



DEPARTMENT OF  
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

DAILY  
**CURRENT**  
AFFAIRS

03.04.2025



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Director,  
Department of Employment and Training.

## Tamilnadu Highlights:

### Gold Bell Discovered in Vembakottai Excavation

- Vijayakaraisalkulam Muttukadu, near **Vembakottai**, Virudhunagar district
- **Third phase of excavation** is ongoing



#### Major Artifacts Unearthed

##### Gold Bell

- **Depth:** 2.04 meters
- **Size:** 6 mm (circumference), 4.7 mm (thickness)
- **Weight:** 22 mg

#### Other Discovered Artifacts

- Gold coin
- Pendant made of conch shell
- Agate stone ornaments
- Copper coins
- Terracotta figurine (broken)
- Chess game pieces
- Glass beads
- Round discs and conch bangles

📌 Total number of gold artifacts found so far in Vembakottai excavation – 7

### Ma. Aranganathan Literary Award 2025 – Recipients Announced

#### Awarded to:

- Professor Tamizhván
- P. Thirunavukkarasu



#### About the Award:

- Established in **2018** by the **Munril Literary Organization**
- Honors **Ma. Aranganathan**, a distinguished literary figure
- Recognizes excellence in **poetry, short stories, novels, essays, plays, translations, research works, literary criticism, and fine arts**
- **Two awardees** are selected annually
- Includes a **cash prize of ₹1 lakh** for each recipient

## National Highlights:

### India's Renewable Energy & Power Sector Highlights (As of March 31, 2024)

#### Renewable Energy Growth:

- **Total Renewable Energy Capacity:** 2,109,655 MW (+14.77% growth from last year).
- **Breakdown of Renewable Energy Sources:**
  - **Wind Power:** 55.17% (Largest share).
  - **Solar Energy:** 35.5%.
  - **Large Hydro:** 6.32%.
  - **Biomass, Bagasse-based Cogeneration & Small Hydro:** Remaining portion.
- **India's Global Renewable Ranking (IRENA 2024):**
  - 4th in total renewable energy capacity.
  - 4th in wind power capacity.
  - 5th in solar power capacity.
- **Target for 2030:**
  - 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity.
  - 50% of electricity needs from renewable sources.

#### Electricity Generation & Coal Dependency:

- Total Installed Electricity Generation Capacity: **521.31 GW (+5.43% from 2023)**.
- Total Electricity Generation (FY 2023-24): **1,948,956 GWh (+6.5% from last year)**.
- Renewable Energy Contribution: **370,320 GWh (Up from 205,608 GWh in 2014-15)**.
- **Coal Dependency:**
  - Coal remains the dominant energy source.
  - Domestic coal production: **997.83 million tonnes (+11.71% growth)**.
  - Coal Reserves: **389.42 billion tonnes**.
  - Top Coal Reserve States: **Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh (≈70%)**.

#### Oil, Gas & Refining Sector:

- India's Refining Capacity: **256.82 million tonnes per year**.
- Operational Refineries: **23** (19 public sector, 4 private/joint ventures).
- Primary Energy Supply (FY 2023-24): **903.16 million tonnes of oil equivalent (+7.8% growth)**.
  - **Coal:** 60.21%.
  - **Crude Oil:** 29.83%.
  - **Natural Gas:** 6.99%.
- **Reserves:**
  - **Crude Oil:** 671.40 million tonnes.



- **Natural Gas:** 1,094.19 billion cubic meters.

## Topic: Government Schemes and Initiatives

### India's EV Sales & PM E-DRIVE Scheme (FY 2024-25)

- **Milestone Achieved:** One million EV sales in FY 2024-25.
- **Aligns with:** Net Zero by 2070 vision.
- **Growth in EV Sales:**
  - Electric 2-wheelers: 1,149,334 units sold (21% increase from last year).
  - Electric 3-wheelers: 159,235 units sold (57% increase).
- **PM E-DRIVE Scheme (Introduced in September 2024):**
  - **Budget:** ₹10,900 crore for **two years** (till March 31, 2026).
  - **Merged with** Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024.
  - **Encourages:** Local EV manufacturing & ecosystem strengthening.
- **Key Achievements under PM E-DRIVE (Till March 31, 2025):**
  - **Fuel saved per day:** 8,55,723 litres.
  - **Total fuel saved:** 15,77,33,334 litres.
  - **CO<sub>2</sub> reduction per day:** 12,48,100 kg.
  - **Total CO<sub>2</sub> reduction:** 23,01,73,978 kg.



## Topic: Polity

### Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025

- Passed by Rajya Sabha on April 1, 2025.
- **Objective:** Implements international conventions on **aircraft leasing** to boost India's aviation leasing industry.

#### Current Scenario in India's Aviation Industry:

- **Total aircraft in operation:** 840.
- **Leased aircraft share:** 86.4%.
- Airlines depend on foreign leasing hubs like Ireland, Dubai, and Singapore.

#### Cape Town Convention, 2001 (Key Aspects):

- Provides legal protection for leasing high-value aviation equipment (aircraft, helicopters, engines).
- Strengthens rights of lessors (owners) & lessees (airline operators).

#### Expected Impact of the Bill:

- ✓ Encourages domestic aircraft leasing.
- ✓ Reduces reliance on foreign leasing hubs.
- ✓ Provides a strong legal framework for aviation financing.
- ✓ Boosts investment & infrastructure development in India's aviation sector.

## Topic: Reports and Indices

### Sagarmala Programme – Progress Report

- **Total planned projects: 839**, worth ₹5.79 lakh crore.
- **Completed projects: 272**, worth ₹1.41 lakh crore.
- **Objective:** Port-led development using India's 7,500 km coastline and 14,500 km of navigable waterways.
- **Key pillars:**
  - **Port modernization** (103 completed projects, increasing cargo volumes to **528 million tonnes**).
  - Port connectivity.
  - Port-led industrialization.
  - Coastal community development (enhancing livelihoods, skill development, and economic opportunities).
  - Coastal shipping & inland water transport.
- **Skill gap study** conducted across **21 coastal districts in 9 states and 3 UTs**, including **Odisha & Tamil Nadu**.
- DDU-GKY Sagarmala Convergence Programme:
  - **MoU signed in 2017** between **MoPSW & Ministry of Rural Development**.
  - **First phase (2016-2018):** 2,079 candidates trained, 1,243 placed in jobs.



### Education and Nutrition: Learn to Eat Well – UNESCO Report (March 27-28, 2024)

- Released during the **Nutrition Development Summit** hosted by **France**.
- Calls for governments to expand **school meal programs** and improve their **nutritional quality**.
- **Key Findings:**
  - In 2024, nearly **50% of primary school pupils** globally received **school meals**.
  - **27% of school meals** were not developed with **nutritionist input**.
  - Out of **187 countries**, only **93 had laws** or guidance on school food quality.



- Even fewer had **regulations on food sold** in cafeterias and vending machines.
- **Impact of School Meals:**
  - Enrollment rates ↑ 9%, Attendance ↑ 8%, and Learning improvement.
  - **Example:** Fortified organic pearl millet in Maharashtra, India, improved memory & attention span in adolescents.
- **UNESCO's Recommendations:**
  - Use **fresh, locally produced foods**.
  - Integrate **food education** into school curricula.
- **Future Plans (2025):**
  - UNESCO will develop a **practical guide & training program** for governments and education professionals.

## Topic: Defense

### INSV Tarini - Navika Sagar Parikrama II Expedition

- INSV Tarini reached **Cape Town, South Africa**, on **March 31, 2025**, completing the **final phase** of NSP II.
- **Flagged off** from **Goa** on **October 2, 2024**, by **Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi**.
- **Crew:** Two **women officers** – **Lt. Cdr. Dilna K & Lt. Cdr. Roopa A.**
- **Covered:** 23,400 nautical miles (~43,300 km) in 8 months, with stops at Fremantle (Australia), Lyttelton (New Zealand), Port Stanley (Falklands, UK), and Cape Town (South Africa).
- **Expected return to Goa:** May 2025.
- **INSV Tarini:** 56-ft-long indigenously built sailing vessel, inducted in **2018**.
- **Promotes women's empowerment** in the Indian Navy.
- **Navika Sagar Parikrama I (2017-18):** First **all-women crew circumnavigation**, completed in **254 days**.



### India's Defence Exports – FY 2024-25

- **Record-high defence exports** of **₹23,622 crore**, marking a **12.04% increase** from **₹21,083 crore** in **FY 2023-24**.
- **Target:** ₹50,000 crore in **defence exports by 2029**.
- **DPSUs' exports grew by 42.85%**, contributing **₹8,389 crore** (up from ₹5,874 crore in FY 2023-24).
- **Private sector exports remained steady** at **₹15,233 crore** (₹15,209 crore in FY 2023-24).
- **Export authorizations issued: 1,762** (16.92% increase from **1,507** in the previous year).
- Total number of defence exporters increased by 17.4%.

## Topic: Summit/Conference/Meetings

### 6th BIMSTEC Summit (April 3-4, 2025, Bangkok, Thailand)

- **Theme:** "Prosperous, Resilient, and Open BIMSTEC."
- **PM Narendra Modi** to attend the **Summit on April 4** and hold a **bilateral meeting with Thai PM Paetongtarn Shinawatra on April 3.**
- **Focus:** Strengthening **India-Thailand bilateral ties** and **economic partnerships.**
- **India-Thailand Trade & Investment:**
  - 2023 trade: \$16.04 billion (India's exports: \$5.92 billion, imports: \$10.11 billion).
  - **2021:** Thailand's **biggest investment in India's renewable energy sector (\$453.29 million).**
  - Thailand is **India's 4th largest trading partner in ASEAN**, after **Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia.**
- **Previous BIMSTEC Summits:**
  - 2004 (Bangkok), 2008 (New Delhi), 2014 (Nay Pyi Taw), 2018 (Kathmandu), 2022 (Colombo, virtual).



**BIMSTEC** It is an economic bloc that came into being in June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.

- BIMSTEC was initially formed with four member states- Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand on June 6, 1997.
- Nepal became an observer state in 1998 and became full-time member of the bloc along with Bhutan in February 2004.
- **Members** - Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan.
- **Permanent Secretariat** - Dhaka, Bangladesh

## Topic: Important Days

### World Autism Awareness Day 2025 – April 2



- ◆ **Established in 2007 by the UNGA** (Resolution A/RES/62/139) to promote autism awareness and advocate for the rights and inclusion of autistic individuals.



- ◆ **From Awareness to Inclusion** – Over 17 years, the focus has expanded from mere awareness to fostering acceptance, appreciation, and full societal participation of autistic individuals.
- ◆ **2025 Theme: "Advancing Neurodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"**
  - Highlights how neurodiversity aligns with global sustainability efforts.
  - Promotes inclusive policies that support autistic individuals while contributing to the SDGs.
- ◆ **Significance**
  - Encourages recognition of autistic individuals' contributions to society.
  - Aims to create a more inclusive world through policy changes and advocacy.

## International Highlights:

### Japan to Grant Crypto Assets Legal Status as Financial Products

- **Regulatory Shift:** Japan's **Financial Services Agency (FSA)** plans to amend the **Financial Instruments and Exchange Act** to classify **crypto assets as financial products**.
- **Stronger Oversight:** The revision will introduce **insider trading restrictions on cryptocurrency transactions** and require **detailed disclosures from businesses**.
- **Legislative Timeline:** The FSA aims to **submit the bill to parliament by 2026**.
- **Potential ETF Approval:** Japan may **lift the ban on crypto exchange-traded funds (ETFs)**, integrating digital assets further into its financial system.
- **Investor Protection:** The move aligns with **Japan's tightening crypto regulations** since legalizing Bitcoin as payment in **2017**, following hacking incidents and money laundering concerns.



### Ruling on President Yoon Suk Yeol's Impeachment

- **Impeached on:** December 14, 2024, by the **National Assembly of South Korea**.
- **Main Accusation:** Declaring **martial law without valid reason**.
- **Yoon's Defense:** Martial law was a response to **opposition's abuse of power**, not an attempt at military rule.
- **Court's Ruling:** To remove Yoon, at least **six justices** must agree.
- **If Removed:** A **new presidential election** will be held **within 60 days**.
- **Criminal Charges:** Yoon is also accused of **leading an insurrection**.

