

April - 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Kerala becomes the first State to achieve total digital literacy with the help of 'Digi Kerala' digital literacy program.
- ❖ Kerala's Chief Minister declared Dharmadam as state's first extreme poverty-free constituency, paving the way for the State to achieve a full eradication of extreme poverty by November 1, 2025.
- ❖ The Prime Minister Modi was awarded the 'Sri Lanka Mitra Vibhushana', the country's highest civilian honour, by the Sri Lankan President.
- ❖ International Day of Conscience is observed annually on April 5 to highlight the significance of our inner moral compass, urging the individuals to reflect on their values, actions and responsibilities.
- ❖ International Day of Sports for Development and Peace was observed on April 6th under the theme of "Levelling the Playing Field: Sport for Social Inclusion".
- ❖ The International Romani Day is observed annually on April 8 to celebrate the Romani culture and raise awareness the social, political and economic issues faced by the Romani community.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Telemedicine guidance on WhatsApp

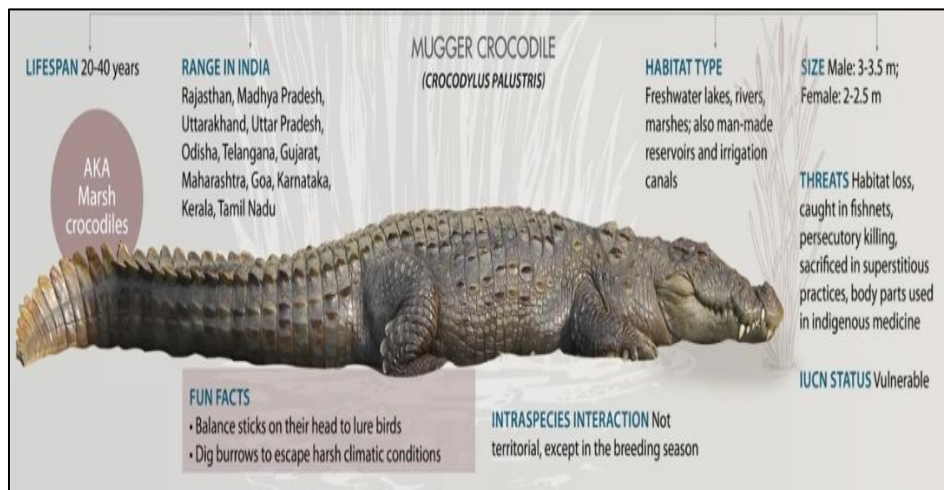
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu state Government's Heart Attack Management Programme is well operationalised in a hub-and-spoke model networking 18 government medical college hospitals and 188 district/taluk government hospitals.
- ❖ The five-year experience (2019-2023) of the programme has found that it has demonstrated that WhatsApp groups are a cost-effective way of networking larger and smaller hospitals in a hub-and-spoke model to provide the telemedicine guidance for early diagnosis and treatment of major heart attacks.
- ❖ Through this, cardiologists in larger hub hospitals offered telemedicine guidance to smaller spoke units. Additionally, these groups were used to coordinate patient transfers between hospitals and to monitor the entire process.
- ❖ 18 WhatsApp groups - one for each cluster - were created to facilitate the case-specific management of persons with suspected heart attacks.
- ❖ These groups enabled the seamless communication between cardiologists at hub hospitals and teams at spoke hospitals.

- ❖ In total, around 71,907 individuals with STEMI (ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction) were treated over the five years.
- ❖ There was a 67% annual increase in the total number of individuals treated for STEMI. The

Overview of individuals treated in Tamil Nadu government heart attack management programme hubs						
Year	Total number of STEMI patients	Primary PCI	Fibrinolysis	Pharma co-invasive PCI	Death	Guideline-based revascularisation
2019	11,363	563	7,342	898	994	7,905
2020	11,242	154	7,941	279	1,030	8,095
2021	13,287	118	9,972	1,154	1,175	10,090
2022	17,030	990	11,993	3,201	1,432	12,983
2023	18,985	1,588	12,804	4,058	1,573	14,392

How does the hub-and-spoke model work?		
<p>1 Spoke hospitals are equipped to perform ECGs for patients with chest pain, diagnose or rule out STEMI with remote support from hub hospitals, and initiate fibrinolytic therapy when indicated</p>	<p>2 Spoke medical officers share patient's details and ECGs on WhatsApp groups to seek diagnostic and management guidance</p>	<p>4 Duty cardiologists at the hub hospital are available via dedicated mobile numbers for additional clarifications</p>
	<p>3 Hub hospital cardiologists provide real-time advice on diagnosing STEMI and selecting most appropriate guideline-directed treatment for STEMI</p>	<p>5 Patients are transferred to the hub hospitals for angiography, and if necessary, angioplasty-pharmaco-invasive treatment pathway</p>

Mugger crocodile population



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department is conducting studies to map the population of mugger crocodiles in the wild and reduce human-crocodile conflict.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is home to a significant population of mugger or marsh crocodiles (*Crocodylus palustris*), most widespread crocodylian species in India, particularly along the Kollidam.

- ❖ Over 50 individuals were recorded along Anaikarai in Thanjavur district alone.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is home to several notable populations of mugger crocodiles in its breeding centers.
- ❖ The Sathanur center (Tiruvannamalai district) is home to 299 crocodiles, while Hogenakkal (Dharmapuri) has 93, and Amaravathi (Tirupur district) hosts a population of 82.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government had allocated ₹2.5 crore for the establishment of a Crocodile Conservation Centre at Anaikarai.

Tamil Nadu's strategies for Malaria elimination

- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, for the past two years, only around 340 cases were reported.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu used two varieties of malaria commonly – vivax and falciparum.
- ❖ Between 2001 and 2020, malaria cases declined from 2.09 million to 0.19 million.
- ❖ The Plasmodium falciparum cases (considered the deadliest) declined from 1.0 to 0.12 million cases during the same period.
- ❖ The SPR (slide positivity rate) declined from 2.31 to 0.19.
- ❖ The SFR (slide falciparum rate) declined from 1.11 in 2001 to 0.12 in 2020.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, U.P. and West Bengal continue to contribute a high number of cases.

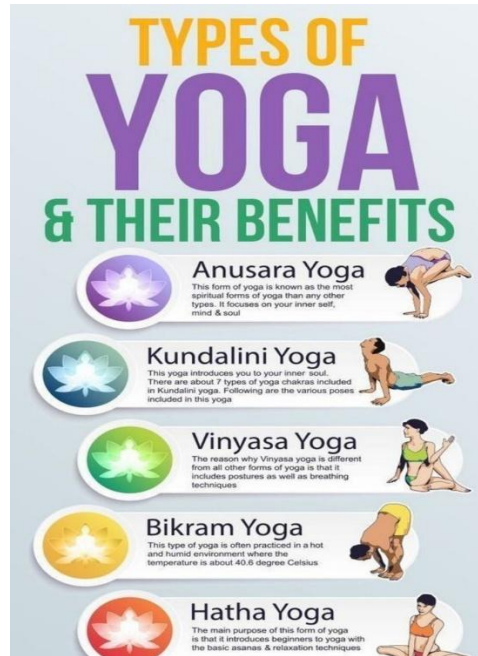
Malaria in India	2021	2022	2023	2024
All cases	161753	176522	227564	257154
Plasmodium falciparum	101566	101070	137945	155026
Deaths	90	83	83	76

NATIONAL NEWS

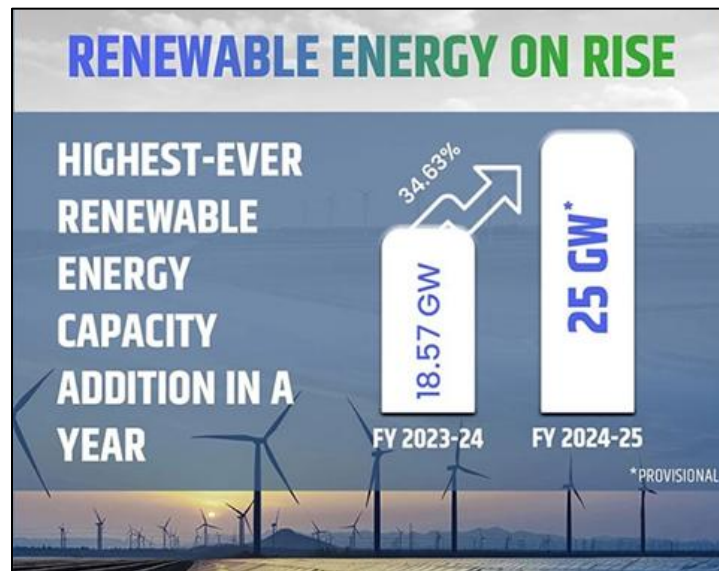
Harit Yoga Initiative

- ❖ Ministry of AYUSH launched the Harit Yoga programme in Delhi as part of the 10 Signature Events of International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025.

- ❖ It aims to inspire the people to plant trees as a symbol of caring for both personal well-being and the planet's health.
- ❖ Over 5,000 medicinal plants were distributed to yoga enthusiasts to promote this green initiative.
- ❖ The programme combines yoga practice with environmental awareness.



25 GW of renewable energy in 2025



- ❖ The country's renewable energy generation, including solar, wind, and hydro, is likely to reach a record 25 GW by March 2025.

- ❖ As of February 28, 2025, a total of 222.86 GW of non-fossil power capacity has been installed in the country.
- ❖ This marks the highest increase in a single year, surpassing the previous record increase of 18.56 GW during 2023-24.
- ❖ Solar capacity grew by around 38%, surpassing 100 GW.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bullet Curtain – China



- ❖ China has unveiled the world's first close-in anti-drone barrage weapon system.
- ❖ It will be targeted against multiple drones and high-speed missiles.
- ❖ The system is called the Bullet Curtain, which has a unique "plane-to-point" interception method.
- ❖ It will create a wall of projectiles to blanket the incoming targets with overlapping firepower.

World's largest humanitarian crisis

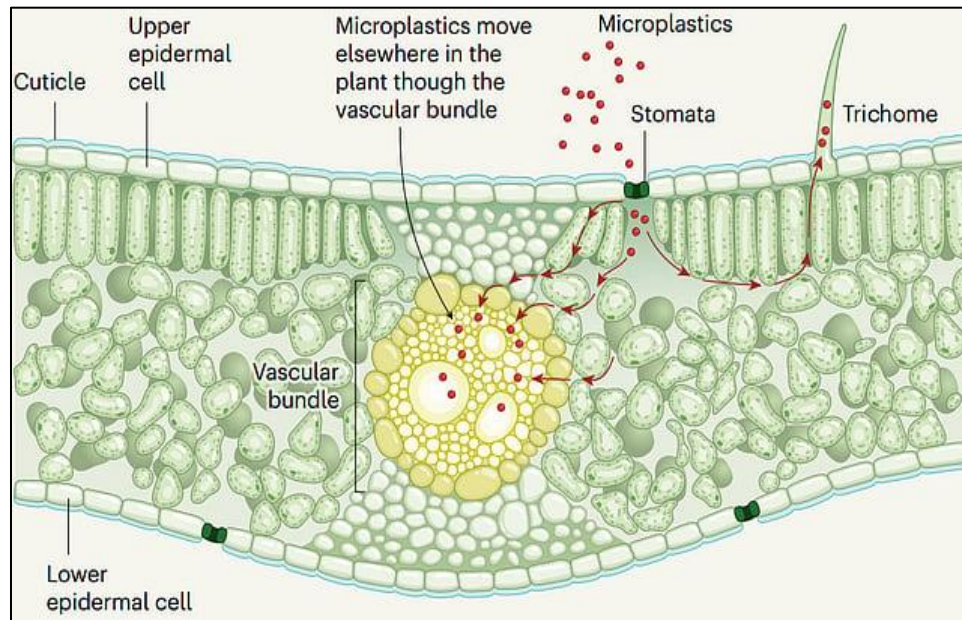
- ❖ A nearly two-year-old war has engulfed Sudan in the world largest humanitarian crisis.
- ❖ It led the African country to become the only nation experiencing famine.
- ❖ Nearly 25 million people - half of Sudan's population face extreme hunger.
- ❖ Sudan plunged into conflict on April 15, 2023, when long-simmering tensions broken between its military and paramilitary leaders.

- ❖ Since then, at least 20,000 people have been tallied as being killed.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

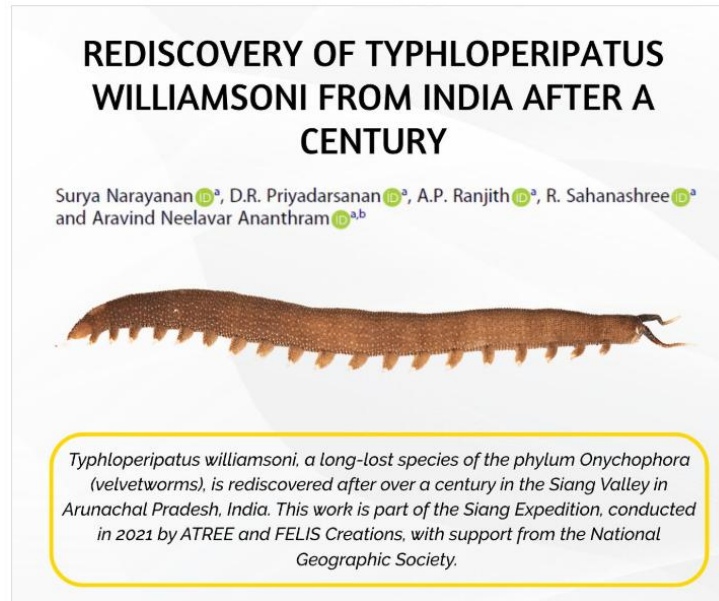
Microplastics in plant leaves



- ❖ Plant leaves absorbed microplastics and nano plastics directly from the air.
- ❖ The particles subsequently entering the food chain through herbivores and crops consumed by humans.
- ❖ The Microplastics are defined as plastic particles measuring up to 5 millimetres in diameter, while Nano plastics are even smaller, less than 1,000 nanometres.

- ❖ Stomata are small pores formed by specialised cells.
- ❖ The cuticle is a protective membrane coated in wax, which makes it particularly conducive to absorbing microplastics.

Typhloperipatus williamsoni



- ❖ The researchers have rediscovered a long-lost species of the velvet worms (the phylum Onychophora) after 111 years.
- ❖ It is one of the oldest living fossils in the world.
- ❖ Named as *Typhloperipatus williamsoni*, the ancient species are estimated to be around 220 million years old
- ❖ Onychophora is a very old group, easily older than 350 million years.
- ❖ It has only two families and not more than 200 species.
- ❖ The molecular data from *T. williamsoni* indicated that South Asian onychophoras split from their neotropical (Central and South America including southern parts of Mexico and the Caribbean).
- ❖ It is the only African relatives around 237 million years ago.
- ❖ The Asian onychophora were found to have no more relatives among the Australian onychophoras.

Forest fires - Phawngpui National Park

- ❖ Forest fires had erupted in several parts of Mizoram's Phawngpui National Park and affected nearly one-ninth of the park's total area.

- ❖ The Phawngpui National Park and adjoining Myanmar forests are the sole habitats of the highly endangered Mount Victoria Babax.
- ❖ It is a ground-dwelling bird species in the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ Forest fires triggered by jhum cultivation are a recurring problem in Mizoram.



One-ninth of Mizoram's Phawngpui National Park impacted by forest fires

New damselfly species – Wayanad

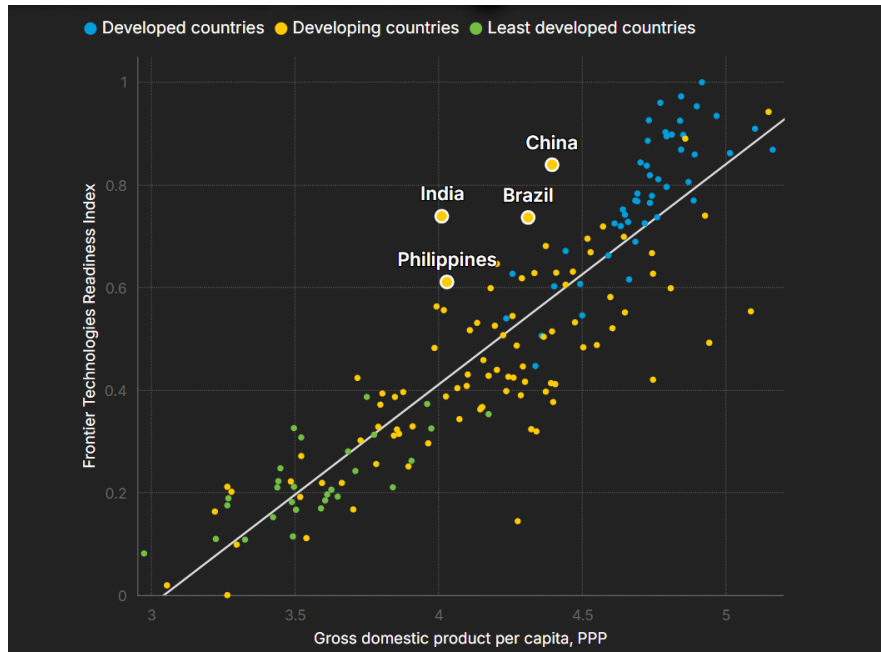


- ❖ A new species of damselfly has been discovered in the Wayanad landscape of the Western Ghats.

- ❖ The species were named as *Euphaea Wayanadensis*, where the insect was first discovered.
- ❖ The newly discovered damselfly is the 223rd species of Odonata (the group that includes dragonflies and damselflies) found in the Western Ghats and the 191st species recorded in the state.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Technology and Innovation Report 2025



- ❖ The 2025 Technology and Innovation Report was issued by United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- ❖ India was ranked 36th in 2024 on the 'Readiness for Frontier Technologies' index, improving its position from 48th in 2022.
- ❖ India ranks at 36th out of 170 nations on a global index measuring a country's readiness for frontier technologies.
- ❖ India ranks at 99th for ICT, 113th for skills, third for R&D, tenth for industrial capacity and 70th for finance.
- ❖ The U.S. leads the world in terms of the private investment in AI, at \$67 billion in 2023, or 70% of global AI private investment.
- ❖ The only developing countries with significant investments were China in second position, with \$7.8 billion and India in tenth position, with \$1.4 billion.

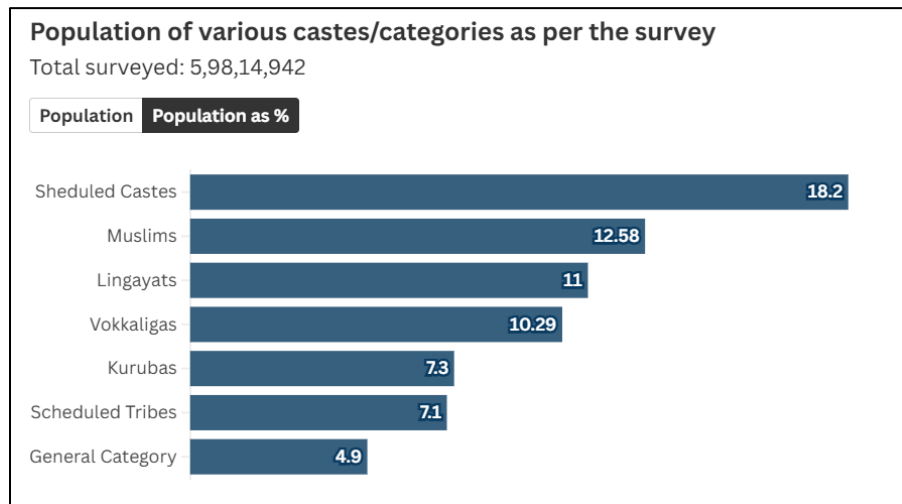


- ❖ India and China are the only developing countries in the world with significant private investments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in 2023.
- ❖ The United States has the most GitHub developers, followed by India and China.
- ❖ There are large talent pools in India, with around 13 million developers, and in Brazil, with four million.
- ❖ Germany is highly specialised in wind energy, India in nanotechnology, Japan in electric vehicles and the Republic of Korea in 5G technology.

STATES' NEWS

Karnataka Caste Census status 2025

- ❖ Karnataka state government has proposed an increase in reservation for other backward classes (OBCs) from the existing 32% to 51%.
- ❖ This would result in total reservation in the State going up to 85%, including 10% for the economically weaker sections (EWS) and 24% for the SC and ST.
- ❖ The survey puts the backward classes population to be around 70% of the State population.



Ban on hybrid paddy seeds

- ❖ The Punjab government has banned the sale of hybrid paddy seeds (non-Basmati rice), citing that they are being sold at high prices in the state.
- ❖ These seeds lead to a higher percentage of broken rice during milling compared to the standards set by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).
- ❖ There are approximately eight hybrid paddy varieties officially recommended for cultivation in Punjab.

- ❖ Private seed companies such as Savannah, VNR, Corteva, and Bayer offer these approved hybrids in the state.
- ❖ Some of the commonly grown varieties include: Sava 127, Sava 134, Sava 7501, 27P22, VNR 203 and others.



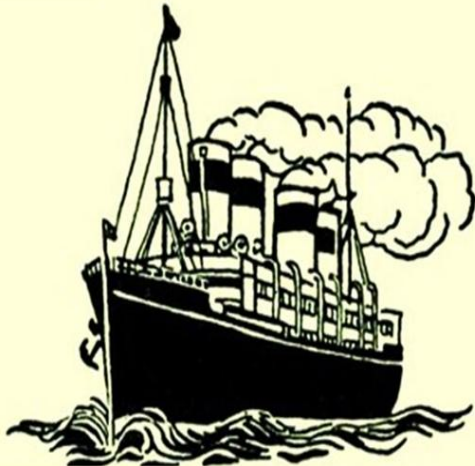
Punjab's ban on hybrid paddy seeds, which could earn farmers up to Rs 14,000 more per acre, might be unfair

IMPORTANT DAYS

62nd National Maritime Day 2025 - April 05

National Maritime Day

5th April



April 5 marks the National Maritime Day of India. On this day in 1919 navigation history was created when SS Loyalty, the first ship of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, journeyed to the United Kingdom.

The National Maritime Day was first celebrated on 5th April, 1964.

- ❖ This day commemorates the historic voyage of the SS Loyalty in 1919.
- ❖ It was operated by the Scindia Steam Navigation Company.

- ❖ This was the first Indian-owned ship to sail from Mumbai to London.
- ❖ This day was officially declared in 1964.
- ❖ The Merchant Navy Week is also observed during 30th March – 5th April.

Prevention of Blindness Week 2025

Prevention of
Blindness Week 2025

Diabetes & Hypertension: Hidden Threats to Your Vision



Normal Vision Diabetic Retinopathy

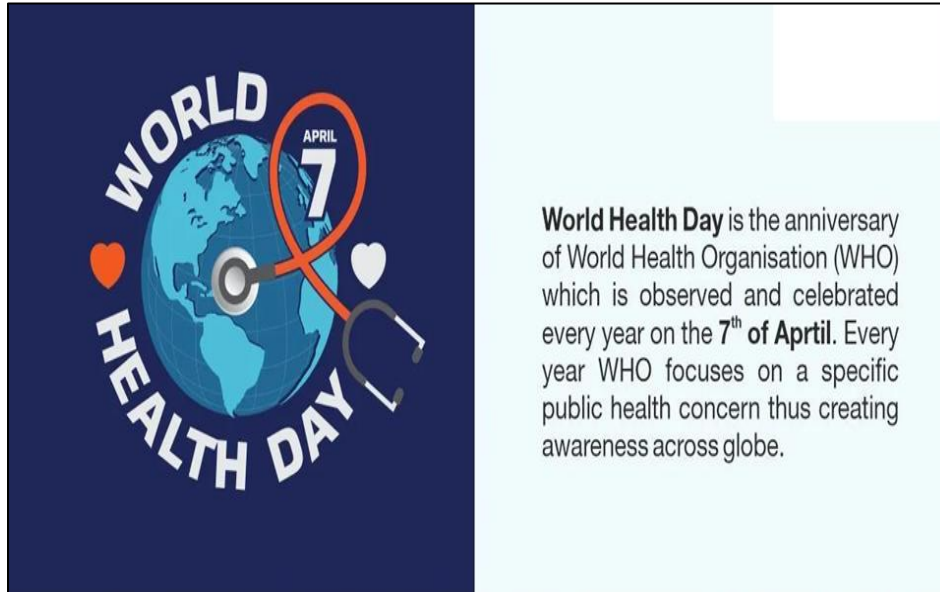
Control blood sugar & blood pressure to prevent vision loss!

- ❖ India observes Prevention of Blindness Week from April 1 to April 7 each year.
- ❖ The initiative aims to raise the awareness about blindness prevention, encourage routine eye check-ups, and promote healthy habits.
- ❖ The National Society for the Prevention of Blindness was founded in 1960 by Jawaharlal Nehru and Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur.
- ❖ India alone loses an estimated \$54.4 billion annually due to blindness and visual impairment.

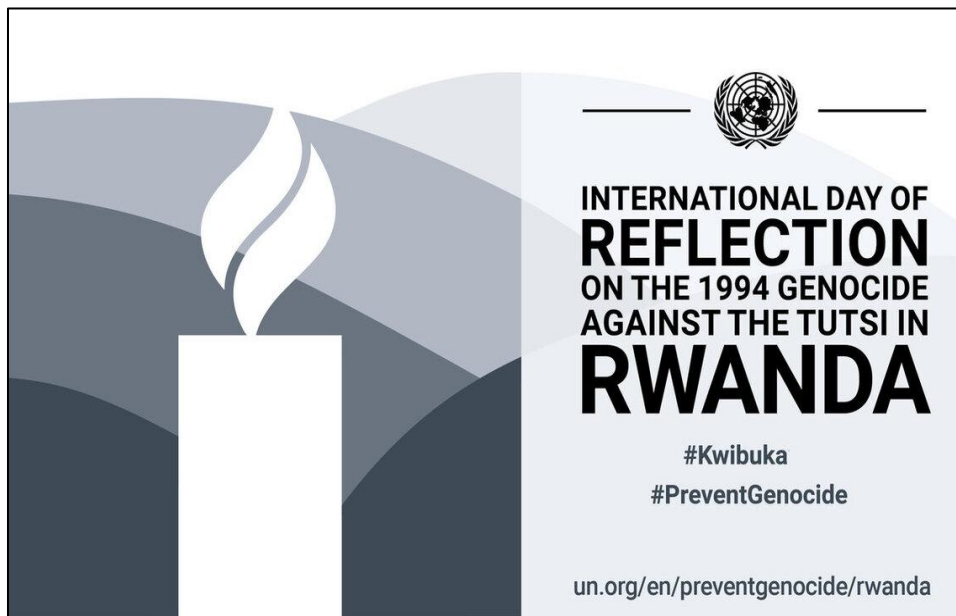
World Health Day 2025 - April 07

- ❖ It aims to raise the awareness about diseases and concerns, the significance of preventive care, and good health rising as a top priority.
- ❖ This day was originated from the first World Health Assembly, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1948.

- ❖ This year's theme is "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures."



International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda 2025 - April 07



- ❖ It commemorates the International Day of the Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.
- ❖ The Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, was started on 7 April 1994 by the members of the Hutu majority government.
- ❖ The Tutsi and the Hutu are the two major ethnic communities in Rwanda.

- ❖ An estimated of more than 800,000 Rwandans were killed during the 100-day period from April 7 to mid-July 1994.

CRPF valour day 2025 - April 09

- ❖ This day commemorates the unparalleled courage and heroism displayed by four companies of CRPF during the 1965 battle against a full-fledged brigade of the Pakistan Army in Rann of Kutch, Gujarat.
- ❖ The Central Reserve Police Force dates back to 1939 and was established as the Crown Representative's Police on July 27.
- ❖ Later, with the enactment of the CRPF Act on December 28, 1949, it transformed into CRPF.



World Homeopathy Day 2025 - April 10

- ❖ This day commemorates the birth anniversary of Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, the German physician who founded homeopathy.
- ❖ Homeopathy is an alternative medical practice based on the principle of "like cures like."
- ❖ The philosophical roots of homeopathy can be traced to Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine.

- ❖ India has 3.45 lakh registered homoeopathy doctors, 277 homoeopathy hospitals, 8,593 homoeopathy dispensaries, and around 277 homoeopathy educational institutions.



National Safe Motherhood Day 2025 - April 11

National Safe Motherhood Day
-11th April



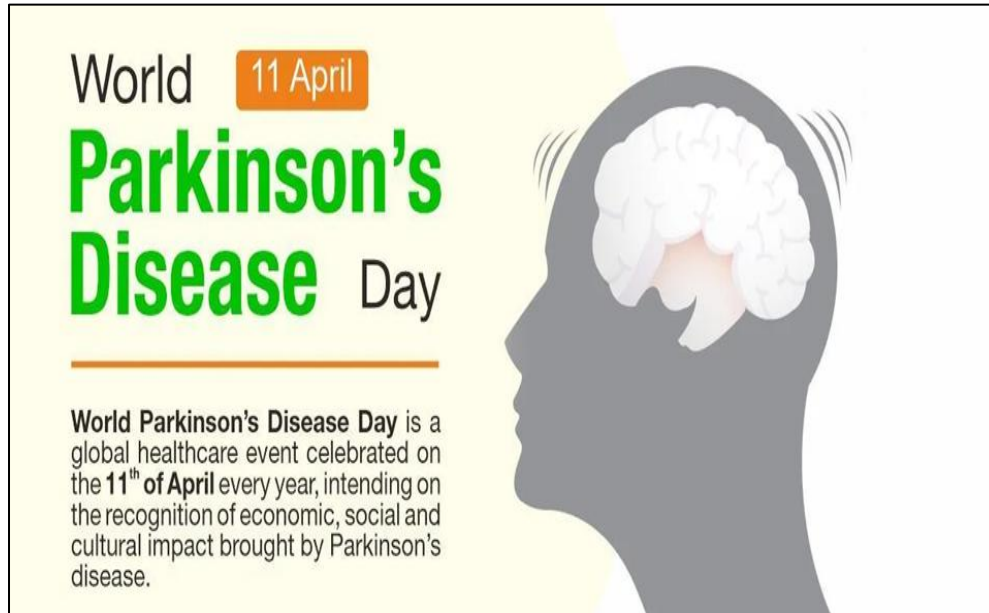
National Safe Motherhood Day is observed on **April 11** every year. National Safe Motherhood Day is an initiative of the **White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI)**, to enforce that women must have the availability and adequate access to care during pregnancy childbirth and postnatal services.

The logo features a stylized illustration of a woman in a red sari holding a baby, with the text 'NATIONAL SAFE MOTHERHOOD DAY' written in a circular border around the image.

- ❖ It was established in 2003 by the White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI).

- ❖ The date marks the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, wife of MK Gandhi, who dedicated her life to the welfare of women and children.
- ❖ The day aims to raise the awareness about maternal health — before, during and after pregnancy.
- ❖ The theme for this year is “Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures.”

World Parkinson's Day 2025 - April 11

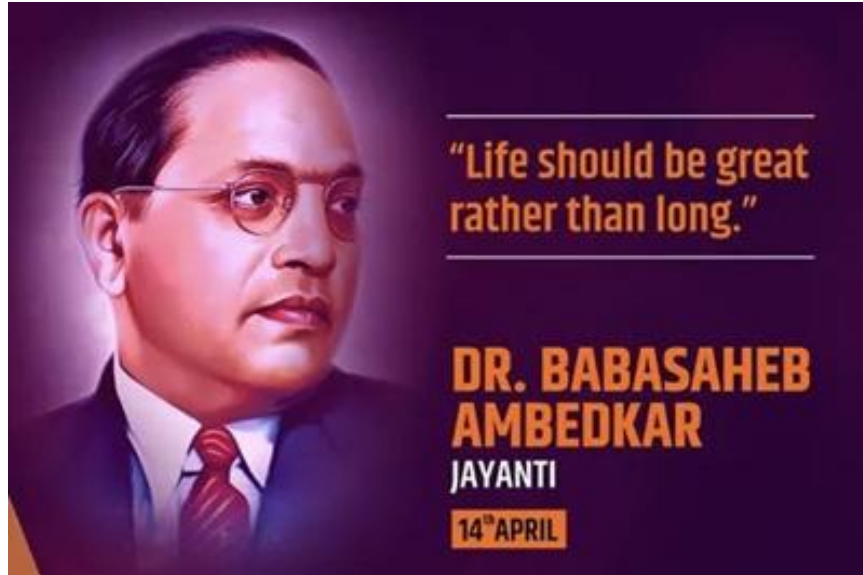


- ❖ Parkinson's disease is a long-term condition that affects how a person moves and controls their body.
- ❖ Parkinson's does strike more often in individuals over the age of 60, it is not a disease of old people.
- ❖ This is the second most common neurodegenerative disease worldwide.
- ❖ This date marks Dr. James Parkinson's birthday who is the first person to identify Parkinsonism as a medical condition.

Ambedkar Jayanti 2025 - April 14

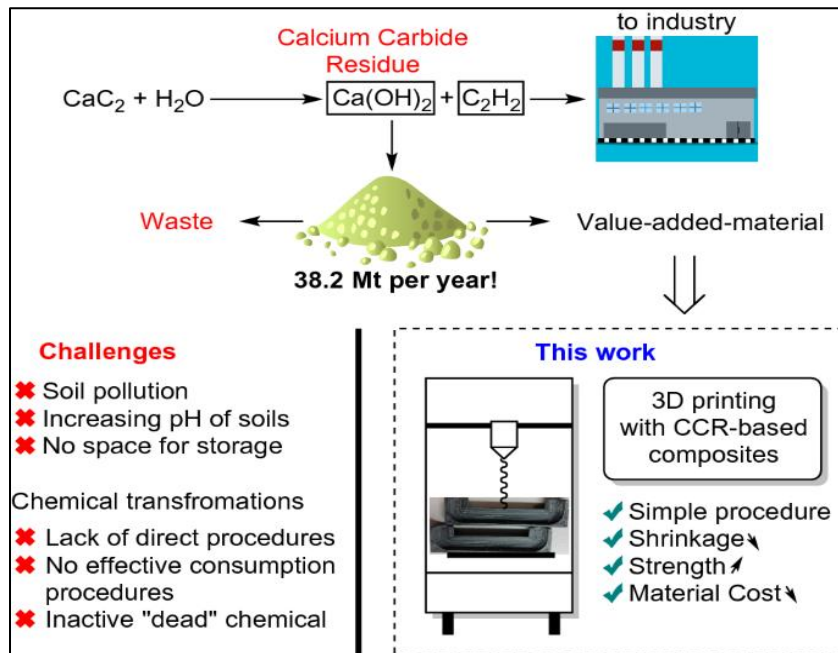
- ❖ This day marks the birth anniversary of Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, who was born on April 14, 1891.
- ❖ He is the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and also the first Law Minister of Independent India, a jurist, economist, and social reformer.
- ❖ The first observance of this day held in Pune by Janardan Sadashiv Ranapisay on April 14, 1928.

- ❖ In recognition of his contributions, Dr. Ambedkar was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1990.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Two technologies by CSIR-SERC



- ❖ Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) - SERC here has developed two technologies.
- ❖ One of them is eco-friendly.



- ❖ It uses industrial waste, including fly ash and calcium carbide sludge, with novel geometrically shaped blocks that make the building seismically resistant.
- ❖ With the other technology, thermally efficient blocks are made by using thermocol in between ferro-cement layers.

