soil fertility and curb the excessive use of chemical fertilizers.

NATIONAL

Dol Prasad Aryal

Why in News?

- Dol Prasad Aryal, from Nepal's ruling Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), has been elected as the Speaker of the country's parliament.



Key Points:

- President Ramchandra Paudel administered the oath of office and secrecy to Dol Prasad Aryal.
- According to a statement from the Parliamentary Secretariat, Aryal—the Vice-Chairman of the RSP—was elected unopposed as the Speaker of the lower house of the Federal Parliament during a meeting of the members of the House of Representatives.

--8:--

Rini Sampath



Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu-born Rini Sampath has become the first South Asian candidate to run for the office of Mayor of Washington D.C.
- The 31-year-old Sampath is a government contractor who has been residing in Washington for nearly a decade. She has focused her campaign on basic civic services and governance reforms.

--:9:--

Borouge Petrochemical Plant



Key Points:

- The Borouge petrochemical plant caught fire following the missile and drone attacks in the United Arab Emirates.
- This plant is located in Ruwais, near the UAE's western border with Saudi Arabia.

-:10:-

Independent Russian Orbital Station – ROS



Key Points:

- Russia will begin construction of its independent Russian Orbital Station (ROS) in 2028, prior to the scheduled decommissioning of the International Space Station in 2030.
- According to Roscosmos, the first module of the ROS will be launched in 2028, and the station will be wholly owned by Russia.

12th India Rubber Expo, 2026



Key Points:

- On April 7, 2026, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta inaugurated the 12th India Rubber Expo 2026, held at the capital's Bharat Mandapam.
- **Event Dates:** April 7 to 10, 2026
- **Organizer:** All India Rubber Industries Association

-:12:-

Swachhata Pakhwada, 2026



Key Points:

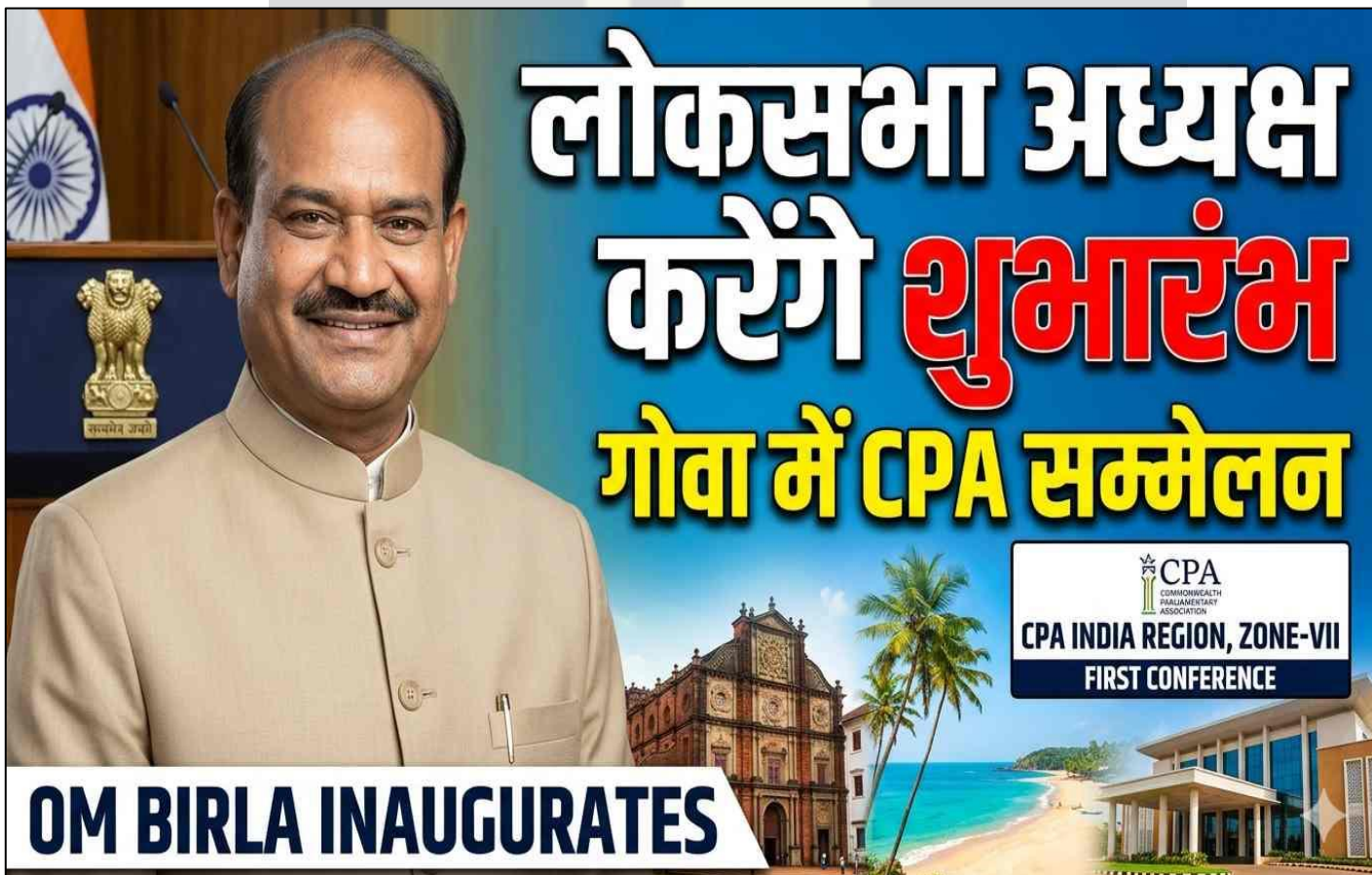
- Swachhata Pakhwada is being organized in the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, from April 1 to April 15, 2026.

Indian Governance and State System

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

Why in News?

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will inaugurate the first conference of Zone VII of the CPA India Region in Panaji, Goa, on April 9, 2026.



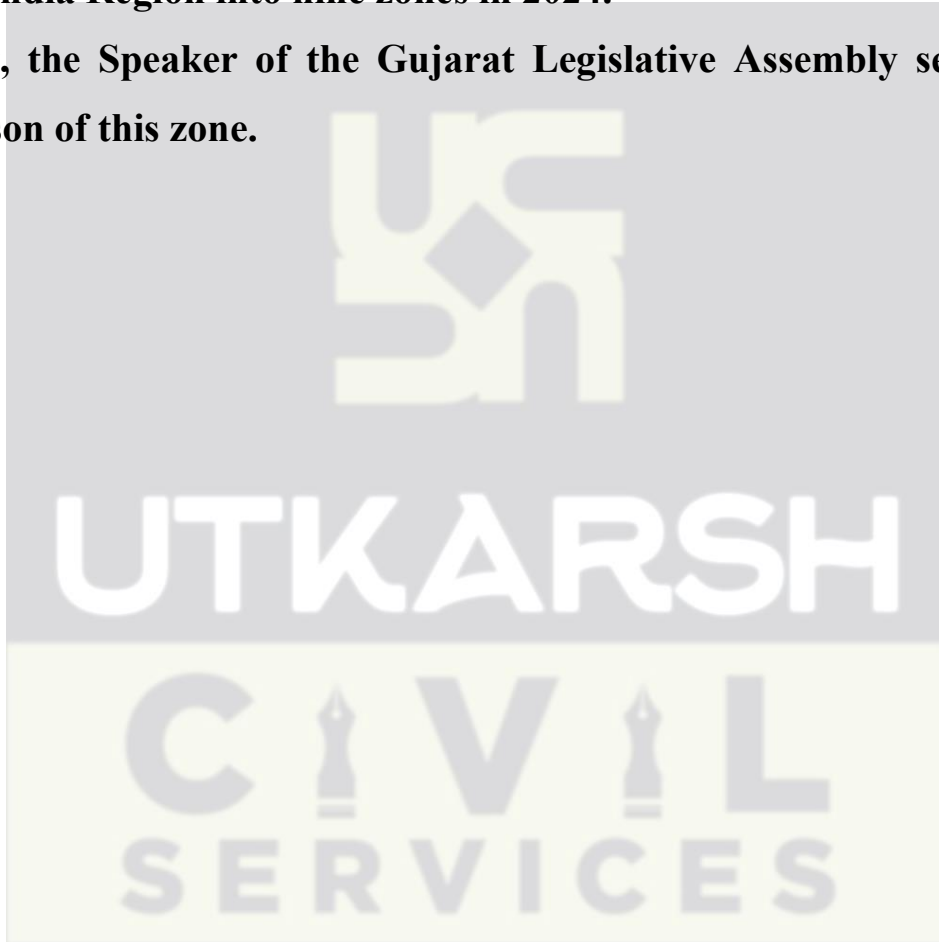
Key Points:

- The two-day conference will feature discussions on the following topics:
 1. The role of young legislators in achieving the goal of a 'Developed India' by 2047.
 2. Zone VII's priorities in the fields of trade, tourism, urbanization, the environment, and coastal connectivity.

-:14:-

CPA India Region – Zone VII:

- Zone VII of the CPA India Region comprises the Legislative Assemblies of Goa, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.
- This marks the first conference of Zone VII following the reorganization of the CPA India Region into nine zones in 2024.
- Currently, the Speaker of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly serves as the Chairperson of this zone.



Andhra Pradesh Reorganization (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Why in News?

- The President of India has given her assent to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization (Amendment) Bill, 2026, under which Amaravati has been officially declared as the state's sole and permanent capital.



Key Points:

Amaravati:

- It serves as the administrative, legislative, and judicial capital of Andhra Pradesh.
- **District:** Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 08 April 2026



- **Foundation Stone of the Modern City:** October 22, 2015.
- **Naming:** Named after the ancient capital of the Satavahana dynasty.
- **Satavahana Dynasty:** It served as the capital of the Satavahanas (from the 2nd century BCE to the 3rd century CE), who were among the first great rulers of Central and South India.
- **Amaravati Stupa (Mahachaitya):** It was one of the largest stupas in India, adorned with intricate limestone carvings renowned as the Amaravati art style.
- **Xuanzang's Visit:** The renowned Chinese traveler Xuanzang visited this region in 639 CE.

UTKARSH

CIVIL
SERVICES

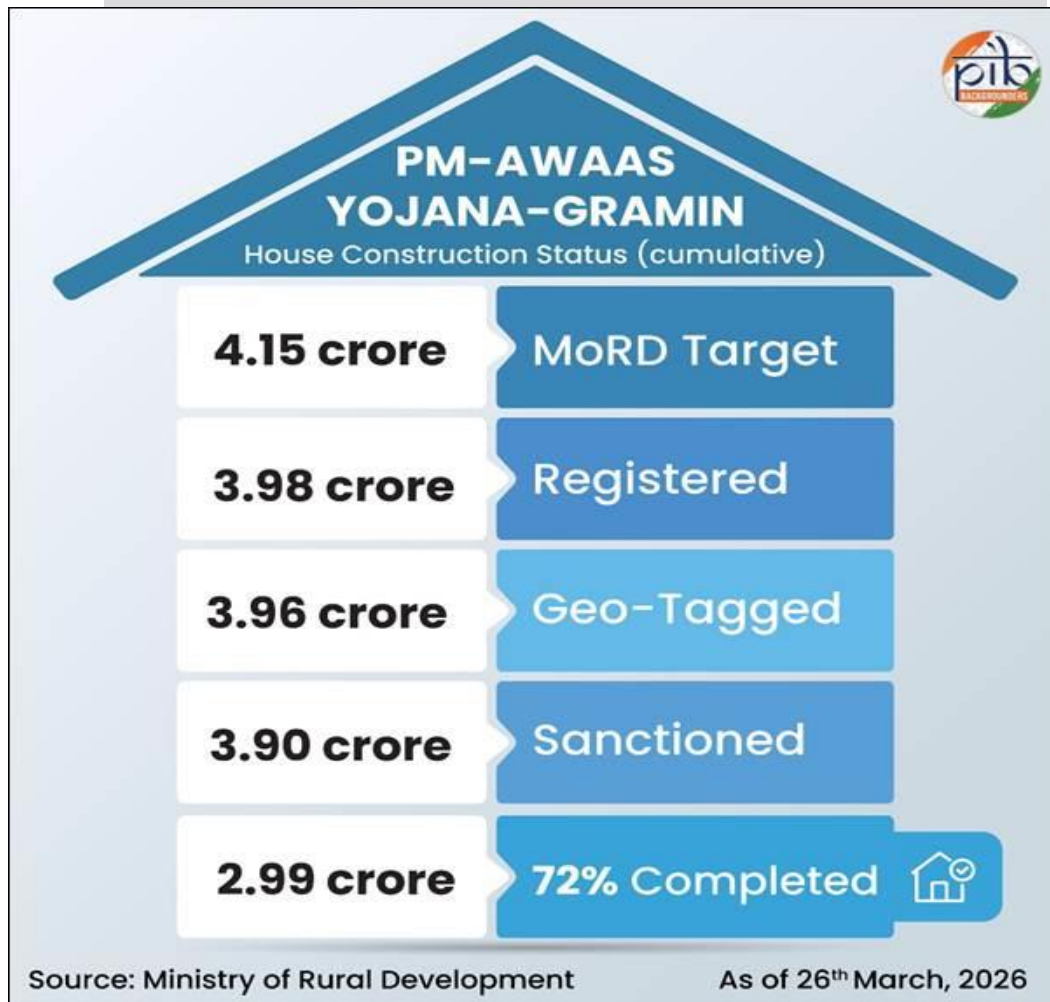
-:17:-

Schemes and Policies

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)

Why in News?

- On April 1, 2026, the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin completed one decade of existence.
- As of March 26, 2026, under Phases I and II of PMAY-Gramin, 4.15 crore houses have been allocated to the states, 3.90 crore have been sanctioned, and 2.99 crore houses have been completed.
- The objective of this cumulative target is to construct 4.95 crore rural houses by the year 2029.



--:18:--



Key Points:

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin:

- **Implementation/Launch:** April 1, 2016
- **Objective:** To provide permanent houses equipped with basic amenities to all homeless families and those living in *kuccha* (temporary) or dilapidated houses.
- **Target:** "Housing for All"
- **Implementation:** By the Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Selection:** The selection of beneficiaries involves a comprehensive three-stage verification process, which includes the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data, approval by the Gram Sabha, and geo-tagging.
- **Cost Sharing:** In the case of plain areas, the Centre and the State share the expenditure in a 60:40 ratio; for the Northeastern states, the two Himalayan states (Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand), and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the ratio is 90:10.
- In the case of other Union Territories, including Ladakh, the Central Government bears 100% of the cost.

Implementation Framework and Reforms:

1. **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** Financial assistance is released directly into the beneficiary's bank account.
2. **Geo-tagging of Houses:** At every stage of construction, photographs—complete with time and date stamps—are uploaded.
3. **Block and District Inspections:** Officials at the Block level inspect approximately 10% of the houses, while District officials inspect 2% of the houses at each stage of construction.
4. **Social Audit:** Every Gram Panchayat conducts a formal social audit at least once a year.

- National-Level Monitoring:** Officials from the Ministry of Rural Development and national-level observers visit households during field inspections.
- AwaasSoft MIS Platform:** AwaasSoft is a bilingual, web-based platform that integrates all operations of PMAY-G.

Features:

- Under PMAY-G, the minimum size of a house is 25 square meters, which includes a separate area for clean cooking. The scheme has been implemented in multiple phases to achieve its targets gradually.
- PMAY-G has empowered beneficiaries through seamless coordination with the Viksit Bharat – Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Rural) (formerly MGNREGA), Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural), Self-Help Groups, Jal Jeevan Mission, and the PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana.

Impact on Rural Households:

- Improved Standard of Living:** Families now reside in permanent houses that are durable, safe, and weather-resistant. This transition from temporary to permanent housing has enhanced the sense of security and dignity for millions of families.
- Access to Sanitation:** Through coordination with various other schemes, PMAY-G beneficiaries receive assistance of ₹12,000 for toilet construction from the Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) [SBM(G)], MGNREGA (now VB-G-RAM-G), or any other dedicated funding source.
- Employment Assistance:** The scheme guarantees 90–95 person-days of unskilled wage labor under MGNREGA (now VB-G-RAM-G).
- Clean Cooking Energy:** Coordination with the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana has helped families obtain LPG connections. This has reduced their dependence on traditional fuels.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 08 April 2026



5. **Electricity and Water Supply:** Through various government programs, beneficiaries receive electricity connections and piped drinking water.
6. **Renewable Energy Options:** To promote sustainable energy usage, solar lamps and rooftop solar panels have been introduced.
7. **Skill Development for Quality Housing:** Under PMAY-G, the rural mason training program addresses the shortage of skilled masons, ensures quality housing, and generates rural livelihoods.
8. **Women's Empowerment:** By encouraging home ownership in the name of women—either solely or jointly with their husbands—PMAY-G enhances women's property rights and social status.

UTKARSH

CIVIL
SERVICES

-:21:-

INTERNATIONAL

Vietnam's New President

Why in News?

- On April 7, 2026, Vietnam's National Assembly unanimously elected 'To Lam'—General Secretary of the Communist Party and a member of the 16th National Assembly—as the new President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the 2026–2031 term.





Key Points:

- **Voting Results:** With 495 out of 495 representatives voting in favor, the National Assembly passed a resolution electing Comrade General Secretary To Lam as the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the 2026–2031 term.
- To Lam previously served as Vietnam's Minister of Public Security.
- Lam has served as the Chairman of the National Defense and Security Council (in 2024) and also as the Secretary of the Central Military Commission (since August 2024).
- With To Lam becoming President, Vietnam's decades-old tradition of 'collective leadership' has come to an end, as the country's two top positions of power—Party Chief and President—are now held by a single individual.

Lam's Foreign Policy:

- Foreign investors constitute a key component of Vietnam's export-oriented economy.
- Lam has demonstrated a pragmatic approach in matters of foreign policy as well. He has upheld Vietnam's 'Bamboo Diplomacy' and has endeavored to balance relations with major powers while simultaneously expanding international partnerships.

Vietnam

- **Location:** It is situated in the eastern part of mainland Southeast Asia.
- **Neighboring Countries:** It is bordered by China to the north, and by Cambodia and Laos to the west.
- **Maritime Boundaries:** It shares maritime borders with the South China Sea (to the east and south) and the Gulf of Thailand (to the southwest).
- **Capital:** Hanoi.
- **Currency:** Vietnamese Dong.
- **Major Rivers:** Both the Red River and the Mekong River flow into the South China Sea.
- **Major Mountains:** Vietnam's dominant geographical feature is the Annamese Cordillera, which stretches from the northwest to the southeast across central Vietnam.
- **Highest Point:** Vietnam's highest point is Fansipan (3,144 meters).

Myanmar's New President

Why in News?

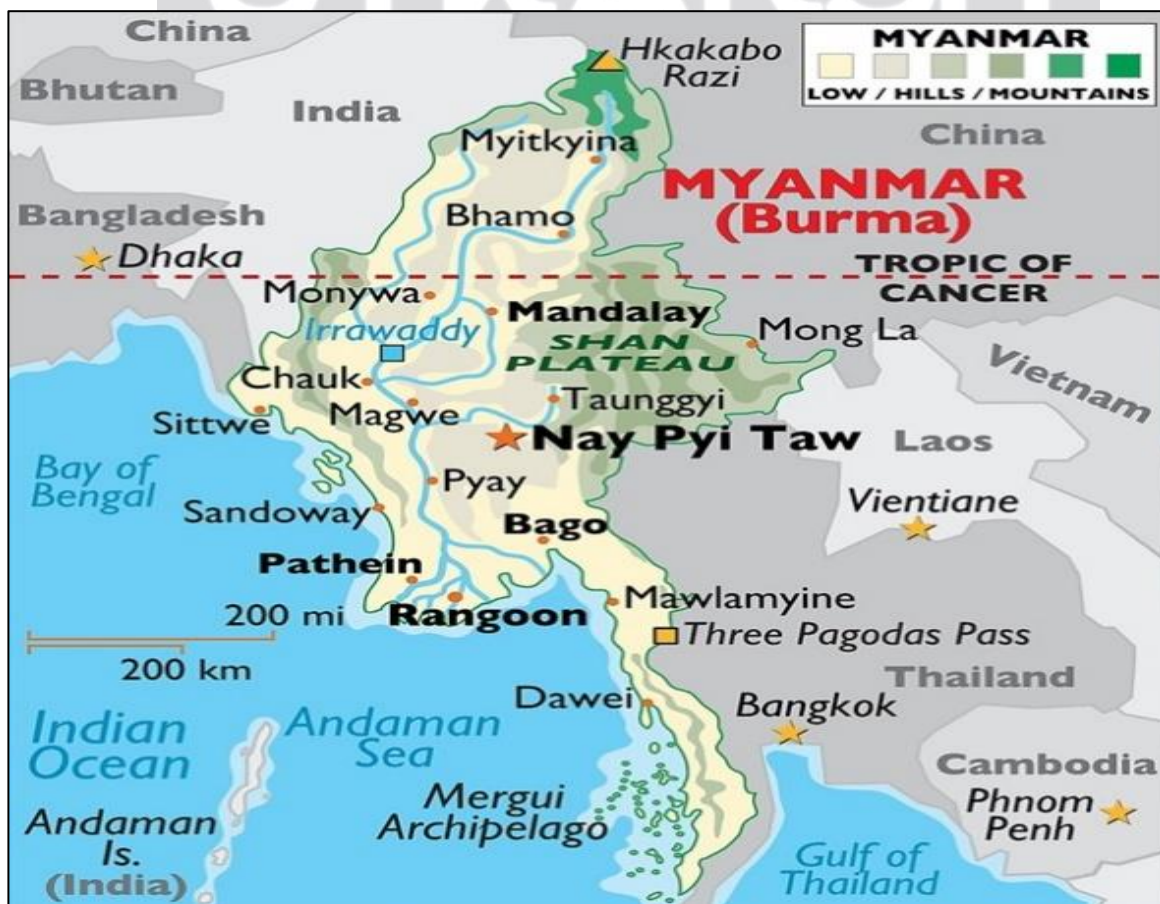
- On April 3, 2026, Myanmar's parliament elected military chief General Min Aung Hlaing as the country's new president.



Key Points:

- Myanmar's parliament elected Senior General Min Aung Hlaing as president with 429 out of 584 votes.
- Tenure:** Elected for a term of 5 years.
- He had staged a coup against the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021.

Myanmar



--:24:--

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 08 April 2026



- **Location:** The largest country in mainland Southeast Asia in terms of land area.
- **Bordering Countries:** China (North and Northeast), Laos (East), Thailand (Southeast), Bangladesh (West), India (Northwest).
- Its border adjoins four Indian states: Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram.
- **Bordering Water Bodies:** Andaman Sea (South), Bay of Bengal (Southwest).
- **Capital:** Naypyidaw
- **Currency:** Kyat
- **Major Mountain Ranges:** Rakhine Mountains, Shan Plateau, Dawna Range, Tenasserim Range, etc.
- **Major Rivers:** Irrawaddy, Chindwin, Sittaung, Salween, etc.

UTKARSH

CIVIL
SERVICES

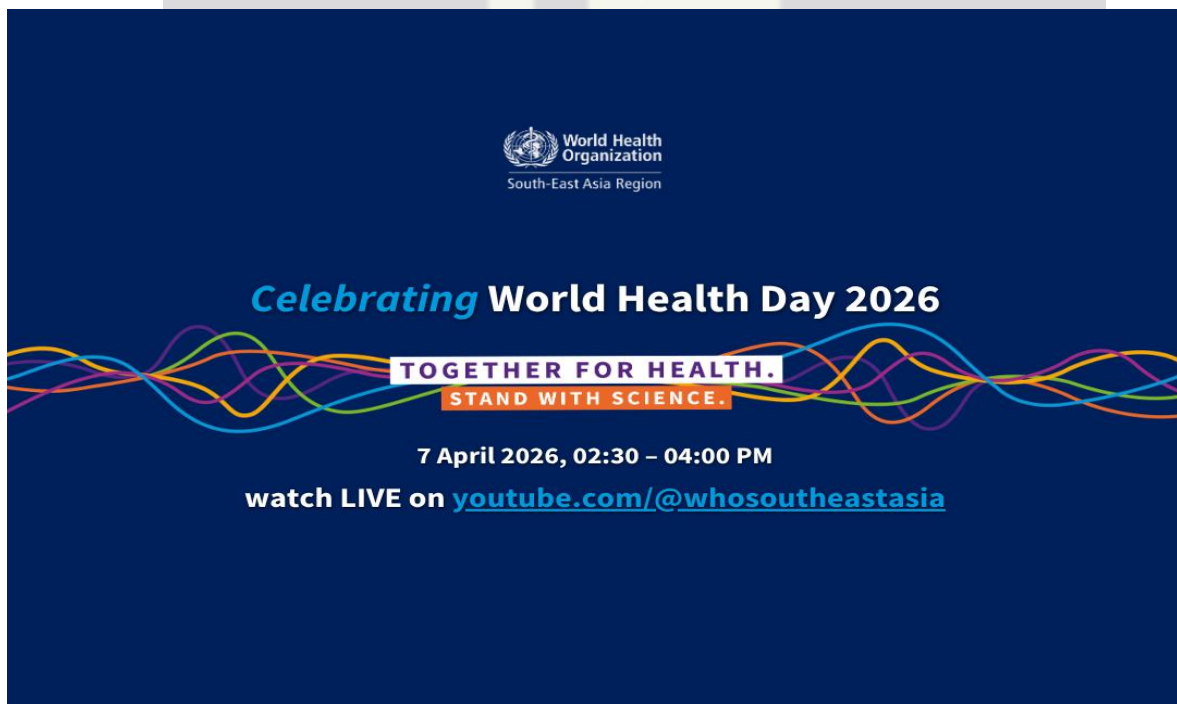
--:25:--

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

World Health Day, 2026: April 7

Why in News?

- World Health Day is celebrated annually on April 7 to commemorate the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO) on April 7, 1948.



Key Points:

- First World Health Day:** The first World Health Day was observed in 1949; however, starting in 1950, the observance was shifted to April 7.
- Official Theme for World Health Day, 2026:** “Together for Health. Stand with Science.”
- At the center of the 2026 campaign are two major global events:**
 - The International 'One Health' Summit (April 7), hosted by the Government of France under its G7 Presidency: This event underscores the importance of the 'One Health' approach in policymaking.

--:26:--

2. The inaugural Global Forum of WHO Collaborating Centres (April 7–9), bringing together approximately 800 scientific institutions from over 80 countries.

- Together, these two events constitute the largest scientific network ever established under a United Nations agency.

Other Important Points:

Health Data in the Context of India:

- **Life Expectancy at Birth:** Life expectancy at birth in India has increased by 4.11 years, rising from 63.2 [62.6 – 63.8] years in 2000 to 67.3 [66.9 – 67.8] years in 2021.
- **Mortality Rate:** Following China, India records the second-highest annual mortality figure globally.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC):

- **Ayushman Bharat (AB-PMJAY):** This is a flagship scheme aimed at achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by providing cashless healthcare services.
- **Measuring Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Progress:** India's progress toward UHC is tracked under the World Health Organization's (WHO) "Triple Billion" targets framework (Coverage, Protection, Healthy Population).

Disease Elimination:

- **Polio-Free Status:** The last case of polio in India was recorded in 2011, and the country was declared polio-free by the World Health Organization's (WHO) South-East Asia Region in 2014.
- **Elimination of Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (2015):** India has successfully eliminated this disease as a public health problem.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 08 April 2026



- **Measles-Rubella Campaign:** The world's largest vaccination drive, aiming to cover approximately 410 million children.
- **HPV Vaccination Campaign:** A nationwide, free HPV vaccination drive for 11.5 million girls aged 14, aimed at preventing cervical cancer.
- This campaign utilizes the voluntary, free, single-dose Gardasil-4 vaccine.

Category	Details
Organization	World Health Organization (WHO)
Establishment	7 April 1948 (World Health Day)
Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland
Membership	194 member countries
Regional Offices	■ Six regions: Africa, Americas, South-East Asia, Europe, Eastern Mediterranean, Western Pacific
The First Global Pandemic Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ In May 2025, at its 78th World Health Assembly, the World Health Organization (WHO) adopted the world's first global pandemic agreement under Article 19 of the WHO Constitution, aimed at strengthening health security and ensuring an equitable response to pandemics.■ This is the second legal instrument following the 2003 Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.■ The 78th World Health Assembly commended Austria, Norway, Oman, and Singapore for eliminating industrially produced trans fatty acids (TFAs) from their food supplies.

--:28:--

Artemis II Mission

Why in News?

- Recently, NASA successfully launched the second phase of the 'Artemis Mission'—Artemis II—from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

ARTEMIS 2 MISSION

HUMANITY'S NEXT GIANT LEAP TOWARD THE MOON

NASA successfully launched Artemis 2, the first crewed mission to the Moon since 1972. Four astronauts aboard the Orion spacecraft embarked on a 10-day journey to test systems, push boundaries, and pave the way for Artemis 3, which will land humans on the lunar surface.

LAUNCHED FROM Kennedy Space Center, Florida, USA
DURATION ~10 DAYS

THE CREW

- REID WISEMAN** - Commander
- VICTOR GLOVER** - Pilot
- CHRISTINA KOCH** - Mission Specialist
- JEREMY HANSEN** - Mission Specialist

MISSION OBJECTIVES

- Test the Orion spacecraft and the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket.
- Conduct a **Lunar Flyby**: orbit around the Moon and return to Earth (no landing).
- Validate life-support systems and spacecraft performance in deep space.
- Pave the way for Artemis 3, which will land humans on the lunar surface.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- LUNAR FLYBY COMPLETED**
The crew successfully flew around the far side of the Moon.
- NEW DISTANCE RECORD**
The mission covered **252,756 MILES** breaking the previous Apollo 13 record and marking the farthest distance ever traveled by humans.
- COMMUNICATION BLACKOUT**
As Orion passed behind the Moon, the crew experienced a **40-MINUTE** communications blackout. This was expected and vital for testing.
- EXTENSIVE DATA COLLECTION**
The crew witnessed Earthrise from the Moon, observed a solar eclipse, and collected significant data on the lunar surface.

TECHNICAL CHALLENGES & FUTURE OUTLOOK

- Radiation**
Protecting astronauts from deep space radiation.
- Communication**
Overcoming delays and blackouts behind the Moon.
- Life-Support Systems**
Ensuring safety and reliability for long-duration missions.

Artemis 2 is a stepping stone. If successful, NASA plans to launch Artemis 3 in **2027–28**, which will include the **first woman** and the **first Black astronaut** to step on the Moon's south pole.

CONCLUSION

Artemis 2 tests the limits of technology and human endurance in deep space—radiation, communication barriers, and life-support systems. Its success brings us closer to Artemis 3 and the safe return of humans to the Moon, laying the foundation for long-term exploration and **future missions to Mars**.

ABOUT THE ARTEMIS PROGRAM

The Artemis program, led by NASA, is the primary initiative for lunar exploration, established in 2017 under Space Policy Directive 1. Its objectives include:

- Sending humans to the Moon by 2028 for the first time since Apollo 17.
- Establishing a sustainable lunar base in the 2030s as a foundation for deep space exploration.

The program involves:

- SLS Core Stage
- RS-25 Engines
- Solid Rocket Boosters
- Orion Spacecraft
- Human Landing Systems (HLS) (by private companies)

It is a global effort under the Artemis Accords, with partners around the world.



Key Points:

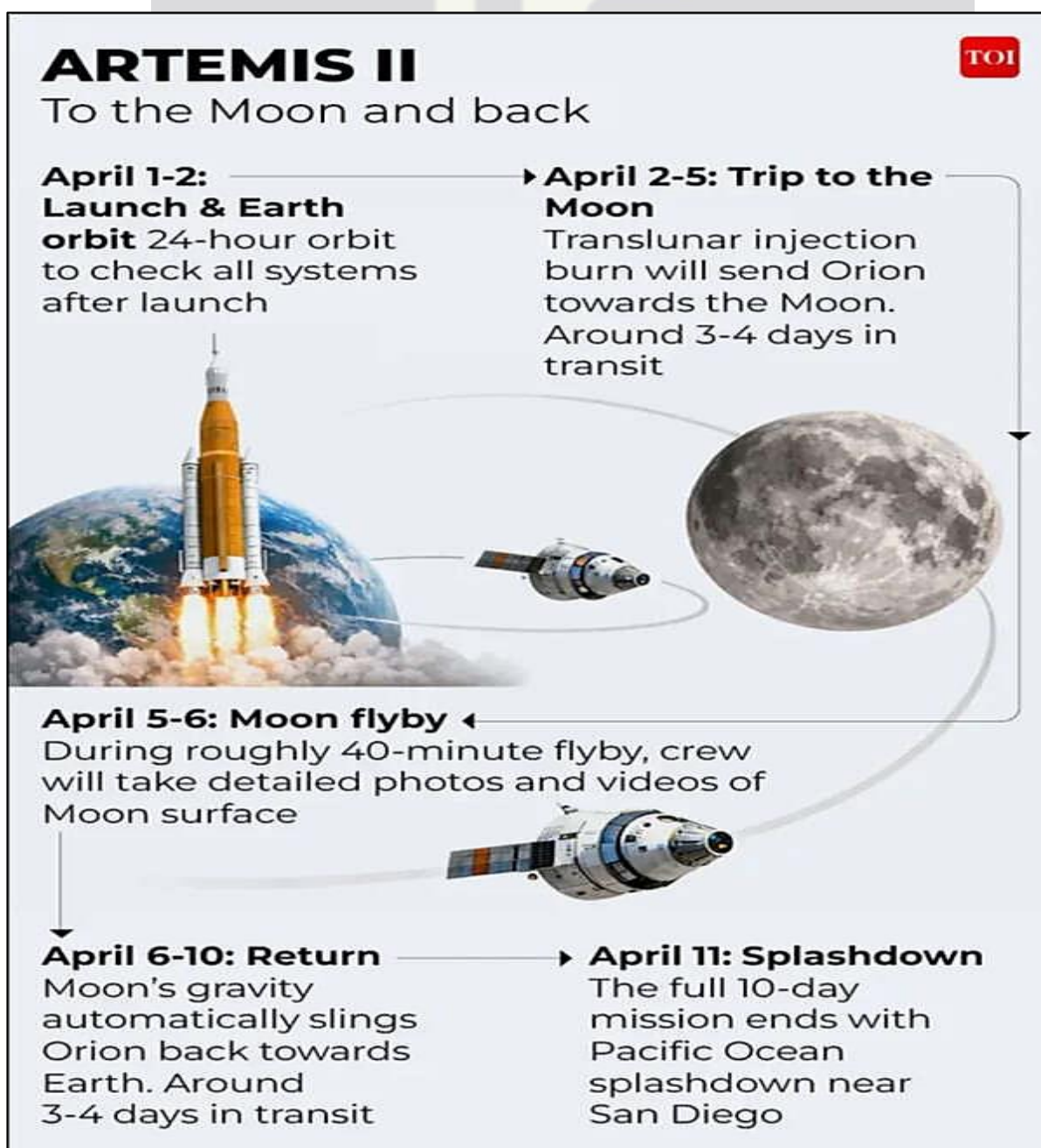
- **Introduction:** NASA's Artemis II is the first crewed mission of the Artemis program, marking the first time humans are traveling around the Moon since the Apollo 17 mission in 1972. This 10-day lunar flyby mission carried four astronauts aboard the Orion spacecraft to verify deep-space life support systems.
- **Launch:** April 1, 2026. This mission utilizes the Space Launch System (SLS)—the most powerful rocket ever built—generating 8.8 million pounds of thrust.
- **Crew Profile:** The four-person crew includes several individuals achieving "firsts" in deep-space exploration:



1. **Reid Wiseman (Commander):** A NASA veteran and former Chief Astronaut.
2. **Victor Glover (Pilot):** The first Black person to travel beyond Low Earth Orbit.
3. **Christina Koch (Mission Specialist):** The first woman to travel around the Moon.
4. **Jeremy Hansen (Mission Specialist):** An astronaut from the Canadian Space Agency (CSA); he is the first non-American to leave Earth's orbit.

--:30:--

- **Primary Objective of Artemis II:** To test the capabilities of the 'Orion' spacecraft and the 'Space Launch System' (SLS) rocket.
- **Trajectory:** This is a "Lunar Flyby" mission, meaning the astronauts will not land on the lunar surface but will instead loop around the Moon and return to Earth.
- **Splashdown:** The mission will conclude on April 10, 2026, with a landing in the Pacific Ocean.



Daily Current Affairs

Date : 08 April 2026



- **Advanced Communications:** For the first time, NASA tested Laser Communications (O2O), which utilizes infrared lasers to transmit data at 260 Mbps, enabling 4K video streaming from lunar distances.
- **Biological Research:** Through the AVATAR (A Virtual Astronaut Tissue Analog Response) experiment, the crew is studying the real-time effects of deep-space radiation and microgravity using "organ-on-a-chip" technology populated with their own cells.

Key Achievements:

- **Lunar Flyby Completed:** The mission team successfully flew past the far side of the Moon.
- **New Distance Record:** The mission broke the previous Apollo 13 record by traveling a distance of 252,756 miles, marking the farthest journey ever undertaken by humans.
- **Extensive Data Collection:** During the mission, the crew witnessed an "Earthrise" over the Moon and conducted several significant observations regarding solar eclipses and the lunar surface.
- NASA, the U.S. space agency, has shared an image of the Moon captured by the Artemis II crew while orbiting the lunar body.

Other Significant Points:

The Artemis Program:

- **Introduction and Inception:** The Artemis program is a NASA-led flagship initiative for lunar exploration, launched in 2017 under Space Policy Directive 1.
- **Objectives:** Its primary objective is to send humans to the Moon—for the first time since Apollo 17—by 2028, and to establish a sustainable base there in the 2030s, serving as a foundational step for preparing for future human missions into deep space.
- **Technology:** The program comprises the Space Launch System (SLS) core stage, RS-25 engines, solid rocket boosters, the Orion spacecraft, and the Human Landing System (HLS) developed by private companies.

--:32:--



The Artemis Accords (2020):

- **Principles:** They are based on principles such as the peaceful use of space, transparency, interoperability, emergency assistance, scientific data sharing, and responsible behavior in space exploration.
- **Members:** As of January 2026, 61 countries have joined these Accords. India signed the Accords in June 2023.
- **Updated Series of Artemis Missions:** The Artemis Roadmap, according to a NASA update from March 2026;

Mission	Details
Artemis I (Year 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ It was an uncrewed mission that successfully conducted a test flight of the SLS rocket and Orion spacecraft on a lunar trajectory.
Artemis II (Year 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ This is the first crewed Artemis mission. It was launched on 1 April 2026. It includes 4 astronauts – Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen.■ Its objective is not to land on the Moon but to perform a lunar flyby and test life-support, navigation, communication, crew operations, and Orion’s deep-space suitability.
Artemis III (Year 2027)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ According to NASA’s current official mission page, Artemis III is now a rendezvous and docking demonstration mission in low Earth orbit in 2027.■ Its main objective is to test docking and operational readiness between the commercial lunar lander system and Orion.■ It is no longer a permanent lunar landing mission.
Artemis IV (Early Year 2028)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ According to NASA’s March 2026 update, the first Artemis lunar landing is now targeted for early 2028, and Artemis IV is being presented as a crewed surface landing mission.■ Two members will conduct about one week of scientific work on the lunar surface, in the south polar region.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 08 April 2026



Prominent Lunar Missions of Various Countries:

Mission	Country	Details
Chandrayaan-1, Chandrayaan-2, Chandrayaan-3	India	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chandrayaan-1 indicated the presence of water molecules on the Moon, and Chandrayaan-3 achieved a successful soft landing near the Moon's south polar region in 2023, giving India a historic achievement in this region.
Chang'e-6 Mission (Year 2024)	China	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Became the first mission to return samples from the far side of the Moon.This complex and first-of-its-kind mission landed in the Moon's far-side South Pole-Aitken Basin, collected unique soil samples, and returned them to Earth.
SLIM (Smart Lander for Investigating Moon)	Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Landed on the Moon in January 2024 and is regarded as a high-precision or "pinpoint landing" achievement.
Argonaut	ESA (Europe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Argonaut is ESA's largest independent lunar lander program. It is Europe's autonomous lunar access project, aiming to deliver cargo to the Moon's surface via Ariane 6 from the 2030s.
IM-1 (Odysseus) (Year 2024)	USA (Private)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The first successful lunar landing by a commercial company and the first U.S. return to the lunar surface in 50 years, although the lander showed a slight tilt during landing.

--:34:--