VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE
Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

APRIL 2025 - PART 2

An ISO 9001: 2015 Institution | Providing Excellence Since 2011

Head Office

Old No. 52, New No. 1, 9th Street,
F Block, 1st Avenue Main Road, (Near Istha Siddhi Vinayakar Temple), Anna Nagar East – 600 102.
Ph: 044-2626 5326 | 98844 21666 | 98844 32666

Branches

SALEM
No. 189/1, Meyanoor Road,
Near ARRS Multiplex,
(Near Salem New Bus Stand),
Opp. Venkateshwara Complex,
Salem - 636 004.
Ph: 95001 22022 | 99436 22022

KOVAI
No. 347, D.S. Complex
(3rd floor), Nehru Street,
Near Gandhipuram Central
Bus Stand, Ramnagar,
Kovai - 641 009.
Ph: 75021 65390

MADURAI
No. 199, Dharshini Tower,
1st Floor, Vaigai Colony,
Anna Nagar,
Madurai - 625 020.
Ph: 91500 21999
91500 21998

TIRUNELVELI
No. 58, IVY Towers, 3rd Floor,
Palayamkottai,
Near Palai Bus Stand,
(Next to Muthamil Hospital),
Tirunelveli - 627 002.
Ph: 91500 10079

THANJAVUR
Muthu Complex, (Pantaloons
Showroom Basement)
No. 243, Cauvery Nagar,
Opp. New Housing Unit,
Thanjavur - 613 005.
Ph: 78711 69099 | 78715 71819

KOVILPATTI
No. 15, Kathiresan Kovil Road,
Behind Kaliamman Temple,
Kovilpatti – 628 501.
Ph: 90037 90335
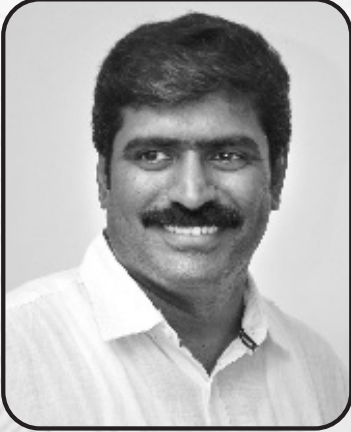81222 80685

THIRUCHENGODE
Vivekananda Educational Institutions
Elayampalayam (Po),
Thiruchengode (Tk),
Namakkal (Dt) - 637205.
Ph: 7845779908

TRICHY
No : 48, Karur Bypass Road,
Chatram Bus Stand (Opp. to
St.Joseph College)
Trichy - 620 002.
Ph: 9500278085
9500278086

www. vetriias. com

Preface

M. SHUNMUGAM
Director
Vetrii IAS Study Circle.

My Dear Aspirants,

Greetings to all of you! "What we think we become" Gautama Buddha. We all have dreams. To make dreams come into reality it takes a lot of determination, dedication, self discipline and continuous effort.

We at VETRII IAS Study Circle are committed to provide the right guidance, quality coaching and help every aspirants to achieve his or her life's cherished goal of becoming a civil servant.

The class room coaching at VETRII IAS Study Circle is meticulously planned to equip the aspirants with all the relevant facts and fundamentals of the subjects. Further the VETRII IAS Study Circle Study materials aim to support the candidate by providing the most relevant study material in a comprehensive manner.

We also thank other family members of Vetrii for making this effort a reality.

We wish the aspirants ALL THE VERY BEST for their journey in Civil Services !

CONTENTS
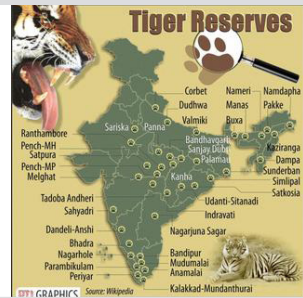
NATIONAL–DIARY OF EVENT 16
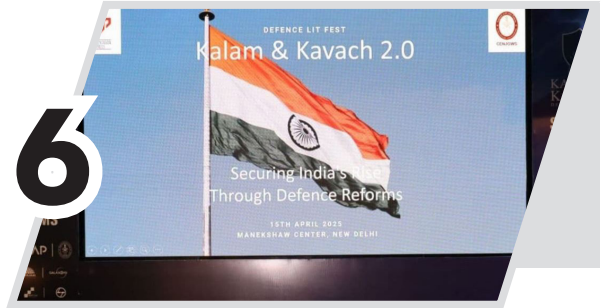
23 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

TAMILNADU AFFAIRS 24
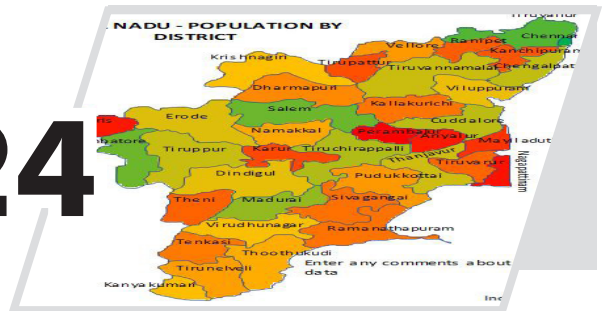
1. HISTORY

1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
April 18	*World Heritage Day*	▪ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has declared free entry to its protected monuments on International Day for Monuments and Sites (World Heritage Day) on 18th April 2025. ▪ It is a day observed globally to promote awareness about the importance of cultural heritage and the need to preserve it. It was declared by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in 1982 and later approved by UNESCO in 1983. ▪ The theme for 2025 is "Heritage under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts: Preparedness and Learning from 60 Years of ICOMOS Actions''. ▪ WHS in India: As of April 2025, India has 43 World Heritage Sites (34 Cultural, 7 Natural, and 2 Mixed) and 62 sites on the Tentative List.
April 21	*National Civil Service Day*	▪ **17th National Civil Service Day 2025** observed on April 21, 2025. ▪ The theme for National Civil Services Day 2025 is: **"Empowering Citizens through Efficient and Transparent Governance".** ▪ The roots of this day go back to April 21, 1947, when **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, India's first Home Minister, addressed the first batch of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers at Metcalfe House, New Delhi.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
		▪ **Charles Cornwallis,** who served as the **Governor-General of India (1786–1793),** is known as the Father of the Indian Civil Service. ▪ A key milestone in the evolution of civil services was the Indian Civil Service Act of 1861. ▪ This act allowed Indians to compete for administrative roles through a competitive examination system.
April 22	*Earth Day*	▪ It is observed annually on **April 22.** ▪ The official theme for **Earth Day 2025** is "OUR POWER, OUR PLANET". ▪ This year's message focuses on the need to shift rapidly to renewable energy, urging individuals, businesses, and governments to triple clean energy production by 2030. ▪ The first Earth Day was celebrated on **April 22, 1970, initiated by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson** as a national teach-in on environmental issues.
April 24	*National Panchayati Raj Day*	▪ India, as the world's largest democracy, believes in empowering its citizens at the grassroots level. ▪ One of the most significant tools of this empowerment is the Panchayati Raj system, which ensures inclusive rural development and encourages local self-governance. ▪ To acknowledge its importance, **National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated annually on 24th April.** ▪ This year, National Panchayati Raj Day is being observed as a major national programme through a "Whole-of-Government" approach, involving participation of six Union Ministries: the Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Railways, and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

Meghayan-25

▪ The **Indian Navy** hosted the 3rd edition of its prestigious **Meteorological and Oceanological Symposium – Meghayan-25 on April 14, 2025,** at Nausena Bhawan, New Delhi.

▪ The event marked the celebration of World Meteorological Day 2025 and aimed at promoting awareness and collaboration in Marine Meteorology and Oceanology.

▪ It was virtually inaugurated by Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff, and featured participation from key scientific and defence institutions.

Exercise DUSTLIK-VI

▪ Recently, the 6th edition of the India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise DUSTLIK-VI officially commenced at the Foreign Training Node, Aundh (Pune).

▪ Exercise DUSTLIK is an annual bilateral military exercise conducted alternatively in India and Uzbekistan, with the previous edition (DUSTLIK-V) held in Termez District, Uzbekistan, in April 2024.

▪ The first edition was held in November 2019 in Uzbekistan, marking the beginning of a structured defence partnership.

▪ The central theme of DUSTLIK-VI is **"Joint Multi-Domain Sub-Conventional Operations in a Semi-Urban Scenario".**

Operation Chakra V

▪ CBI Launches Operation Chakra-V against Transnational Organized Cybercrime/ Digital Arrests.

▪ It was launched to fight against transnational organised cyber-enabled financial crimes in India.

▪ Launched by: Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

▪ It involves a multi-pronged strategy, focusing on identifying and dismantling the broader infrastructure enabling cybercrimes like Digital Arrests in India.

Operation ATALANTA

▪ Recently, the European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) under Operation ATALANTA has proposed a joint naval exercise with the Indian Navy.

▪ **EUNAVFOR Operation ATALANTA,** which operates in the Western Indian Ocean and the Red Sea, has proposed a joint maritime exercise with the Indian Navy to be conducted around the end of May 2025.

▪ The primary goal of the proposal is to enhance coordination and maritime cooperation between European naval forces and the Indian Navy, particularly in the face of resurgent piracy threats and geopolitical instability in the Red Sea region.

▪ It was launched in 2008, Operation ATALANTA is the EU's counter-piracy mission in the **Western Indian Ocean and the Red Sea, initially targeting piracy off the Somali coast.**

Exercise Desert Flag 10

▪ Recently, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has joined

the prestigious Exercise Desert Flag-10 (21 April to 08 May 2025).

- It is a multinational air combat exercise being hosted by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at Al Dhafra Air Base.

- **Participating Nations**: Along with the Indian Air Force, the exercise involves air forces from Australia, Bahrain, France, Germany, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the host nation UAE.

- **Objective**: The primary aim of Exercise Desert Flag is to conduct complex and diverse fighter engagements.

Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs)

- The fourth Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), Kolkata,

- The Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs) have an approximate displacement of 3000 tonnes.

- They are designed for multi-role maritime operations, including:

  - Coastal defence and surveillance

  - Search and rescue (SAR) missions

  - Protection of offshore assets such as oil rigs and platforms

  - Anti-piracy operations in India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and beyond

- The project reflects India's commitment to self-reliance in defence manufacturing under the

national initiatives of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India'.

India's military expenditure was 9 times that of Pakistan: SIPRI

- India's military spending in 2024 was nearly nine times that of Pakistan's expenditure, according to a study

- The country's military expenditure, the fifth largest globally, grew by 1.6% to $86.1 billion while Pakistan spent $10.2 billion, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

- The top five military spenders — the United States, China, Russia, Germany and India — accounted for 60% of the global total, with combined spending of $1,635 billion, it said.

- China accounted for 50% of all military spending in Asia and Oceania, investing in the continued modernisation of its military and expansion of its cyberwarfare capabilities and nuclear arsenal, it said in the report titled 'Trends in World Military Expenditure 2024'.

The chart shows the top military spenders (in $ billion) in the world in 2024. Pakistan was ranked 35 among the spenders
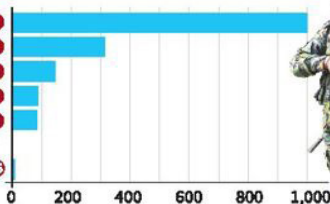
Source : SIPRI

1.3 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

▪ Recently, the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) signed an official agreement with the Government of India, formally establishing India as the headquarters and secretariat of the alliance.

About the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

▪ Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2023 during the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger. Formally approved by the Union Cabinet in February 2024.

▪ **Implementation agency:** The IBCA is implemented through the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

▪ **Objective**: To conserve seven major big cat species across the world: Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah.

▪ **Current ratifying members:** India, Nicaragua, Eswatini, Somalia, Liberia are the initial countries that ratified the IBCA Framework Agreement.

▪ **Membership:** Membership is open to all UN Member States, including.

• **Range countries,** where big cats naturally occur.

• **Non-range countries** that are interested in supporting global conservation of big cats.

1.4 AWARDS AND HONOURS

Lifetime Achievement Award

▪ The Minister for Tamil Development and Information announced that a Lifetime Achievement Award and a prize of Rs. 10 lakhs will be given to an artist who has made outstanding achievements in literature, music, dance, drama, and folk arts.

▪ Tamil music festivals will be conducted in all districts. New courses will be introduced at the Government College of Fine Arts in Kumbakonam.

▪ New undergraduate degree programs will be started at the Tamil Nadu Government Music College in Chennai.

▪ To enhance the acting skills of youth, a drama department will be established at Madurai Government College of Fine Arts at a cost of Rs. 24 lakhs. The website of Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University will be upgraded. Additionally, a new application will be developed to improve students' musical skills.

▪ The Chennai Government Museum will complete 175 years in April 2026, and to mark this occasion, the museum complex will be upgraded at a cost of Rs. 100 crores.

1.5 SPORTS AND GAMES

Saurabh Chaudhary Wins Bronze in 10m Air Pistol At ISSF World Cup 2025

▪ Saurabh Chaudhary, a 22-year-old shooter from Uttar Pradesh, made a remarkable comeback to the Indian shooting team by clinching a bronze medal in the 10m air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in Lima, Peru (April 2025).

▪ Competing in a star-studded final featuring Olympic champions, he demonstrated resilience in a low-scoring and tightly contested match.

▪ This was his first individual World Cup medal in over two years, marking a strong return to international form.

Laureus World Sports Awards

▪ Madrid, April 22: In this year's Laureus World Sports Awards, Swedish track and field star Mondo Duplantis won the award for Best Male Athlete, while American gymnastics star Simone Biles won the award for Best Female Athlete.

▪ The Laureus Foundation from England honours those who excel in sports at the international level by presenting awards annually.

▪ In this regard, the 25th annual awards ceremony was held in Madrid, the capital of Spain.

Simranpreet Wins Silver Medal: India Finishes in 3rd Place

▪ At the World Cup Shooting Competition held in Peru, India's Simranpreet Kaur Brar won a silver medal.

▪ India secured 3rd place with a total of 7 medals including 2 gold, 4 silver, and 1 bronze.

1.6 APPOINTMENTS – WHO IS WHO?

Justice BR Gavai -Next CJI of India

▪ On April 16, 2025, **Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna** named Justice B R Gavai, the second-most senior judge of the Supreme Court, as his successor.

▪ This announcement was made through a letter to the Union Law Ministry, and after government approval, Justice Gavai is set to become the 52nd CJI of India.

▪ Justice Gavai, who was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2019, will take office as CJI after the retirement of CJI Khanna on May 13, 2025.

▪ Justice Gavai's legal journey spans decades, with significant contributions to Indian jurisprudence, particularly in constitutional and administrative law.

2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 LATEST COURT VERDICTS

Article 142

▪ Recently, the Vice-President criticized Article 142 as a **"nuclear missile against democratic forces"**, especially after its use in the Tamil Nadu Governor's case.

Above article 142

▪ It empowers the Supreme Court to pass any order or decree necessary for complete justice in any pending case before it. This power is discretionary and unique to the apex court.

▪ Article 142 elevates the Supreme Court's role as the guardian of the Constitution, enabling it to intervene in cases involving public interest, human rights, or democratic breakdown, ensuring justice where legislative or executive action is lacking.

▪ The lack of a clear definition of "complete justice" can lead to subjectivity, inconsistent rulings, and unaccountable discretion. This raises concerns under the basic structure

2.2 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES

PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

▪ The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is initiative aimed at transforming India's fisheries sector.

▪ Launched in 2020, this scheme addresses critical gaps in fish production, productivity, and welfare of fishermen.

▪ Recently, Union Minister George Kurian announced various projects, including infrastructure development and financial assistance for fishermen under this scheme in Karaikal.

▪ The programme is set to run from 2020 to 2025, with an investment of Rs.20,050 crore.

▪ It aims to integrate inland fisheries and aquaculture into the broader economy.

▪ The vision aligns with **"Viksit Bharat @2047,"** focusing on sustainable growth and development in the fisheries sector.

▪ **PMMSY has two main components.**

  • The Central Sector Scheme (CS) is fully funded by the central government.

  • The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) is partially funded and implemented at the state level.

  • Each component includes various activities aimed at enhancing production, infrastructure, and fisheries management.

3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary

▪ Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary (GSWS) in Madhya Pradesh will become the second home for African cheetahs after Kuno National Park (KNP).

▪ Two South African male cheetahs, Prabhas and Pavak, will be relocated from KNP to GSWS as part of India's ongoing cheetah reintroduction project.

About Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary

▪ Situated in northwestern Madhya Pradesh along the Madhya Pradesh–Rajasthan border.

▪ Declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1974 and expanded in 1983 to cover 62 sq km.

▪ Recognized as an **Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA)** by BirdLife International.

▪ The Chambal River flows through the sanctuary, enhancing aquatic biodiversity and dividing the forest landscape.

India - world's second-largest emitter of N_2Os

▪ India, the world's second-largest emitter of N_2O after China, faces climate risks as N_2O has 300 times the global warming potential of CO_2.

▪ Nitrogen is the most abundant atmospheric gas, constituting ~78% of Earth's atmosphere.

▪ Atmospheric nitrogen (N_2) is inert and unusable by plants or animals.

▪ Plants rely on diazotrophs (N-fixing bacteria) through symbiotic association (e.g., in legumes).

▪ Nitrifying bacteria convert ammonia into nitrites (NO_2-) and then nitrates (NO_3-) the form plants can absorb.

▪ **Nitrification**: Ammonia → Nitrites → Nitrates (plant-usable form).

▪ Denitrification returns excess nitrates back to the atmosphere, maintaining the natural nitrogen cycle.

India's Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity Targets

▪ Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in India released a draft notification under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

▪ This notification introduces the "Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025".

▪ It is component of India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023.

▪ The primary aim is to establish a national framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through carbon credit trading.

▪ The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) will determine these targets based on tonnes of CO_2 equivalent emissions per tonne of production.

- The targets will be applicable from 2025-26 to 2026-27, using baseline data from 2023-24.

- These emission intensity rules support India's broader climate strategy, which aims for net zero emissions by 2070.

The Surat Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)

- The Surat Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is the world's first market-based mechanism specifically designed to control particulate air pollution.

- An EmissionsTrading Scheme (ETS) is a regulatory tool that aims to reduce air pollution by introducing economic incentives.

- An ETS is a market-based approach to control pollution by providing economic incentives to reduce emissions, commonly known as cap-and-trade systems.

- The Surat Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) launched in 2019, is the world's first ETS focused on trading particulate pollution (not CO_2), and India's first emissions market for any pollutant.

- It targeted 342 high-emitting industries, mainly in the textile sector, which used solid fuels like coal and lignite, and liquid fuels like diesel.

Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in India released a draft notification under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

- This notification introduces the **"Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025".**

- It is component of India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023. The primary aim is to establish a national framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through carbon credit trading.

- The new rules aim to set specific emission reduction targets for various industries.

- The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) will determine these targets based on tonnes of CO_2 equivalent emissions per tonne of production.

- The targets will be applicable from 2025-26 to 2026-27, using baseline data from 2023-24.

Cheetah Corridor

- A Cheetah Corridor is being set up as part of India's wildlife conservation efforts.

- The Cheetah Corridor will cover 17,000 square kilometres.

- It will stretch across 27 districts in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.

- It will interlink several protected areas, including Shahabad Conservation Reserve, Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Mukundra Wildlife Sanctuary, Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhav National Park and Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve.

Project Cheetah

- Project Cheetah is a conservation effort launched by the Indian government to bring cheetahs back to the country's wild landscapes after their extinction in 1952

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) endorse the project.

3.2 PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Atmospheric River

- In April 2025, a large part of the US experienced heavy rain, strong winds, and severe thunderstorms due to a meteorological phenomenon known as an Atmospheric River (AR).

- **Definition**: An atmospheric river is often described as a **"river in the sky".** It refers to a relatively long and narrow band in the atmosphere that transports enormous amounts of water vapor from the tropical oceans to continental regions. Unlike rivers on Earth, they are not visible.

- The **"Pineapple Express"** is a well-known example of AR storms that bring heavy rainfall to the US West Coast, particularly California.

- **AR in India**: A study found that between 1951 and 2020, India experienced 596 major atmospheric river (AR) events, with over 95% occurring during the summer monsoon season (June to September).

- Notably, 70% of major floods from 1985 to 2020 were linked to ARs, including the devastating 2013 Uttarakhand floods, 2018 Kerala floods, and 2007 South Asian floods.

- The frequency and severity of ARs have increased in recent decades, particularly in the Indo-Gangetic Plains and peninsular India, leading to significant destruction and loss of life.

4. ECONOMICS

4.1 CURRENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Rising Informality of Women in Manufacturing Workforce

- The manufacturing sector, contributing approximately 17% to India's GDP, is considered a key driver for economic growth under the vision of Viksit Bharat.

- However, women remain significantly underrepresented in the sector, particularly in formal employment, reflecting deeper structural and socio-economic challenges.

Current Status of Women in Manufacturing in India

- **Formal Sector**: Women's share in formal manufacturing has declined from 20.9% in 2015-16 to 18.9% in 2022-23, with only 1.57 million women out of 8.34 million formal workers.

- Tamil Nadu employs the highest share (41%) of women, followed by Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Gujarat, together accounting for nearly 75% of all women in formal manufacturing.

- Gender disparity is high in Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, and Haryana (less than 6% women), and even in industrialised states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh (less than 15% women).

- In contrast, southern states like Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu show relatively better female participation.

- Women are mostly employed in textiles, apparel, and food processing, which make up 60% of female employment.

- **Informal Sector**: Women make up 43% of the informal manufacturing workforce, but are mostly employed in low-paying, low-skilled jobs without job security or benefits.

Extreme poverty has decreased in India

- According to a World Bank report, extreme poverty has decreased, with 171 million people lifted above the poverty line between 2011 and 2023

- Extreme poverty in India fell from 16.2% in 2011-12 to just 2.3% in 2022-23.

- India transitioned into the lower-middle-income category as defined by the World Bank

- The five most populous states—Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh—accounted to two-thirds of the overall decline in extreme poverty.

- However, they still represented 54% of the extremely poor population.

- The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) reflects non-monetary poverty. It decreased from 53.8% in 2005-06 to 16.4% by 2019-21. The MPI was measured at 15.5% in 2022-23,

4.2 REPORTS AND INDICES

'Unlocking $25+ Billion Export Potential – India's Hand & Power Tools Sector'- Report

- NITI Aayog launched a report titled 'Unlocking $25+ Billion Export Potential – India's Hand & Power Tools Sector', aiming to explore the potential of India's hand and power tools industry in the global trade landscape.

- The report identifies the transformative role that this sector could play in boosting India's economic growth, creating jobs, and enhancing its position as a global manufacturing hub.

- With the global market for these tools expected to grow significantly by 2035, India's focus on strengthening this sector could lead to $25 billion in exports over the next decade and the creation of 35 lakh jobs.

- India's Current Position: India's tools industry is a small player globally, with USD 600 million in hand tools exports (1.8% global market share) and USD 425 million in power tools exports (0.7% global market share).

- India has the potential to increase its exports to $25 billion over the next decade, which represents a 10% market share in power tools and 25% market share in hand tools.

Revolutionizing health and safety: The role of AI and digitalization at work'.

- ILO released a report titled 'Revolutionizing health and safety: The role of AI and digitalization at work'.

- It was published ahead of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work on April 28. It highlighted the impact of algorithmic management (AM) on job quality in India.

- The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has noted a decline in job quality due to increased surveillance and monitoring.

Indians fear fake news but are less concerned about press freedom

- In India, the share of people who believe that media freedom exists is higher than the share of people who believe it is important

- The data indicates that many citizens view misinformation as stemming from sources such as social media, WhatsApp, or other non-governmental actors, rather than from state censorship or suppression.

Dangerous dichotomy
The data for the charts were taken from Pew Research Center's 'Free Expression Seen as Important Globally, but Not Everyone Thinks Their Country Has Press, Speech and Internet Freedoms' released in April 2025
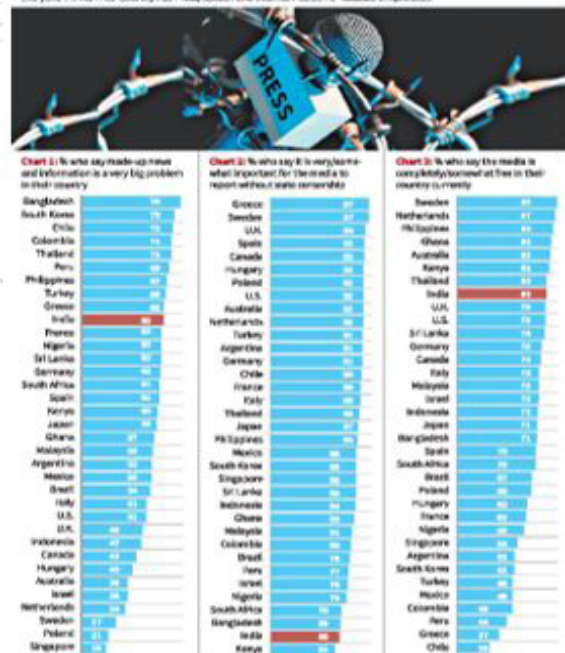
- In India, 65% of the respondents said that made-up news and information is a very big problem in the country.

- This is one of the highest rates among the 35 countries surveyed and places India among the top 10 nations where this concern is most strongly felt.

- This dichotomy has serious implications for press freedom in India, which has been deteriorating rapidly.

- In 2024, India ranked 159 out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index published by Reporters Without Borders.

- While India has consistently ranked below 100 since 2003, the situation has worsened significantly in recent years.

IIP grows 3% as electricity, manufacturing output surge

- Electricity production surged 2.7 percentage points to 6.3% in March as summer spikes demand; consumer durables and construction see the sharpest increase at 6.6% and 8.8% respectively

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew 3% as electricity and manufacturing sector production surged in March 2025, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

- In the use-based classification, consumer durables and construction registered the sharpest increase in growth, coming at 6.6% and 8.8% respectively.

- These sectors grew at 3.7% and 6.8% respectively in February.

- On a year-on-year basis, IIP growth came in at 4%, making it the slowest in four years.

5. SCIENCE

5.1 SPACE

NISAR Mission

▪ The NISAR Mission is expected to be launched in June 2025 onboard a GSLV (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle).

About the NISAR Mission

▪ NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) is a joint Earth observation satellite mission developed by NASA and ISRO under a bilateral agreement signed in 2014.

▪ The satellite is scheduled for launch in June 2025 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Andhra Pradesh, aboard ISRO's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark II (GSLV Mk II).

▪ It marks the first-ever collaboration of its kind between India and the United States in radar-based Earth monitoring from space.

▪ NISAR aims to map the entire Earth's surface every 12 days, enabling high-frequency, precise, and repeat observations.

▪ It will monitor ecosystem changes, ice sheet dynamics, vegetation patterns, sea level rise, and groundwater variation, and will track natural hazards like earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, and landslides.

Aryabhata

▪ 50 Years Since the Launch of Aryabhata – India's First Satellite

▪ Aryabhata was India's first indigenously-built satellite, named after the ancient Indian mathematician and astronomer Aryabhata, who lived in the 5th century CE.

▪ It was launched on April 19, 1975, from Kapustin Yar, a Soviet launch site, with the help of the Soviet Union.

▪ By launching Aryabhata, India joined an elite club of 11 countries capable of sending satellites into orbit, including the USA, USSR, UK, France, China, West Germany, Australia, Canada, Japan, and Italy.

▪ Aryabhata was designed to conduct experiments in solar physics and X-ray astronomy.

▪ Aryabhata eventually re-entered Earth's atmosphere on February 10, 1992, giving it an orbital lifespan of nearly 17 years.

SpaDeX Mission- Successfully Executed the Second Docking

▪ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully executed the second docking of the two satellites — SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target) — that are part of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission.

▪ The PSLV-C60 / SPADEX mission was successfully launched on 30 December 2024.

▪ Thereafter the satellites were successfully docked for the first time on 16 January 2025.

- It is designed to develop and demonstrate the technology needed for spacecraft rendezvous, docking, and undocking using two small satellites.

- The demonstration of this technology is essential for future missions, such as sending an Indian astronaut to the moon, returning samples from the moon, and the building and operation of an Indian space station.

- The other aims of the mission include demonstration of the transfer of electric power between the docked spacecraft, which is essential for future applications, such as in-space robotics, composite spacecraft control, and payload operations after undocking.

- India became the fourth country after the U.S., Russia, and China to conduct the docking experiment.

Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT)

- Indian astronomers using the Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT) have detected and precisely measured the mass of an Intermediate-Mass Black Hole (IMBH) in a faint galaxy located 4.3 million light-years away.

- The DOT is the largest optical telescope in India, located at Devasthal, Nainital, Uttarakhand.

- It was commissioned in 2016 and operated by the Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES).

Comprehensive Remote Sensing Observation on Crop Progress (CROP)

- ISRO's satellites, under the CROP framework, have forecasted India's wheat production at 122.724 million tonnes across eight major wheat-growing States for the Rabi season 2024-25.

About (CROP)

- It is a semi-automated, scalable remote sensing framework developed to monitor crop sowing, growth, and harvesting stages in near real-time.

- Developed by: National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

- It aims to enable systematic, timely, and scalable monitoring of agricultural crops using satellite data and To provide accurate crop condition assessments supporting early agricultural planning and food security strategies.

Water Bears and Axiom – 4 Mission

- ISRO is set to send tardigrades (water bears) to the International Space Station as part of the Axiom-4 mission, marking India's first human experiment in microgravity using these resilient micro-animals.

- It is a 14-day crewed mission to the International Space Station (ISS) under the Axiom Space program, involving research in microgravity biology, biotechnology, and sustainability.

- Joint initiative by ISRO (India), NASA (USA), and ESA (Europe), with astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla representing India.

Objectives

- Explore life science, space agriculture, and human physiological responses.

- Assess microbial resilience, muscle regeneration, and food growth in zero gravity.

- Contribute towards India's Gaganyaan Mission and future long-duration spaceflight.
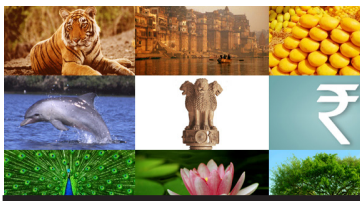
6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

Etalin Hydroelectric Project

- The Arunachal Pradesh government recently allocated Rs 269.97 Crore for the construction of the Etalin Hydroelectric Project in Dibang Valley.

- It is a 3,097 MW hydropower project planned in the Dibang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh.

- It is one of the largest hydropower projects proposed in the country in terms of installed capacity.

- The project area falls under the "richest bio-geographical province of the Himalayan zone" and "one of the mega biodiversity hotspots of the world".

- The project area is dominated by indigenous populations belonging to Idu-Mishmi tribes.

Rongali Bihu

- Rongali Bihu, also known as Bohag Bihu, is celebrated across Assam from 14th to 20th April 2025, marking the Assamese New Year and the beginning of the harvesting season.

- Rongali Bihu is the most prominent of the three Bihus celebrated annually in Assam, the other two being Kati Bihu (October) and Magh Bihu (January).

- Primarily a harvest festival, it marks the onset of spring, with prayers for a prosperous agricultural season.

- Celebrations: The Bihu dance (vibrant, fast-paced folk dance from Assam) is performed to the rhythm of folk songs and traditional instruments such as the dhol, pepa, gogona, toka, taal, and hutuli.

Prawn Aquaculture in India

- India's Aquaculture sector plays a key role in the country's nutrition and economy, making it the world's third-largest aquaculture producer and second largest in prawn production.

- India's prawn production has seen a 17% annual growth, contributing to both domestic consumption and exports.

- **Andhra Pradesh** is the largest contributor to prawn production in India followed by West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Gujarat.

- Prawns, with their high protein and low fat content, are increasingly in demand both domestically and internationally.

- Telangana Implements Scheduled Castes Sub-Categorisation Act

- Telangana became the first state of India to implement the Scheduled Castes (SC) sub-categorisation.

- This landmark decision follows the passing of the Telangana Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservations) Act 2025.

- The Act aims to divide the existing 59 SC communities into three distinct groups to

enhance the effectiveness of reservation policies in education and employment.

▪ The categorisation will be based on empirical data regarding socio-economic status, educational attainment, and employment opportunities.

Q-Shield Platform

▪ QNu Labs, a quantum-tech startup under India's National Quantum Mission (NQM), launched Q-Shield, the world's first unified platform for quantum-safe cryptography management.

▪ Q-Shield is a comprehensive cryptography management platform designed to secure critical infrastructure against future quantum threats.

▪ QNu Labs, incubated at IIT Madras Research Park (2016)

▪ Supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the National Quantum Mission

▪ **Objective :** To empower enterprises with tools that ensure data privacy and cybersecurity across cloud, on-premises, and hybrid environments in a quantum-resilient manner.

Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme

▪ Ministry of Ayush organized a special session of the Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme at Ayush Bhawan, Delhi.

▪ The initiative is part of the Mission Karmayogi framework, in collaboration with the Capacity Building Commission (CBC).

▪ The programme aims to enhance service orientation, professional capacity, and public service efficiency among Ministry personnel.

▪ It is under the framework of Mission Karmayogi.

Defence Literature Festival 'Kalam & Kavach 2.0's

▪ The Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS), under the aegis of the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) of the Ministry of Defence, in collaboration with Pentagon Press, hosted the second edition of the Defence Literature Festival 'Kalam & Kavach 2.0' in New Delhi on April 15, 2025.

▪ The event, held at the Manekshaw Centre, revolved around the theme, 'Securing India's Rise through Defence Reforms', aligning with the Prime Minister's vision for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-reliant India).

▪ The festival gathered experts from the armed forces, strategic policymakers, industry leaders, and domain specialists to discuss pressing issues in India's national security, focusing particularly on Defence Technology and Future Warfare, Defence Manufacturing, and Procurement Reforms.

WAVES 2025 - Anti-Piracy Challenge

▪ A Key Initiative Under "Create in India" to Promote Indigenous Innovation in Digital Content Security.

▪ The Anti-Piracy Challenge is a flagship initiative under the Create in India Challenge, part of WAVES (World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit) 2025.

▪ Organised by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, WAVES 2025 will be held from May 1–4, 2025, in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

▪ The challenge aims to advance technologies like fingerprinting and watermarking to combat the rising threat of digital piracy in India.

About WAVES 2025

▪ WAVES (World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit) is a global event organized by the Government of India.

▪ It aims to position India as a hub for media innovation, IP creation, and content development.

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)

▪ The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) is celebrating its 150th anniversary on April 17, 2025, in Mumbai, with Finance Minister of India attending the celebrations.

▪ BSE Ltd. is Asia's oldest stock exchange and a major platform for trading equities, debt, mutual funds, derivatives, and commodities in India.

▪ Established in: 1875, originally as "The Native Share & Stock Brokers' Association" founded by cotton merchant Premchand Roychand.

▪ It became the first exchange to be recognized under the Securities Contract Regulation Act, 1956.

▪ Launched India INX (first international exchange) in 2016.

▪ Listed itself on National Stock Exchange in 2017.

First High-Speed Rail Network

▪ Japan is set to enhance India's high-speed rail capabilities by providing two shinkansen trains for free.

▪ These trains, models E5 and E3, will serve as test vehicles for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project.

▪ The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor is part of India's National Rail Plan (NRP) 2030.

▪ This initiative marks step in India's ambition to develop its first high-speed rail network.

▪ Japan will deliver one E5 and one E3 train to India in early 2026.

▪ The shinkansen, or bullet train, is a high-speed rail system in Japan.

Vizhinjam International Seaport

▪ On May 2, 2025, Prime Minister will inaugurate the Vizhinjam International Seaport near Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

About the Project

▪ India's first semi-automated Deepwater international container transhipment port.

▪ The project is a result of a collaborative Public-Private Partnership (PPP) between the Kerala government, the Centre, and Adani Ports.

▪ With a strategic location close to international shipping routes, the port is expected to significantly enhance India's trade capabilities and position Kerala as a crucial maritime hub.

▪ It Supports India's "Make in India" initiative through infrastructure advancement

India Justice Report (IJR) 2025

▪ The India Justice Report (IJR) 2025 has been released, presenting a comprehensive assessment of the capacity and performance of Indian states in delivering justice.

▪ It is a first of its kind national periodic reporting that ranks the capacity of states to deliver justice.

▪ The IJR 2025, initiated by Tata Trusts and supported by several civil society organisations and data partners, tracked the performance of

States across four areas — Police, Judiciary, Prisons and Legal Aid.

- Parameter: It assesses 4 pillars: Police, Prisons, Judiciary, Legal Aid & SHRCs, using 5 parameters: human resources, infrastructure, budgets, workload, and diversity.

- Categorization of States: States are categorized as large/mid-sized (>1 crore population) and small (<1 crore) for fair comparison.

- Overall Rankings: Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana top the large & mid-sized states, while Sikkim leads among small states. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha show the most improvement.

- Tamil Nadu retained its top position in managing prisons, with increased budget allocation and 100% utilisation.

- Tamil Nadu has among the lowest staff vacancies in prisons nationwide, it stated, adding that with 22 inmates per officer, it has the best officer workload among all large States.

- But Tamil Nadu's rank in policing fell from 3 in 2024 to 13, owing to poor performance on budgetary and training indicators. The report added that T.N. continues to fare poorly in legal aid, dropping from 12th to 16th position with low budgets and fewer paralegal volunteers.

UNESCO Memory of the World (MoW) Programme

- Recently, UNESCO has added manuscripts of the Bhagavad Gita and Bharata's Natyashastra to the Memory of the World (MoW) Register in 2025.

- The MoW Programme was launched by UNESCO in 1992 with the goal of preserving global documentary heritage and preventing what it called "collective amnesia."

- It aims to safeguard rare documents, including manuscripts, oral traditions, audio-visual content, and archive materials, of global and universal value.

- As of 2025, the Register contains 570 entries, including Shaiva Siddhanta manuscripts (India).

HEALD Initiative

- Union Home minister unveiled the 'HEALD' initiative to combat liver diseases across India.

- HEALD (Healthy Liver Education and Alcohol-associated Liver Disease Prevention) is a first-of-its-kind nationwide initiative aimed at tackling liver disease in India .

- It was launched by the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS).

- The initiative is grounded in the principle that "behind every failed liver lies a missed opportunity" -- and HEALD seeks to ensure no such opportunity is lost again.

- HEALD is envisioned as a multi-sectoral program combining public education, early screening, psychological and medical treatment of alcohol use disorder, and liver disease management.

India's First Seed Germination Database

- India is developing its first-ever seed germination database to help farmers, scientists, and foresters select the right species for climate-resilient agriculture, forestry, and ecological restoration.

- It is India's First Seed Germination Database.

▪ It is a free-access database, offering more than 1,000 germination techniques for 465 native plant species.

▪ **Launched by**: It is an initiative launched by the Ecological Restoration Alliance-India (ERA-I) in partnership with Auroville Botanical Gardens, the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), and the Wildlife Trust of India.

▪ **Objective**: It intends to make it easier for restoration practitioners, nursery managers, and native plant enthusiasts to be more successful with growing native plants in nurseries.

India's Leather Industry

▪ The Centre has proposed a mega leather cluster in Ramaipur, Kanpur.

▪ Kanpur earned the title **"Leather City of India"** due to its flourishing British-era tanning industry, its proximity to the Ganga river, and abundant labour.

▪ India is the 2nd largest producer and consumer of leather footwear globally, after China.

▪ It accounts for 13% of the world's leather production, making it a major export contributor.

▪ India has 20% of the world's cattle and buffalo population, and 11% of goat and sheep population, ensuring ample raw material supply.

▪ States like Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, and Punjab are leading producers.

▪ Tamil Nadu, the largest leather exporter, saw an 18% decline, significantly affecting the national figures.

Anemia Mukt Bharat (AMB) campaign

▪ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released a progress update on the Anemia Mukt Bharat (AMB) campaign.

▪ It is highlighting India's sustained efforts to combat anemia, a major public health challenge.

▪ It was launched in 2018 with the aim to reduce anemia through a 6x6x6 framework.

▪ It highlights major statistics from NFHS-5(National Family Health Survey -5), including 67.1% of children and 59.1% of adolescent girls being anemic.

▪ The 6x6x6 framework targets 6 vulnerable groups with 6 key interventions through 6 institutional mechanisms to reduce anemia prevalence.

India's First Quantum Computing Village

▪ Recently, the Government of Andhra Pradesh made strides towards establishing India's first Quantum Computing Village in Amaravati.

▪ This initiative aims to create a pioneering ecosystem for quantum computing research and collaboration.

▪ The project is backed by the Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS) and is set to occupy 50 acres of land.

▪ The facility will serve as a hub for institutions and companies to access advanced quantum computing resources.

India's Largest Cruise Terminal

- India's largest cruise terminal, the Mumbai International Cruise Terminal (MICT), officially began operations.

- Inaugurated by Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.

- The MICT marks a significant boost to India's cruise tourism and maritime infrastructure.

- Designed to cater to 1 million passengers annually and five ships simultaneously, this Rs 556 crore terminal is a pivotal development in India's vision to become a global maritime hub.

Sunrise Industry

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently said India plans to increase the share of the manufacturing sector from 12% to 23% over the next two decades helped by sunrise sectors.

- Sunrise industry is a term frequently used for a sector that is developing and poised for rapid growth.

- Sunrise industry examples include the alternative energy industry highlighted in 2003 and 2007, the social media and cloud computing industries of 2011 and 2012, and blockchain industries established from 2013 to 2017.

National plan for the River Cities Alliance (RCA)

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved a national plan for the River Cities Alliance (RCA).

- The **River Cities Alliance (RCA)** is initiative aimed at promoting sustainable urban river management in India.

- Established in 2021, it is a collaborative effort by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

- The RCA operates on three main themes – Networking, Capacity Building, and Technical Support

Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre

- The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) has recently been authorised to share information with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

- This initiative aims to combat rising cyber frauds, which increasingly target the general public.

About I4C

- I4C operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- It serves as a central hub for addressing cybercrime in India.

- The centre aims to strengthen the country's response to cyber threats.

- It focuses on enhancing public awareness and improving the capacity of law enforcement agencies.

Sachet mobile application

- The Sachet mobile application, launched by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), aims to improve disaster preparedness in India.

- The Sachet app is designed to deliver real-time geo-tagged alerts about various disasters.

- It operates on the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), ensuring timely notifications based on users' locations.

- The app covers disasters such as floods, cyclones, landslides, tsunamis, forest fires, and more.

INCOIS

- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has initiated a submarine cable project to enhance long-term observations of the Indian Ocean.

- This project, supported by the international scientific community, will improve the understanding of ocean dynamics, seismic activity, and tsunami risks.

- The initiative involves the installation of a 150 km cable west of Wandoor in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, featuring advanced sensors for oceanographic and geophysical data collection.

- India's first AI-based real-time forest alert system

- Madhya Pradesh has launched India's first AI-based real-time forest alert system, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at enhancing forest conservation efforts.

- The system aims to detect changes in land use, deforestation, and encroachment, facilitating immediate corrective actions.

- The system uses satellite imagery from the Google Earth Engine and AI algorithms to track land use changes like vegetation shifts, construction, or agricultural encroachment.

Cabinet decides to include caste count in next Census

- The 2021 Census has been postponed indefinitely, initially due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The last time that India's entire population was counted by caste was in pre-Independent India, in 1931. Since then, only Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been counted in the Census exercises.

- Unlike the 2011 Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC), which was done outside the purview of the Census exercise and did not mandate caste disclosure, this time, caste will be enumerated in the second and final phase of the Census, giving the count a statutory backing.

7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

India Cuts Ties with Pakistan: Treaty Ended, Borders Sealed, Diplomats Expelled

- India has taken an unprecedented step by terminating the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan, a move that signifies the most serious breakdown in diplomatic relations between the two nations in recent years.

- Alongside the treaty's termination, the Atari-Wagah border has been sealed, visa services for Pakistani citizens suspended, and defence advisors from both countries have been withdrawn.

- These actions reflect a decisive strategic shift in India's foreign policy approach toward its western neighbour.

The Indus Water Treaty

- Signed in 1960 under the mediation of the World Bank, the Indus Water Treaty was one of the longest-standing agreements between India and Pakistan, surviving multiple wars and political upheavals.

- The treaty allocated the eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) to India and the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) to Pakistan, with detailed mechanisms for dispute resolution and cooperation

The World Social Report

- The World Social Report is the flagship publication of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) on social development issues.

- Insecure Livelihoods & Enduring Poverty Risks: Over 690 million live in extreme poverty, and 2.8 billion are near it

- Income inequality, measured by the Gini coefficient, has increased in 52 of 128 countries over the past 30 years.

- E.g., Inequality has grown in populous nations like China and India, and in most high-income countries.

T.N. forms panel on autonomy of States

- 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.

- Justice Kurian Joseph, the former Supreme Court judge who will lead a high-level committee.

- 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.

- The committee would recommend

  - ways to restore subjects moved from the State List to the Concurrent List,

  - propose measures for States to overcome administrative challenges,

  - suggest reforms to ensure maximum autonomy for States without compromising the unity and integrity of the nation,

  - consider the recommendations of the Rajamannar Committee and subsequent commissions formed by the Union government on the Centre-State relations.

- The committee is expected to submit its interim report by January 2026, and the final report within two years.

- The panel will examine if Centre-State relations need glasnost (transparency) and, if need be, perestroika (restructuring/reform) to fulfil the need of the hour and live up to the expectations of the people.

- ''Constitution was an organic document that should live up to the people's aspirations''.

Other Commissions related to Centre- State relations

  - Rajamannar Committee – 1969- By Tamil Nadu Government

  - Sarkaria Commission - 1983

  - Punchhi Commission - 2007

12 locations in T.N. to be declared protected sites, monuments

- 12 new locations in Tamil Nadu will be declared protected monuments/sites.

  - **Tamili inscriptions** – Mannarkoil, Tirunelveli district

  - **Rock-cut caves** – Aralipatti, Sivaganga district

  - **Koothapoondiyan Valasu** – Dindigul district

  - V. Kottaiyur – Pudukkottai district

  - Avoor – Tiruvannamalai district

  - Nayanur – Villupuram district

  - Dolmens – Mallachanthiram, Krishnagiri district

  - Thirupullani palace – Ramanathapuram district

  - Maraiyur Choultry – Narikkudi, Virudhunagar district

  - Boulder and cave paintings – Meenakshipuram, Rajapalayam taluk

- • **Old mandapam – Mamsapuram, Virudhunagar district**
- • **Old mandapam – Pillayar Natham, Virudhunagar district**
- A museum for inscriptions is planned at the World Tamil Sangam campus in Madurai.
- The State government will formulate a programme to publish the cultural history of Tamil Nadu in 18 volumes to capture the history of various regions within the State.
- A Sangam-era port survey at Korkai identified an **"anomalous feature"** (details not disclosed).

Kalaignar Kaivinai Thittam - Alternative to the Centre's PM Vishwakarma scheme

- Chief Minister launched the Kalaignar Kaivinai Thittam, an artisan development scheme by the Tamil Nadu government, as an alternative to the Centre's PM Vishwakarma scheme (2023).
- It focuses on inclusivity, upskilling, and social justice, avoiding caste-based vocations (the centre's scheme will only promote caste-based vocation) and encouraging individuals to pursue trades of their own choice.
- Launched by the MSME Department.
- It aims to develop artisan skills in a socially inclusive manner.
- Offers loans ranging from Rs.50,000 to Rs.3 lakh with subsidy.
- Covers 25 trades (as opposed to 18 trades in the Vishwakarma scheme).
- Minimum age to apply: 35 years (to prioritize higher education first).
- Applicants can choose any trade, not limited to traditional family trades.

India's first Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor

- India's first Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, is set to be commissioned in 2026.
- It will mark the second stage of India's three-stage nuclear programme that aims to recycle spent fuel to reduce the inventory of radioactive waste.
- The PFBR is the first-of-its-kind nuclear reactor to use plutonium-based mixed oxide as fuel and liquid sodium as coolant, which ensures high efficiency in power generation..
- Unlike traditional nuclear reactors, the PFBR uses fast neutrons for energy generation and employs liquid sodium as a coolant instead of water.
- The PFBR was developed by **BHAVINI (Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited),** a government enterprise set up in 2003 under the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** to focus on fast breeder reactors.

Tamil Nadu Ranks 4th in Solar Power Generation

- In the year 2024-25, Tamil Nadu has maintained its 4th position at the national level for the third consecutive year by generating 10,153 megawatts of solar power - According to the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- **Gujarat state ranks 1st (28,286 megawatts)**
- **Maharashtra state ranks 2nd (10,687 megawatts).**

Bharathidasan Birth Anniversary

- On the occasion of Paveanthar Bharathidasan's birth anniversary, the Chief Minister announced in the Legislative Assembly that Tamil Week Festival will be celebrated.

- Tamil Week Festival will be celebrated for one week from April 29 to May 5.

- During this week, various events will be held throughout Tamil Nadu to celebrate the Tamil language and Bharathidasan's contributions.

- As part of this, a young writer or scholar who excels in Tamil language will be awarded the 'Bharathidasan Izham Padaippalar' award.

Tamil Nadu is among the top 10 regions in Asia in terms of talent pool

- Tamil Nadu is among the top 10 regions in Asia in terms of talent pool and NITI Aayog has described the State as a model for the innovation ecosystem, in a reflection of its strong potential, said Atul Anand, Additional Chief Secretary, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Department, Tamil Nadu.

- Chennai known as the software services capital, with a buoyant medical tourism sector and agriculture start-ups, he said.

- The State had grown in the past four years, from having just 2,000 start-ups to over 10,000, indicating that its start-up ecosystem is robust,

- He said the State government had, in its recent Budget, allocated Rs.10 crore to develop start-ups in the space sector.

- The Global Startup Report 2024 had ranked Chennai in the 18th position.

- The State had a wide spectrum of economy, with around 30% coming from manufacturing and the rest from a broad sector of services.

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.

- The policy focuses on three major inclusive aspects — gender inclusivity, caste inclusivity, and geographical inclusivity.

- Tamil Nadu currently had over 10,700 start-ups.

- "In 2023, the Government of Tamil Nadu introduced a policy that slightly modified the Government of India's definition of a start-up.

- While the Centre defines a start-up as being less than 10 years old with a turnover of less than Rs.100 crore,

- Tamil Nadu's policy revised the turnover threshold to Rs.50 crore.

- Tamil Nadu's definition expands beyond new innovations. For example, while e-commerce may no longer be considered an innovation, if a marginalised community — such as a tribal one — is using an online platform to sell their products, it qualifies as a start-up to tamil nadu government

10,800 start-ups were registered in Tamil Nadu

- Until March 2021, only 2,032 start-ups were registered in Tamil Nadu, and now, this number has increased to over 10,800 and nearly 50% of these are founded by women,

- "In the last four years, regional innovation centres have been established in Erode, Tirunelveli, Hosur, Salem, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, and Coimbatore."

- Around 31,11,000 students studying in schools and colleges have been provided with entrepreneurship and innovation training.

- Over 205 start-ups have benefited under the TANSEED scheme (including 36 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/STs) start-ups).

- Launch pad programmes are being conducted to introduce new businesses. 'Pre Incubation Centres' have been set up in educational institutions across cities in Tamil Nadu

- 59,584 entrepreneurs were created. This includes 21,281 are women, 9,224 are from SC/STs, 2,497 are from minority communities and 717 are disabled individuals.

Urudhunai loan scheme

- Urudhunai loan scheme launched by the Tamil Nadu government for Adi Dravidars and Scheduled Tribes.

- It is to provide small and micro loans, worth Rs.25 crore, at reduced interest rates to small retailers, traders and manufacturers from Adi Dravidar and tribal communities through the National Finance Development Fund.

- The loans under the scheme would be provided, with the State government's subsidy, through co-operative banks.

- Under this scheme 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 Rs.50 lakh.

Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (MTM)

- Tamil Nadu's flagship scheme — **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (MTM)** — has demonstrated an improvement in the management of hypertension and diabetes in the State.

- Among adults with hypertension, the beneficiaries with blood pressure control rose to 17%, and for diabetes, those with controlled blood sugar levels rose to 16.7%.

- This finding from Tamil Nadu STEPS (World Health Organization STEPwise approach to non-communicable diseases risk factor surveillance) Survey 2023-24, which was taken up by the **Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR-NIE)**

Effective initiative

The table shows the number of beneficiaries under the *Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam* (MTM) till March 31, 2025

Service	First-time beneficiaries	Repeat beneficiaries
Hypertension	1,13,77,200	1,73,08,450
Diabetes	54,19,368	1,24,16,468
Both hypertension and diabetes	49,40,439	1,03,51,762
Palliative care	6,04,413	13,46,585
Physiotherapy	8,07,545	30,07,716
Continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis bags	488	8,476

Comparison of non-communicable diseases control between STEPS I and II surveys

NCD	STEPS I (2019-20)	STEPS II (2023-2024)
Hypertension	7.30%	17.00%
Diabetes	10.80%	16.70%

SOME HIGHLIGHTS

- The proportion of individuals with hypertension seeking care in government facilities rose from 45.5% in STEPS I to 62.4% in STEPS II
- 37.7% of individuals with hypertension received drugs through women health volunteers (WHVs) at their homes through MTM
- Among those with diabetes, 54.1% sought treatment from the government sector in 2023-24s when compared to 33.9% in 2019-20
- Among those with diabetes, 33.6% received drugs through WHVs at their homes

Source: Health and Family Welfare Department-Policy Note 2025-2026

- The scheme was rolled out in August 2021.

- This survey substantiates the efforts taken by the State government under MTM to achieve the Disbursement-Linked Indicators (DLI) set by the World Bank.

September 6 - 'Police Day'

- The Madras District Police Act was passed in 1859.

- Based on this, the modern and organized police force was established on September 6.

- To commemorate this and to honor the police who protect public peace, Chief Minister announced that September 6 will be celebrated as Police Day every year.