



DEPARTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

DAILY
CURRENT
AFFAIRS

APRIL 2025
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Director,
Department of Employment and Training.

Tamilnadu Highlights:

Tamil Nadu to Implement Vazhdhu Kattuvom 3.0 with World Bank Support

- **Vazhdhu Kattuvom 3.0** will be implemented in **120 blocks** at a cost of **₹1,000 crore** with **World Bank assistance**.
- A **skill development programme** worth **₹66 crore** will train **42,000 youth** for jobs and entrepreneurship.
- **₹25 crore** will support **2,500 self-help groups (SHGs)** led by women, tribals, and persons with disabilities.
- **Food festivals** will be held across **five zones** in Tamil Nadu.



Achievements Highlighted:

- **SHG Expansion:** In the last four years, Tamil Nadu has established **1.35 lakh new SHGs**.
- **Bank Credit:** ₹1.10 lakh crore has been provided to SHGs through bank linkage programs, encouraging financial inclusion.
- **ID Cards for SHGs:** SHG members have been issued ID cards, allowing free transportation of goods up to **25 kg** within a **100 km radius** via government buses.

Key Initiatives under the Scheme:

1. **Women Empowerment:** Focuses on improving the livelihoods of women through SHG-led businesses.
2. **Entrepreneurship Support:** Initiatives such as food festivals (e.g., Marina Food Festival) to promote women's businesses.
3. **Skill Development:** Training and capacity-building programs for SHG members.
4. **Infrastructure:** Establishing community halls for SHG meetings in **urban areas**, replicating the existing rural model.

National Highlights:

NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEXTILES MISSION

The **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)**, launched in 2020 by the **Ministry of Textiles**, has successfully completed **5 years** of implementation. This flagship initiative aims to elevate India's position in the technical textiles sector, focusing on several strategic areas to enhance the industry's growth and global competitiveness.

India's Textile Industry and Technical Textiles

- **Global Standing:** India is the 6th largest exporter of textiles globally, holding a 3.9% share in world textile exports.
- **Contribution to GDP:** The textile sector contributes nearly 2% to India's GDP.

- **Growth Outlook:** By 2030, the sector is expected to grow to US\$350 billion, creating 3.5 crore jobs.

Rise of Technical Textiles

- **What are Technical Textiles?**
Technical textiles are specialized fabrics designed for specific functions, focusing on performance and utility rather than appearance. They are used across various industries, such as automotive, healthcare, agriculture, and construction.
- **Categories of Technical Textiles:**
These textiles are divided into 12 categories, each serving a distinct purpose like safety gear, car parts, medical equipment, and building materials.
- **Key Sectors Using Technical Textiles:**
 - **Automotive:** Parts like airbag fabrics, seatbelts.
 - **Healthcare:** Medical bandages, wound care products.
 - **Construction:** Geotextiles used for soil reinforcement.
 - **Agriculture:** Fabrics for crop protection and netting.



Topic: Polity

AFSPA Extended in Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh for Another Six Months

- The **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** extended the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)** in **Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh** for an additional six months.
- In **Manipur**, the AFSPA will apply throughout the state, except in the jurisdictions of **13 police stations** across **five valley districts**.
 - The excluded police stations are in the districts of Imphal, Lamphel, City police station, Singjamei, Patsoi, Wangoi, Porompat, Heingang, Irilbung, Thoubal, Bishnupur, Nambol, and Kakching.
- The extension will be effective from **April 1, 2025**, unless withdrawn earlier.



Background:

- The **AFSPA** was initially reimposed in **Manipur** after ethnic violence erupted on **May 3, 2023**, leading to a significant deterioration of the law-and-order situation.
- **President's Rule** was imposed in **Manipur** on **February 13, 2025**.

- The law had been withdrawn from all **valley police stations** between **April 1, 2022, and April 1, 2023**, when the security situation was considered improved.
- **Nagaland**: AFSPA extended for another six months across **eight districts** and **21 police stations** in five additional districts.
- **Arunachal Pradesh**: The law continues in **Tirap, Changlang, and Longding** districts, and specific areas under the jurisdiction of **Namsai, Mahadevpur, and Chowkham** police stations.

The Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) 1958:

- The **AFSPA** grants extensive powers to the armed forces in **disturbed areas**, including:
 - The power to **shoot** anyone acting against the law.
 - The ability to **search premises** and **arrest individuals** without warrants.
 - **Protection from prosecution** and legal suits unless authorized by the Central government.
- **AFSPA** has been in force in **Manipur** since **1981**, with the state gaining **Statehood** in **1972**.

Topic: Defense

Operation Brahma

- **Purpose:**
 - **Operation Brahma** was launched by the **Indian Army** to provide **humanitarian assistance** following a devastating **earthquake** in **Myanmar**.
- **Deployment:**
 - A **special medical task force** led by **Lieutenant Colonel Jagneet Gill** was deployed for the mission.
 - The task force operates under the elite **Shatrujeet Brigade** of the Indian Army.
- **Team and Equipment:**
 - The **118-member medical response team** is equipped with **essential medical equipment** and **supplies** to provide immediate relief and healthcare support to the affected areas.
- **Significance:**
 - This operation highlights **India's commitment** to providing prompt humanitarian assistance to its neighboring countries in times of crisis.
 - It also reflects the **strength of regional cooperation** and India's proactive role in disaster relief missions.



Exercise INIOCHOS-25

- **Exercise INIOCHOS-25** is a **multinational air exercise** hosted by the **Hellenic Air Force** at **Andravidia Air Base, Greece**.

- Scheduled from **31 March 2025 to 11 April 2025**.
- **Indian Air Force (IAF) Participation:**
 - The IAF will participate with a contingent comprising:
 - **Su-30 MKI** fighters
 - **IL-78** (Aerial Refueling Aircraft)
 - **C-17** (Transport Aircraft)
 - The exercise offers the IAF an opportunity to demonstrate its **operational capabilities** and strengthen **international cooperation**.
- **Purpose of the Exercise:**
 - Enhance **international cooperation** and **interoperability**.
 - Facilitate the exchange of **tactical knowledge**.
 - Train in planning and executing **Combined Air Operations**.
 - Practice under **realistic combat scenarios** simulating **modern-day air warfare challenges**.
- **Global Participation:**
 - **Fifteen countries** will participate in the exercise, contributing both **air and surface assets**.
 - It fosters **military ties** and provides a platform for the participating nations to gain insights into **operational best practices**.
- **Significance for India:**
 - Participation in **INIOCHOS-25** reflects India's commitment to **global defense cooperation** and **operational excellence**.
 - Strengthens **strategic partnerships** and builds readiness for **joint operations** with allied nations.
 - Provides valuable experience in **multinational air combat environments**.



Topic: Festivals

Sarhul Festival 2025: Celebrations and Significance

Sarhul, a vibrant festival celebrated by the Adivasi communities of **Jharkhand** and the **Chotanagpur region**, marks the arrival of **spring** and the **Adivasi New Year**. The festival is a reflection of the deep-rooted **nature worship** practices of the indigenous tribes.

Meaning and Significance

- **Sarhul** means "**worship of the Sal tree**."
- It symbolizes the **union of the Sun and the Earth**, essential for the sustenance of life.
- The **Sal tree** is revered as sacred, representing **Sarna Maa**, the village deity worshipped by the Adivasis.

Celebrations Across Regions

- Tribes such as the **Oraon, Munda, Santal, Khadia, and Ho** observe Sarhul with traditional fervor.
- Due to historical migration, Sarhul is now celebrated in regions like **Assam, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Bhutan**.

Topic: New Appointments

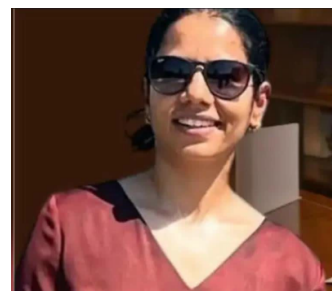
CS Setty's Appointment as IBA Chairman

- **New Appointment:**
 - **Challa Sreenivasalu Setty (CS Setty)**, the Chairman of the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, has been appointed as the **Chairman of the Indian Banks Association (IBA)** for the upcoming fiscal year.
- **Tenure:**
 - He will serve as IBA Chairman **until the next Annual General Meeting (AGM)**.
- **Predecessor:**
 - CS Setty succeeds **MV Rao**, the **Chief Executive of the Central Bank of India**, who was the previous IBA Chairman.
- **Significance of IBA:**
 - The **Indian Banks Association (IBA)** is a representative body for **Indian banking institutions**.
 - It plays a key role in **policy advocacy** and acts as a bridge between the **government, regulators, and the banking industry**.



Nidhi Tiwari Appointed as Private Secretary to PM Narendra Modi

1. **Appointment:** Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer Nidhi Tiwari has been appointed as the Private Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
2. **Experience:** Nidhi Tiwari has extensive experience in foreign affairs and government administration, having served in various key positions.
3. **Previous Roles:**
 - Served as Deputy Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) from November 2022 to March 2025, managing administrative and diplomatic affairs.
 - Worked as Under Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs in the Disarmament and International Security Affairs Division, contributing to global security initiatives.



4. **Approval:** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved her appointment, and the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) issued the official notification on March 29, 2025.

Topic: Important Days

International Yoga Day 2025

- **Prime Minister's Address:**
 - In the 120th episode of **Mann Ki Baat**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** highlighted the growing importance of fitness and yoga in daily life.
 - He encouraged people to adopt yoga as a regular practice, noting its global influence.
 - The PM described Yoga Day as "**a priceless gift from India to humanity**" and acknowledged its success since its inception in 2015.
- **Theme for 2025:**
 - The theme for International Yoga Day (IDY) 2025 is "**Yoga for One Earth One Health.**"
 - It emphasizes yoga's role in promoting physical, mental, and environmental well-being.
- **Organizing Body:**
 - The **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY)**, under the Ministry of Ayush, has been assigned to organize the celebrations on a grand scale.
 - A **100-day countdown** to IDY 2025 was launched during a **Yoga Mahotsav** event at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi** on **March 13, 2025**.

International Transgender Day of Visibility - March 31

- **Purpose:** Celebrates the achievements and contributions of transgender and gender non-conforming people.
- **Awareness:** Raises awareness about the discrimination and challenges faced by the transgender community.
- **Significance:** Promotes visibility, acceptance, and inclusivity of transgender individuals.
- **Founded By:** Rachel Crandall, a transgender activist, in 2009.
- **Global Recognition:** Observed worldwide to support transgender rights and equality.

Topic: Sports

Anahat Singh and Kareem El Torkey Win Indian Open 2025 Squash Titles

- **Event:** Indian Open 2025 PSA Copper Event
- **Location:** Mumbai, India

Winners:

- **Women's Singles:**



- **Anahat Singh** (India) defeated **Helen Tang** (Hong Kong).
- This marks **Anahat Singh's 11th PSA title**.
- **Men's Singles:**
 - **Kareem El Torkey** (Egypt) emerged victorious.

International Highlights:

Iran's Uranium Enrichment Program

- Iran has installed **IR-1, IR-2m, IR-4, and IR-6** centrifuges, which are far more efficient than earlier models.
- Uranium enrichment is a critical process for producing fuel for **nuclear reactors** and materials for **nuclear weapons**. Centrifuges are widely used to achieve the necessary enrichment by separating uranium isotopes based on their mass differences.



Why Uranium Needs Enrichment

- **Natural Uranium Composition:**
 - **99.3%** Uranium-238 (**U-238**)
 - **0.7%** Uranium-235 (**U-235**)
- Only **U-235** is **fissile**, meaning it can sustain a nuclear chain reaction.
- **Nuclear Power Reactors** typically require uranium enriched to **3-20%** U-235.
- **Nuclear Weapons** need uranium enriched to over **90%** U-235.

