

April - 30

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology Madras has incubated more than 100 deep tech start-ups in the past financial year.
 - In the last 12 years, the institute's incubation cell has supported 457 deep tech start-ups, collectively valued at ₹50,000 crore.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government moves Bill to name CM as Chancellor and Minister of Higher Education the Pro-Chancellor of the proposed Kalaingar University in Kumbakonam.
- ❖ International Dance Day is observed on April 29th since 1982 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI), in collaboration with UNESCO, to promote various forms of dance globally.
- ❖ The 2025 edition of International Jazz Day, organized by UNESCO and others, is being celebrated on 30 April and the Global Host for this year's celebration is the city of Abu Dhabi, UAE.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Impact of Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam scheme


Effective initiative

The table shows the number of beneficiaries under the *Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam* (MTM) till March 31, 2025

Service	First-time beneficiaries	Repeat beneficiaries
Hypertension	1,13,77,200	1,73,08,450
Diabetes	54,19,368	1,24,16,468
Both hypertension and diabetes	49,40,439	1,03,51,762
Palliative care	6,04,413	13,46,585
Physiotherapy	8,07,545	30,07,716
Continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis bags	488	8,476

Comparison of non-communicable diseases control between STEPS I and II surveys

NCD	STEPS I (2019-20)	STEPS II (2023-2024)
Hypertension	7.30%	17.00%
Diabetes	10.80%	16.70%



SOME HIGHLIGHTS

- The proportion of individuals with hypertension seeking care in government facilities rose from 45.5% in STEPS I to 62.4% in STEPS II
- 37.7% of individuals with hypertension received drugs through women health volunteers (WHVs) at their homes through MTM
- Among those with diabetes, 54.1% sought treatment from the government sector in 2023-24s when compared to 33.9% in 2019-20
- Among those with diabetes, 33.6% received drugs through WHVs at their homes

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's MTM scheme has led to better health outcomes, with blood pressure management among adults improving by 17% and blood sugar levels by 16.7%.

- ❖ This was the findings from Tamil Nadu STEPS (World Health Organization STEP wise approach to NCD risk factor surveillance) Survey 2023-2024.
- ❖ It was taken up by the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR-NIE).

Tamil Nadu Startup summit 2025 – Chennai

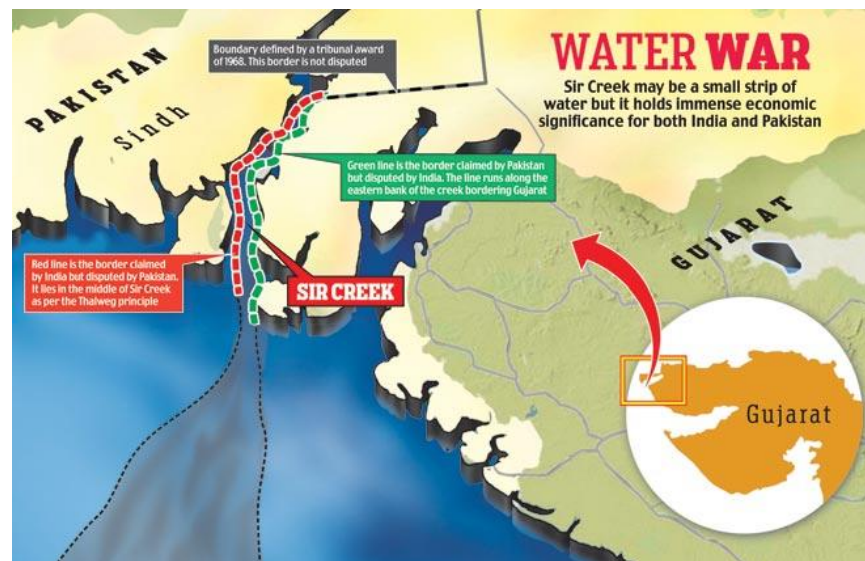


- ❖ This summit was organised by the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (Startup TN), under the MSME Department.
- ❖ The summit was hosted by The Hindu along with SRM Institute of Science and Technology and co-presented by Startup TN in association with Sify Technologies.
- ❖ The deputy Chief minister launched the logo and website for “Tamil Nadu Global Startup Summit 2025” to be organised by Startup TN at Coimbatore.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is among the top 10 regions in Asia in terms of talent pool.
- ❖ NITI Aayog has described the State as a model for the innovation ecosystem, a reflection of its strong potential.
- ❖ Chennai is known as the software services capital.
- ❖ The Global Startup Report 2024 had ranked Chennai in the 18th position.
- ❖ The infant mortality for startups is very high as many become large but do not learn the practices of governance while growing.
- ❖ Another issue is that Chennai lacks the venture capital ecosystem.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (StartupTN) will be launching a scheme called Gramam Thorum Puthozhil (Establishing Start-ups in Villages) this year.
- ❖ It will also be focusing on the inclusive entrepreneurship, rural innovation, and sustainable economic growth.

- ❖ Our policy focuses on three major inclusive aspects — gender inclusivity, caste inclusivity, and geographical inclusivity.
- ❖ In 2023, the Government of Tamil Nadu introduced a policy that slightly modified the Government of India's definition of a start-up.
- ❖ While the Centre defines a start-up as being less than 10 years old with a turnover of less than ₹100 crore, Tamil Nadu's policy revised the turnover threshold to ₹50 crore.

NATIONAL NEWS

Fresh continental-shelf claim



- ❖ India has increased its claim in the Central Arabian Sea, as part of its 'extended continental shelf' by nearly 10,000 square km.
- ❖ It also modified an earlier claim to avoid a long-standing dispute with Pakistan over the maritime boundary between the two countries.
- ❖ Coastal countries have an 'exclusive economic zone,' (EEZ) which gives exclusive mining and fishing rights, up to 200 nautical miles from their coastlines.
- ❖ In addition to this, such states can also make claims for more area in the ocean provided they can scientifically establish to a UN body, called the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS).
- ❖ For this, the claimed area extends unbroken from their landmass all the way till the sea bed.
- ❖ India already has 12 nautical miles of territorial sea and 200 nautical miles of the EEZ measured from the baselines.

- ❖ India made its first claim in 2009 in vast stretches of sea spanning the Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ Some parts of India's continental shelf claims in the Arabian Sea overlap with that of Oman.
- ❖ However, the two countries have an agreement in place since 2010 that while the continental shelf between them is yet to be delimited, it is 'not under dispute.'
- ❖ But there is a dispute with Pakistan over the Sir Creek, a strip of water in the marshes of the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.

India's Poverty Statistics (2011-2023)



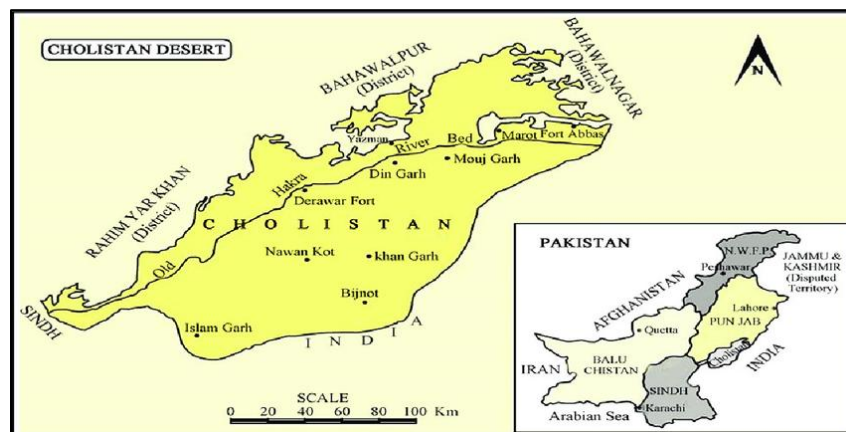
- ❖ As per the World Bank data, India has lifted 171 million people from extreme poverty in the decade between 2011-12 and 2022-23.
- ❖ The World Bank's Spring 2025 Poverty and Equity Brief highlights this.
- ❖ Extreme poverty (living on less than \$2.15 per day) fell from 16.2 per cent in 2011-12 to 2.3 per cent in 2022-23.
- ❖ Rural extreme poverty dropped from 18.4 per cent to 2.8 per cent, and the urban from 10.7 per cent to 1.1 per cent.
- ❖ India was narrowing the rural-urban gap from 7.7 to 1.7 percentage points a 16 per cent annual decline.
- ❖ As per the \$3.65 per day Lower-Middle-Income Category poverty line, poverty fell from 61.8 per cent to 28.1 per cent, lifting 378 million people out of poverty.
- ❖ India's five most populous states Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh accounted for 65 per cent of the country's extreme poor in 2011-12.

- ❖ They contributed to two-thirds of the overall decline in extreme poverty by 2022-23.
- ❖ These states still accounted for 54 per cent of India's extremely poor (2022-23) and 51 per cent of the multidimensionally poor (2019-21).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Cholistan Canal Project suspension

- ❖ After weeks of protest in Sindh, the Pakistan government put its ambitious canals project on hold.
- ❖ The project is meant to irrigate millions of acres of previously uncultivable land.
- ❖ The canals project is the centrepiece of the larger \$3.3 billion Green Pakistan Initiative.
- ❖ It is a 176-km long canal meant to irrigate the arid lands of Cholistan in southern Punjab.
- ❖ Bordering the state of Rajasthan in India, Cholistan is a part of the larger Thar desert.
- ❖ Officially, the Cholistan Canal was meant to be supplied entirely by flood water released by India on the Sutlej.
- ❖ In 2018-19, only 3.4% of the water (4.9-million-acre feet) received by the country from the Indus and its five tributaries came from the three India-controlled “eastern rivers” — Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi.



Operation Atalanta 2025

- ❖ The EUNAVFOR ATALANTA (Operation Atalanta) is the naval operation of the European Union.

- ❖ It operates under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)
- ❖ It operates primarily in the Western Indian Ocean and the Red Sea.
- ❖ It enhances security along critical shipping lanes such as the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait and Gulf of Aden.
- ❖ The EUNAVFOR has the capability to respond to piracy incidents within 48 to 72 hours.
- ❖ It has proposed a joint naval exercise with the Indian Navy to strengthen maritime security cooperation in the Western Indian Ocean and Red Sea.



STATE NEWS

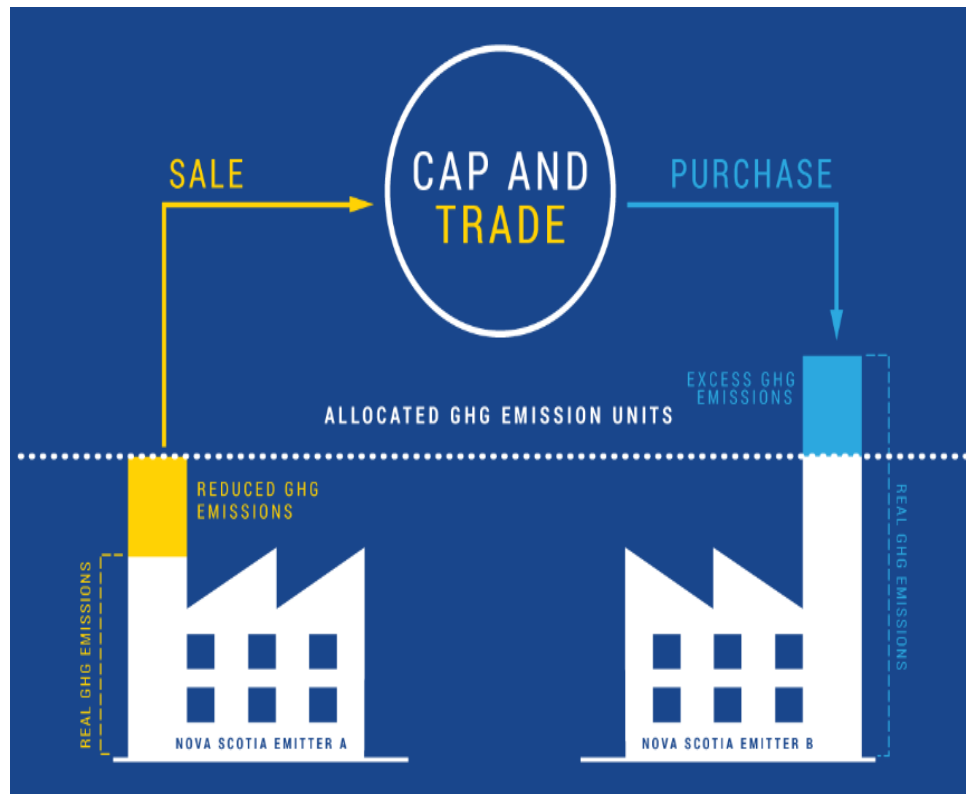
Amravati airport



- ❖ The Maharashtra CM inaugurated Amravati Airport in Maharashtra.

- ❖ It was under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik).
- ❖ He also announced the Flying Training Organisation (FTO) to be established in the Amravati City of Vidarbha.
- ❖ It will be the biggest pilot training institute in Southeast Asia.

Gujarat Cap-and-Trade Success



- ❖ A new study in India found that the world's first market for trading in particulate matter emissions, delivered both environmental and economic benefits.
- ❖ The programme lowered industrial pollution, slashed abatement costs for plants and improved compliance with environmental regulations.
- ❖ The emissions trading scheme (ETS) is a cap-and-trade system for particulate pollution.
- ❖ It was launched in Gujarat's Surat, a major industrial hub.
- ❖ It was developed as a pilot by the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB), in collaboration with the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago.
- ❖ The programme is operational for over five years.

- ❖ It was the first of its kind globally for particulate matter and India's first pollution trading scheme of any kind.
- ❖ Under the programme, 318 large coal-using industrial plants were required to install Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems (CEMS), allowing real-time tracking of particulate matter emissions.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

MacGregor memorial medals – India



- ❖ It is a prestigious award recognising exceptional contributions in military reconnaissance and adventure and remains a symbol of honour in the Indian Armed Forces.
- ❖ Five military personnel received this honour for their achievements in 2023 and 2024 by the Defence Ministry.
- ❖ The award encourages personnel to engage in activities that contribute to national security.
- ❖ While military reconnaissance and exploration remain the foremost criteria, the medal is open to all ranks (serving and retired) of the Armed Forces, Territorial Army, Reserve Forces, Rashtriya Rifles and Assam Rifles.
- ❖ Instituted on July 03, 1888, the MacGregor Memorial Medal commemorates Major General Sir Charles Metcalfe MacGregor, founder of USI (established in 1870).
- ❖ Originally intended to recognise the acts of military reconnaissance and exploratory journeys, the medal's scope was expanded in 1986, post-Independence, to include military expeditions and adventure activities
- ❖ To date, 127 medals have been awarded, including 103 prior to Independence.

- ❖ Among the notable recipients are Captain F.E. Younghusband (1890), Major General Orde Charles Wingate (1943), Major Z.C. Bakshi (1949), Col. Narinder Kumar for Siachen Glacier exploration (1978–81) and Cdr Dilip Donde and Lt. Cdr. Abhilash Tomy for their solo global circumnavigations.
- ❖ The awardees for 2023 included Wing Commander D. Panda from the Air Force and Electrical Artificer (Radio) Rahul Kumar Pandey from the Navy.
- ❖ For 2024, the Chief Electrical Aircraft Artificer (Radio) Ram Ratan Jat of the Navy and Sergeant Jhumar Ram Poonia from the Air Force were honoured with the medal.
- ❖ The Colonel Ranvir Singh Jamwal, the Director of the National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports in Arunachal Pradesh, was also awarded.
- ❖ The event also featured the launch of the book *Bravest of the Brave*, a chronicle of the life and heroic journey of Naib Subedar Chunni Lal, authored by Lt. Gen. Satish Dua (retd.), former Chief of Integrated Defence Staff.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Human Space Flight 2025 – April 12



- ❖ This day aims to honour both the past accomplishments and the continued efforts to explore the universe.
- ❖ On April 12, 1961, Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet cosmonaut, made history as the first human to travel into space aboard the Vostok 1.

- ❖ In recognition of this groundbreaking event, the UN declared this day in 2011.
- ❖ Generally, the Kármán line located at 100 km (62 miles) above sea level.
- ❖ It is an imaginary line that demarcates the earth's atmosphere from space.
- ❖ Anything traveling above the Kármán line needs a propulsion system that doesn't rely on lift generated by Earth's atmosphere.

International Day for Street Children 2025 - April 12

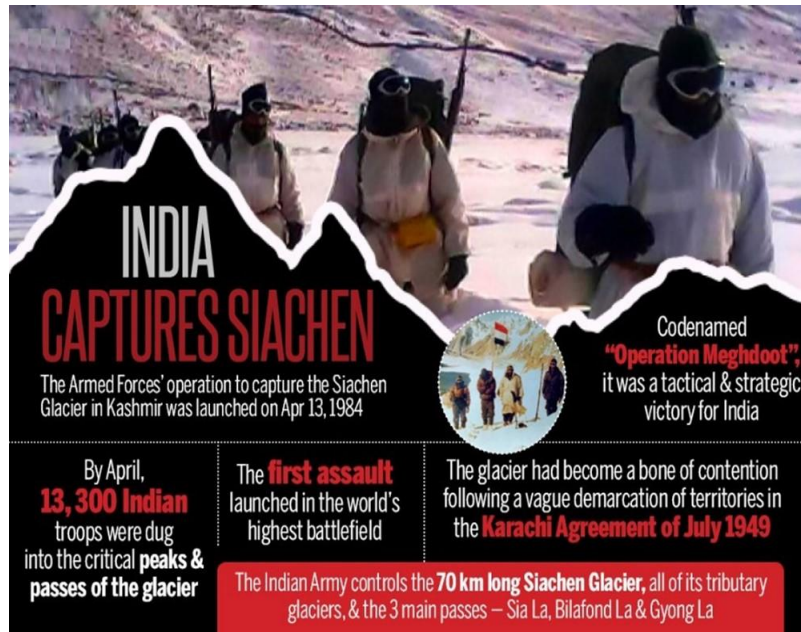


- ❖ This day is providing a voice for children who live on the street so their rights cannot be ignored.
- ❖ UNICEF has distinguished street children into three broad categories:
 - Children working on the street: They're children who spend most of their time on the streets, fending for themselves, but return home regularly.
 - Children whose families are on the street: As the title suggests, they're children who live on the streets along with their families.
 - Children living on the street: They're children who've eloped from their families, living on the streets.

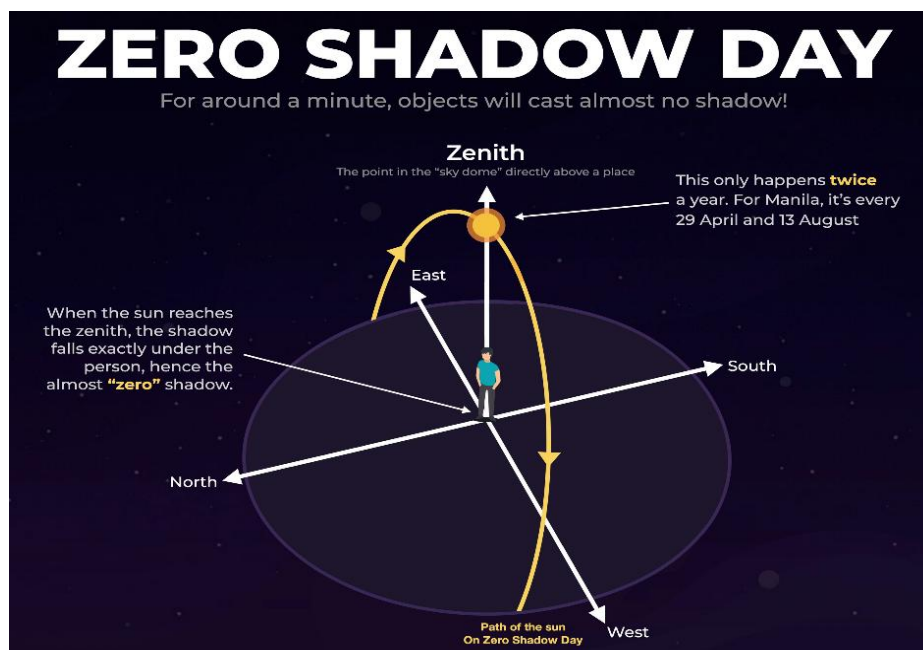
Siachen Day 2025 - April 13

- ❖ This day is commemorating the Indian Army's Operation Meghdoot at the world's highest battlefield in 1984.

- ❖ On this day, Indian troops landed at Bilafond La Pass and captured key positions on the Siachen Glacier, securing a strategic advantage in the disputed region of Kashmir.
- ❖ Siachen has been a bone of contention between India and Pakistan ever since the Karachi Agreement of 1949.



Zero shadow day 2025 - April 24

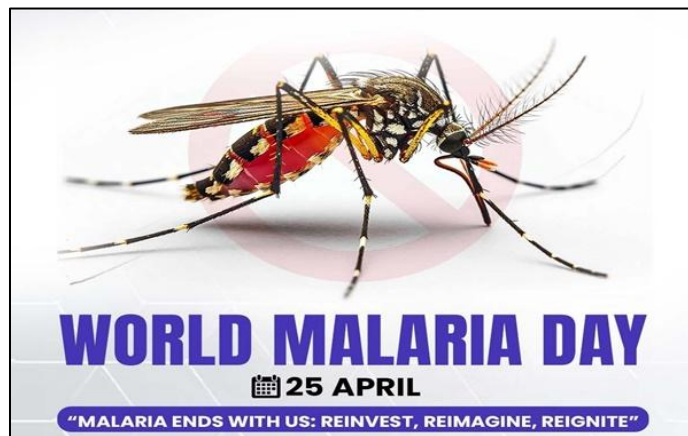


- ❖ Bengaluru witnessed a Zero Shadow Day on April 24.

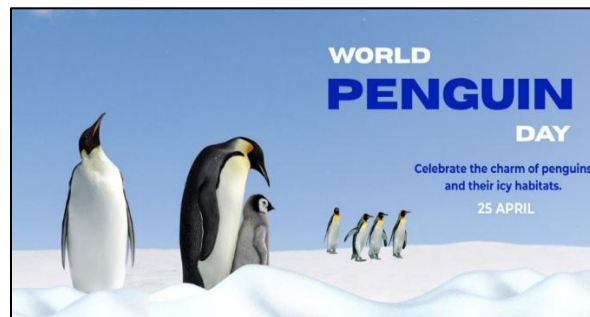
- ❖ This phenomenon exists because the sunlight strikes in precisely a 90-degree angle such that the shadow points straight downwards.
- ❖ It is common to every city located between the Equator and the Tropic of Cancer (23.5°N latitude).
- ❖ It will occur twice a year, corresponding to northern and southern movements.
- ❖ Different locations experience this day on different days.

World Malaria Day 2025 - April 25

- ❖ This global initiative is organised by WHO to raise awareness about malaria and promote actions to control, prevent, and ultimately eliminate the disease.
- ❖ Malaria is caused by parasites transmitted through the bites of an infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- ❖ The theme of this year's is "Malaria ends with us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite".



World Penguin Day 2025 - April 25



- ❖ This day marks the start of the Adelie penguins' northern migration.
- ❖ Adelie penguins are one of the 17–20 species of penguins recognized globally.

- ❖ In the winter, they move north for better access to food, and in the summer, they return to Antarctica's coastal beaches to nest.
- ❖ Among the around 17 recognised species, up to 10 are classified as endangered by IUCN with three considered Near threatened.

International Delegate's Day 2025 - April 25



- ❖ It celebrates the crucial role of delegates in fostering global cooperation, peace, and diplomacy.
- ❖ It was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2019 on the initiative of Belarus.
- ❖ This day is marking the first day of the international conference in San Francisco in 1945, which resulted in the founding of the United Nations.

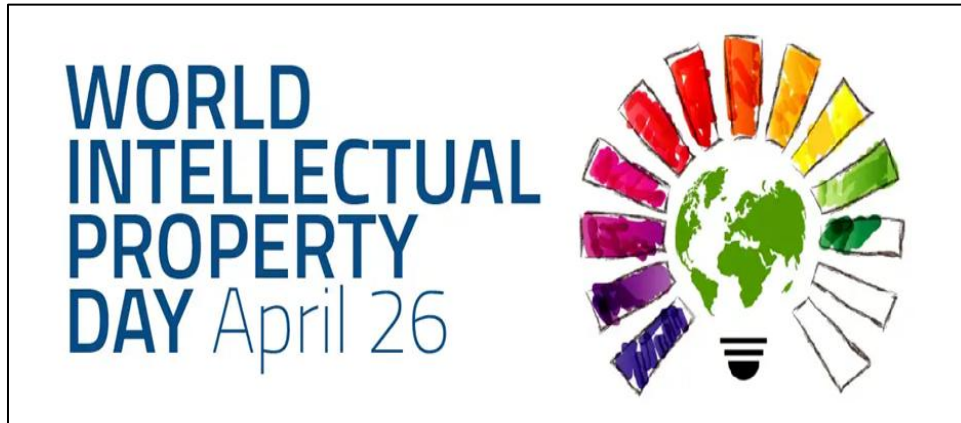
International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day 2025 - April 26



- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of the consequences of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster and the risks of nuclear energy

- ❖ The Reactor No. 4 at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine, then part of the Soviet Union, exploded on April 26, 1986.
- ❖ Nearly 8.4 million people in the three countries were exposed to the radiation.
- ❖ An area of roughly 2,600 sq km remains (permanently) out of bounds for human habitation, due to the radio-active contamination.

World Intellectual Property Day 2025 - April 26



- ❖ It educates how intellectual property (IP) helps the global arts scene to flourish and enables the technological innovation that drives human progress.
- ❖ This day also highlights the role that the IP rights, such as, patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright, play in encouraging innovation and creativity.
- ❖ On this day in the 1970, the WIPO Convention came into force.
- ❖ Theme of this year is Intellectual property and music: Feel the beat of IP.

World Veterinary Day 2025 - April 26



- ❖ This day is observed annually on the last Saturday of April.

- ❖ It is dedicated to recognising the vital contributions of veterinarians to animal health, public well-being, and society as a whole.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Animal Health Takes a Team".

World Design Day 2025 - April 27

- ❖ It aims to recognise the value of design and its capacity to effect change.
- ❖ Celebrated since 1995, this day commemorates the founding of the Council on 27 April 1963.
- ❖ Theme for 2025 is "outlandish optimism".



World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2025 - April 28



- ❖ It highlights ways and prevent workplace accidents and occupational diseases across the world.
- ❖ It was established by the International Labour Organization.
- ❖ This day highlights the very importance of creating a safe and healthy work environment, recognizing that every worker has the right to return home safe.

- ❖ The theme for the year 2025 is 'Revolutionizing health and safety: the role of AI and digitalization at work.'

Ayushman Bharat Diwas 2025 - April 30



- ❖ This day aims to spread awareness about the benefits of the Ayushman Bharat Yojana.
- ❖ This Centrally Sponsored Scheme is one of India's largest healthcare schemes.
- ❖ It has two main pillars:
 - Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)
 - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)
- ❖ PM-JAY is a health insurance scheme that provides the cashless and affordable medical cover of up to Rs. 5 lakh per year to economically disadvantaged families.

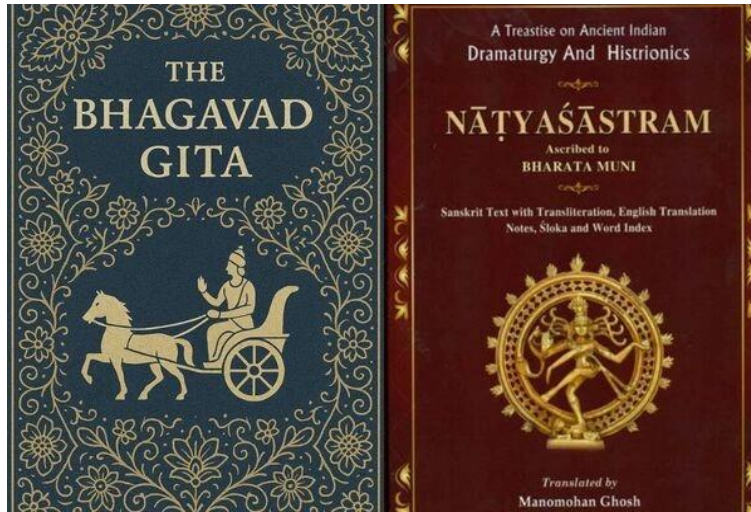
MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Bhagavad Gita and Natyashastra

- Books or collections of works (eg. *Mahavamsa*, the meticulously kept historical chronicle of Sri Lanka);
- Drawings (eg. Meiji-era collection of Sakubei Yamamoto of Japan);
- Manuscripts (eg. collection of more than 11,000 *Shaiva Siddhanta* manuscripts);
- Audio recordings (eg. 430 hours of recordings of the Frankfurt Auschwitz trials, 1963-65); and
- Video recordings (eg. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's historic March 7, 1971 speech).

- ❖ Manuscripts of the Bhagavad Gita and Bharata's Natyashastra are among the 74 new additions to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register (MoW) this year.

- ❖ With the latest additions, the Register now contains 570 entries.
- ❖ The UNESCO has launched the Memory of the World (MoW) Programme in 1992.
- ❖ The central project of the MoW Programme was to create a compendium of documents — manuscripts, oral traditions, audio-visual materials, and library and archive holdings.
- ❖ These are of “world significance and outstanding universal value”.
- ❖ Beginning in 1997, the Register has been biennially updated — with the exception of a lengthy gap between 2017 and 2023.
- ❖ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris in 1948, is also among the new entries in the Register.
- ❖ With the inclusion of Gita and Natyashastra, India now has 14 entries in the Register, including two joint-submissions.
- ❖ These range from the Rig Veda (added in 2005) and the collective works of the Shaivite philosopher Abhinavagupta (added in 2023), to the archives of the first summit meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement in Belgrade in 1961 (added in 2023) and the archives of the Dutch East India Company (added in 2003).
- ❖ The latter two entries were joint submissions, which India made with Algeria, Egypt, India, Indonesia and Serbia, and Indonesia, Netherlands, South Africa and Sri Lanka, respectively.



- ❖ Bhagavad Gita is the part of the Mahabharata.
- ❖ It is a Sanskrit scripture comprising 700 verses that are organised in 18 chapters.
- ❖ They are embedded in the sixth book (Bhishma Parva) of the epic poem Mahabharata.
- ❖ It is considered to be composed in the 2nd or 1st century BCE.



- ❖ Natyashastra deals with drama (nāṭya), performance (abhinaya), aesthetic emotion (rasa), feeling (bhāva), and music (saṅgīta), comprising 36,000 verses.
- ❖ It is believed to have been codified around the 2nd century BCE by Bharatmuni in Sanskrit.
- ❖ The Gita is essentially a dialogue between Arjuna and Krishna, which takes place just before the beginning of the great war of Mahabharata.

