



DEPARTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

DAILY
CURRENT
AFFAIRS

09.04.2025



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Director,
Department of Employment and Training.

Tamilnadu Highlights:

Rs. 576.73 Crore Schemes Announced for the Welfare of Gulf of Mannar Fishermen

- To improve the livelihoods of fishermen in the Gulf of Mannar region, the Tamil Nadu government has launched new schemes worth **Rs. 216.73 crore**, including:
 - **Seaweed cultivation, processing, value-added products, and marketing-related skill training and tools.**
 - **Cage-based fish and mud crab farming, processing, and sale** – Rs. 25.82 crore.
 - **Fish drying technology, training, and equipment** – Rs. 9.90 crore for 2,500 fisher families.
 - Alternative marine-related livelihoods such as **net making and repair, boat building and repair, dried fish production, ornamental fish tank making, boat operator training, and seashell handicrafts** – Rs. 54.48 crore.
 - **Non-marine livelihoods** like mushroom farming, tourist boat operations, handicrafts, homemade spice powder production, beauty training, and millet-based food production – Rs. 53.62 crore.
- **Beneficiary Districts**
 - These initiatives will benefit fishermen in Ramanathapuram, Nagapattinam, Thoothukudi, Pudukkottai, Tiruvarur, and Thanjavur—coastal districts highly affected by repeated arrests by the Sri Lankan Navy.

Fishing Harbours – Rs. 360 Crore

- To support deep-sea fishing in the southern region and Indian Ocean:
- **Three major fishing harbours** will be constructed:

National Highlights:

India Overtakes Germany in Wind & Solar Power Generation (2024)

- **India** became the **world's 3rd-largest generator of wind and solar electricity**, surpassing **Germany**.
- Wind and solar contributed **10%** of India's total electricity in 2024.
- **Solar alone contributed 7%, doubling** its share since 2021.

India's 2024 Renewable Energy Milestones:

- Added **24 GW** of solar capacity in 2024 (2x more than 2023).
- Ranked **3rd globally** in solar capacity addition (after **China** and **USA**).
- Recorded **20 TWh increase** in solar generation (4th highest globally).
- Total **clean sources** accounted for **22%** of electricity generation.

- Hydropower: **8%**
- Wind + Solar: **10%**
- Other renewables/nuclear: **~4%**



Global Context:

- Wind + Solar: **15%** of global electricity (2024).
- **Solar**: Fastest-growing power source **20th year in a row**.
 - Added **474 TWh** in 2024.
 - Share in global electricity mix: **6.9%** (doubled in 3 years).
- Total **low-carbon electricity** (renewables + nuclear): **40.9%** — highest since 1940s.

India's Clean Energy Trajectory

- **Targets**:
 - **50%** of installed capacity from **non-fossil** sources by **2030** (NDC).
 - **500 GW** non-fossil capacity by **2030** (unofficial but guiding).
- **Challenge**: Meeting rising power demand while increasing clean energy share.
 - **Heatwaves in 2024** drove 1/3rd of the demand spike.

Telangana Govt Drops Charges Against University of Hyderabad Students

- **Telangana government** has decided to **drop charges** against **University of Hyderabad students** involved in land protest.
- Students had protested against **tree cutting** on **400 acres of land at Kancha Gachibowli** near the university.
- A **three-member ministerial committee** was formed to resolve the **Kancha Gachibowli land dispute**.
- The panel includes **Deputy CM Vikramarka, D. Sridhar Babu, and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy**.
- **University Teachers' Association** and **civil society groups** submitted demands to the panel.
- The panel clarified that **police presence is required** as per **Supreme Court orders** to protect the disputed land.

Background on the Kancha Gachibowli Issue:

- Students are opposing the **auction of 400 acres** claimed to be part of the university's original **2,324-acre** land.
- The **Telangana government** claims ownership over the land, leading to **legal disputes**.

Telangana Governor Inaugurates Renovated Tribal Museum at Bhadrachalam

- **Governor Jishnu Dev Varma** formally inaugurated the **renovated Tribal Museum** at **ITDA headquarters, Bhadrachalam**.
- Bhadrachalam is located in **Bhadradri Kothagudem district, Telangana**.

- The museum has been **renovated by the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA)**.
- It aims to **showcase tribal culture, heritage, and lifestyle**.
- The Governor toured the museum and **interacted with tribal individuals**.
- Tribal artisans **displayed their handicrafts** in a setup replicating a tribal village environment.
- Governor praised ITDA for **preserving tribal traditions** through this initiative.

Topic: Defense

Project Varsha – India’s First Nuclear Submarine Base Initiative

- Near **Rambilli**, ~50 km south of **Visakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh.

What is Project Varsha?

- A **classified naval infrastructure** project by the Indian Navy.
- Aimed at building **INS Varsha**, India’s first **dedicated nuclear submarine base**.
- Scheduled for commissioning in **2026**.

Purpose & Strategic Aim:

- Boost India's **maritime strike** and **deterrence capabilities** in the **Bay of Bengal** and **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- Serve as a **counter to China’s expanding presence** via bases like Hambantota (Sri Lanka) and BNS Sheikh Hasina (Bangladesh).

Key Features of INS Varsha:

- **Underground submarine pens and tunnels** for stealth and protection.
- **Capacity:** Can dock up to **12 nuclear-powered submarines**.
- **Concealment:** Offers protection from **aerial and satellite surveillance**.
- **Proximity to BARC Atchutapuram:** Enables access to cutting-edge **nuclear technology and infrastructure**.
- **Strategic positioning:** Allows quick deployment to critical maritime chokepoints like the **Strait of Malacca**.



INS Aridhaman – India’s Third SSBN

- A **7,000-tonne SSBN** (nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine).
- Part of the **Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV)** project.
- **Built by:** Shipbuilding Centre, Visakhapatnam
- With support from **BARC** and **DRDO**.

Key Capabilities:

- Equipped to carry **more K-4 SLBMs** (Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles) with a **range of 3,500 km**.
- More advanced than **INS Arihant** and **INS Arighat** (India's earlier SSBNs).
- Designed for **long-duration underwater deterrence patrols**.
- Expected to be **commissioned in 2025**.

Strategic Role:

- Strengthens India's **nuclear triad** by enhancing its **second-strike capability**.
- Operates undetected in deep seas, ensuring **credible nuclear deterrence**.

Topic: Environment and Ecology

Brazil Proposes Global Climate Council Ahead of COP30

- **Brazil** has proposed the creation of a **Global Climate Council** ahead of **COP30**.
- The proposed Council would serve as an **international body to accelerate global climate action**.
- **COP30** is scheduled to be held in **Belem**, northern Brazil, in **November 2025**.
- The Council would function under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.
- Its key objective is to **fast-track decisions** made during COP meetings.
- It aims to **better coordinate global climate efforts** and make actions **more effective and timely**.

Topic: Awards and Honours

Lisbon Confers 'City Key of Honour' on President Droupadi Murmu

- **President Droupadi Murmu** received the prestigious '**City Key of Honour**' from the **Mayor of Lisbon**.
- The award ceremony took place at **Lisbon's historic City Hall**.
- The "**Key to the City**" is the **highest civilian honour** given by the City of Lisbon.
- This marks the **first state visit by an Indian President to Portugal in 27 years**—the last being **President K.R. Narayanan in 1998**.
- President Murmu is on a **four-day state visit to Portugal and Slovakia from April 7–10, 2025**.
- The visit coincides with the **50th anniversary of India-Portugal diplomatic ties**.
- To mark this occasion, President Murmu **released a commemorative stamp** highlighting the shared cultural heritage of both countries.
- She also praised **Portugal's role in strengthening India-EU relations**.
- The **first India-EU Summit** was held in **2000**, during **Portugal's EU Presidency**.

- In **May 2021**, Portugal also hosted the “**India-EU Plus 27**” Leadership Summit.

Topic: Government Schemes and Initiatives

Over 1,700 Anganwadi-cum-Crèches Operating Under Palna Scheme

- A total of **1,761 Anganwadi-cum-Crèches** are currently operational across India under the **Palna Scheme**.
- The **Palna Scheme** is a **centrally sponsored scheme** aimed at providing **high-quality crèche services** for children aged **6 months to 6 years**.
- These services ensure a **safe and nurturing environment** for early childhood care. ♦



Funding Structure of Palna Scheme

- Funding is **shared between Centre and States**:
 - **60:40** for most states.
 - **90:10** for **Northeast and special category states**.
- The scheme supports **two types of crèches**:
 - **Standalone crèches** – **1,284** currently operational.
 - **Anganwadi-cum-crèches** – **1,761** operational.

Crèche Mandate for Employers & Expansion Plan

- As per the **amended Maternity Benefit Act** by the Ministry of Labour & Employment:
 - Establishments with **50+ employees** must provide **crèche facilities**.
- The **Palna Scheme** ensures access to crèche facilities for **all mothers**, regardless of employment status.

Future Plans and Approvals

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** plans to establish **17,000 new Anganwadi-cum-Crèches** in **2024-25**.
- So far, **11,395 Anganwadi-cum-Crèches** have been **approved** across **34 states and UTs**.

Background

- ♦ In **2022**, the **National Crèche Scheme** was **reorganized and renamed** as the **Palna Scheme**.
- ♦ It now functions as a **sub-scheme 'Samarthya'** under **Mission Shakti**.

Topic: Polity

Kerala Set to Establish Waqf Board Under New Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025

- Kerala is set to establish a new Waqf Board under the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

- The previous board's tenure ended on December 19 and is currently on an extended deadline.
- The Kerala High Court has directed the board to function until the new one is elected.
- The state government plans to complete the new board's selection within a month.
- Despite strong opposition earlier, the Act came into effect nationally on April 5, 2025.

Topic: Sports

Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil Clinches Gold at ISSF World Cup 2025 in Buenos Aires

- Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil won the gold medal in men's 10m air rifle at the ISSF World Cup 2025 in Buenos Aires.
- This marks his second individual gold at an ISSF World Cup, following his 2023 win in Cairo.
- India jointly tops the medal tally with China, both having won two gold, one silver, and one bronze so far.
- The USA follows in third place with two gold medals.
- India's Arjun Babuta reached the final but missed the podium, while Kiran Ankush Jadhav finished sixth.
- Patil's win brings India's total to four medals at the first ISSF World Cup of the 2025 season.

International Highlights

US Supreme Court Clears Way for Tahawwur Rana's Extradition to India

- ♦ The **US Supreme Court** has **rejected the plea** of 26/11 accused **Tahawwur Rana** to block his extradition to India.
- ♦ Rana is **wanted in India** for his role in the **2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks**, which claimed over 174 lives.
- ♦ His plea was marked for "**Conference of 4/4/2025**" but was **ultimately denied** by the court.
- ♦ Rana had filed an **emergency stay application** through Justice **Elena Kagan** on February 27.
- ♦ He claimed potential **torture in India** due to his **Pakistani Muslim background**.
- ♦ **President Donald Trump** had earlier approved his **extradition** after a meeting with **Prime Minister Modi**.
- ♦ Rana is a **Canadian citizen of Pakistani origin** and was convicted in the US for aiding **Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)**.
- ♦ He allegedly helped **David Coleman Headley** (Daood Gilani) by supplying **false documents** to scout targets.
- ♦ Headley was arrested in 2009 and testified against Rana's involvement.
- ♦ The extradition is under the **India-US Extradition Treaty**, signed in **1997**, to hand over wanted criminals.

Trump confirmed that the U.S. and Iran begin direct nuclear talks.

- US President Donald Trump confirmed that direct negotiations between Washington and Tehran on Iran's nuclear program have officially begun.
- Trump told reporters the direct talks would begin on April 12.
- He stressed that Tehran must not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons.
- Trump also warned that Iran would be in "great danger" if diplomatic efforts to curb its nuclear ambitions failed.
- During his previous presidency (2017-2021), Trump withdrew the US from the landmark nuclear deal with Iran, which was negotiated during President Barack Obama's administration.
- The Trump administration had also imposed strict sanctions on Iran, which increased tensions between the two countries.
- The US and Iran have had no direct diplomatic relations since 1980.
- Relations were severed after Iranian revolutionaries stormed the US embassy in Tehran and held 53 diplomat's hostage for 444 days.

