



DEPARTMENT OF  
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

**DAILY**  
**CURRENT**  
**AFFAIRS**

**08.04.2025**



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### Highlights of the Day

Tamilnadu Highlights:.....	1
SPC Study: Migrant Workers Face Long Working Hours, Poor Conditions.....	1
National Highlights:.....	1
PM Modi's Visit to Sri Lanka – Key Highlights (April 2025).....	1
India's Wind & Solar Energy Milestone.....	2
Topic: Awards and Honours:.....	3
Sudarsan Pattnaik Honoured with Fred Darrington Sand Art Award.....	3
Topic: Defense.....	3
INS Sunayna Flagged Off as Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR.....	3
Topic: Economy.....	4
Government Set to Implement “One State, One RRB” Policy.....	4
Topic: Government Schemes and Initiatives.....	5
Delhi Implements Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY.....	5
10 Years of PM MUDRA Yojana.....	5
Topic: Sports.....	5
Hitesh Gulia wins Gold medal at World Boxing Cup Brazil 2025.....	5
Topic: Important Days.....	6
World Health Day – 7 April 2025.....	6
International Highlights:.....	6
Saudi Arabia Temporarily Bans Visas for 14 Countries Including India.....	6
Kazakhstan Unveils Largest Rare Earth Element Reserve.....	6

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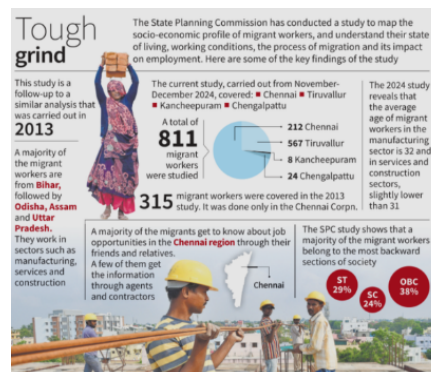
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Director,  
Department of Employment and Training.

## Tamilnadu Highlights:

### SPC Study: Migrant Workers Face Long Working Hours, Poor Conditions

- A **State Planning Commission (SPC)** study found that **53%** of migrant workers work **more than 8 hours a day**, with **construction workers** averaging 10 hours and **services sector workers** up to **12 hours** daily.
- **84%** of migrant workers are employed **without written contracts** and lack non-wage benefits such as food, travel, or medical allowances. **Social security benefits** like PF, health insurance, and paid medical leave are **largely absent**.
- Over **50%** live in **deplorable conditions** at worksites. **80%** reside in **kutcha/semi-pucca houses** with **poor access to sanitation**. Despite this, they spend about **15% of monthly income** on rent.
- The **average monthly income** in 2024 was ₹15,902, only marginally above the poverty line estimate for a four-member family (₹14,556).
  - Construction sector: ₹18,696
  - Services: ₹17,025
  - Manufacturing: ₹14,534
- **Migrant workers** cited **better income**, **lack of local opportunities**, and **improved quality of life** as reasons for moving to Chennai.
- Most migrants send remittances home:
  - Two-thirds send **less than ₹5,000/month**
  - One-fourth send **under ₹1,000/month**
  - One-fifth remit **over ₹10,000/month** (over 60% of their income)
- Despite hardships, workers feel migration has helped them **invest in food, health, education, assets**, and **debt repayment**.



## National Highlights:

### PM Modi's Visit to Sri Lanka – Key Highlights (April 2025)

#### Diplomatic Significance

- First foreign leader to visit since **President Anura Kumara Dissanayake** assumed office in **September 2024**.
- Visit centered on the theme: "**Fostering Partnerships for a Shared Future**".

#### Bilateral Engagements

- Discussions held on:
  - Regional stability
  - Energy cooperation

- Development projects
- **Sampur Power Project** launched virtually to boost **Sri Lanka's energy security**.

#### **Civic & Developmental Contributions**

- **Sri Lanka Mitra Vibhushan** conferred on PM Modi – one of the country's highest civilian awards.
- India aided in:
  - Completion of a **temperature-controlled warehouse** in **Dambulla**.
  - **Solar power systems** installed on **5,000 religious buildings**.

#### **Support & Initiatives**

- India pledged:
  - Support for **Sri Lanka's Unique Digital Identity initiative**.
  - Conversion of **USD 100 million** in loans to **grants**.
  - A **LKR 2.4 billion** development package for the **Eastern Province**.

#### **Infrastructure**

- **Maho-Omanthai railway line** inaugurated.

#### **Political Engagement**

- PM Modi met with **Tamil political leaders**.
- Laid a wreath at the **Indian Peace Keeping Force Memorial** in **Colombo**.
- Urged implementation of the **13th Amendment** and holding **provincial elections**.

#### **13th Amendment – Background**

- Enacted following the **Indo-Sri Lankan Accord (1987)**.
- Provides for **provincial councils** with powers in:
  - Health
  - Education
  - Local government

#### **India–Sri Lanka Relations: At a Glance**

- Relationship spans **2,500+ years**.
- **India**: Sri Lanka's **largest trading partner**.
- **Sri Lanka**: India's **largest trading partner in South Asia**.
- Key trade items:
  - **India exports**: Machinery, textiles, chemicals, agri-products.
  - **India imports**: Tea, spices, garments.
- **The Fishery dispute** remains a persistent bilateral issue.

## India's Wind & Solar Energy Milestone

- **India ranked 3rd globally** in electricity generation from wind and solar energy in 2024, surpassing Germany.
- It generated **215 terawatt-hours (TWh)** of electricity from wind and solar, reflecting a near **doubling of capacity over five years**.
- This placed India behind:
  - **China** – 1,826 TWh (1st)
  - **United States** – 757 TWh (2nd)

### Clean Energy Share in India

- **22%** of India's total electricity in 2024 came from clean energy sources.
  - **Hydropower**: 8% of the mix (largest contributor)
  - **Wind & Solar**: 10% combined
  - Remaining from other renewables and nuclear
- Despite strong growth, India's clean energy share is still **below the global average**, highlighting **untapped potential**.

### Global Energy Trends

- The **world crossed a major milestone**: For the first time since the 1940s, **41% of global electricity** was generated from **low-carbon sources** (renewables + nuclear).
- The report by **Ember**, a global energy think-tank, highlighted a shift in global energy dynamics toward sustainability.

### Growing Electricity Demand

- The rising use of **AI, data centres, electric vehicles, and heat pumps** is increasing electricity demand worldwide.
- In 2024, **fossil fuel-based electricity** in India grew by **1.4%**, mainly to meet surging demand.
- This fossil generation rise contributed to a **1.6% increase in global power sector emissions** in 2024.

## Topic: Awards and Honours:

### Sudarsan Pattnaik Honoured with Fred Darrington Sand Art Award

- Renowned Indian sand artist **Sudarsan Pattnaik** becomes the **first Indian** to win the **Fred Darrington Sand Master Award**.
- The award was presented at the **Sandworld 2025 International Sand Art Festival** in **Weymouth, Dorset, England**.





- Pattnaik created a **10-foot-tall Lord Ganesha sculpture** carrying the message of “**World Peace**”.
- The award commemorates the **100th birth anniversary** of legendary British sand sculptor **Fred Darrington**.
- Sudarsan Pattnaik, a **Padma Shri awardee from Odisha**, has participated in **65+ international sand art festivals**.
- The Sandworld exhibition is renowned for sculptures made using only **sand and water**, attracting artists from around the globe.
- Pattnaik’s message of peace through art stood out and received global appreciation.

## Topic: Defense

### INS Sunayna Flagged Off as Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR

- **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** flagged off **INS Sunayna** as Indian Ocean Ship **SAGAR**.
- Occasion marks:
  - **10th Anniversary** of the **SAGAR initiative**.
  - **National Maritime Day** celebrations.

#### About SAGAR

- **SAGAR** stands for **Security and Growth for All in the Region**.
- Launched in **2015**, it is India’s strategic vision to:
  - Strengthen cooperation with **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** nations.
  - Ensure **peace, prosperity, and shared maritime security**.

#### About INS Sunayna

- An **Indian Navy Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV)**.
- Re-designated as **Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR** for this mission.
- Carries **44 naval personnel** from **9 Friendly Foreign Nations**.

## Topic: Economy

### Government Set to Implement “One State, One RRB” Policy

#### Objective:

- Enhance **operational efficiency**
- Improve **credit flow** and **service delivery** in rural areas
- Reduce **internal competition** among RRBs

#### Key Move:



- **Consolidation** of existing **43 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** into **28**
- Based on the principle: **“One State, One RRB”**

**States with Multiple RRBs (targeted for consolidation):**

- **Andhra Pradesh** – 4 RRBs
- **Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal** – 3 each
- **Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan** – 2 each
- **Jammu & Kashmir** – 2

**Background:**

- Earlier reforms already brought down RRBs from **196 to 43**
- Now, further consolidation targets **cost rationalisation** and **financial strengthening**

**Expected Benefits:**

- Stronger **capital base**
- Streamlined **management**
- Better **technology integration**
- Easier access to credit for **small farmers, rural artisans, and agri-workers**

**Topic: Government Schemes and Initiatives**

**Delhi Implements Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY**

- Delhi has become the 35th state/UT to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
- The scheme provides free healthcare coverage to economically weaker sections.
- Registrations for the scheme will begin on April 10, 2025.
- An MoU was signed between the National Health Authority (NHA) and the Delhi government to formalize the rollout.

**10 Years of PM MUDRA Yojana**

- **Launched on April 8, 2015**, the scheme aims to “fund the unfunded” by providing collateral-free loans to micro and small enterprises.
- The implementing agency is **MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency)**.
- Loans under the scheme are available through **banks, NBFCs, Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)**.
- PMMY offers four categories of loans:
  - **Shishu**: Up to ₹50,000
  - **Kishor**: ₹50,000 to ₹5 lakh

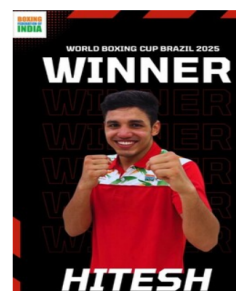


- **Tarun:** ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh
- **Tarun Plus:** ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh (for repeat borrowers)
- As of April 2025, over **52 crore loans worth ₹32.61 lakh crore** have been sanctioned.
- The scheme has been instrumental in **promoting entrepreneurship**, especially in **rural and semi-urban** areas.
- PM Narendra Modi praised the scheme for **transforming India's economic narrative** from job-seeking to **job-creating**.
- PMMY has significantly contributed to **financial inclusion**, especially among women, youth, and marginalized communities.

## Topic: Sports

### Hitesh Gulia wins Gold medal at World Boxing Cup Brazil 2025

- Hitesh Gulia won the Gold Medal in the men's 70 kg category at the World Boxing Cup 2025 held in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil.
- Another Indian Boxer Abhinash Jamwal won the silver medal in the men's 65 kg category.
- Earlier, India's Jadumani Singh Mandengbam (50 kg), Manish Rathore (55 kg), Sachin (60 kg), and Vishal (90 kg) won the bronze medals.
- The Indian contingent won a total of six medals, including a gold, a silver and 4 bronze medals.



## Topic: Important Days

### World Health Day – 7 April 2025

**Organized by:** World Health Organization (WHO)

**Established on:** 7 April 1948

**Theme 2025:** "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures"

#### Focus of the Year

- Launch of a **year-long global campaign** on **maternal and newborn health**.
- **Goal:**
  - **Reduce preventable deaths**
  - **Improve health outcomes** for **women** and **infants**



#### Key Global Health Stats

- **300,000 women** die annually due to **pregnancy complications**
- **4 million babies** die or are stillborn every year



- That's **1 preventable death every 7 seconds**
- At current pace, **80% of countries** will miss **2030 global targets** for maternal and newborn survival

## International Highlights:

### Saudi Arabia Temporarily Bans Visas for 14 Countries Including India

- **Reason:** To **control overcrowding** and ensure smooth management during the **Hajj pilgrimage** season.
- **Affected Countries:** Includes **India, Pakistan, Bangladesh**, and 11 others (not specified in the original report).
- **Types of Visas Suspended:**
  - Umrah Visas
  - Business Visit Visas
  - Family Visit Visas
- **Duration of Ban:**
  - **Effective immediately** and will remain in place **until mid-June 2025**, post-Hajj season.
- **Objective:**
  - Prevent **overstaying**
  - Ensure **pilgrim safety**
  - Maintain **order during peak religious travel**



### Kazakhstan Unveils Largest Rare Earth Element Reserve

- **Kazakhstan has discovered its largest rare earth element (REE) deposit** at the **Kuirektykol site** in the **Karakanda region**.
- The site lies in the **Karkaraly district**, approximately **300 km southeast of Astana**, the capital.
- The newly discovered **reserves are estimated at nearly 1 million tons**, marking a major boost for the country's mining sector.
- Broader exploration in the **Zhana Kazakhstan zone** suggests **potential reserves exceeding 20 million tons**.
- This discovery is expected to **strengthen Kazakhstan's global position** in the **critical minerals sector**.
- Rare earth elements are vital for **green technologies**, including electric vehicles, wind turbines, and electronics.
- The find may help **diversify global REE supply chains**, reducing dependence on dominant players like **China**.
- It signals a **transformative opportunity** for Kazakhstan to become a key supplier in the **global energy transition era**.



