



DEPARTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

DAILY
CURRENT
AFFAIRS

22.04.2025



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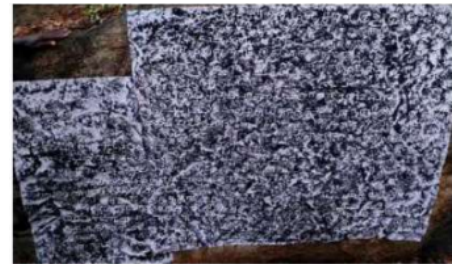
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Tamilnadu Highlights

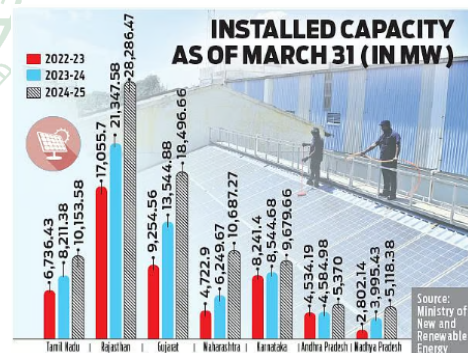
ASI Documents Ancient Inscriptions in Pudukkottai District

- The **Epigraphy Division of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** documented inscriptions from **Malayadipatti** and **Ponnamaravathi** in **Pudukkottai district** using the **estampage method**.
- One of the key inscriptions, discovered near **Kudambeeswarar Temple**, is dated to the **16th century** and mentions the temple **Chozheeswarar Udaiya Nayanar Temple** and a **donation of 40 panam** for lighting lamps.
- Previous ASI documentation from the same temple includes inscriptions from **1909** and **2000**, detailing temple offerings and jurisdiction under **Rajendra Chola Vala Nadu**.
- An inscription in **Ponnamaravathi** mentions the **eighth regnal year of Maravarman Kulasekara Pandiyan** and talks about a **partition agreement** for excavating an **oorani (pond)**.
- Another inscription, found near a **sunai (spring)**, refers to **King Raja Rajan Sundarapandyan** and mentions a man from **Sevalur** involved in the creation of a **waterbody**.



Tamil Nadu Retains Fourth Position in Solar Power Capacity for Third Consecutive Year

- **Tamil Nadu** has maintained its **fourth position** in the country's installed **solar power capacity** with a total of **10,153.58 MW** for 2024-25, as per the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- **Rajasthan** leads with **28,286.47 MW**, followed by **Gujarat** with **18,496.66 MW**, and **Maharashtra** with **10,687.27 MW**.
- **Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL)** is focusing on large-scale solar projects but has limited involvement in central schemes like **PM Surya Ghar Yojana (PMSGY)** and **PM-KUSUM** aimed at promoting solar adoption among farmers.
- **PMSGY** has added **23,500 consumers** in the last year, contributing **125 MW** to Tamil Nadu's solar capacity, with a goal to target **3 lakh consumers by 2028**.
- The state's **off-grid solar capacity** for farmers has reached **70.40 MW** in 2025, but **farmers' interest** in solar adoption remains low due to the availability of free electricity.
- **Off-grid Solar Capacity:** The state's off-grid solar capacity, primarily used by farmers, has reached 70.40 MW in 2025, showing a modest increase from 52.26 MW in 2021.



National Highlights

India to Observe 3-Day State Mourning for Pope Francis

- **State Mourning:** India will observe a **three-day state mourning** in honor of **Pope Francis** following his passing on April 21, 2025. The mourning will take place on **April 22, April 23**, and the **day of the Pope’s funeral** (date yet to be confirmed by the Vatican).
- **National Flag:** During this period, the **national flag** will be flown at **half-mast** across all buildings where the flag is regularly displayed. Additionally, **official entertainment** will be suspended.
- **Cause of Death:** The Vatican confirmed that **double pneumonia** complications led to the death of the Pope, who was 88 years old.
- **Pope’s Final Message:** Just a day before his passing, the Pope delivered an Easter Sunday message advocating for **freedom of religion, thought, and expression**, while condemning **anti-Semitism** and the **situation in Gaza**.



Topic: Awards

Prime Minister’s Awards for Excellence in Public Administration – 2025

- **Occasion:** 17th Civil Services Day
- **Date:** April 21, 2025
- **Venue:** Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
- **Presided by:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi



Objective of the Awards:

- To recognize the outstanding work of civil servants in implementing government welfare schemes.
- Awards were given under **three categories**:
 1. **Holistic Development of Districts**
 2. **Aspirational Blocks Programme**
 3. **Innovation**

Notable Awardees and Their Achievements:

Location	Initiative/Focus Area	Highlights
Moradabad, UP	<i>Suganya Pustakalaya</i>	Inclusive reading spaces for differently-abled children

Rajkot, Gujarat	Welfare Scheme Coverage	100% coverage of PM Suryaghar, Saksham Anganwadi, PMAY, PM-JAY, KCC
Gomati, Tripura	Health & Housing Schemes	100% implementation of Mission Indradhanush, PMAY, Poshan
Tinsukia, Assam	Multi-scheme Penetration	Har Ghar Jal, Poshan 2.0, Saksham Anganwadi – 100% beneficiary reach
Koraput, Odisha	Comprehensive Welfare	Full reach of schemes like PM Vishwakarma, Matru Vandana, PMAY, PM-JAY
Kupwara, J&K	Financial Inclusion & Health	PM Jan Arogya, PM Swanidhi, Kisan Credit Card distribution
Ghamaria Block, Jharkhand	Digital Innovation	Digital health check-ups, smart education, water to all homes
Parappa Block, Kerala	Aspirational Block Success	Medical camps, concrete homes, animal vaccination, SHG support
Naranur Block, Telangana	Health, Nutrition & Farming	TB detection, nutrition drives, science labs, natural farming
Ganganagar Block, Tripura	Digital Infrastructure &	E-learning, digital payments, garbage management, pucca houses
Rama Block, MP	Agriculture & Utilities	Soil Card scheme, Har Ghar Jal, PM Awas Yojana success

Significance:

The awards highlight **innovative and effective governance**, showcasing how **local-level administration** plays a vital role in improving the **quality of life of citizens** through **inclusive implementation** of national welfare schemes.

Topic: Defence

Indian Air Force Participates in Multinational Exercise Desert Flag-10 in UAE

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is participating in **Exercise Desert Flag-10**, held in the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.
- The **IAF contingent** has arrived at **Al Dhafra Air Base** for the exercise.
- The exercise is scheduled from **21 April to 08 May 2025**.
- **MiG-29** and **Jaguar** aircraft of the IAF are taking part.
- **Desert Flag** is a major **multinational air combat exercise** organized by the **UAE Air Force**.
- Participating nations include **Australia, France, Germany, USA, UK, Saudi Arabia**, and others.
- The aim is to conduct **complex combat missions** and exchange **operational knowledge**.
- It enhances **interoperability, military cooperation**, and reflects **India's defence diplomacy**.



Topic: Environment

Two Cheetahs Released in Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary by Madhya Pradesh CM

- On **20 April**, CM **Dr. Mohan Yadav** released two cheetahs — **Prabash** and **Paavak** — in **Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary**, Mandsaur.
- The cheetahs, aged **six years**, were brought from **South Africa** to **Kuno National Park** in **Feb 2023**.
- They will roam in a **64-sq. km enclosure** in Gandhi Sagar, located between **Mandsaur and Neemuch**.
- The **Chambal River** divides the sanctuary into two almost equal parts.
- **Cheetah reintroduction** began in **September 2022** at **Kuno**, aiming to restore the species in India.
- **Four cheetahs from Botswana** will be moved to Gandhi Sagar in **May**, with four more to follow.
- After this relocation, **Kuno** hosts **24 cheetahs** — **14 in the wild** and **10 in enclosures**.

Topic: Economy

India's Foreign Exchange and Financial Markets Witness Robust Growth

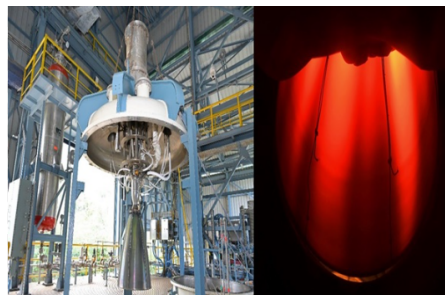
- India's **foreign exchange market** grew from **\$32 billion in 2020** to **\$60 billion in 2024**, said **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra**.
- **Overnight money market** trading volumes surged from **₹3 lakh crore** to over **₹5.4 lakh crore**.

- The **government securities market** saw a **40% rise** in average daily volumes, now at **₹66,000 crore**.
- Malhotra highlighted that India's **financial markets** are now more **robust and adaptive**.
- These markets have become a **key driver of economic growth** in the country.
- He stated that **transparency** in Indian markets now matches **global standards**.
- **Regulatory reforms** have broadened the range of **financial products** and **market participants**.
- The **link between domestic and global markets** has significantly strengthened.

Topic: Science and Technology

ISRO Develops Indigenous Stellite Nozzle for PSLV and Tests Vikas Engine for Gaganyaan

- ISRO has developed a **locally-made nozzle divergent** for the **PSLV's fourth stage**, replacing imported **Columbium**.
- The new nozzle is made of **Stellite**, a **cobalt-based alloy** with **Chromium, Nickel, Tungsten, and Iron**.
- It can withstand **high temperatures up to 1150°C**, ensuring greater thermal resistance.
- The final **hot test** lasted **665 seconds** and was conducted at **Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu**.
- Using Stellite is expected to cut **nozzle import costs by 90%**.
- The **ISRO Propulsion Complex** also tested the **human-rated Vikas Engine** for the **Gaganyaan mission**.
- The **Vikas Engine**, named after **Vikram Sarabhai**, is **designed and built in India**.
- The **Gaganyaan launch vehicle (LVM 3 G)** will use **two clustered Vikas engines** to carry **Indian astronauts to space**.



ISRO Satellites Forecast Wheat Production and Assess Crop Conditions

- ISRO has estimated that **wheat production** from eight major wheat-growing states will reach **122.724 million tonnes** by **March 31, 2025**.
- The **CROP framework** developed by ISRO's **National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)** enables **near real-time monitoring** of crop sowing and harvesting during the **Rabi season**.
- **Satellite-derived parameters**, including **crop area, sowing dates, and crop conditions**, are integrated into a crop growth simulation model to estimate wheat production at **5×5 km spatial resolution**.
- The **eight major wheat-growing states** in India are **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Bihar, Gujarat, and Maharashtra**.

- As of **March 31**, the total wheat sown area across these states is estimated to be **330.8 lakh hectares**, matching the Ministry of Agriculture's figures.
- **Technology Used:** The monitoring process employs Optical and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) datasets from EOS-04 (RISAT-1A), EOS-06 (Oceansat-3), and Resourcesat-2A satellites.

Topic: Important Days

National Civil Service Day (April 21)

- **Celebrated on:** April 21 every year.
- **Purpose:** To honor and recognize the contributions of civil servants in India.

Why We Celebrate:

- **Historical Significance:** Commemorates Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's speech on April 21, 1947, where he called civil servants the "steel frame of India."
- **Role of Civil Servants:** Highlighted their critical role in maintaining order, unity, and governance in post-independence India.

Objectives of the Day:

- **Recognize Excellence:** Honor the commitment and exceptional performance of civil servants.
- **Ethical Governance:** Motivate civil servants to uphold ethical standards in governance.
- **Promote Best Practices:** Encourage the adoption of best practices in public administration.
- **Inspire Youth:** Encourage young people to pursue a career in civil services.

The Father of the Indian Civil Service:

- **Charles Cornwallis:** Governor-General of India (1786–1793).
- **Key Contributions:**
 - **Merit-based Recruitment:** Focused on hiring based on merit rather than connections.
 - **Salary Fixation:** Reduced corruption by fixing officers' salaries.
 - **Ethical Standards:** Instituted measures for discipline and integrity.

This year's theme for Civil Services Day is "**Holistic Development of India**," with the Prime Minister emphasizing the idea of ensuring that "no village is left behind, no family is left behind."

International Highlights

US Supreme Court Temporarily Blocks Trump Administration's Use of Alien Enemies Act

- The **US Supreme Court** has temporarily blocked the Trump administration's use of the **1798 Alien Enemies Act** to deport **Venezuelan migrants**.

- The law would have allowed **deportations without court hearings**, bypassing regular legal procedures.
- This **Alien Enemies Act** had not been used since **World War II** but was revived by **Trump** to expedite migrant removals.
- The Court's decision **pauses deportations under this law** for the time being, with **Justice Samuel Alito** dissenting, claiming the Court acted improperly.
- **Democrats** and **civil rights groups** argue that Trump is **misusing executive power** and disregarding **legal safeguards**.

Bangladesh Requests Interpol to Issue Red Notice for 12 Individuals

- Bangladesh's National Central Bureau has requested Interpol to issue a Red Notice for 12 individuals.
- Among the individuals are former **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina**, former transport minister **Obaidul Quader**, and ex-home minister **Asaduzzaman Khan**.
- The Red Notice request is still being processed.
- In November of the previous year, the Chief Prosecutor's Office of the International Crimes Tribunal in Dhaka made an official request for Interpol's assistance in capturing the individuals.
- These individuals are considered fugitives by the **International Crimes Tribunal**.

Red Notice Details:

- A Red Notice is a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and detain an individual pending extradition or other legal action.
- A Red Notice is not the same as an international arrest warrant.
- Member countries decide independently whether to arrest a person based on the Red Notice.
- Most Red Notices are restricted to law enforcement use only.