

April - 21

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Mumbai-based business owner and Kathak dancer Nishita Yogesh Antarkar won the Miss Sake India 2026 title in Mumbai.
- ❖ Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) received ISO 50001:2018 Energy Management System certification, becoming the first water utility in India to get this global certification for energy management.
- ❖ UN Chinese Language Day is observed every year on 20 April, promoting cultural diversity and multilingualism in the United Nations system, and Chinese is one of its six official languages.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### RELIEF Scheme Expansion 2026



- ❖ India expanded the RELIEF (Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) scheme to include Egypt and Jordan.
- ❖ The scheme was launched on 19 March 2026 to support exporters affected by disruptions in West Asia trade routes.
- ❖ It is implemented through the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) to provide export insurance support.
- ❖ The scheme helps exporters by covering freight cost rise, insurance premiums, and war-related trade risks.
- ❖ Egypt and Jordan were added due to their strategic role in global trade routes like the Suez Canal and West Asia corridors.

- ❖ The expansion aims to strengthen India's export resilience and ensure stable international supply chains.

### PMGSY-III Extension

Continuation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III)	Continuation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III)
Cabinet approves continuation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) beyond March 2025 upto March 2028	Timeline extended till March 2028 for completion of roads & bridges in plain areas and roads in hilly areas
Focus on consolidation of Through Routes & Major Rural Links connecting Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), Higher Secondary Schools & Hospitals	Timeline extended till March 2029 for completion of bridges in hilly areas
Revised outlay approved at ₹83,977 crore (earlier ₹80,250 crore)	Works sanctioned before 31.03.2025 but un-awarded allowed for tendering/award
	161 Long Span Bridges (LSBs) worth ₹961 crore to be sanctioned & executed

- ❖ Union Cabinet extended Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) till March 2028.
- ❖ The scheme aims to improve rural connectivity by building and upgrading all-weather roads in rural areas.
- ❖ It connects villages with Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), schools, and hospitals to improve access and services.
- ❖ The revised total outlay of PMGSY-III has been increased to ₹83,977 crore.
- ❖ It also includes the construction of 161 long-span bridges in hilly and remote regions to ensure continuous connectivity.
- ❖ PMGSY was launched in December 2000 to provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations.
- ❖ PMGSY-III mainly focuses on upgrading existing rural roads and major link routes instead of only new road construction.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Global Maritime Security Initiative

- ❖ UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron launched the Global Maritime Security Initiative for the Strait of Hormuz.
- ❖ The initiative aims to ensure freedom of navigation and secure key global shipping routes.

- ❖ Around 40 countries, including India, participated in the virtual meeting held in 2026.
- ❖ The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf to global markets and is vital for global oil and gas trade.
- ❖ The initiative focuses on protecting commercial shipping and stabilising global energy supply chains amid regional tensions.



## **ECONOMY NEWS**

### **6th Largest Economy - India**

The recently released World Economic Outlook 2026 of the International Monetary Fund has pegged **India as the sixth-largest economy in the world in 2025 and 2026** in US dollar terms, slipping from the fifth-largest rank in 2024.

**By 2031, the IMF has estimated that India could be the third largest economy** in the world with a nominal GDP size in US dollar terms of \$6.79 trillion.

- ❖ India ranked 6th globally in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) World Economic Outlook (WEO) 2026.

- ❖ Global ranking is based on nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in United States (US) dollar terms.
- ❖ India's GDP is about \$4.15 trillion, behind Japan (~\$4.38 trillion) and the United Kingdom (~\$4.27 trillion).
- ❖ Rank fell due to GDP revision (base year change) and depreciation of the Indian rupee.
- ❖ India's GDP revised from ₹357 lakh crore to ₹345 lakh crore for 2025-26.
- ❖ IMF projects India to become the 4th largest by 2027 and the 3rd largest by 2031.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

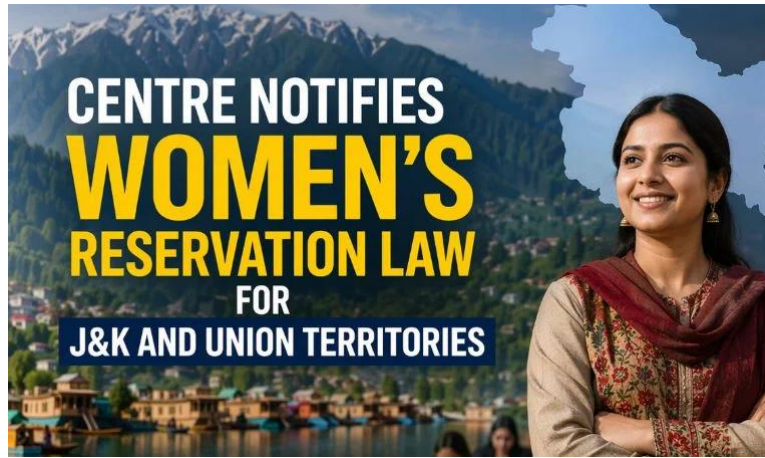
### US Space Nuclear Reactor Plan



- ❖ US plans to deploy nuclear reactors in space by 2028 and on the Moon by 2030.
- ❖ The plan is under the “National Initiative for American Space Nuclear Power” issued to boost US space leadership.
- ❖ The reactor will produce 20 kilowatts (kW) of power for 3 years in orbit and 5 years on the Moon for lunar missions.
- ❖ The US Department of Energy will support development, testing, transport, and launch safety.
- ❖ The plan also supports nuclear propulsion for future Mars missions and reflects the US–China space competition.

## STATE NEWS

### Women's Quota Law in Union Territories



- ❖ Women's quota law came into effect in the Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Puducherry from 17 April 2026.
- ❖ The Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023, provides 1/3 reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.
- ❖ Similar provisions for J&K and Puducherry were made through separate amendment laws in 2023.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued a gazette notification to implement the law.
- ❖ The reservation will become effective after delimitation based on the Census 2027.

### Water Neutral Railway Depot

**AHMEDABAD'S KANKARIA  
RAILWAY DEPOT BECOMES  
INDIA'S FIRST 'WATER-NEUTRAL  
FACILITY' - SAVING 1.60 LAKH  
LITRES OF WATER EVERY DAY**



- ❖ Kankaria Coaching Depot in Ahmedabad became India's first 'water neutral' railway depot.
- ❖ It saves around 1.60 lakh litres of water every day through reuse and treatment systems.
- ❖ The depot treats wastewater using phytoremediation, a natural process using plants to clean water.
- ❖ Water is further purified through filtration and UV disinfection for reuse in railway operations.
- ❖ The initiative supports water conservation, reduces freshwater use, and promotes eco-friendly railway operations.

### **Karnataka Rohith Vemula Bill 2026**



**LEGAL RESTRICTIONS  
ON CASTE DISCRIMINATION  
IN UNIVERSITIES**

Cabinet clears The Rohith Vemula  
(Prevention of Exclusion or Injustice)  
Bill, 2025

**WHERE DOES  
IT APPLY?**

Applies to government and  
private colleges, universities,  
and hostels - covering  
caste-based discrimination  
against SC/ST, OBC, and  
minority students.

- ❖ Karnataka Cabinet approved the Rohith Vemula (Prevention of Discrimination, Exclusion or Injustice) (Right to Education and Dignity) Bill, 2026.
- ❖ The Bill aims to protect the rights and dignity of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in higher education institutions.
- ❖ It covers public, private, charitable, and deemed universities in Karnataka.
- ❖ The Bill lists around 30 forms of discrimination, including denial of admission, caste-based abuse, and financial harassment.
- ❖ It provides punishment, including imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹10 lakh for violations.
- ❖ The law also establishes enquiry and appeal mechanisms to address complaints of discrimination in institutions.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Liver Day 2026 - April 19

- ❖ The day is observed to raise global awareness about liver health and the prevention of liver diseases.
- ❖ The day aims to reduce the global burden of liver diseases through awareness, prevention, and timely diagnosis.
- ❖ It is an annual global health awareness day focused on the importance of the liver in human body functions like detoxification, metabolism, and digestion.
- ❖ The liver performs over 500 functions and has a natural ability to regenerate, but diseases often show late symptoms.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Solid Habits, Strong Liver”.



### Civil Services Day - April 21

- ❖ The day is observed to honour the contribution of civil servants in governance and nation-building.
- ❖ It is linked to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s speech on 21 April 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi, where he called civil servants the “Steel Frame of India”.
- ❖ The day was first officially observed in 2006 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi by the Government of India.
- ❖ The day is observed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and includes Prime Minister’s Awards for Excellence in Public Administration.
- ❖ Civil services support policy implementation, law and order, disaster management, and delivery of government services across India.

- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Holistic Development – Saturation of Government Schemes”.

