



## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 03, 2026**

### **NATIONAL**

#### ➤ **NCERT Gets 'Deemed University' Status**

- ✓ The National Council of Educational Research and Training has been granted 'deemed to be university' status by the Ministry of Education on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission.
- ✓ This status provides greater academic autonomy and allows NCERT to offer PhD and advanced research programs while introducing innovative courses.
- ✓ It strengthens NCERT's role in shaping education policy, curriculum development, and teacher training through research-driven approaches.
- ✓ The move aligns with India's education reforms, promoting evidence-based policymaking and improving learning quality.

#### ➤ **E20 Petrol India 2026**

- ✓ Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has introduced E20 petrol (20% ethanol blend) nationwide from April 1, marking a major step toward cleaner fuel in India. This move aims to reduce pollution, cut crude oil imports, and enhance energy security.
- ✓ E20 fuel consists of 80% petrol and 20% ethanol derived from crops like sugarcane and maize, offering higher octane and cleaner combustion with lower emissions.
- ✓ While most modern vehicles are compatible with E20, older vehicles may experience slight efficiency or performance changes.

- ✓ The rollout aligns with India's ethanol blending programme, transitioning from E10 to E20, and supports the country's long-term goal of sustainable and eco-friendly mobility.
- **Brand Ambassador for India Census 2027**
- ✓ Sand Artist Sudarshan Pattnaik Appointed Brand Ambassador for India Census 2027 by the Ministry of Home Affairs to promote public participation in India's first-ever digital census.
- ✓ A Padma Shri awardee, Pattnaik is globally known for using sand art to spread awareness on social issues, making him an ideal choice for this nationwide campaign.
- ✓ Census 2027 will introduce digital data collection through mobile apps and self-enumeration, improving accuracy, transparency, and efficiency.
- ✓ The census will be conducted in two phases – Houselisting (April–September 2026) and Population Enumeration (February 2027) – marking a major shift in India's demographic data collection system.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **Mission Mitra**
- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation has launched Mission Mitra under the Gaganyaan Mission in the extreme conditions of Ladakh to test astronaut endurance and psychological strength.
- ✓ Mission Mitra (Mapping of Interoperable Traits & Reliability Assessment) simulates space-like conditions such as isolation, low oxygen, and extreme cold to study teamwork, communication, and stress response.
- ✓ Astronauts live and work in these harsh conditions while researchers monitor their mental resilience and coordination, preparing them for long-duration space missions.

## DEFENCE

- **Exercise 'Dweep Shakti'**
- ✓ The high-intensity tri-service exercise 'Dweep Shakti' was conducted from 24 to 28 March 2026, showcasing joint operational capabilities of the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force.

- ✓ It focuses on the rapid deployment of forces to protect remote island territories from maritime threats.
- ✓ The primary objective is to refine integrated tactics and procedures for rapid response, ensuring the three services can operate as a single cohesive unit during amphibious assaults and maritime dominance operations.
- ✓ The forces carried out coordinated amphibious assaults, maritime operations and complex beach landing drills using next-generation equipment and drones.

## **BOOKS & AUTHOURS**

- **“Tides of Time: Bharat’s History through Murals in Parliament”**
- ✓ The Vice President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, released the book “Tides of Time: Bharat’s History through Murals in Parliament” authored by MP Smt. Sudha Murty at Samvidhan Sadan, New Delhi.
- ✓ The book highlights 124 parliamentary mural panels, showcasing India’s journey from the Indus Valley Civilization to the freedom struggle, including figures like Maharishi Valmiki, Chanakya, Ashoka, Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Gandhi, and Subhas Chandra Bose.

