

April 29, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. India is set to receive the fourth unit of the S-400 air defense system from Russia next month.

(i) In October 2018, India signed a deal worth 5 billion dollars (approximately ₹47,000 crore) with Russia to procure the highly advanced S-400 Triumf air defense system, which is capable of destroying aerial targets from the ground.

(ii) Under this agreement, it was planned to procure five units of the S-400 system. Out of these, Russia has already delivered three units to India.

(iii) Following this, the fourth unit of the air defense system is expected to be handed over to India in early next month (May). It is reported that the system has been shipped to India via sea and is expected to arrive within the next few days.

(iv) The fifth unit of the S-400 air defense system is expected to be delivered to India in November this year, according to informed sources.

(v) Additionally, the Central Government approved last month the procurement of five more S-400 systems from Russia. With these additional five systems, India will have a total of ten S-400 air defense systems from Russia.

(vi) During the military conflict between India and Pakistan last year from May 7 to May 10, under Operation Sindoor, the S-400 played a crucial role in protecting Indian territory from missile attacks.

2. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has announced that it will withdraw from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) effective May 1.

(i) The UAE joined the organization in 1967 through Abu Dhabi and continued its membership even after becoming an independent nation in 1971. It has now ended a relationship spanning more than 50 years.

(ii) Economists have predicted that the exit of the UAE, a long-time member, will further weaken OPEC, which is already facing several disagreements related to geopolitical issues and production quotas.

(iii) UAE Energy Minister Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei stated that the decision was made only after carefully reviewing the country's current and future energy strategies. He also mentioned that no consultation was held with Saudi Arabia, which holds a leadership role within OPEC, regarding this withdrawal.

(iv) Under the direct intervention of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia has increasingly begun competing with the UAE in attracting foreign investments.

(v) Similarly, in the Yemen civil war, Saudi and UAE forces jointly acted against Iran-backed Houthi rebels. However, in December last year, Saudi Arabia carried out airstrikes destroying arms depots belonging to UAE-backed separatist groups.

(vi) Thus, the UAE's withdrawal from OPEC is being viewed as the culmination of intense regional political and economic rivalry between the two countries.

(vii) Another major reason cited for this decision is that OPEC's conditions requiring reduced oil production

had become an obstacle to the UAE's economic growth.

(viii) Despite exiting OPEC, the UAE has clarified that it plans to gradually and systematically increase crude oil production based on global market demand. Through this, the country has assured that it will help maintain balance in global oil supply.

3. The 11th United Nations Conference to review the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which came into force in 1970, has begun in New York.

(i) With Vietnam presiding over the Conference, Iran was nominated and elected as one of the 34 vice-chairs, representing the Non-Aligned Movement.

(ii) The United States criticized this appointment, accusing Iran of violating nuclear regulations and refusing to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

(iii) In response, Iran's ambassador Reza Najafi stated that the United States, which continues to modernize its nuclear arsenal, has no moral right to speak about the compliance of other countries.

4. Kenyan athlete Sebastian Sawe stated that he subjected himself to very strict anti-doping controls before attempting to achieve a world record time in the marathon.

(i) Completing a marathon distance of around 42 kilometers in under 2 hours has long been considered an unattainable feat. Kenyan runner Kelvin Kiptum's time of 2 hours and 35 seconds in 2023 was regarded as a record.

(ii) In this context, at the marathon held in London, Sebastian Sawe created a new world record by becoming the first athlete to complete a marathon in under 2 hours. He finished the race in 1 hour, 59 minutes, and 30 seconds.

5. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stone for a Google Artificial Intelligence (AI) data center near Visakhapatnam, with an investment of ₹1.35 lakh crore. Union Minister for Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw also attended the event.

(i) The Google AI data center, with a capacity of 1 gigawatt, will be built across 600 acres in the villages of Tharluvada and Adavivaram (Visakhapatnam) and Rambilli (Anakapalli). It is considered a milestone in the development of India's digital infrastructure.

(ii) Speaking at the foundation-laying ceremony, Chandrababu Naidu said:

- April 28, 2026, has become a historic day that will be remembered by the people of India and Andhra Pradesh for generations.
- The Google AI data center will play a major role in India's growth. This is not just an ordinary data center; it is the foundation for the digital future of the state.
- With an investment of ₹1.35 lakh crore, it will be the largest data center in Asia. While the world searches on Google, the company has chosen Andhra Pradesh—this is a matter of pride for the state.

6. India emphasized that the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) must not ignore state-sponsored cross-border terrorism and that there should be no double standards in dealing with terrorism.

(i) While speaking at the SCO Conference held in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh expressed this view, indirectly referring to Pakistan, which is accused of supporting cross-border terrorism.

(ii) On the sidelines of the SCO meeting in Bishkek, Rajnath Singh also held discussions with Chinese Defence Minister Dong Jun.

(iii) The SCO, established in 2001, includes Belarus, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan as member countries.

7. The population census in the Union Territory of Puducherry will begin on June 1. A total of 33 details will be collected, and a fine of ₹1,000 will be imposed on those who provide incorrect information, according to District Collector A. Kulothungan. In a statement released on Tuesday, he said:

- Based on a Government order issued on the 25th by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department of the Puducherry Government, the duties and responsibilities of the public have been outlined to ensure the smooth conduct of the Census of India.
- The census is a task of national importance. The data collected plays a crucial role in national planning, policy formulation, and activities such as delimitation and allocation of constituencies for Parliament, State Assemblies, and local bodies. The first phase of the 2027 Census, which includes house listing and housing census, will be conducted in Puducherry as per schedule. A self-enumeration process, where the public can submit details online, will take place from May 17 to May 31.
- Census officials will visit households to collect data from June 1 to June 30. During this process, a total of 33 details will be gathered, including information on housing structure, drinking water facilities, toilets, cooking fuel, electricity, and internet access.

(i) Accurate Information:

- As per the Census Act, 1948, the public is required to fulfill certain legal obligations. It is mandatory to provide truthful and accurate answers to questions asked by census officials and to allow them to carry out their duties in homes.
- When required, census forms must be properly filled and submitted. All information collected during the census will be kept strictly confidential and will not be used as evidence in any legal proceedings.
- Failure to cooperate with census officials, providing false information, or denying them entry are considered legal offenses. Violations may result in a fine of up to ₹1,000.

8. Analysis of the unprecedented heatwave conditions in 2026, the underlying climatic factors like El Niño

(i) Overview of the 2026 Summer Crisis

- The impact of the summer heat has increased to levels never seen before, affecting the entirety of India.
- The summer season began much earlier than usual this year, with severe heat already recorded by the end of April, causing anxiety about the upcoming two months.
- Severe conditions are being observed across Central and South India, including Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Telangana, and Kerala.
- Temperatures have crossed 40°C in states like Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, while many parts of

Tamil Nadu have already surpassed 100°F.

(ii) Facts Relating to El Niño

- Super El Niño: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has predicted the development of an "El Niño" earlier than expected. Forecasts suggest that the phenomenon occurring between June and August 2026 will be a "Super El Niño" with high intensity.
- Climatic Consequences: This phenomenon is expected to bring a combination of severe droughts, floods, and further increased temperatures across the Indian subcontinent.
- El Niño-induced sea temperature increases are creating extreme summer conditions across the African and Asian continents.

(iii) Facts Relating to Heat Stroke and Health

- Heat stroke is particularly dangerous for the elderly and children, for whom it can be fatal.
- High temperatures lead to fainting and severe dehydration.
- Statistical data confirms that deaths due to heat stroke are increasing in India every year.
- The elderly and individuals with weak heart conditions face a significantly higher risk of heart attacks during extreme heatwaves.

(iv) Impact of the Hot Summer

- The extreme heat directly threatens the livelihoods of 123 crore people in India who depend on agriculture.
- Agricultural Decline:
 - In 2022, a similar heatwave caused wheat yields to drop by 34% and vegetable production to fall by 50%.
 - The current heatwave is expected to severely impact rice and wheat production, as well as other essential crops.
- Rising temperatures lead to a significant decrease in milk production and threaten the survival of cattle, aquatic life, and forests.
- Experts point to Brazil's 10% drop in soybean production and widespread forest fires as warnings of what India may face.

(v) Steps Taken and Recommended Measures

- State-Level Action (Kerala): The Kerala Government has advised citizens not to go outdoors between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM and the Chief Minister has called for a voluntary "self-curfew" during peak heat hours.
- Government Infrastructure:
 - Drinking water stations (Pandal) must be established on every street.
 - In areas lacking natural tree shade, the Government must build temporary heat shelters for the public.
- Branch centers of Primary Health Centers must be equipped to provide immediate first aid for heat-related illness in all localities.
- NGOs and political parties are urged to set up stations providing water and buttermilk to help the public cope with the impact.
- It is the Government's primary responsibility to implement measures to protect crops and livestock from the devastating impact of the heat.

