

**06th June DSC**

**Current Affairs 06th June 2025.**

### **Census to Conclude by March 2027: Government's Statement**

#### **Key Developments:**

India's forthcoming Census will be completed by March 1, 2027. Marking a historic shift, it will be the nation's first digital Census. Uniquely, it will also be the first post-Independence enumeration exercise to include caste-based data collection.

#### **Relevance: GS Paper 2 (Social Issues, Governance)**

#### **Schedule & Reference Points:**

The Census will be conducted in two phases, concluding by February 28, 2027.

Reference dates include:

- March 1, 2027, for most regions in India.
- October 1, 2026, for snow-prone areas like Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

The formal notification under Section 3 of the Census Act, 1948 is likely to be issued on June 16, 2025. The precise starting date for enumeration is yet to be announced.

#### **Digital Census Significance:**

The digital approach aims to enhance data precision, operational efficiency, and provide real-time analytics. This may involve the use of mobile applications or digital interfaces by field enumerators. Ensuring data security and infrastructural preparedness will be critical hurdles.

#### **Caste Data Collection:**

This Census will, for the first time since Independence, gather caste-based information. Such data could significantly aid policy development, welfare schemes, and social equity strategies. Nevertheless, it could ignite socio-political debates over reservation adjustments and caste-based politics.

#### **Political Repercussions:**

According to Articles 82 and 170 of the Constitution, the first Census post-2026 will inform the process of redrawing parliamentary and legislative constituencies. Presently, constituency boundaries are based on 1971 Census data, due to a freeze introduced by the 42nd Amendment and extended by the 84th Amendment (2001). The 2027 Census might thus catalyze major political realignments, especially in states with dense populations.

#### **Emerging Challenges:**

With a 16-year delay since the last Census (2011), the enumeration originally due in 2021 was postponed due to the pandemic. Conducting this exercise now requires massive logistics, digitally trained personnel, and robust cybersecurity protocols. In addition, caste data and regional population disparities may lead to intense national discourse.

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### **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in India's Green Energy Path**

### **Transforming Energy Security:**

The energy narrative has evolved due to climate change. Energy security now includes not only availability and affordability but also environmental sustainability. Renewable energy sources satisfy this expanded framework, supporting Sustainable Development Goal 7 focused on clean energy access.

### **Relevance: GS Paper 3 (Energy, Environment and Ecology)**

#### **Why Energy Storage is Vital:**

The intermittent nature of solar and wind energy limits reliability. BESS offers critical solutions such as:

- Grid reliability
  - Load balancing
  - Managing peak power demands
  - Supporting decentralised models like microgrids
- Additionally, it facilitates deeper renewable penetration and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

#### **Cost and Technology Outlook:**

Battery costs have dropped nearly 90% in 15 years, making BESS an attractive option due to its scalability, cost-effectiveness, and fast installation. However, the sector faces roadblocks such as regulatory gaps, limited funding, technical hurdles, and scarcity of essential minerals.

#### **India's Targets & Current Status:**

India aims for 500 GW of non-fossil energy by 2030, with 217.62 GW already in place by January 2025. The target for BESS alone is 47 GW by 2032. Key enabling policies include:

- Viability Gap Funding (VGF)
- Waivers on interstate transmission charges until June 2025

#### **Economic Survey 2024–25 Challenges:**

Major issues highlighted include:

- Inadequate grid modernization
- Sluggish adoption of BESS by large industries
- Limited availability of critical battery minerals
- Slow progress on large-scale implementation agreements

#### **Innovation Needs:**

There is a pressing need for strategic investments in battery technology, grid capacity, and resilient mineral supply chains.

#### **Partnerships as Catalysts:**

Collaborations between government, private firms, and philanthropic entities can unlock concessional financing and technical training. Delhi's BESS pilot (by BSES Rajdhani, IndiGrid, GEAPP) offers a blueprint for regulation and scale-up.

### India's Global Role in BESS:

To solidify its leadership in renewables, India must strengthen its domestic battery industry, invest in recycling, and build flexible grid systems. Initiatives like the BESS Consortium under GEAPP can foster cross-sector cooperation. Ultimately, BESS is key to energy security, climate targets, and grid reliability.

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### India's Textile Sector: Seeding Sustainability for Future Leadership

#### Need for Sustainable Overhaul:

India, a top global textile producer, now faces global supply chain disruptions, pricing instability, and geopolitical issues. To maintain its leadership, the industry must embrace sustainability, resilience, and innovation.

#### Relevance: GS Paper 3 (Sustainability)

#### Regenerative Agriculture:

Sourcing sustainable raw materials is crucial. Regenerative farming addresses soil erosion and climate impacts. Over a million hectares are currently under pilot projects led by the Agriculture Ministry.

- In Aurangabad, 6,000+ farmers have reported better yields, reduced chemical use, and higher profits.  
This model ensures climate-adaptive, low-input agriculture, promotes female participation, and enhances global supply chain inclusion and transparency.

#### Emphasis on Traceability:

A 2023 survey shows 37% of consumers prefer traceable products. Traceability ensures brand credibility, consumer trust, and transparent sustainability narratives. Indian initiatives include:

- Kasturi Cotton, which enhances Indian cotton's global reputation.
- The pending India-U.K. FTA may further support sustainable exports.  
European and British markets' preference for ethical products could give India an edge.

#### Advancing Circularity:

India generates 8.5% of the world's textile waste. Circular design strategies now focus on:

- Extended product life
- Recyclable and biodegradable materials
- Eco-friendly packaging and disposal methods  
Some firms are converting factory waste into new designs or soil-restorative materials. These methods reduce resource dependency, generate employment, and align with India's REIAI and Viksit Bharat goals.

#### Strategic Goals:

The sector aims for a \$350 billion valuation and 35 million jobs by 2030. Future leadership must blend scale with sustainability, driven by genuine green practices rather than superficial efforts.

#### Conclusion:

India should lead with a responsible "Make in India for the World" model. Focus areas include:

- Regenerative farming
  - Digital traceability
  - Circular production
- Choices made today will shape India's sustainable and globally competitive textile future.
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## Is Global Warming Becoming a Diversion?

### Global Warming Benchmarks:

The 2°C (later 1.5°C) limit under the Paris Agreement emerged from early economic models—not hard science. These thresholds fail to capture the complex, non-linear, and local nature of climate impacts. Distinctions between 1.5°C, 1.75°C, or 2°C are minimal in terms of disaster preparedness.

### Relevance: GS Paper 3 (Environment and Ecology)

#### Model Limitations:

Long-term projections (post-2050) suffer from immense uncertainty due to:

- Uncertain emission trajectories
  - Unknown technologies and policies
  - Varied datasets yielding different temperature outcomes
- Brief spikes (like those seen in 2023–2024) don't necessarily indicate a breached threshold.

## Is Global Mean Warming Distracting Us?

Yes — excessive focus on global temperature averages overshadows urgent needs such as:

- Local disaster readiness
  - Community-level adaptation and infrastructure
- There's a gap between theoretical targets and real-world preparedness.

### The Real Crisis: Escalating Disasters

India and the world are witnessing more frequent, prolonged, and intense climate disasters — heatwaves, floods, and droughts. The resulting insurance and livelihood losses demand immediate attention.

### Where Should Focus Lie?

Improved short-to-medium-term climate forecasts (daily to decadal) are vital.

Hyperlocal early-warning systems can:

- Improve disaster response
  - Guide infrastructure design
- It's crucial to:
- Track forecasting accuracy



- Ensure timely alerts
- Record failures for system improvement

### **Equity and Global Action:**

While the tropics remain highly vulnerable, temperate regions are also at increasing risk. UN programs like “Early Warnings for All” aim to support warning systems in poorer countries.

### **Bottom Line:**

Climate consequences depend not only on warming but on human preparedness.

► While mitigation must continue, adaptation, resilience, and operational readiness are equally crucial.

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### **India’s Environmental Woes: Worsening Trends**

India’s ecological crisis has deepened significantly over the past decade. With surging emissions, deteriorating biodiversity, and unchecked pollution, the environmental situation has become dire despite global climate efforts.

### **Relevance: GS Paper 3 (Environment and Ecology)**

#### **Worsening Indicators:**

- **Emissions:** CO<sub>2</sub> output rose from 2.33 billion tonnes (2015) to 3.12 billion tonnes (2024), a 34% increase. Coal continues to dominate electricity generation (~70%).
- **Biodiversity:** Habitat loss, wetland encroachment, and monoculture cropping are accelerating species extinction and ecosystem breakdown.
- **Pollution:** India ranks among the world’s most polluted nations. Urban air (e.g., Delhi) remains toxic. Rivers like the Ganga and Yamuna suffer from industrial and sewage pollution.

#### **Key Drivers:**

- **Fossil Fuels:** Overreliance on coal, oil, and gas. Renewables have yet to scale adequately.
- **Land Use Change:** Forests are cleared for mining, infrastructure, and hydro projects.
- **Agricultural Practices:** Monocultures and excessive agrochemical use degrade land and contaminate water.
- **Urban Waste:** Of 62 million tonnes of annual waste, only 20% is treated. Landfills overflow, and untreated sewage pollutes ecosystems.
- **Overconsumption:** Developed nations export environmental burdens to developing economies. Export-driven industrial growth often bypasses environmental norms.

### **India in Global Climate Justice:**

Per capita emissions remain low (~1.9 tonnes) compared to the U.S. (~14.7 tonnes), but absolute emissions are growing. Vulnerable communities in India bear the brunt of climate shocks despite being the least responsible for historical emissions.

### Needed Interventions:

- **Global Action:** Rich nations must reduce emissions, finance clean transitions, and halt pollution outsourcing.
- **Corporate Regulation:** Enforce green laws and carbon taxes. Ban imports from polluting companies.
- **Sustainable Development:** Support organic farming, green jobs, and community conservation.
- **Policy Integration:** Align environmental priorities with urban planning, infrastructure, and the economy.

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### New National Policy for India's Ageing Population

#### Background:

With India's elderly population expected to reach 20% by 2047, the government is crafting a comprehensive policy to cater to evolving needs.

#### Relevance: GS Paper 2 (Social Justice, Governance)

#### Demographic Trends:

In 2011, seniors accounted for 8.23% of the population. This is projected to increase to 12.16% by 2026, and 20% by 2047. The new policy seeks to proactively address this ageing shift.

#### Policy Drafting Process:

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is leading the drafting process in consultation with stakeholders, aiming to ensure the policy is future-ready.

#### Fourth National Council Discussion:

Topics included:

- Digital inclusion of the elderly
  - Addressing elder abuse
  - Promoting community involvement
  - Encouraging intergenerational solidarity
- Suggestions were made to formalise the role of NGOs and senior citizen groups in policy delivery and feedback.

#### Elder Care Systems:

The focus is on establishing quality benchmarks for old age homes and better monitoring of government-distributed assistive devices.

#### Assessment of Existing Schemes:

Progress has been reviewed for:

- *Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY):* Over 5 lakh elders given free devices.

- *Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC)* and the *Senior Citizen Portal* were also examined.

### Policy Vision:

The proposed policy aims to adopt a rights-based, inclusive framework. Its goal is to equip India with the institutional, social, and economic infrastructure needed for an ageing society.

## IMEC Faces Delay Due to West Asia Crisis

### Geopolitical Concerns:

Ongoing instability in West Asia—including the Israel-Palestine conflict and Iran-related tensions—could stall the implementation of the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC). These regions' volatility endangers investment and infrastructure plans.

### Relevance: GS Paper 2 (International Relations)



### What is IMEC?

A strategic multi-modal route connecting India, the Gulf, and Europe through shipping, railways, and roadways. It offers an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), having been introduced at the 2023 G20 Summit in India.

### BRI Competition:

China's BRI has broader global reach and established financial mechanisms. For IMEC to thrive, it must differentiate via faster execution, geopolitical synergy, and greater private participation.

### Implementation Challenges:

Non-political but significant technical challenges include:

- Divergent regulatory systems
- Technical standards

- Transport infrastructure compatibility
  - Customs and taxation inconsistencies
- These could hamper efficiency and reduce transit benefits.

**Institutional Necessities:**

Experts advocate establishing an IMEC Secretariat to streamline coordination among all stakeholders. Without such a framework, the project risks stagnation.

**Funding Gaps:**

Relying solely on public funds is inadequate. Active involvement from private investors—those who stand to benefit—will be crucial.

**Customs Issues:**

Even if IMEC reduces transit time, inconsistent customs processes at border points could negate such gains.

**Strategic Objectives:**

IMEC supports India's broader goals of diversifying trade routes, strengthening links with Europe, and countering China's global influence. Its success, however, hinges on political stability, efficient coordination, and committed partnerships.

**06th June 2025: Static MCQS**

1. Consider the following statements:

- Panchayats at the intermediate level exist in all states.
- To be eligible to be a member of a panchayat at the intermediate level, a person should attain the age of thirty years.
- The chief minister of a state constitutes a commission to review the financial position of panchayats at the intermediate levels and to make recommendations regarding the distribution of net proceeds of taxes and duties, leviable by the state, between the state and panchayats at the intermediate level.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

- I and II only
- II and III only
- I and III only
- I, II and III

Correct Option: (d)

2. Consider the following statements in respect of BIMSTEC:

- It is a regional organization consisting of seven member states till January 2025.
- It came into existence with the signing of the Dhaka declaration, 1999.



III. Bangladesh, india, sri lanks, Thailand and Nepal are founding member states of BIMSTEC.

IV. In BIMSTEC, the subsector of 'tourism' is being led by india.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. I and II
- b. II and III
- c. I and IV
- d. I only

Correct Option: (c)

3. Who amongst the following are members of the Jury to select the recipient of 'Gandhi Peace Prize'?

- I. The president of india
- II. The prime minister of india
- III. The chief justice of india
- IV. The leader of opposition in the lok sabha

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a. II and IV only
- b. I, II and III
- c. II, III and IV
- d. I and III only

Correct Option: (c)

4. GPS-Aided Geo augmented navigation (GAGAN) uses a system of ground stations to provide necessary augmentation. Which of the following statements is/are correct in respect of GAGAN?

- I. It is designed to provide additional accuracy and integrity.
- II. It will allow more uniform and high quality air traffic management.
- III. It will provide benefits only in aviation but not in other modes of transportation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a. I, II and III
- b. II and III only
- c. I only

d. I and II only

Correct Option: (d)

5. Consider the following statements regarding AI action summit held in grand palais, paris in February 2025:

- I. Co-chaired with india, the event builds on the advances made at the Bletchley park summit held in 2023 and the seoul summit held in 2024.
- II. Along with other countries US and UK also signed the declaration on inclusive and sustainable IA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- I. I only
- II. II only
- III. Both I and II
- IV. Neither I nor II

Correct Option: (a)

