



DEPARTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

DAILY
CURRENT
AFFAIRS

20.04.2025



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Director,
Department of Employment and Training.

TamilNadu Highlights

Maternal Mortality in Tamil Nadu Drops to 39 – Public Health Department

- Tamil Nadu has reduced maternal deaths from **45 to 39**, according to the Public Health Department.
- A high-level medical team provides intensive care for severe complications during pregnancy and up to 47 days post-delivery.
- A list of government and private hospitals with full facilities for maternal care is shared with pregnant women a few months before delivery.
- Rural nurses continuously monitor pregnant women as part of this care program.
- Maternal mortality, which was 90 during the COVID period, dropped to 52, then 45, and now 39, thanks to early planning and regular monitoring.
- **Infant mortality has also declined from 8 to 7 per 1,000 live births** due to increased awareness and better healthcare services.

Kalaigiar Kaivinaf Thittam: Tamil Nadu's Inclusive Artisan Scheme

- **Scheme Launch:** CM M.K. Stalin launched *Kalaigiar Kaivinaf Thittam* , as an alternative to the Centre's PM Vishwakarma scheme.
- **Inclusive Approach:** The TN scheme allows artisans to choose from 25 trades, not just family-based ones.
- **Eligibility & Support:** Minimum age is 35 years, with loans from ₹50,000 to ₹3 lakh and subsidies included.
- **Initial Response:** 24,907 applications received; ₹170 crore sanctioned with ₹34 crore subsidy to 8,951 beneficiaries.
- **Additional Announcements:** Stalin announced enhanced GI tag subsidy, new infrastructure, and support for trade fairs.
- **Micro Cluster Boost:** He inaugurated three new MSME clusters and awarded top-performing units in the State.



National Highlights

Centre Notifies New Radar Speed Measurement Rules (Effective July 1, 2025)

- The Centre has amended the **Legal Metrology (General) Rules, 2011** to include new provisions for **radar equipment used in measuring vehicle speed**.
- All radar-based speed measurement devices must now be **verified and stamped by Legal Metrology authorities** for accuracy and compliance.

- The move aims to **enhance road safety**, ensure **fairness in traffic enforcement**, and **build public trust** in speed monitoring systems.
- The rules provide a **clear regulatory and technical framework**, aligning with **international standards** like **OIML R 91**.
- These radar devices, using **Doppler radar technology**, will offer **high-precision speed measurements**, ensuring reliable enforcement.

SECL Becomes First PSU to Use Paste Fill Technology in Underground Mining

- **South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)** will be the **first coal PSU in India** to adopt **paste fill technology** in underground mining.
- A ₹7040 crore agreement was signed with **TMC Mineral Resources Pvt Ltd** to implement the method at the **Singhali mine** in Chhattisgarh.
- The mine will produce **8.4 million tonnes of coal over 25 years**, while enhancing safety and preventing **land subsidence**.
- Paste fill involves using **industrial waste** like fly ash and overburden, promoting **environmental sustainability**.
- This method is ideal for Singhali due to the presence of **surface infrastructure**, which makes traditional mining techniques unviable.

Topic: Appointment

New Appointments of Secretaries in Ministries (April 2025):

- **Arvind Shrivastava** – Appointed as Secretary, **Department of Revenue**, Ministry of Finance.
- **Anuradha Thakur** – Appointed as **Officer on Special Duty**, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.
- **Samir Kumar Sinha** – Appointed as Secretary, **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
- **Santosh Kumar Sarangi** – Appointed as Secretary, **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** (currently DG of Foreign Trade).
- **Nikunja Bihari Dhal** – Appointed as Secretary, **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs**.
- **Vandana Gurnani** – Appointed as Secretary, **Ministry of Labour and Employment**.

Note: A **Secretary to the Government of India** is the administrative head of a ministry/department and principal adviser to the minister on policy and administration.

Topic: Awards

Parappa Block in Kerala Wins PM's Excellence Award

- **Top Honour:** Parappa block in Kasaragod district, Kerala, won the *Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2024*.

- **Category:** The award is under the *Aspirational Blocks Programme* category.
- **National Recognition:** Parappa secured the first position among 426 aspirational blocks across India.
- **Award Ceremony:** District Collector K. Inbasekar will receive the award in New Delhi on April 21.
- **Key Achievements:** The block excelled in *health, agriculture, tribal welfare, and entrepreneurship development*.
- **Inclusive Development:** Social welfare initiatives and participatory governance were also major contributors.

Topic: Defence

CRPF to Set Up 11th CoBRA Battalion in Jammu & Kashmir for Anti-Terror Operations

- The **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** is establishing its **11th CoBRA battalion** to conduct **anti-terror missions** in **forested and remote areas** of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- This move comes amid a **recent surge in militant activity** in the **Jammu region**.
- **CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action)** is an **elite CRPF unit** specialized in **jungle and guerrilla warfare**, initially formed to counter **Naxalite insurgency**.
- The announcement was made by **CRPF DG Gyanendra Pratap Singh** during the **86th Raising Day** in Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh.
- The new unit was formed following **Union Home Minister Amit Shah's directive**, expanding CRPF's operational strength in the region.

Topic: Reports and Indices

India Justice Report 2025

Initiated by: Tata Trusts (with civil society and data partners)

Focus Areas:

- **4 Pillars:** Police, Judiciary, Prisons, Legal Aid
- **Parameters:** Human Resources, Infrastructure, Workload, Budget, Diversity
- **No State/UT met its own women police reservation quotas.**
- **Top Large/Mid-sized States:** Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu
- **Top Small State:** Sikkim
- **Most Improved:** Telangana (jumped from 11th to 3rd); Bihar (best improvement in police)



- **Bottom Performers:** West Bengal, UP, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Rajasthan
- **Prison VC Facility:** 86% of prisons equipped with video conferencing for trials
- **Prison Overcrowding:** 176 prisons operating at over 200% capacity
- **Delhi's Under-trials:** 91% of prison population
- **Police-Population Ratio:** 155 per 1 lakh people (vs sanctioned 197.5); 1 cop for every 831 people
- **Women in Police:** Bihar has the highest share; 78% of stations have Women Help Desks
- **Budget Allocation (Per Capita):**
 - **Legal Aid:** ₹6
 - **Prisons:** ₹57
 - **Judiciary:** ₹182
 - **Police:** ₹1,275

Judiciary & Case Disposal

- **High Court Disposal Rate:** Over 100% consistently
- **Subordinate Courts:** Gradual improvement
- **Judiciary Vacancies:** HC – 33%, District – 21%
- **No State allocates over 1% of its budget to Judiciary**

Prison Management

- **Tamil Nadu** tops in prison governance: 100% budget utilization, higher allocations
- **Caste segregation in prisons** persists despite SC striking it down in 2024
- **Low rehabilitation:** Only 6% of inmates received education; 2% vocational training (2022)

Police & Infrastructure

- 17% police stations lack CCTVs
- 3 in 10 police stations lack women help desks
- 28% shortfall in officer-level positions

Legal Aid & Paralegal Volunteers

- **PLVs down by 38%** in 5 years
- Only **3 PLVs per lakh** population
- **PLVs** are vital under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**

Topic: Economy

India's Pharma Exports in FY25 Cross \$30 Billion Mark

- India's pharma exports hit a **record \$30.47 billion** in FY25, exceeding the \$29.38 billion target.
- A **31.21% YoY surge** in March 2025 significantly contributed to the growth.
- **Drug formulations and biologicals** were top contributors at \$20.12 billion.
The **U.S. market** alone accounted for \$8.95 billion, up **14.29%**, with **NAFTA region** contributing 36.6% of exports.
- Despite global headwinds, exports to **Africa, UAE, and China** declined.
- Growth observed in **Ayush, surgical, and herbal products**, reflecting sectoral resilience.

International Highlights

U.S. Defends Steel and Aluminum Tariffs at WTO on National Security Grounds

- The **U.S. told the WTO** that its **tariffs on steel and aluminum** are based on **national security concerns**, not safeguard measures.
- India had sought **consultations under the WTO's Safeguards Agreement**, claiming the U.S. actions were safeguard measures.
- The U.S. countered that the tariffs were imposed under **Section 232** of its domestic law to tackle **national security risks**.
- It cited the **national security exception** under **GATT 1994**, arguing **safeguard rules do not apply**.
- India accused the U.S. of not notifying the **WTO's Safeguards Committee**, as is required for safeguard measures.