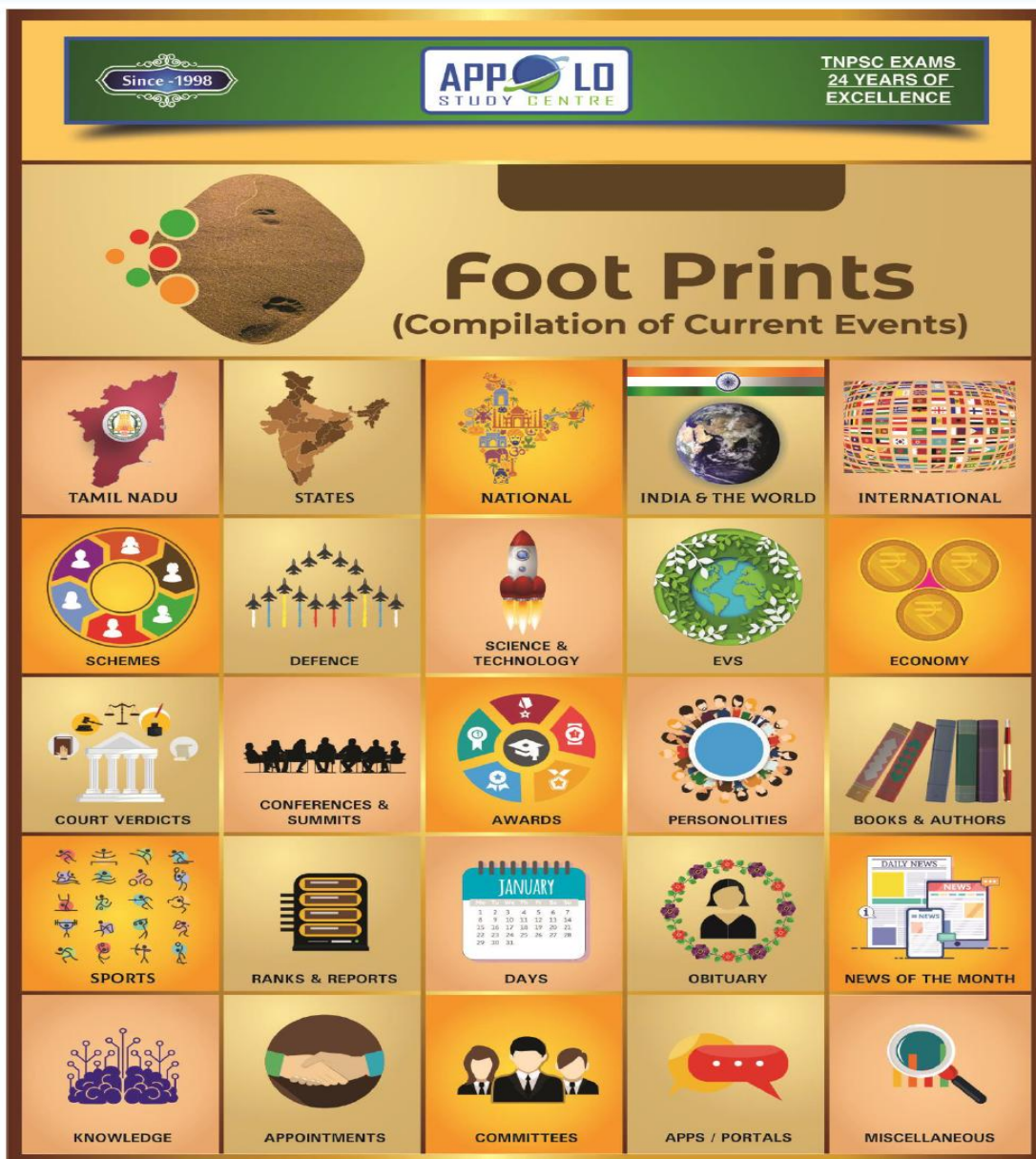


## MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 01-30, 2025



<b>Sl.No</b>	<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>Pg.No</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Schemes</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Court Verdict</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>India and other countries</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Conference and Summits</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Defence</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Economy</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Appointment</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Awards</b>	<b>37</b>
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<b>14</b>	<b>Science, Technology &amp; Environment</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Obituary</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Report</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Important Days</b>	<b>55</b>

# TAMIL NADU

## ➤ **Kumbakonam Betel Leaf and Thovalai Flower Garland Receive GI Tag**

- ✓ The Kumbakonam Betel Leaf of Thanjavur and the Thovalai Flower Garland of Kanyakumari were granted Geographical Indication (GI) Tags by the Government of India, increasing Tamil Nadu's total GI products to 62.



- ✓ The GI Tag protects these products from commercial misuse, ensures authenticity, and enhances market recognition.
  - ✓ The Kumbakonam Betel Leaf is expected to boost exports, while the Thovalai Flower Garland is renowned for its artistic floral arrangements.
- ## ➤ **TN Resolution To Reclaim Katchatheevu Island**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Assembly has recently passed a resolution urging the Government of India to reclaim Katchatheevu island from Sri Lanka.



- ✓ This decision received unanimous support from all political parties present.
- ✓ Chief Minister MK Stalin has brought into light the on-going issues faced by Tamil Nadu fishermen, who frequently encounter arrests by the Sri Lankan Navy.
- ✓ The resolution reflects political and social concern for the rights of local fishermen and the historical context surrounding Katchatheevu.

➤ **Recent Discovery of Rajaraja Chola Inscription**

- ✓ The recent discovery of an inscription related to Rajaraja Chola I atop the Somagiri hills in Melavalavu, Madurai, has captivated historians.



- ✓ This inscription, believed to date back to around 1000 CE, marks Rajaraja Chola's influence in the Pandya region.
- ✓ It mentions a military commander, Viranarana Pallavarayan, and details the construction of a temple by Malaiyappa Sambu.
- ✓ This find is for understanding the Chola dynasty's history and its impact on Southern India.

➤ **Tamil Nadu Sets a New High with 9.69% Growth**

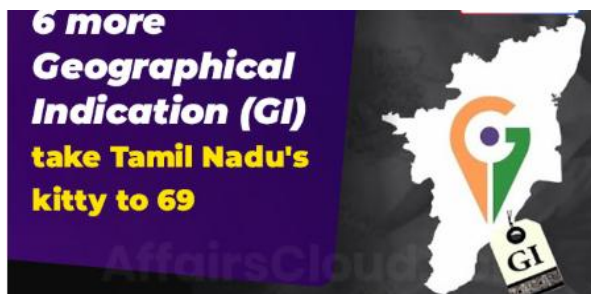


- ✓ Tamil Nadu recorded the highest real economic growth rate in India for 2024-25 at 9.69%, the state's best in 10 years, reflecting strong and steady economic progress. Real growth excludes inflation, while the nominal growth rate stood at 14.02%, also the highest among Indian states.
- ✓ The GSDP at constant prices rose from Rs.15.71 lakh crore (2023-24) to Rs.17.23 lakh crore (2024-25).
- ✓ Despite challenges like COVID-19 (0.07% growth in 2020-21), Tamil Nadu's economy has shown resilience and rapid recovery.

➤ **6 New GI tags – Tamilnadu**



- ✓ Six more products, unique to Tamil Nadu state were accorded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.



- ✓ They are Panruti Jackfruit, Panruti Cashew, Puliyanakudi Acid Lime, Virudhu Nagar Samba Vathal, Chettikulam Small Onion, and Ramanadu Chithiraikar Rice.
- ✓ These new additions are taking the total number of GI products in the state to 69.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has the second highest number of GI products, next only to Uttar Pradesh, which has 79 products.

#### ➤ **Thooimai Mission**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has issued an order to form a State-level mission titled 'Thooimai Mission' for sustainable waste management in the State.



- ✓ It also ordered that the Clean Tamil Nadu Company Limited (CTCL) be brought under this mission.
- ✓ The mission is proposed by the Special Programme Implementation Department, following an announcement made by Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly during the department's demands for grants for the year 2025-26.

#### ➤ **₹8,300 Crore Development Projects in Tamil Nadu**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, inaugurating and laying the foundation for infrastructure projects worth ₹8,300 crore.



- ✓ Highlights included the inauguration of India's first vertical lift sea bridge, the New Pamban Rail Bridge (₹700+ crore, 2.08 km), enhancing both ship navigation and train movement.
- ✓ The PM also launched a new train service between Rameswaram and Tambaram (Chennai) and dedicated several National Highway projects (NH-40, NH-332, NH-32, NH-36) to improve access to pilgrimage sites, ports, and markets.

➤ **Kerala & Tamil Nadu Unite for Nilgiri Tahr Census 2025**



- ✓ The Nilgiri Tahr Census 2025 will be jointly conducted by Kerala and Tamil Nadu from April 24-27, 2025, to mark the 50th anniversary of Eravikulam National Park, home to the largest population of the vulnerable Nilgiri Tahr, endemic to the Western Ghats.
- ✓ With over 1,300 participants using modern tools like camera traps, pellet sampling, and the bounded count method, the census aims to monitor and estimate the population and distribution of the species.
- ✓ The event will span 265 census blocks across both states, reinforcing conservation efforts for this key montane ecosystem indicator.

➤ **Virudhunagar 'Samba Vathal' gets GI Tag**

- ✓ Virudhunagar Samba Vathal (Chilli) has got geographical indication tag based on the application made by Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board and Virudhunagar Chillies Merchants' Association.



- ✓ A distinguished variety of chilli, Virudhunagar Samba Chilli is grown in Virudhunagar district and is known for its unique flavour, moderate heat and vibrant red colour.
- ✓ Its wrinkled texture and medium size make it stand out in South Indian cuisine.

#### ➤ **Vembur Sheep**

- ✓ In the grazing lands of Thoothukudi and Virudhunagar districts thrives the Vembur sheep ('Pottu aadu').



- ✓ The Vembur sheep is one of Tamil Nadu's five indigenous hair sheep breeds, alongside Madras Red, Macheri, Chevadu, and Kilakarasal.
- ✓ It also holds significant cultural and economic importance for farmers who depend on them for their livelihood.
- ✓ But this treasured breed faces a threat to its very existence: the proposed SIPCOT industrial project in Thoothukudi district.

#### ➤ **T.N. Govt. Plans to Establish Biomedical Research Foundation**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has given its nod to establish the 'Kalaingar Centenary Integrated Bio-medical Research Foundation' under the Directorate of Medical Education and Research (DMER).



- ✓ A one-time grant of ₹10 lakh has been sanctioned for the purpose.
- ✓ The DMER, in its proposal to create the foundation, said the research will be aimed at understanding diseases and developing and testing preventive and predictive technologies in order to develop personalised treatments.

➤ **Mugger Crocodile Conservation Efforts in Tamil Nadu**

- ✓ Recent studies by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department are focusing on mapping the population of mugger crocodiles.



- ✓ These efforts aim to reduce human-crocodile conflicts in the Cauvery delta.
- ✓ The mugger crocodile, or marsh crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*), is the most widespread crocodilian species in India. A preliminary study has revealed population along the Kollidam River, with over 50 individuals recorded in Anaikarai alone.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has allocated ₹2.5 crore for a Crocodile Conservation Centre at Anaikarai.

➤ **T.N. Forms Panel on Autonomy of States**

- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday announced in the Legislative Assembly that a three-member high-level committee had been formed to review provisions of the Constitution, laws and policies pertaining to Centre-State relations, and recommend steps to strengthen the States' autonomy and federalism.





- ✓ Making a suo motu announcement under Rule 110 of the Assembly, Mr. Stalin said that the committee would be headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Kurian Joseph.
- ✓ Retired IAS officer and former Vice-Chancellor of the Indian Maritime University K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty and former vice-chairman, State Planning Commission, M. Naganathan will be its members.
- **Cabinet Clears T.N. Space Industrial Policy 2025**
- ✓ A meeting of the Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, approved the Tamil Nadu Space Industrial Policy 2025.



- ✓ A special package and payroll subsidy are among the key features of the policy.
- ✓ Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa said the Cabinet had approved an important policy on the space sector for the State, which had listed steps to attract investments to the tune of ₹10,000 crore into the sector during the next five years.
- ✓ The aim was also to generate employment opportunities for about 10,000 people by creating a pool of talented youth for companies.
- **12 Locations in T.N. to be declared Protected Sites, Monuments**
- ✓ A total of 12 historically significant locations will be declared protected monuments/sites, Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu (also holding the archaeology portfolio) announced in the Assembly on Thursday.



- ✓ The Tamil inscriptions in Mannarkoil in Tirunelveli district, rock-cut caves in Aralipatti in Sivaganga district, Koothapoondiyan Valasu in Dindigul district, V. Kottaiyur in Pudukkottai district, Avoor in Tiruvannamalai district, and Nayanur in Villupuram district will be among the locations to be declared protected monuments/sites, he said.
- ✓ Dolmens in Mallachanthiram in Krishnagiri district, the palace in Thirupullani in Ramanathapuram district are to be made protected sites.
- ✓ The Maraiyur Choultry in Narikkudi and boulder and cave paintings in Meenakshipuram in Rajapalayam taluk, the old mandapams in Mamsapuram and in Pillayar Natham – all in Virudhunagar district will join the list too.
- **Kalaighnar Kaivinai Thittam as T.N.'s alternative to PM Vishwakarma Scheme**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday (April 19, 2025) launched 'Kalaighnar Kaivinai Thittam', an artisan development scheme that would serve as the State government's alternative to the Centre's PM Vishwakarma scheme.



- ✓ The scheme covers 25 trades. Under the Central scheme, the applicant can only focus on family trade, but under this scheme, one can pursue a trade of their choice, Mr. Stalin said.
- ✓ "We have fixed the minimum age of 35 years for the Kalaighnar Kaivinai Thittam.
- ✓ We provide loans in the range of ₹50,000 to ₹3 lakh with subsidy.

- ✓ In the Centre's scheme, there is no subsidy. We have, so far, received 24,907 applications for our scheme," he said.

➤ **Week-long celebration to honour Pavendhar**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government will celebrate the birth anniversary of late Tamil poet Pavendhar Bharathidasan during 'Tamil Week', between April 29 and May 5, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced in the Assembly on Tuesday.



- ✓ In a suo motu statement, he listed the features of the week-long celebration in honour of Pavendhar. Literary events will be organised in all district headquarters.
- ✓ A young Tamil writer/poet will be honoured with the 'Bharathidasan Ilam Padaipaalar' award, Mr. Stalin said.
- ✓ Seminars will be organised on the works of the doyens in Tamil literature.

➤ **Chennai River Restoration Trust**

- ✓ A total of 12 waterbodies across Tamil Nadu have been taken up for restoration, rejuvenation, and development with parks, Minister for Municipal Administration and Water Supply K.N. Nehru said in the Assembly on Tuesday.



- ✓ The Chennai River Restoration Trust (CRRT), which undertook the Adyar project, will restore the 12 major waterbodies across Tamil Nadu, he said.
- **T.N. Govt. Notifies Two Acts Following Governor's Assent**



- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has notified two Acts – The Tamil Nadu Private Universities (Amendment) Act, 2024, and The Tamil Nadu Public Buildings (Licensing) Amendment Act, 2024, – in the Government Gazette, after both Bills passed by the Assembly, received the Governor's assent.



- ✓ The first Act, which received the Governor's assent on April 9, amends the Tamil Nadu Private Universities Act, 2019, to include eight private universities in the Schedule, in line with the suggestions of the University Grants Commission.
- ✓ The other Act, which received the Governor's assent on April 10, amends several provisions of the Tamil Nadu Public Buildings (Licensing) Act, 1965.
- **Tamil Nadu Money Lending Entities (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Bill, 2025**
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government on Saturday (April 26, 2025) introduced a Bill seeking to protect people from coercive actions of money lending entities.



- ✓ Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, who introduced the Tamil Nadu Money Lending Entities (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Bill, 2025, said that economically weaker and vulnerable sections of society – especially farmers, women, self-help groups, agricultural labourers, workmen, footpath vendors, dairy workers, construction workers, and migrant workers – often fall prey to attractive loan offers from money lending entities, including digital lending platforms, leading them into unsustainable debt.



➤ **New Thiran Initiative to Improve Students' Proficiency**

- ✓ The School Education Department will implement an initiative, 'Thiran', to increase students' proficiency in English, Tamil, and maths, Minister for School Education Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi said in the Assembly on Friday.



- ✓ At a cost of ₹19 crore, students of Classes VI-VIII at government schools would be given coaching during school hours.
- ✓ The initiative would benefit 13 lakh students, he said.
- ✓ Mr. Poyyamozhi said private school Tamil teachers and teachers of other boards would be trained in Tamil teaching methodologies at a cost of ₹4.9 lakh.

➤ **Global Capability Centre in Chennai**

- ✓ Minister for Industries T.R.B. Rajaa on Monday (April 28, 2025) said Guidance Tamil Nadu, the State government's investment promotion agency, has signed a memorandum of understanding with United States-based Workday, which will establish a Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Chennai with an investment of around ₹220 crore, creating up to 3,000 jobs.



- ✓ Workday is a world-renowned provider of enterprise cloud.
- ✓ The company's Chennai facility will be a strategic hub for product and technology development supporting Workday's global operations, focusing on next-generation AI technologies, he added.

➤ **Red-Button Robotic COP**

- ✓ In a bid to reduce the response time to emergencies at public places by at least 50%, the Greater Chennai Police will install 'Red-Button Robotic COP', a modern equipment, in 200 key locations.



- ✓ The cutting-edge system will enhance safety and confidence among the public, and render swift assistance during crisis, the police said.
- ✓ By pressing the red button on the machine, anyone can instantly avail themselves of assistance in times of emergency.
- **T.N. to Remove 'Colony' from Official Records, Public Parlance**
- ✓ "Steps will be taken to remove the word from government documents and public parlance, has it has come to symbolise oppression and to indicate untouchability," Mr. Stalin said.



- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday announced in the Assembly that the term 'Colony' would be removed from official records and public parlance as it had come to symbolise oppression and carried the connotation of untouchability.
- ✓ "The term 'colony' has been used to derogatorily refer to the original inhabitants of this land. Steps will be taken to remove the word from government documents and public parlance.

# STATE

## ➤ **Scheduled Caste (SC) Categorisation of Reservations Act, 2025**

- ✓ Telangana has become the first state in India to implement the Scheduled Caste (SC) Categorisation of Reservations Act, 2025.



- ✓ This came after the Governor gave approval for the legislation.
  - ✓ The Act reorganizes the 56 Scheduled Caste communities in the state into three distinct categories.
  - ✓ The purpose is to ensure a fairer distribution of reservation benefits among SC sub-groups.
  - ✓ The classification will influence future policies in education, employment, and political representation.
- ## ➤ **PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Vizhinjam International Seaport**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Vizhinjam International Seaport on May 2, 2025, near Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.



- ✓ It is India's first semi-automated deep-water international container transshipment port, developed under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) between the Kerala Government and Adani Ports, with an investment of over ₹18,000 crore.

- ✓ Strategically located near global shipping routes, the port boosts India's trade, supports the Make in India initiative, and enhances Kerala's role as a maritime hub.
- **Amaravati: World's First Fully Renewable-Powered City in the Making**
- ✓ In a landmark step towards sustainable urban development, Amaravati, the planned capital of Andhra Pradesh, is on track to become the world's first city powered entirely by renewable energy.



- ✓ Envisioned by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, this ambitious project aligns with India's commitment to clean energy and climate-conscious urbanization.
- ✓ Located between Vijayawada and Guntur, Amaravati is being designed as a modern, eco-friendly "people's capital", setting a global benchmark in sustainable city planning.



# NATIONAL

## ➤ **The Waqf Amendment Bill 2025**

- ✓ The Waqf Amendment Bill 2025, introduced in the Lok Sabha, aims to amend the existing Waqf Act of 1995. The most contentious change involves the removal of Section 40.



- ✓ The removal of Section 40 in the amendment Bill raises concerns about the Board's autonomy. Critics argue that without this provision, the Board may lose its ability to assert control over Waqf properties.
- ✓ The authority to determine the nature of properties may shift to government officials, potentially leading to misuse of power.
- ✓ This could undermine the intended purpose of Waqf properties.

## ➤ **Namami Gange Mission 2.0**

- ✓ The Namami Gange Mission 2.0 (NGM 2.0) is an extension of the original Namami Gange Programme initiated in 2014.



- ✓ This mission aims to effectively reduce pollution and rejuvenate the River Ganga. It is set to continue until March 2026.
- ✓ These include sewage treatment, riverfront development, river surface cleaning, afforestation, and biodiversity conservation.

- ✓ The mission's multifaceted approach seeks to restore the ecological and cultural significance of the Ganga.

➤ **National Critical Mineral Mission**

- ✓ India's green energy ambitions hinge significantly on the availability of critical minerals, indispensable to technologies like solar panels, wind turbines, electric vehicles (EVs), and battery storage.



- ✓ To secure these vital resources, the Government of India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025.
- ✓ Spearheaded by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and coordinated by the Ministry of Mines, the mission aims to reduce import dependency, strengthen domestic capabilities, and enhance global competitiveness through focused exploration, processing, and recycling of critical minerals.

➤ **Indus Waters Treaty Suspension**

- ✓ The Government of India announced the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan in response to a recent terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir.



- ✓ The Indus Waters Treaty was signed in 1960 after negotiations facilitated by the World Bank.
- ✓ It allocates the waters of the Indus River and its tributaries between India and Pakistan.

- ✓ India has rights to the eastern rivers—Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi—while Pakistan controls the western rivers—Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab.
- ✓ The treaty allows India to use western river water for domestic, agricultural, and hydroelectric purposes.

➤ **1972 Simla Agreement**

- ✓ The suspension of the 1972 Simla Agreement by Pakistan marks a critical moment in India-Pakistan relations.



- ✓ This decision comes in response to India's recent measures following a terrorist attack in Pahalgam.
- ✓ The Simla Agreement was a very important treaty aimed at normalising relations after the 1971 Indo-Pakistani War, which led to the creation of Bangladesh.
- ✓ The Simla Agreement was signed on July 2, 1972, by Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi and Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.
- ✓ The agreement sought to end hostilities and promote friendly relations between the two nations.

➤ **National Manufacturing Mission**

- ✓ The Government of India has initiated the National Manufacturing Mission to enhance the Make in India initiative.



- ✓ Announced during the Union Budget of 2025, this mission aims to increase manufacturing's contribution to India's GDP.
- ✓ Currently, manufacturing accounts for 16-17% of GDP, and the government seeks to elevate this share.
- ✓ Recently, the Indian government has established an interministerial committee to draft the framework for this mission.





# SCHEMES

## ➤ **Palna Scheme**

- ✓ The 7th edition of Poshan Pakhwada began on April, with a spotlight on early childhood nutrition, and the government's Palna Scheme is being promoted as a key childcare intervention under Mission Shakti.



- ✓ Palna is a centrally sponsored scheme that provides quality crèche services for children aged 6 months to 6 years, especially for working mothers in urban and rural India. Implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD).
- **Gramam Thorum Puthozhil (Establishing Start-ups in Villages)**
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (StartupTN) will be launching a scheme called Gramam Thorum Puthozhil (Establishing Start-ups in Villages) this year, focusing on inclusive entrepreneurship, rural innovation, and sustainable economic growth.



- ✓ “We want to take the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship to villages,” Sivarajah Ramanathan, Mission Director and Chief Executive Officer, StartupTN, said.
- ✓ Highlighting the various initiatives of StartupTN, Mr. Ramanathan said: “Our primary mandate is to create a good ecosystem for start-up companies to start and grow in the State.

- **Urudhunai Loan Scheme Launched for Adi Dravidars and Scheduled Tribes**
- ✓ Minister for Adi Dravidar Welfare M. Mathiventhan on Saturday said that the State government will implement the Urudhunai scheme to provide small and micro loans, worth ₹25 crore, at reduced interest rates to small retailers, traders and manufacturers from Adi Dravidar and tribal communities through the National Finance Development Fund.
- ✓ He further said that training would be provided to 500 entrepreneurs to improve the participation of companies owned by Scheduled Castes/Tribes and SC/ST entrepreneurs in public procurement, at a cost of ₹50 lakh.
  
- **Tamil Nadu Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Wednesday (April 30, 2025) launched the Tamil Nadu Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme, which aims to promote the production of electronic components in the State.



- ✓ An official release stated that Tamil Nadu, through this initiative, was expected to attract investments worth ₹30,000 crore and generate employment opportunities for 60,000 individuals.
- ✓ To attract companies that benefit from the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the Tamil Nadu government would offer incentives that match the subsidies announced under the Union government's scheme.
  
- **Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme Launched**
- ✓ Union Minister Pralhad Joshi launched the Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme (GHCI), a key initiative to ensure traceability and transparency in green hydrogen production.



- ✓ The event featured technical sessions on technology collaboration, biomass-based hydrogen, investments, and supply chain opportunities.
- ✓ It reinforced India's National Green Hydrogen Mission, targeting 5 MMT green hydrogen capacity, ₹8 lakh crore investment, and 6 lakh jobs by 2030, while empowering MSMEs to become vital contributors in the green hydrogen economy.



# COURT VERDICT

## ➤ SC Ruling on Governor's Assent to Bills

- ✓ The Supreme Court of India recently ruled on the authority of the Tamil Nadu Governor regarding the assent to state bills.

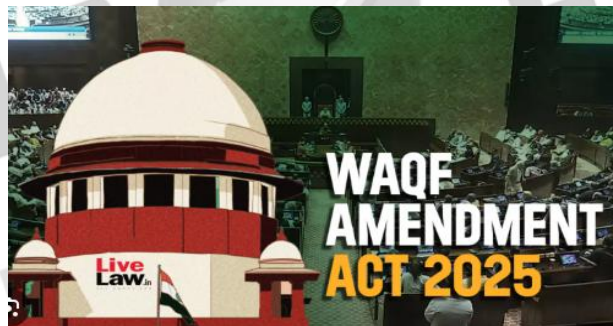


- ✓ This ruling addressed the legal implications of the Governor withholding assent and established clear timelines for decision-making.
  - ✓ The Supreme Court stated that the Tamil Nadu Governor made a legal mistake by sending re-passed Bills to the President.
  - ✓ The Court ruled that there is no such thing as an “absolute veto” or “pocket veto” under Article 200 of the Constitution.
  - ✓ Governors cannot keep delaying action on Bills forever.
  - ✓ If the State Assembly passes a Bill again after review, the Governor must give approval – unless the Bill is different from the original.
  - ✓ The Supreme Court set clear time limits for Governors:
    - ✓ **1 month** to decide on withholding assent,
    - ✓ **3 months** if going against the State Cabinet's advice,
    - ✓ **1 month** to act on a Bill re-sent after reconsideration.
- **SC Laid Down 3 Month Deadline For President To Assent Bill Reserved By Governor**
- ✓ In the State of Tamil Nadu vs. Governor of Tamil Nadu (2023) case, the Supreme Court addressed delays under Article 201, setting a 3-month deadline for the President to decide on State Bills reserved by the Governor, thus ending legislative uncertainty and reinforcing federalism.





- ✓ The Court declared indefinite delays unconstitutional, advised that in cases of perceived unconstitutionality, the President should seek the Supreme Court's opinion under Article 143, and clarified that the President cannot exercise an "absolute veto".
- ✓ States may seek judicial recourse via writs for prolonged inaction.
- **SC Ruling on Waqf Amendment Act 2025**
- ✓ The Waqf (Amendment) Act of 2025 has sparked legal and social debate in India.



- ✓ This legislation aims to reform the management of waqf properties, which are properties dedicated for Islamic religious and charitable purposes.
- ✓ Petitioners argue that the Act **violates Articles 25 & 26** of the Constitution (religious freedom).
- ✓ The Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025 amends the Waqf Act of 1995.
- ✓ It seeks to enhance the Centre's regulatory authority over waqf properties. Notably, the Act proposes the removal of the concept of "waqf by user."
- ✓ This term refers to properties used for charitable purposes over a long period, even if not formally registered as waqf.

# INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

## ➤ India China Celebrate 75 Years Of Diplomatic Relations

- ✓ India and China celebrated 75 years of diplomatic relations on April 1, 2025, with leaders from both nations exchanging messages, highlighting the importance of their bilateral ties.



- ✓ India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, advocated strong India-China relations based on non-alignment, Asian solidarity, and the Panchsheel principles of peaceful coexistence.
- ✓ While Nehru envisioned India-China cooperation as crucial for the Global South, the relationship has experienced ups and downs, including border conflicts and two wars.

## ➤ India & Saudi Arabia

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to **embark on a two-day official visit to Saudi Arabia** starting today, at the invitation of **Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman**.



- ✓ The high-profile visit comes amid growing economic ties between the two nations.
- ✓ **Indian investment in Saudi Arabia** has increased significantly in recent years, **reaching approximately USD 3 billion as of August 2023**.

- ✓ This visit underscores the deepening strategic partnership between India and Saudi Arabia, marked by robust cooperation in trade, energy, defence, and people-to-people ties.



# CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

## ➤ **BIMSTEC Summit In Thailand**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the 6th BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok, Thailand, April 02 - April 04, 2025.



- ✓ The theme of the Summit is “BIMSTEC – Prosperous, Resilient and Open.”
  - ✓ The Bangkok Vision 2030 will be adopted at the Summit, and the Report of the BIMSTEC Eminent Persons’ Group will also be endorsed to chart the future direction of BIMSTEC.
  - ✓ BIMSTEC brings together seven countries located in the Bay of Bengal – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- ## ➤ **Global Technology Summit (GTS) 2025 – Shaping the Future of Global Tech**
- ✓ The 9th Global Technology Summit (GTS) 2025, co-hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs and Carnegie India, will be held in New Delhi from April 10-12 with the theme “Sambhavna” (Possibilities).



- ✓ The summit will explore how emerging technologies can drive inclusive growth, digital governance, and global cooperation, featuring 150+ speakers from 40+ countries.
- ✓ Key topics include AI governance, cybersecurity, space security, and tech collaboration in the Global South.



➤ **15th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting (AMM)**

- ✓ The 15 BRICS Agriculture Ministers Meeting at Brasilia, Brazil, will be attended by Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan.



- ✓ Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan is leading the Indian delegation to the 15th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting (AMM), which will be held on 17th April, 2025.
  - ✓ The theme of the 15th BRICS AMM is “Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Agriculture through Cooperation, Innovation, and Equitable Trade among BRICS Countries.”
  - ✓ The meeting is set to be attended by Agriculture Ministers and senior officials from BRICS countries.
- **GITEX Africa 2025**
- ✓ India took part in GITEX Africa 2025, the largest tech and startup event in Africa. The event was held in Marrakesh, Morocco.



- ✓ It brought together global policymakers, innovators, and leaders. The focus was on building partnerships for inclusive and equitable economic growth.
- ✓ The Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) has registered over one crore users in just 18 months.
- ✓ India's presence at GITEX reared its leadership in digital innovation and skill development. Initiatives like Skill India, Digital India, Aadhaar, UPI, SIDH, DIKSHA, and DigiLocker are being seen as global benchmarks.

➤ **Tamil Nadu Startup Summit**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Startup Summit-25, organised by The Hindu and co-presented by StartupTN in association with Sify Technologies, is all set to be presented by SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur, on April 24.



- ✓ The summit will bring together leading voices from the government, industry, academia and the startup ecosystem.
- ✓ The day-long event aims at fostering innovation, driving investment and empowering startups across the State and beyond. Several dignitaries will take part in the summit.

# DEFENCE

## ➤ Exercise Tiger Triumph: Strengthening India-US HADR Cooperation

- ✓ Exercise Tiger Triumph 2025, the fourth edition of the India-US bilateral Tri-Service HADR exercise, will take place from April 1-13, 2025, on the Eastern Seaboard.



- ✓ It is aimed at enhancing interoperability in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations.
- ✓ The exercise includes a Harbour Phase in Visakhapatnam (April 1-7) and a Sea Phase off Kakinada (April 8-13), featuring joint maritime, amphibious, and medical aid operations.

## ➤ India's Defence Exports 2025

- ✓ In the Financial Year 2024-25, India achieved milestone in defence exports, reaching ₹23,622 crore.

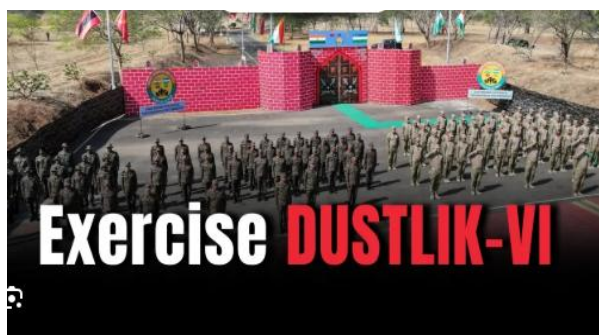


- ✓ This represents a growth of 12.04% from the previous year. The surge is attributed to increased sales of artillery shells, guns, and small arms. The growth reflects India's expanding role in the global defence market.

- ✓ India's defence exports rose by ₹2,539 crore compared to FY 2023-24. The Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) experienced a remarkable 42.85% increase in their exports.
- ✓ India's defence strategy has shifted from reliance on imports to focusing on indigenous production.
- **Africa India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME)**
- ✓ The inaugural edition of the large-scale multilateral exercise Africa India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME), meaning 'Unity' in Sanskrit, has begun.



- ✓ The six-day exercise is being held from 13 to 18 April 2025.
- ✓ It is being attended by Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, and South Africa, as well as co-hosts India and Tanzania.
- ✓ AIKEYME aims to develop collaborative solutions to common regional maritime challenges.
- **Exercise DUSTLIK-VI**
- ✓ The 6th edition of Exercise DUSTLIK (DUSTLIK-VI) between India and Uzbekistan commenced on April 16, 2025, at the Foreign Training Node, Aundh, Pune, and will run until April 28, 2025.





- ✓ The exercise focuses on enhancing bilateral military cooperation, tactical interoperability, and coordination between the armed forces of both nations.
  - ✓ With 60 Indian personnel (mainly from the JAT Regiment and Indian Air Force) and Uzbekistan Army troops participating in the exercise.
  - ✓ It alternates annually between India and Uzbekistan.
- **Indian Air Force Joins Multinational Exercise Desert Flag-10 in UAE**
- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has deployed a contingent to the Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates to participate in Exercise Desert Flag-10, a prestigious multinational air combat exercise.



- ✓ This strategic engagement, scheduled to take place from April 21 to May 8, 2025, represents India's continued commitment to enhancing its military cooperation with global partners and strengthening its operational capabilities through international collaboration.

# ECONOMY

## ➤ T.N. Clocks \$14.65 Billion in Electronics Exports in FY 2024-25

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa said the State has hit a historic high of \$14.65 billion in electronics exports in FY24-25.



- ✓ In a post on X, he said the State accounted for 41.23% of India's total electronics exports.
- ✓ This is a truly proud moment – from \$9.56 billion last year to \$14.65 billion this year, a staggering 53% growth!"
- ✓ Tamil Nadu was followed by Karnataka with \$7.85 billion in electronic exports and Uttar Pradesh with \$5.26 billion, as per the data shared by the Minister.

# APPOINTMENT

## ➤ Chairperson of IWLF Athletes Commission

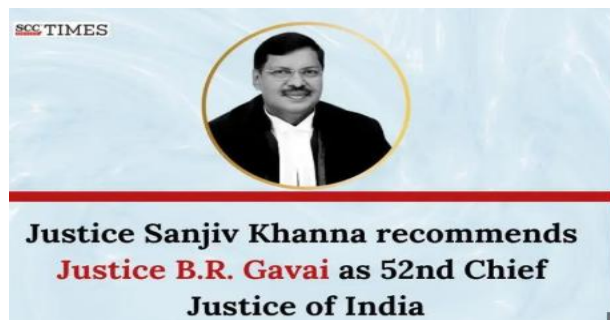
- ✓ Saikhom Mirabai Chanu, Olympic silver medallist and Commonwealth Games champion, was appointed as Chairperson of the IWLF Athletes Commission by the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF).



- ✓ Hailing from Manipur, Chanu aims to amplify athletes' voices, ensure their well-being, and bridge gaps between players and administrators.
- ✓ Her appointment marks a pivotal step in promoting athlete-led governance, gender representation, and empowering Indian sports with experienced leadership.

## ➤ Next Chief Justice of India (CJI)

- ✓ On April 16, 2025, Justice B R Gavai was named the 52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI), succeeding CJI Sanjiv Khanna.



- ✓ Justice Gavai, appointed to the Supreme Court in 2019, has made significant contributions in constitutional and administrative law.
- ✓ Including key verdicts on demonetization (2023), Article 370 (2019), sub-categorization of SCs/STs (2024), and bulldozer demolitions (2024).
- ✓ At 64, he will take office after CJI Khanna's retirement on May 13, 2025, with a focus on upholding constitutional principles and strengthening the rule of law.

➤ **23rd Law Commission of India**

- ✓ Justice Dinesh Maheshwari Appointed Chairperson of the 23rd Law Commission of India.



- ✓ In a significant development in the Indian legal landscape, Justice (Retd.) Dinesh Maheshwari, a former Supreme Court judge, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the 23rd Law Commission of India in April 2025.
- ✓ The announcement marks a crucial step in the government's ongoing efforts to review and recommend reforms in various aspects of Indian law.



# AWARDS

## ➤ Fred Darrington Sand Master Award

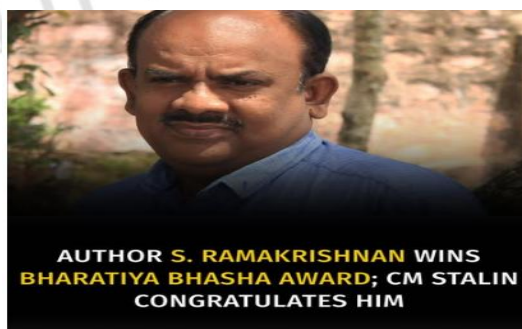
- ✓ Renowned Indian sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has become the first Indian to receive the prestigious Fred Darrington Sand Master Award for his outstanding contributions to sand art.



- ✓ The award was presented during the Sandworld 2025 International Sand Art Festival in Dorset, England.
- ✓ Sudarshan Pattnaik, a Padma Shri awardee is from Odisha.

## ➤ Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad

- ✓ Tamil author S. Ramakrishnan has been selected for the Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad Award with ₹1 lakh prize.



- ✓ The award honours his literary contributions, including over 100 works and translations in multiple languages.
- ✓ In a social media post, the Chief Minister hoped that the award would prove to be yet another motivation for the writer, who is an established face in contemporary Tamil literature, and a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi award and the Kalaigarnar Porkizhi, among others.

## ➤ Verchol Dalit Literary Award

- ✓ On April 13, 2025, renowned writer, retired IAS officer, and social activist P. Sivakami received the Verchol Dalit Literary Award from Neelam Cultural Centre, founded by Pa. Ranjith, in Chennai, along with a ₹1 lakh prize.



- ✓ In her speech, Sivakami emphasized Dalit identity, the resistance and power of Dalit literature, its role in challenging dominant narratives, and the importance of writing in English for broader impact, while celebrating the rise of Dalit voices in literature.

#### ➤ **Quaide Milleth Award**

- ✓ The Quaide Milleth Educational and Social Trust honoured human rights activists John Dayal, Navaid Hamid, and Vipin Kumar Tripathi with the Quaide Milleth Award for Probity in Political/Public Life 2024 at the Music Academy on Saturday.

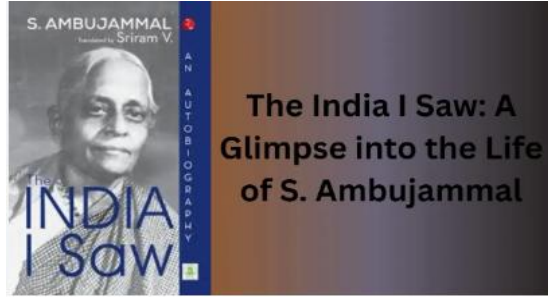


- ✓ The award recognizes individuals who demonstrate a commitment to constitutional values, secularism, pluralism, and the welfare of the marginalised.
- ✓ Mr. Dayal, a religious freedom advocate.
- ✓ Mr. Hamid has worked for the rights of marginalized communities.
- ✓ Mr. Tripathi is a former professor of the IIT-Delhi, and was honoured for his activism towards promoting communal harmony.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

### ➤ **The India I Saw: A Glimpse into the Life of S. Ambujammal**

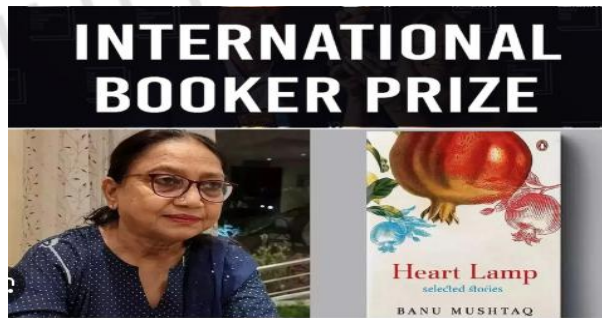
- ✓ S. Ambujammal (1899–1981), born into a prestigious Iyengar family in Madras, overcame early struggles, including emotional neglect, an unwanted birth, and a troubled marriage, to become a prominent Gandhian and social reformer.



- ✓ Her autobiography, Naan Kanda Bharatham (translated as The India I Saw), chronicles her journey through India's freedom movement and her commitment to women's welfare.

### ➤ **Banu Mushtaq's 'Heart Lamp'**

- ✓ Banu Mushtaq's collection of Kannada stories in translation, Heart Lamp, was shortlisted for the International Booker Prize.



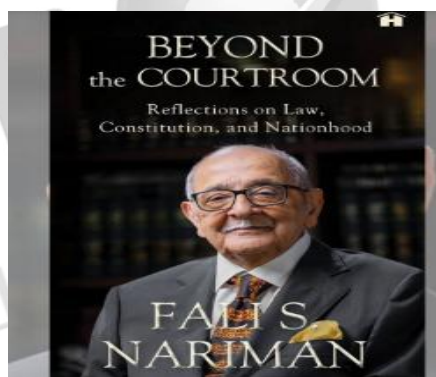
- ✓ The book, among the six featured in this year's shortlist, made history as the first Kannada-language book to be shortlisted.
- ✓ Heart Lamp, translated by Deepa Bhashti, is a collection of 12 short stories written by Banu Mushtaq between 1990 and 2023.

### ➤ **Dravida Araneriyalar Thamizhavel P.T. Rajan Vaazhve Varalaru**

- ✓ The DMK's rule in Tamil Nadu is an extension of the Justice Party's rule in Madras Presidency, said Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Chennai on Tuesday.



- ✓ Releasing a book on the life and legacy of Justice Party leader and former Chief Minister of the erstwhile Madras Presidency P.T. Rajan titled Dravida Araneriyaalar Thamizhavel P.T. Rajan Vaazhve Varalaru, Mr. Stalin said when the Justice Party was defeated in the 1937 election, Rajan had remarked, “One day we shall take revenge for this defeat.”
- ✓ Thirty years later, when the DMK won the 1967 election, he considered the DMK’s victory as a success of the Justice Party.
- **Beyond the Courtroom: Fali Nariman’s Legal Legacy**



- ✓ “Beyond the Courtroom” showcases the vast breadth and depth of Nariman’s constitutional expertise through his illuminating lectures and articles.
- ✓ It even goes a step further outlining the jurists views on the state of Indian Democracy.
- ✓ From making arguments on why a new constitution is impossible today, to stating why a strong opposition is needed for the betterment of democracy, this book covers a wide range of subjects.



# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

## ➤ **Fram2 Mission: First Humans to Travel Over Earth's Poles**

- ✓ On March 31, 2025, SpaceX successfully launched the Fram2 mission, marking the first-ever human spaceflight to orbit Earth from pole to pole.



- ✓ Aboard the Falcon 9 rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center, the all-civilian crew will conduct 22 experiments during their 3 to 5-day mission in a 90-degree polar orbit (430 km altitude).
- ✓ The crew features Chun Wang (Commander), Jannicke Mikkelsen (Vehicle Commander), Rabea Rogge (Pilot), and Eric Philips (Medical Officer & Specialist).

## ➤ **First Batch of Cyber Commandos**

- ✓ On April 1, 2025, the IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation successfully completed training for the first batch of Cyber Commandos, a specialized program aimed at enhancing cybersecurity skills among law enforcement officers in India.



- ✓ The Cyber Commandos Programme, initiated by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, trained 37 officers in advanced cybersecurity techniques to combat growing cyber threats.

### ➤ ZooWIN Platform

- ✓ India faces a critical health challenge with rabies and snakebite fatalities. The government has introduced ZooWIN, a digital platform aimed at real-time monitoring of anti-rabies vaccines and anti-snake venom stocks.



- ✓ This initiative seeks to enhance healthcare delivery across the country and reduce mortality rates associated with these conditions.
- ✓ The platform will centralise data, facilitating better collaboration among healthcare providers, municipal authorities, and veterinary services. ZooWIN operates similarly to the Co-WIN and U-WIN platforms.
- ✓ It leverages the existing infrastructure of the Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN). The platform will provide real-time tracking of vaccine stocks and ensure timely administration to victims of animal bites and snake bites.

### ➤ Blindsight Chip 2025

- ✓ Elon Musk's brain chip startup Neuralink aims to have its artificial visual prosthesis, Blindsight, implanted in a human for the first time by the end of 2025.



- ✓ Blindsight is designed to enable even those who have lost both the eyes and their optic nerve to see.
- ✓ Blindsight comprises a microelectrode array that is embedded in the visual cortex, the part of the brain responsible for processing visual data.

- ✓ It is reportedly capable of stimulating neurons or nerve cells located in the visual cortex based on patterns relayed from a camera.

➤ **De-extinction of the Dire Wolf by Colossal Biosciences**

- ✓ Colossal Biosciences, a biotech firm based in Dallas, has made history by reviving the extinct dire wolf (*Canis dirus*) after 12,500 years using CRISPR gene-editing and DNA from ancient fossils.



- ✓ Three dire wolf puppies – Romulus, Remus, and Khaleesi – were born using gray wolf cells and domestic dog surrogates.
- ✓ Though hailed as a major de-extinction milestone, the breakthrough faces ecological and ethical concerns over authenticity and modern adaptability.

➤ **Carbon Tax**

- ✓ India, along with 62 other countries, voted in favour of the first global carbon tax on the shipping industry, adopted by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in London.



- ✓ A Carbon Tax is an environmental tax levied on the carbon content of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas.
- ✓ The objective is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by creating a financial disincentive for pollution and encouraging clean energy alternatives.
- ✓ It is calculated based on the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> or other GHGs emitted and promotes a market-based climate solution.

➤ **IISR Surya**

- ✓ Recently, the Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) introduced a new turmeric variety named IISR Surya.



- ✓ This variety is designed specifically for the masala and powdering industry.
- ✓ It addresses the growing demand for light-coloured turmeric, which has been challenging for farmers to produce.
- ✓ IISR Surya promises to enhance the quality and availability of turmeric for both domestic and international markets.
- ✓ IISR Surya is expected to benefit farmers.
- ✓ It provides an opportunity for higher yields and better profitability.

➤ **James Webb Telescope Finds Possible Life on Exoplanet K2-18b**



- ✓ In a breakthrough discovery, scientists from Cambridge University using NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) have detected potential biosignature molecules Dimethyl Sulphide (DMS) and Dimethyl Disulphide (DMDS) in the atmosphere of exoplanet K2-18b, located 124 light-years away in the Leo constellation.



- ✓ These molecules, produced by marine phytoplankton and bacteria on Earth, suggest possible extraterrestrial life, marking a significant advancement in astrobiology.

➤ **ISRO-NASA NISAR Mission Likely to Launch in June 2025**

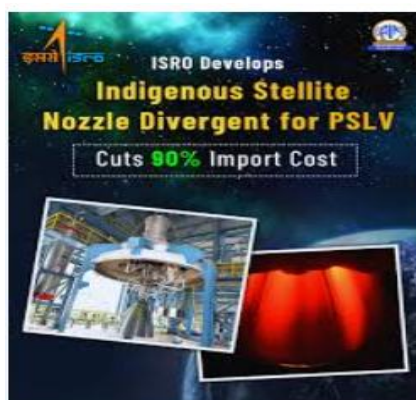
- ✓ The NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) mission, a landmark Earth observation collaboration between ISRO and NASA, is now expected to launch in June 2025 aboard a GSLV.



- ✓ Designed to monitor glacier retreat, vegetation change, earthquakes, and ground deformation with 1 cm precision, it will advance climate and disaster models. Originally set for 2024, the launch was delayed due to a 12-metre antenna issue, which required upgrades in the US.
- ✓ NISAR marks the first major NASA-ISRO Earth science mission, showcasing joint space innovation.

➤ **Indigenous Stellite Nozzle Divergent**

- ✓ In line with its self-reliance mission, ISRO has developed an alternative for the imported Columbium material used for the nozzle divergent in the fourth stage of the PSLV launch vehicle.



- ✓ It has indigenously developed the nozzle divergent made of Stellite.

- ✓ The tests conducted on the Stellite made nozzle divergent has proved that it can retain strength at high temperatures up to 1150 degree Celsius.
- ✓ The use of **Stellite nozzle divergent in PSLV will save ISRO 90 percent** of the cost incurred on imported Columbiun.

➤ **SPADEX Satellites (SDX 01 & SDX 02)**

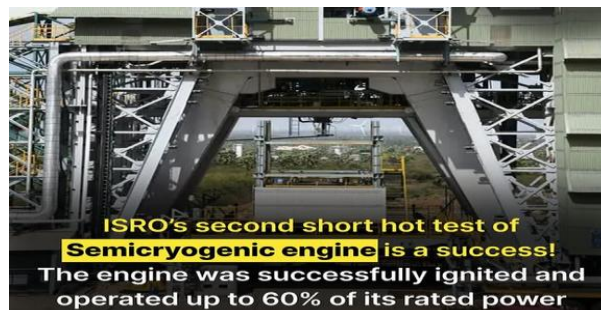
- ✓ ISRO has successfully achieved its second satellite docking under the SpaDeX Mission. On April 20, 2025, ISRO successfully demonstrated the docking of the SPADEX satellites (SDX 01 & SDX 02) for the second time.



- ✓ The mission docked two small spacecraft - SDX01 (chaser) and SDX02 (target) – each weighing around 220 kg.
- ✓ The first docking was successfully accomplished on January 16, 2025, and the satellites were undocked on March 13, 2025.
- ✓ In January, with the successful docking of Spadex satellites, India became the fourth country in the world to dock a satellite in space, joining the US, Russia, and China.

➤ **ISRO's Second Short Hot Test of Semicryogenic Engine**

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted a short duration hot test of the semicryogenic engine at its facility in the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri.



- ✓ This ignition test, conducted on April 24, is the second milestone after the first successful hot test on March 28, which was a major breakthrough in the semicryogenic engine test programme.
  - ✓ Further qualification tests are scheduled to comprehensively validate the engine system, ultimately paving the way for its induction into ISRO's launch vehicles.
- **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark II**
- ✓ India is gearing up for the launch of the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite, scheduled for June 2025.



- ✓ This satellite will monitor critical changes on Earth, including deforestation and natural disasters, utilising advanced radar technology. It will be carried by GSLV Mk II rocket.
- ✓ The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark II (GSLV Mk II) is a fourth-generation launch vehicle developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ✓ It was designed to place communication satellites into geostationary transfer orbits.

➤ **AIM4NatuRe Initiative**

- ✓ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has recently launched the Accelerating Innovative Monitoring for Nature Restoration (AIM4NatuRe) initiative.
- ✓ The launch coincided with Earth Day.



- ✓ AIM4NatuRe seeks to provide countries with the technical expertise and resources necessary for effective ecosystem restoration monitoring.
- ✓ It builds on the successful AIM4Forests programme.
- ✓ The initiative aims to support nations in achieving Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which focuses on restoring at least 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030.





# OBITUARY

## ➤ **Pope Francis Dies at 88**

- ✓ In a solemn moment for the Roman Catholic Church and the global community, Pope Francis, the first Latin American and Jesuit pope in history, passed away at the age of 88, the Vatican announced.

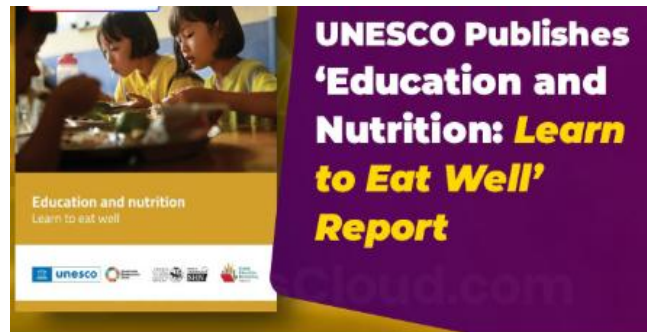


- ✓ His death follows a prolonged illness, with reports indicating he had recently battled a serious case of double pneumonia.
- ✓ Pope Francis leaves behind a legacy that was marked by reform, compassion, controversy, and an unwavering commitment to social justice.

# REPORT

## ➤ UNESCO's "Education And Nutrition – Learn To Eat Well"

- ✓ During the 'Nutrition for Growth' event hosted by France on March 27-28, 2025, UNESCO releases a new report highlighting meal quality.



- ✓ Titled **Education and Nutrition: Learn to Eat Well**, the report urged governments to enhance the nutritional quality of school meals worldwide. Despite nearly half of primary school pupils receiving meals, the report marks concern regarding their nutritional value.
  - ✓ UNESCO stresses that improving meal quality is essential for reducing child undernourishment and supporting academic performance.
- ## ➤ India Launches Digital Threat Report 2024
- ✓ On April 7, 2025, MeitY, through CERT-In, along with CSIRT-Fin and SISA, released the Digital Threat Report 2024 for the BFSI sector, offering a deep analysis of cyber threats and a roadmap for cybersecurity resilience.



- ✓ Launched by top officials from DFS, MeitY, and SISA, the report highlights the risks from AI-driven attacks, expanded digital attack surfaces, and compliance challenges.
- ✓ It emphasizes a unified cybersecurity strategy and recommends measures across People, Process, and Technology.

### ➤ **Women and Men in India 2024**

- ✓ The “Women and Men in India 2024” report highlights significant gender-specific advancements, such as improved education, labour force participation, financial inclusion, and political engagement.



- ✓ Key findings include higher female enrolment in education, a rise in female labour force participation (60.1%), increased bank account ownership by women (39.2%), and a surge in women-led startups (over 800% growth).
- ✓ However, challenges persist, including sectoral employment gaps, digital divide, underrepresentation in leadership, and rural-urban disparities.
- ✓ To address these, the report recommends skilling, leadership inclusion, and enhanced digital and financial literacy.

### ➤ **Death Sentences and Executions 2024**

- ✓ The Amnesty International recently released the “Death Sentences and Executions 2024” Report.



- ✓ According to the report, in 2024, the number of recorded executions worldwide surged to 1,518, the highest figure in nearly a decade.
- ✓ It revealed an increase in executions primarily in Iran, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ These countries accounted for an alarming 91% of known executions.
- ✓ In 2024, the global execution tally reached 1,518, marking a 32% increase from 2023.

➤ **Unemployment Rate Dips Marginally to 4.9% in 2024**

- ✓ According to the PLFS 2024, India's unemployment rate (15+ age group) dipped slightly from 5.0% to 4.9%, showing modest gains in employment opportunities.



- ✓ Rural unemployment fell to 4.2%, while urban female unemployment dropped from 8.9% to 8.2%, even as urban male unemployment rose marginally.
- ✓ The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) declined slightly to 59.6%, though urban LFPR increased to 51.0%.
- ✓ Despite positive hiring sentiment and potential rebound in IT and manufacturing, youth employability and joblessness among minorities remain key concerns.

➤ **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023-24**

- ✓ The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) is vital for understanding India's employment landscape.



- ✓ This survey provides data on key labour force indicators such as the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), and Unemployment Rate (UR).
- ✓ In urban areas, the LFPR for males rose from 74.3% in 2023 to 75.6% in 2024. Female participation also saw a slight increase from 25.5% to 25.8%.
- ✓ Overall, the national LFPR increased from 50.3% to 51.0%. However, despite these urban gains, the overall LFPR remained steady at 56.2%.



➤ **The Beijing India Report 2024**

- ✓ The Beijing India Report 2024, submitted on the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), highlighted progress on gender equality and exposed gaps in addressing the gender-climate nexus.



- ✓ Beijing Declaration & Platform for Action (1995) was a landmark global framework adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women by the United Nations.
  - ✓ It identified 12 critical areas for action, including poverty, education, health, violence against women, and decision-making.
  - ✓ The Declaration emphasized women's rights as human rights and promoted legal and social reforms to achieve gender equality.
- **Women in India's Manufacturing Sector**
- ✓ India's manufacturing sector plays a vital role in its economy, contributing nearly one-fifth of the GDP.



- ✓ However, women's participation in this sector remains alarmingly low. The share of women in India's formal manufacturing workforce declined from 20.9% in 2015-16 to 18.9% in 2022-23.
- ✓ In 2022-23, only 1.57 million out of 8.34 million formal workers in manufacturing were women.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu stands out, employing 41% of these women.
- ✓ Creating safe working environments is imperative.

- ✓ Initiatives like Tamil Nadu's 'Thozhi' scheme, which established working women's hostels, exemplify targeted interventions needed across states to address unique challenges.

➤ **India's Poverty Statistics (2011-2023)**

- ✓ India has made remarkable progress in reducing poverty over the past decade. According to a World Bank report, extreme poverty has decreased, with 171 million people lifted above the poverty line between 2011 and 2023.



- ✓ The report marks the disparities between rural and urban poverty, showcasing a dramatic decline in both sectors.
- ✓ Extreme poverty in India fell from 16.2% in 2011-12 to just 2.3% in 2022-23.
- ✓ Rural areas experienced a drop from 18.4% to 2.8%.
- ✓ Urban poverty also saw reduction, from 10.7% to 1.1%.
- ✓ This decline has narrowed the rural-urban poverty gap from 7.7 to 1.7 percentage points.
- ✓ This shift lifted 378 million people out of poverty, with rural poverty decreasing from 69% to 32.5% and urban poverty from 43.5% to 17.2%.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
April 02	World Autism Awareness Day	Theme is "Advancing Neurodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."
April 04	International Day of Mine Awareness	The theme of the International Day for Mine Awareness 2025 is "Safe Futures Start Here."
April 05	National Maritime Day	Theme is "Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity".
April 05	International Day of Conscience	The theme is 'Leave No One Behind.'
April 06	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	The 2025 theme, "Leveling the Playing Field: Sport for Social Inclusion."
April 07	World Health Day	The theme for World Health Day 2025 is "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures".
April 10	World Homoeopathy Day	The Theme is 'Education, Practice, and Research.
April 11	National Safe Motherhood Day	National Safe Motherhood The 2025 theme, "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures," emphasizes ensuring safe outcomes for both mother and baby.
April 11	World Parkinson's Day	The 2025 theme emphasizes early diagnosis, symptom awareness, and lifestyle management.
April 12	International Day for Street Children	The theme for International Day for Street Children 2025 is "Participation".

<b>April 14</b>	<b>Ambedkar Jayanti</b>	Ambedkar Jayanti is observed on 14 April every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar
<b>April 15</b>	<b>World Art Day</b>	The 2025 theme, "Art for Unity and Healing."
<b>April 17</b>	<b>World Hemophilia Day</b>	The theme for World Hemophilia Day 2025 is "Access for All: Women and Girls Bleed Too".
<b>April 18</b>	<b>World Heritage Day</b>	The 2025 theme, "Heritage under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts."
<b>April 19</b>	<b>World Liver Day</b>	The 2025 theme, "Food is Medicine," emphasizes the role of nutrition in preventing liver disorders.
<b>April 21</b>	<b>National Civil Services Day</b>	This day offers a chance to express gratitude towards the contributions made by civil servants to society
<b>April 22</b>	<b>World Earth Day</b>	Theme is "Our Power, Our Planet".
<b>April 23</b>	<b>World Book Day</b>	The 2025 theme, "The Role of Literature in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."
<b>April 24</b>	<b>National Panchayati Raj Day</b>	National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated annually on April 24th to commemorate the establishment of the Panchayati Raj system in India.
<b>April 24-30</b>	<b>World Immunization Week</b>	The theme of World Immunization Week 2025 is "Immunization for All is Humanly Possible."



<b>April 25</b>	<b>World Malaria Day</b>	The theme for 2025, “Malaria Ends With Us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite.
<b>April 25</b>	<b>World Penguin Day</b>	The theme for World Penguin Day 2025 is "Celebrating Penguins and Their Chilly Southern Home."
<b>April 26</b>	<b>World Intellectual Property Day</b>	The World Intellectual Property Day 2025 theme is “IP and Music: Feel the Beat of IP”.
<b>April 26</b>	<b>World Veterinary Day</b>	World Veterinary Day 2025, celebrated on April 26 with the theme “ <b>Animal Health Takes a Team.</b> ”
<b>April 28</b>	<b>World Day For Safety and Health at Work</b>	The theme for World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2025 is "Revolutionizing health and safety: the role of AI and digitalization at work.
<b>April 30</b>	<b>Dadasaheb Phalke Birth Anniversary</b>	On April 30, 2025, India celebrates the 155th birth anniversary of Dadasaheb Phalke, the Father of Indian Cinema, who created India’s first full-length feature film, Raja Harishchandra (1913).

