



DEPARTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

DAILY
CURRENT
AFFAIRS
16.04.2025



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Director,
Department of Employment and Training.

TamilNadu Highlights

T.N. CM Stalin Announces High-Level Committee to Strengthen State Autonomy

- **Honorable Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** announced the formation of a **three-member high-level committee** to study **Centre-State relations** and **recommend steps to strengthen State autonomy** and **federalism**.
- **Head of the Committee: Justice Kurian Joseph** (Retired Supreme Court Judge)
- **Members:**
 - **K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty** – Retired IAS officer, former VC of Indian Maritime University
 - **M. Naganathan** – Former Vice-Chairman, State Planning Commission

Committee's Mandate

- Review **Constitutional provisions, laws, rules, and policies** related to Centre-State relations.
- Recommend **restoration of powers** moved from State List to Concurrent List.
- Propose **administrative reforms** and **ways to increase State autonomy**.
- Take into account the **Rajamannar Committee (1969)** and other reports like **Sarkaria (1983)** and **Punchhi Commission (2004)**.
- Submit **interim report by January 2026** and final report within **two years**.

Context & Historical Background

- **Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi** had earlier formed the **Rajamannar Committee** in 1969 for similar purposes.

Key Concerns Raised

1. NEET (Medical Entrance) Imposition:

- Ignores State policies and disadvantages rural, poor students.
- Tamil Nadu passed a bill to exempt NEET, but **assent was denied**.

2. National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:

- Imposes **three-language policy**, indirectly pushing Hindi.
- Tamil Nadu's opposition led to **₹2,500 crore being withheld** under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.

3. Financial Autonomy:

- **GST** implementation hurt manufacturing States like Tamil Nadu.
- **Tax devolution unfair**: TN gets only **₹0.29 for every ₹1** contributed.
- Calls for **reclaiming fiscal rights**.

4. Delimitation Issue:

- Population control efforts penalized; **fewer seats likely in 2026**.

Quotes Highlighted

- **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:** “The Union and the States are co-equal in their respective spheres.”
- **James Madison:** Federal governments dominate in times of war; **State governments are vital in times of peace.**

30% Rise in TN Govt School Students Joining Higher Education (2021–2024)

In just three years, the number of government school students pursuing higher education in Tamil Nadu has increased by nearly 30%, according to data from the school education department, with at least 74% of students who took the Class 12 boards enrolling in colleges in the 2023-24 academic year.

- **2021–22:** Only **45%** of Class 12 govt school students pursued higher education.
- **2022–23:** Jumped to **69%** with the introduction of the **Pudhumai Penn** scheme.
- **2023–24:** Reached **74%** — nearly a **30% increase** over three years.



Key Initiatives Driving the Surge:

- **Pudhumai Penn Scheme:** ₹1,000/month incentive for girls pursuing higher education (launched 2022).
- **Tamil Pudhalvan Scheme:** Similar benefits for boys (rolled out 2024).
- **Naan Mudhalvan Scheme:** Career guidance, awareness drives, and counselling (career cells operational since May 2023).

Data Monitoring:

- **UMIS (University Management Information System):** Improved accuracy and coverage of student enrollment data.

National Highlights

Telangana Becomes First State to Implement 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.
- **Announcement on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary:** The announcement was made on April 14, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's birth anniversary, symbolizing its significance.
- **Government Order Issued:** The Telangana state government issued a formal government order to begin the implementation of the Act.
- **Governor's Approval:** The Act was approved by the Governor following its passage in the Telangana State Legislature last month.
- **Reorganisation of SC Communities:** The Act reorganizes the **56 Scheduled Caste communities** in the state into three distinct categories to ensure a fairer distribution of reservation benefits.
- **Impact on Policies:** The new classification will impact policies in areas such as education, employment, and political representation.
- **Addressing Long-standing Concerns:** The legislation addresses concerns from certain SC communities who felt excluded from past reservation benefits.

Topic: Schemes and initiatives

Pharmaceutical & Medical Device Sector – FDI and PLI Scheme (FY 2024–25)

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):

- Total FDI (Apr–Dec 2024): ₹11,888 crore
- Total FDI (Full FY 2024–25): ₹19,134.4 crore
- Brownfield Projects Approved: 13 proposals worth ₹7,246.40 crore

Postal Life Insurance(PLI) Scheme Impact:

- Original Target: ₹3,938.57 crore
- Actual Investment (till Dec 2024): ₹4,253.92 crore (exceeded target)
- PLI for Bulk Drugs: 48 projects selected
- Projects Launched: 34 (for 25 bulk drugs)

Outcomes:

- Boosted domestic manufacturing
- Reduced import dependency
- Enhanced exports

Nagaland Launches Solar Mission to Boost Rooftop Solar Adoption

- Launched on **14 April 2025** by **Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio** to promote rooftop solar power systems in Nagaland.
- **Mission Objective:**
Aims to **accelerate adoption of residential rooftop solar systems**, ensuring clean and affordable energy for households.
- **Alignment with Central Scheme:**
The mission supports the **Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme**, aligning state efforts with national renewable energy goals.
- **Generous Subsidies Offered:**
Beneficiaries will receive **up to 96% subsidy** for systems up to **2 kW**, and **up to 85%** for systems up to **3 kW**—through combined **central and state subsidies**.
- **Financial Allocation:**
The state has allocated **₹10 crore** for the mission in the **2025–26 financial year**.
- **Economic & Environmental Benefits:**
The initiative will help **reduce power bills**, promote **green energy**, and support **environmental conservation**.
- **Vision for the Future:**
Demonstrates the state government’s commitment to building a **sustainable, energy-efficient, and eco-friendly future** for Nagaland.

Topic: Science and Technology

Historic First: All-Women Space Tourist Flight Returns Safely to Earth

- On **14 April 2025**, **six women**, including **U.S. singer-songwriter Katy Perry**, completed a **short space tourism flight** aboard **Blue Origin’s New Shepard (NS-31)** spacecraft.
- **First of Its Kind Since 1963**
This was the **first-ever all-women space tourist flight**, marking a significant milestone since **Valentina Tereshkova's pioneering solo mission** in 1963.



- **Blue Origin's Role**
The mission was conducted by **Blue Origin**, the private space company founded by **Jeff Bezos**, and was the **11th crewed flight** of the **New Shepard spacecraft**.
- **Crossing the Kármán Line**
The flight reached over **100 kilometers above Earth**, crossing the **Kármán line**, which is the internationally recognized boundary of space.
- **Flight Duration and Technology**
The entire journey lasted **approximately 10 minutes**. The fully automated launch vehicle **lifted off vertically**, and the **crew capsule** returned to Earth using **parachutes and retro rocket-assisted landing**.
- **Reusable Spacecraft Design**
New Shepard is a **fully reusable sub-orbital rocket** designed for space tourism, and it's named after **Alan Shepard**, the first American in space.
- **Milestone for Women in Space**
The mission stands as a **symbol of progress in gender representation** in space exploration, inspiring future generations of women in **STEM** and **space exploration** fields.

India Unveils First International Technology Engagement Strategy for Quantum

- The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India has released the first edition of the International Technology Engagement Strategy for Quantum.
- **Aim and Objectives:** The strategy aims to accelerate advancements, foster innovation, and promote the widespread use of quantum technologies across key sectors.
- **Unveiling on World Quantum Day:** Principal Scientific Adviser Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood unveiled the strategy during a podcast on April 14, 2025, World Quantum Day

Significance of 2025: The strategy is particularly notable as **2025 has been designated as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology** by the United Nations.

- **Focus on Global and Domestic Stakeholders:** The strategy provides an analysis to guide government, academia, and industry stakeholders in creating action plans aligned with India's National Quantum Mission.
- **National Quantum Mission:** The mission, implemented by the Department of Science and Technology, covers the full lifecycle of quantum technology, from R&D to commercialization.
- **Collaborative Model:** The National Quantum Mission operates with a hub-and-spoke model, involving 152 researchers from 43 institutions across 17 states and 2 union territories.
- **Quantum Ecosystem Overview:** The strategy offers an in-depth overview of both national and global quantum ecosystems, including analysis of investments, research output, talent development, and industrial activities.

- **Fostering International Collaborations:** The strategy seeks to strengthen India's diplomatic efforts and foster impactful partnerships in the field of Quantum Science, Technology, and Innovation.

Topic: Polity

Supreme Court Directs Completion of Child Trafficking Trials in 6 Months

- **Court's Directive:** The Supreme Court has directed that trials in child trafficking cases be completed within six months.
- **Daily Hearings Mandated:** The SC Bench, led by Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan, emphasized that these cases should be heard daily to ensure timely justice.
- **Implementation by High Courts:** High Courts have been instructed to issue directions to lower courts for the expeditious handling of child trafficking cases.
- **Contempt of Court Warning:** The court warned that any negligence in implementing these directions would be treated as contempt of court, punishable under **Articles 129 and 215**.

Constitutional Background

- **Article 129:** Grants Supreme Court the power to punish for contempt of itself.
 - **Article 142(2):** Enables the Supreme Court to investigate and punish any person for its contempt.
 - **Article 215:** Grants every High Court the power to punish for contempt of itself.
- **Anticipatory Bail Case:** The directive was issued during the hearing of anticipatory bail pleas filed by the accused in a child trafficking case from Uttar Pradesh.
 - **Child Trafficking Statistics:** According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 3,466 cases of child trafficking were reported in India in 2019.
 - **Reasons for Child Trafficking:** Children in India are trafficked for forced labor, commercial sexual exploitation, begging, petty crimes, armed conflict, child marriage, and even disguised sales through inter-country adoption.
 - **Relevant Laws:** The government has enacted various laws to combat child trafficking, such as the POCSO Act 2012, Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956, and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015.

Topic: Sports

Shreyas Iyer Named ICC Men's Player of the Month – March 2025

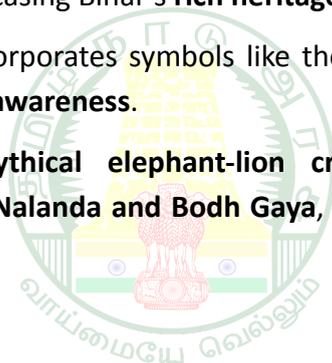
- Shreyas Iyer has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for March 2025.

- **Reason for Award:** Iyer's exceptional contributions in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, where he scored 243 runs, were key to India's victory in the tournament.
- **Competitors:** Iyer outperformed Jacob Duffy and Rachin Ravindra of New Zealand, who were also nominated.
- **Back-to-Back Wins for India:** This win marks a back-to-back victory for Indian players, as Shubman Gill had won the award in February 2025.
- **Key Performance:** Iyer's consistent and impactful innings in high-pressure matches solidified his role as a vital player in India's cricketing success.

Khelo India Youth Games 2025 – Logo unveiled



- Bihar will host the Khelo India Youth Games for the first time from **May 4 to 15, 2025**; inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in **Patna**.
- The logo, launched on April 14, uses **orange and green** to represent **youthful energy and cultural vibrancy**.
- **Cultural Identity:** The design features elements like **Madhubani paintings, Chhath Puja, and Nalanda University**, showcasing Bihar's rich heritage.
- **Environmental Message:** Incorporates symbols like the **Peepal tree, sparrow, and Gangetic dolphin** to spread **ecological awareness**.
- **Mascot – Gajsingh:** A **mythical elephant-lion creature** inspired by Pala-period temple art from **Nalanda and Bodh Gaya**, symbolizing **strength and wisdom**.



Topic: Important Days

World Art Day 2025 – April 15

- **Initiated by:** International Association of Art (IAA)
- **First Celebrated in:** 2012, Guadalajara, Mexico
- **In Collaboration with:** UNESCO
- **Significance:** Marks the **birth anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci**, symbolizing creativity, innovation, and freedom of expression.

Theme 2025

- **“Art for Unity and Healing”**
 - Focuses on promoting **emotional well-being, mental health, and social harmony** through the power of artistic expression

International Highlights

Ecuador's Re-Election of President Daniel Noboa

- **Re-election Victory:** President Daniel Noboa secured 55.8% of the vote in the second-round elections.
- **Full Term:** Noboa, who was initially elected in snap elections in 2023, now has a full four-year term.
- **Economic Revival Plans:** Noboa has committed to reviving Ecuador's struggling economy.
- **Tough Stance on Cartel Violence:** Noboa plans to intensify his "mano dura" (tough) approach against cartel violence linked to cocaine smuggling from Colombia and Peru.
- **Escalating Violence:** Ecuador has faced rising cartel-related violence and smuggling issues since 2021.
- **Geographical Location:** Ecuador is situated in northwestern South America, bordered by Colombia to the north, Peru to the east and south, and the Pacific Ocean to the west.
- **Capital and Currency:** The capital is Quito, and the official currency is the United States dollar (USD).

