



DEPARTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

DAILY
CURRENT
AFFAIRS

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Director,
Department of Employment and Training.

Tamilnadu Highlights:

Geographical Indication for Kumbakonam Betel Leaf and Thovalai Manikka Malai

- **First Agricultural Product with GI Status**

For the first time, an agricultural product, **Kumbakonam Betel Leaf**, has been granted GI status, marking a significant achievement for agricultural products in Tamil Nadu.

- **Other GI-Recognized Products in Tamil Nadu**

Tamil Nadu has already secured GI status for various products such as:

- **Dindigul Pootu**
- **Salem Sungudi Saree**
- **Kanchipuram Pattu Saree**
- **Madurai Jasmine**
- **Thanjavur Kalithattu**
- **Srivilliputhur Palkova**
- **Kovilpatti Nut Candy**
- **Palani Panchamirtham**
- **Kodaikanal Malai Poondu**



- Recently, GI was also granted for **Madurai Marikozhundhu** and **Vilacheri Clay Dolls**.

- **Recent GI Recognition**

- On **April 1**, the GI status was granted to **Kumbakonam Betel Nut** and **Thovalai Manikka Mala**, both of which are celebrated agricultural products of Tamil Nadu.

- **Ongoing Efforts**

- The Ministry of Industry and Commerce of India oversees the GI process. Recently, Tamil Nadu has made efforts to secure GI status for more products.
- Last year, **Namakatti** (Tirunelveli), **Veeravanallur Chediputta Saree**, and **Kanyakumari Matti Banana** received GI recognition.
- Furthermore, GI applications for **15 additional products** are currently under process, with **two products** having already been granted GI status.

Current Status of GI Tags in India:

- **First GI Tag:** The first GI tag was granted to **Darjeeling Tea** in **2004-05**.
- **Total GI Tags:** As of **July 2024**, **605 GI tags** have been issued by the government.
- **Leading States:**
 - **Uttar Pradesh** holds the highest number of GI-tagged products.
 - **Tamil Nadu** follows as the second-highest state with GI-tagged products.

"Kalaingar's Dream Home" Scheme for Women Beneficiaries

- The Tamil Nadu government has directed that **women beneficiaries** under the "Kalaingar's Dream Home" scheme must join **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** to avail the benefits of the housing scheme.
- This initiative aims to ensure that **SHG members** get proper access to the benefits and contribute towards empowering women in rural and urban areas.



Key Features of the Scheme

- **Target of 1 Lakh Houses:**
 - The Tamil Nadu government plans to build **1 lakh houses** under this scheme in the current financial year.
 - This is part of a larger effort to improve living conditions for marginalized communities in the state.
- **Eligibility and Conditions:**
 - The "Kalaingar's Dream Home" scheme will not provide houses for **encroached land** unless there is an **official land settlement** from the Revenue Department.
 - For families without land pattas, houses will be considered only after they receive a **land patta** (ownership document) for their land.
- **Priority for Marginalized Communities:**
 - **Nomadic Tribes** and **Indigenous Tribes** will be given **priority** in the distribution of houses under this scheme.
 - **Tiled houses** that are eligible for upgrading will be considered first for house provision.
- **Minimum Standards for the Houses:**
 - Each house must have a **minimum floor area of 360 sq. ft**, including a kitchen.
 - **Concrete roofing** (cement or similar) is mandatory; **thatched roofs** or **mud walls** are not acceptable.
- **Funding and Support:**
 - The cost for each house will include **90 days of manual labor** under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** for construction.
 - **₹12,000** will be provided for the construction of toilets under the **Swachh Bharat Mission**.
 - Houses will be connected to **gas supply** and **electricity**, ensuring complete amenities.
- **Financial Assistance:**
 - Beneficiaries can access up to **₹50,000** as a **loan** from the **Tamil Nadu Rural Livelihood Mission** or from banks/cooperatives for the construction of their homes.
 - Additionally, **subsidized loans** may be available for those who want to extend or improve their houses.
- **Mandatory SHG Membership:**

- **Women beneficiaries** must become part of **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** to qualify for the scheme. This is aimed at improving their financial independence and ensuring proper access to housing benefits.
- The government has emphasized the importance of integrating SHGs into this process, ensuring **active participation** of women in the development process.

Naming of Libraries in Trichy, Madurai, and Coimbatore

● Trichy Library:

- The new library being built in **Trichy** will be named after **Kamaraj**. He is remembered as a pivotal **Tamil Nadu politician** who contributed significantly to **education, social development, and public service**.
- His work in improving the state's education system and his efforts to empower the people are highly regarded.



● Madurai Library:

- The new library in **Madurai** will be named after **Kalaignar (Mr. M. Karunanidhi)**, a prominent political leader in Tamil Nadu known for his role in **social justice and education**.
- He was a key figure in shaping the state's development and is widely respected for his contributions to the upliftment of marginalized communities.

● Coimbatore Library:

- The library being constructed in **Coimbatore** will be named after **Periyar (E. V. Ramasamy)**. Periyar was an influential social reformer known for his **advocacy for social change and human rights**.
- He is celebrated for his efforts to challenge social inequalities and promote rational thinking and equality.

These libraries are being named after these legendary figures to honor their enduring contributions to **education, social justice, and the overall progress** of Tamil Nadu.

National Highlights:

Telangana Government's Free Fine Rice Scheme

The Telangana government has launched a pioneering initiative to provide fine rice free of charge through ration shops, aiming to enhance food security with dignity for its citizens.

Scheme Details:

- **Launch Event:** Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy officially introduced the scheme in Huzurnagar, Suryapet district, during the Ugadi festival.

- **Beneficiaries:** Approximately 3.10 crore people, accounting for nearly 85% of Telangana's population, will benefit from this program.
- **Rice Allocation:** Each eligible ration cardholder will receive 6 kilograms of fine rice per person per month at no cost.
- **Implementation Date:** The distribution commenced on April 1, 2025.

Cultural Context:

- The scheme's launch coincided with the Ugadi festival, also known as Samvatsaradi, which signifies the beginning of the year. Ugadi is celebrated in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, marking a time of new beginnings and prosperity.

Significance

- **First-of-its-kind scheme in India** to provide fine rice **completely free of charge**.
- Marks a shift towards **higher quality food distribution** under the public distribution system (PDS).

NITI NCAER States Economic Forum Portal

- **Launch & Development**
 - Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the **NITI NCAER States Economic Forum Portal** in New Delhi.
 - Developed by **National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)** in collaboration with **NITI Aayog**.
- **Purpose & Scope**
 - **Holistic depository of economic, social, & fiscal data for Indian states.**
 - Covers **30 years of data (1990-91 to 2022-23)**, including research papers, reports, and expert insights.
- **Four Key Components**
 - **State Reports**
 - **Data Repository**
 - **State Fiscal & Economic Dashboard**
 - **Research & Commentary**
- **About NCAER & NITI Aayog**
 - **NCAER:** India's **oldest & largest economic policy think tank**, established in **1956**, New Delhi.
 - **NITI Aayog:** India's **apex public policy think tank**, established on **January 1, 2015**. The Prime Minister is the **ex-officio chairperson**.



Topic: Science and Technology

SpaceX Fram2 Mission

- **Historic Launch**
 - **SpaceX** launched the **Fram2 mission** on **March 31, 2025**, from **NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Florida**.
 - The mission is a **milestone for commercial spaceflight**, led by **billionaire Elon Musk's SpaceX**.
- **Unique Trajectory**
 - **First-ever polar orbit mission** with a **north-south trajectory** around Earth.
 - Carried out using a **Falcon 9 rocket** and **Crew Dragon capsule 'Resilience'**.
- **Crew & Leadership**
 - **Chun Wang**, a **Maltese crypto investor and Bitcoin mining company founder**, led the mission.
 - **Four private astronauts** embarked on this **3- to 5-day journey**.
- **Scientific Objectives**
 - The crew will conduct **22 experiments**, focusing on:
 - **Effects of spaceflight on the human body.**
 - **Microgravity's impact on health** and potential advancements in space medicine.



ZOOWIN Website for Monitoring Rabies and Snake Bite Vaccines Availability

- **Purpose:** The central government has introduced a website named **ZOOWIN** to monitor the availability of **rabies** (dog bite) and **snake bite** vaccines across India.
- **Similar to CoWIN:** JUWIN operates similarly to the **CoWIN** platform, which was introduced for the COVID-19 vaccination program, and **UWIN**, launched for vaccinations of pregnant women and children.
- **Collaboration:** ZOOWIN works in collaboration with **medical service providers, municipal authorities, and veterinary services** to expand vaccination efforts and ensure timely availability.
- **Objective:** The platform aims to **track the availability** of rabies and snake bite vaccines and to provide **unified information** about the distribution and stock of these vaccines across the country.
- **Prevalence and Importance:**
 - Globally, **rabies** causes **60,000 deaths** annually, with **36% of these deaths** occurring in India.
 - Each year, around **50,000 deaths** in the country are caused by **snake bites**.



- **Technological Support:** The website is being supported by **UNDP** (United Nations Development Programme) and **NCDC** (National Centre for Disease Control) for national disease control.

Topic: Defense

62nd National Maritime Day & Merchant Navy Week (2025) – Key Highlights

- **Inauguration**
 - Maharashtra Governor **C. P. Radhakrishnan** inaugurated the event at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai, on **March 31, 2025**.
 - **Director General of Shipping, Shyam Jagannathan**, presented a memento and a Coffee Table Book to the Governor.
- **Governor's Address**
 - Emphasized the **maritime sector's role in 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India)**.
 - Stressed the **need for port modernization** and better coordination among **DG Shipping, Shipping Corporation, Container Corporation, Railways, and traders**.
- **National Maritime Day Significance**
 - Celebrated annually on **April 5** to commemorate the **maiden voyage of SS Loyalty in 1919**, marking **India's entry into international shipping**.
 - First celebrated in **1964**.
- **National Maritime Week (March 30 – April 5, 2025)**
 - Includes **seminars, awareness programs, and beach clean-up drives**.
 - Focuses on **India's maritime heritage and sustainable shipping practices**.

India-U.S. Tri-Service Exercise: Tiger Triumph (April 1-13)

- **Purpose:** The fourth iteration of the India-U.S. The Tri-Service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise, named **Tiger Triumph**, is scheduled to take place from **April 1 to 13**.
- **Objective:**
 - The exercise aims to **enhance interoperability** between Indian and U.S. forces for conducting **HADR operations**.
 - It also aims to develop **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** for establishing a **Combined Coordination Centre (CCC)**, facilitating rapid and seamless coordination between Indian and U.S. **Joint Task Forces (JTF)** during exercises and crises.
- **Harbour Phase:**
 - The **Harbour Phase** will take place at **Visakhapatnam** from **April 1 to 7**.
 - This phase will focus on preparations for joint operations, including coordination and operational planning between the two countries' forces.

Topic: Polity

Allahabad High Court Transfers 582 Judicial Officers

- **Major Administrative Reshuffle in UP Judiciary**
 - **582 judicial officers transferred**, including **443 judges**.
 - Includes **Additional District and Sessions Judges, Civil Judges (Senior & Junior Division)**.
- **Legal Provisions Governing Judiciary Transfers**
 - **Article 235: Administrative control over district & subordinate judiciary in a state rests with the High Court.**
 - **Language Use in Lower Courts: Determined by the High Court & State Government** in consultation.
 - **Article 222: President can transfer a High Court judge to another High Court after consulting the Chief Justice of India (CJI).**



Topic: Sports

Hero Asia Cup Hockey 2025 in Rajgir, Bihar

- **Rajgir, Bihar**, will host the **Hero Asia Cup Hockey 2025** from **August 29 to September 7**.
- The tournament will take place at the **newly developed Rajgir Hockey Stadium**.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**
 - Signed between **Hockey India** and **Bihar State Sports Authority** at **Patliputra Sports Complex, Patna**.
- **Participation & Format**
 - **Eight teams** will compete: **India, Pakistan, Japan, Korea, China, and Malaysia**.
 - The remaining **two teams** will qualify through the **AHF Cup**.
- **Historical Context**
 - **Rajgir's second international sports event** after hosting the **Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2023**, where India won.
 - **South Korea** holds the record with **five Asia Cup titles**, followed by **India and Pakistan** with **three titles each**.
- **Cultural Significance of Rajgir**
 - Known as **Rajagriha**, it was the **first capital of Magadha**.
 - Associated with **Buddhism and Jainism**, as both **Gautama Buddha and Mahavira** spent time there.



International Highlights:

Chilean President Gabriel Boric and Dutch FM Caspar Veldkamp Visit India to Boost Bilateral Relations

Chilean President Gabriel Boric Font's Visit to India (April 1–5, 2025)

- **First visit** to India as President.
- Meetings with **PM Narendra Modi** and **President Droupadi Murmu** (who will host a banquet in his honor).
- Visits to **Agra, Mumbai, and Bengaluru** before returning to Chile.
- **India-Chile relations:**
 - Established diplomatic ties in **1949** (completed 60 years in 2009).
 - Chile is **India's 5th largest trading partner** in the **Latin America & Caribbean (LAC) region**.
 - **Capital:** Santiago | **Currency:** Chilean Peso



Dutch Foreign Minister Caspar Veldkamp's Visit to India

- **First official visit** to India.
- Aims to **strengthen India-Netherlands relations**.
- **India-Netherlands relations:**
 - Established diplomatic ties in **1947** (75 years completed in 2022).
 - Netherlands is **India's 4th largest trading partner in Europe** (2021–22).
 - **Capital:** Amsterdam | **Currency:** Euro



Pakistan Orders Arrest & Deportation of Afghan Refugees

- Law enforcement agencies ordered to **arrest & deport Afghan refugees** as the **deadline for Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders expires**.
- Afghans holding **Proof of Registration (PoR) cards** in **Islamabad & Rawalpindi** must leave per government policy.



Historical Context

- **Since 1979 (Soviet invasion of Afghanistan)**, millions of Afghans took refuge in Pakistan.
- **Taliban takeover in 2021** led to another wave of Afghan refugees fleeing to neighboring countries.

International Refugee Framework

- **1951 Refugee Convention (Geneva Convention)** defines refugee rights & protections.
- **Key provisions:**
 - **Right to housing, work, education.**
 - **Non-refoulement:** Refugees **should not be returned** to a country where their life is at risk.
 - **UNHCR** is the **guardian of the convention.**
- **India is not a signatory** to the **1951 Convention** or its **1967 Protocol.**

