



DEPARTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

DAILY
CURRENT
AFFAIRS

18.04.2025



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Director,
Department of Employment and Training.

TamilNadu Highlights

12 New Protected Monuments/Sites Announced

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

- **Tamili inscriptions**, Mannarkoil, Tirunelveli
- **Rock-cut caves**, Aralipatti, Sivaganga
- **Koothapoondiyan Valasu**, Dindigul
- **V. Kottaiyur**, Pudukkottai
- **Avoor**, Tiruvannamalai
- **Nayanur**, Villupuram
- **Dolmens**, Mallachanthiram, Krishnagiri
- **Palace**, Thirupullani, Ramanathapuram
- **Maraiyur Choultry**, Narikkudi
- **Boulder & cave paintings**, Meenakshipuram, Rajapalayam (Virudhunagar)
- **Old mandapam**, Mamsapuram, Virudhunagar
- **Old mandapam**, Pillayar Natham, Virudhunagar

Museum for Inscriptions

- To be set up at **World Tamil Sangam, Madurai**.

Cultural History Project

- **18 volumes** to be published on Tamil Nadu's regional cultural history.

Underwater Archaeology at Ancient Ports

- **Korkai**: “Anomalous feature” identified during sonar and diver survey.
- **Poompuhar**: New features found; survey work to conclude this month.

Prehistoric Evidence

- **Attirampakkam (Tiruvallur)**: Confirms human presence in TN dating back **15 lakh years**, posing a challenge to reconstruct the entire span.

Tamil Nadu Space Industrial Policy 2025

- Approved by the **Tamil Nadu Cabinet** in a meeting chaired by **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** on April 17, 2025.
- Announced by **Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa** as a landmark initiative in the field of high-tech industries.

Objectives of the Policy

- **Attract Investments:**
 - Target to draw **₹10,000 crore** in investments into the space and allied sectors within the next five years.
- **Generate Employment:**
 - Aim to create **10,000 jobs**, with a special focus on **harnessing young talent** in Tamil Nadu.
- **Diversify Industrial Focus:**
 - Move beyond the traditional manufacturing sector and **enter emerging domains** like space and space services.



Key Features and Incentives

- **Special Packages for Space Sector Companies:**
 - Custom-designed incentives and support systems for companies in the space ecosystem.
- **Startup & MSME Promotion:**
 - Various **incentives for startups and smaller companies** working on space technologies and components.
- **Location-based Investment Incentives:**
 - Additional benefits for companies investing in **specified or strategic regions** across Tamil Nadu.
- **Payroll Subsidy:**
 - **Up to 30% payroll subsidy** in the first year of employment to reduce operational costs and boost hiring.

Focus on Indigenous Talent and Innovation

- **Leveraging Local Expertise:**
 - Highlighted the presence of **innovative companies already operating** in the state (e.g., rocket printing firms).
 - Intends to develop a **skilled workforce pool** for the space sector.
- **Boost to Southern Tamil Nadu:**
 - The policy is expected to **particularly benefit southern districts** by turning them into high-tech industrial hubs.
- Minister Rajaa described the policy approval as a major step forward, calling it a **“golden day” for Tamil Nadu’s space ambitions**.

National Highlights

Haryana Vidhan Sabha Hosts First-Ever International Study Tour for Delegates from 13 Countries

For the **first time**, the **Haryana Vidhan Sabha** organized a **study tour** for a **27-member international delegation** representing **13 countries**, marking a significant step in parliamentary diplomacy and cooperation.

- **Venue:** Haryana Vidhan Sabha premises
- **Hosted by:**
 - **Harvinder Kalyan**, Speaker, Haryana Vidhan Sabha
 - **Nayab Singh Saini**, Chief Minister of Haryana

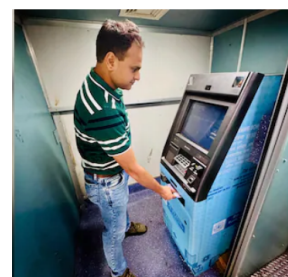
Purpose and Significance

- Foster **inter-parliamentary understanding and cooperation**
- Provide insights into **legislative procedures and governance practices** in Haryana
- Promote **India's democratic values and institutional transparency**

First ATM Onboard Indian Train: Panchvati Express Gets Banking on Wheels

In a **first-of-its-kind move**, the **Central Railway** has introduced an **ATM inside the Mumbai-Manmad Panchvati Express**, aiming to boost **non-fare revenue (NFR)** and provide added convenience to passengers.

- **Train:** Manmad–Mumbai CSMT Panchvati Express
- **Initiative by:** Central Railway & **Bank of Maharashtra**
- **Under:** *New, Innovative Non-Fare Revenue Ideas Scheme (NINFRIS)*
- **Purpose:** Passenger convenience & revenue generation
- **Formal Proposal:** Finalized by Bank of Maharashtra



Objective and Benefits

- Targeting **senior citizens, women**, and passengers in **unforeseen financial needs**
- Train has **22 coaches** with a **capacity of 2,016 passengers**
- ATM to provide **basic banking services** on-the-go
- Aimed at becoming a model for similar future initiatives across trains

Telangana Declares Heatwaves as State-Specific Disasters:

- **Official Disaster Classification:** Telangana has declared **heatwaves, sunstrokes, and sunburns** as *State-Specific Disasters*, enabling formal relief efforts under the **State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)**.

- **Increased Compensation:** Affected families will now receive **₹4 lakh** in compensation, up from the previous **₹50,000**, for heatwave-related deaths or severe impacts.
- **Widespread Impact:** As per **IMD data**, **28 out of 33 districts** in Telangana experienced **over 15 days** of heatwave conditions in the last year, prompting the move.
- **SDRF Allocation Usage:** The state is now allowed to use **up to 10%** of its annual SDRF funds specifically for heatwave-related relief measures.
- **Hidden Hazard Acknowledged:** The government recognized heatwaves as a “hidden hazard”, often underreported despite their **fatal impact on human health**.



Topic: Science and Technology

WHO Member States Reach Major Agreement on Pandemic Preparedness

After **more than three years of negotiations**, **WHO member states** have reached a **landmark agreement** aimed at strengthening the **global response to future pandemics**.

Key Highlights of the Agreement

- **Global Pandemic Strategy:** Establishes a coordinated plan for global pandemic preparedness and response.
- **Medical Technology Sharing:**
 - Promotes equitable access to vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics.
 - Encourages **technology sharing** through **regulations, licensing agreements, and supportive financing**.
 - Transfers to occur **only with mutual consent**.
- **Pathogen Data Sharing:**
 - Proposes a **transparent system** to share pathogen samples and related **benefits**.
- **One Health Approach:**
 - Integrates **human, animal, and environmental health** to prevent disease outbreaks.
- **Global Supply Chain Network:**
 - Calls for the creation of a **worldwide logistics system** for timely delivery of health resources during emergencies.

Contentious Issue – Article 11

- Focuses on how **medical technologies** should be **transferred to developing nations**.
- It was one of the **most debated points** during negotiations.

Topic: Reports and Indices

NITI Aayog Report Highlights \$25+ Billion Export Potential in India's Hand & Power Tools Sector

NITI Aayog has launched a comprehensive report titled "**Unlocking \$25+ Billion Export Potential – India's Hand & Power Tools Sector**", underscoring the sector's transformative role in India's economic growth and global trade presence.

Global Market Outlook

- **Current global market size:** ~\$100 billion.
- **Projected growth:** ~\$190 billion by **2035**.
 - **Hand tools:** From \$34 billion → **\$60 billion**.
 - **Power tools (incl. accessories):** From \$63 billion → **\$134 billion**.

Current Global Export Leaders

- **China** leads the market:
 - **50%** share in hand tools (~\$13 billion).
 - **40%** share in power tools (~\$22 billion).



India's Current Status

- **Hand tools exports:** \$600 million (**1.8%** global share).
- **Power tools exports:** \$470 million (**0.7%** global share).
- India currently plays a **modest role** in the global tools market.

India's Export Potential

- **Target:** \$25 billion exports by **2035**.
- **Job creation:** Potential to generate **35 lakh jobs**.
 - By achieving:
 - **25%** share in **hand tools**.
 - **10%** share in **power tools**.

Key Challenges Identified

- **14–17% cost disadvantage** vs China due to:
 - High raw material costs (steel, plastics, motors).
 - Low labor productivity.
 - Costly overtime wages and hour restrictions.
 - Limited scale of operations.
 - Structural inefficiencies.

Recommended Interventions

- **Policy reforms** to reduce structural costs.
- **Infrastructure upgrades** and scale expansion.
- **Productivity improvements** via skill development.
- **Raw material sourcing** strategies.
- **Global market integration** and investment incentives.

IGI Airport Climbs to 9th Place Among World's Busiest Airports in 2024

Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, Delhi, has made a significant leap in global aviation rankings, securing the **9th spot** among the **world's busiest airports** for **2024**, as per the **Airports Council International (ACI)**.

Key Highlights

- **Ranking (2024):** 9th
- **Passengers Handled:** 77.8 million
- **Growth from 2023:** 7.8% increase
- **Growth from 2019:** 13.6% increase
- **Previous Ranking (2018):** 16th

Global Context

- **#1:** Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport – 108 million+ passengers
- **#2:** Dubai International Airport
- **#3:** Dallas Fort Worth International Airport
- **2025 Forecast:** Global passenger traffic expected to reach **9.9 billion**

About ACI

- **Airports Council International (ACI)**
- Represents **2,000+** airports across **170** countries
- Rankings based on total passenger numbers (embarking + disembarking, counted once)

Topic: Economy

India Set to Become the Fastest-Growing Major Aviation Market by 2026

Growth Projections

- **India is projected to overtake China** in terms of **passenger traffic growth rate by 2026**.
 - India's projected growth: **10.5%**
 - China's projected growth: **8.9%**
- **Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)** from **2023–2027:**

- **India: 9.5%**
- **China: 8.8%**

Key Drivers of India's Aviation Boom

3. **Low trips per capita**
 - Signifies huge untapped potential in domestic travel demand.
4. **Rising middle class**
 - Increasing disposable income fuels both domestic and international air travel.
5. **Enhanced aviation infrastructure**
 - Rapid development and modernization of airports (including regional airports).
6. **Expanding airline networks**
 - Entry of new low-cost carriers and expansion by existing ones like IndiGo, Air India, Akasa Air, etc.
7. **Supportive government policies**
 - **UDAN Scheme (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik):** Boosting regional connectivity and affordable fares.
 - **PM Gati Shakti Plan:** Integrated infrastructure and logistics development, including airports.

Global Standing

- India is on track to become the **third-largest aviation market globally** in the next **three decades**, after the U.S. and China.

Topic: Important Days

World Heritage Day 2025- April 18

Also known as: *International Day for Monuments and Sites*

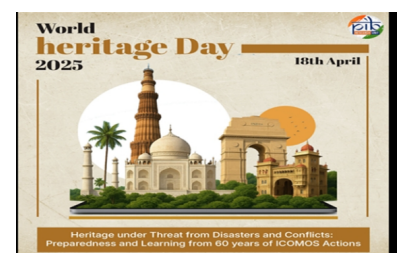
Date: April 18 (annually)

Established by: ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)

Recognized by: UNESCO since 1983

Purpose:

- To raise awareness about the importance of cultural and natural heritage
- To promote its preservation for future generations



Theme for 2025:

“Heritage under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts”

- Emphasizes the urgent need for **preparedness, risk mitigation, and resilience**

- Calls for action against **natural disasters**, **war**, **climate change**, and **urban encroachment** that threaten heritage sites

India's Global Standing in Heritage

- Ranked 6th globally
- Total UNESCO World Heritage Sites: 43
 - Cultural Sites: 35
 - Natural Sites: 7
 - Mixed Site: 1

Notable Indian World Heritage Sites

- Taj Mahal (Uttar Pradesh)
- Ajanta & Ellora Caves (Maharashtra)
- Kaziranga National Park (Assam)
- Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu)
- Sun Temple at Konark (Odisha)

International Highlights

Former Peruvian President Ollanta Humala Sentenced in Money Laundering Case

- A Lima court sentenced former President **Ollanta Humala** to **15 years in prison** for **money laundering**, involving illegal campaign funds in 2006 and 2011.
- **Illegal Funding from Venezuela & Brazil**: The couple accepted **\$3 million** from Brazilian firm **Odebrecht** and **\$200,000** from **Venezuela's Hugo Chávez** to fund their campaigns.
- **Part of Wider Odebrecht Scandal**: Humala is the **first of four Peruvian presidents** implicated in the **Odebrecht corruption scandal**. Former President **Alejandro Toledo** was also sentenced to **over 20 years** last year.
- **Peru Quick Facts**: Located in **Western South America**, Peru's **capital** is **Lima**, and its **currency** is the **Sol**. The country has been at the center of multiple high-level corruption probes in recent years.



First-ever Baisakhi celebration at the Washington State Capitol

- **Historic Celebration**: For the **first time**, **Baisakhi** was officially celebrated at the **Washington State Capitol in Olympia, USA**, with formal proclamations marking the Indian festival.

- **Organized by Indian Consulate:** The event was **hosted by the Consulate General of India in Seattle** and attended by top state officials including the **Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State**, and legislators.
- **Wider Regional Recognition:** Counties and cities like **King County, Snohomish, Kent, Auburn**, and **Marysville** also issued proclamations, recognizing **April 14 as Baisakhi Day**.
- **Cultural Significance:** Baisakhi marks the **birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh Ji**, the 10th Sikh Guru, who **founded the Khalsa Panth in 1699**, defining Sikh identity and principles.

