

April - 30

TNPSC BITS

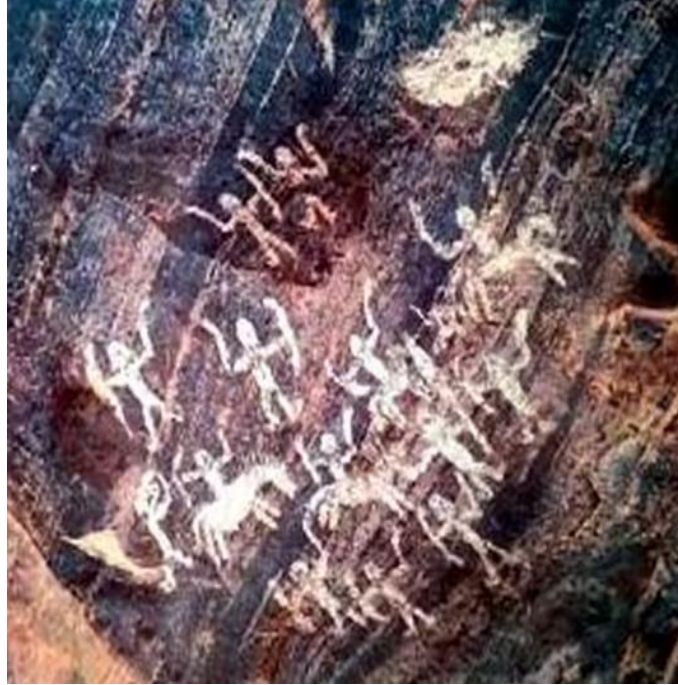
- ❖ The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India has made helpline 1855 operational nationwide for Census 2027.
- ❖ The Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India launched its first heritage designer collection, “Soul Threads”, to promote India’s artisanal heritage and support weavers.
- ❖ Bharat Taxi is a government-backed ride-hailing app supported by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), offering zero-commission rides for cars, auto-rickshaws, and two-wheelers with fair pricing.
- ❖ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the SMILE–Beggary Survey Mobile Application to enable real-time data collection and improve monitoring and rehabilitation under the SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) Scheme.
- ❖ The SAFF Women’s Championship 2026 will be hosted by India in Goa, marking its first time hosting since 2016 in Siliguri, West Bengal.
 - Goa had earlier hosted a SAFF event during the men’s championship in 1999.
- ❖ International Delegate’s Day is observed annually on 25 April to recognise the role of delegates representing countries at the United Nations in promoting peace, cooperation and global decision-making.
- ❖ World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed annually on 28 April by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to promote the prevention of workplace accidents and ensure safe and healthy working conditions.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Good psychosocial working environments: A pathway to thriving workers and strong organizations”.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Prehistoric Rock Art Site - Nilgiris

- ❖ A prehistoric rock painting site has been rediscovered in the Nilgiris district.
- ❖ The site, called “Oor Pare”, is located near Vellarikombai village in Kotagiri and is sacred to Irula and Kurumba tribes.
- ❖ It was rediscovered by Yaakai Heritage Trust researchers during a field survey in a difficult hilly terrain.
- ❖ Around 30 figures in red ochre were found, including human-like shapes, elongated forms and ritual symbols.

- ❖ The paintings show multiple phases and layers, indicating different time periods of prehistoric activity.
- ❖ The site is at about 1100 metres above sea level and is accessible mainly during summer using traditional vine ladders.



NATIONAL NEWS

16th Bhairav Battalion

THE BHAIRAV BATTALION

THE "LEAN" STRUCTURE

Strength
250 Personnel
(vs. 800+ in standard infantry)

Mix
Experts from
Artillery, Signals, & Air Defense

Target
25 Battalions
(5 Operational Now)

THE ROLE: "THE BRIDGE"

Function Fills the gap between regular Infantry and Para SF

Mission Deep Recon & Cross-Border Strikes

The infographic features a central image of three soldiers in camouflage gear, one holding a rifle. The text is presented in a clean, modern layout with a color palette of olive green, tan, and white.

- ❖ The Indian Army has raised the 16th Bhairav Battalion.
- ❖ It was established at the Maratha Light Infantry Regimental Centre in Belagavi.

- ❖ Bhairav Battalion is a light commando infantry unit designed for rapid response and high-mobility operations.
- ❖ Each unit has around 250 specially trained soldiers for reconnaissance and tactical missions.
- ❖ It acts between regular infantry and Special Forces (elite combat units).

India's Military Spending 2025



- ❖ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute reported India's defence expenditure for 2025.
- ❖ India ranked 5th globally with military spending of \$92.1 billion in 2025, showing an 8.9% increase from 2024.
- ❖ The rise was driven by higher operational costs, increased procurement and tensions with Pakistan in 2025.
- ❖ India spent about 2.3% of its GDP on defence, while Pakistan spent around 2.9% of its GDP.
- ❖ Global military spending reached a record \$2,887 billion in 2025, marking the 11th consecutive year of increase.
- ❖ The top spenders were the United States, China and Russia, together with India and Germany, accounting for about 58% of total spending.

ECONOMY NEWS

DPI@2047 Plan



- ❖ NITI Aayog launched the DPI@2047 roadmap to transform India into a developed economy.
- ❖ The plan targets a \$30 trillion economy and \$18,000 per capita income by 2047, marking 100 years of independence.
- ❖ It focuses on Digital Public Infrastructure to drive inclusive growth, innovation, productivity and large-scale digital empowerment across sectors.
- ❖ It has two phases: DPI 2.0 (2025–2035) to expand digital access, skills and services, and DPI 3.0 (2035–2047) to promote innovation-driven economic growth.
- ❖ It builds on successful platforms like Aadhaar and UPI, which have improved digital identity and payments.
- ❖ It aims to boost MSMEs, agriculture, education and healthcare.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Vela Supercluster mapping

- ❖ Astronomers have mapped the massive Vela Supercluster (Vela-Banzi) for the first time.
- ❖ It is located about 800 million light-years away and spans nearly 300 million light-years across.
- ❖ The structure lies behind the Zone of Avoidance, making it hard to detect earlier.
- ❖ It contains at least 20 galaxy clusters with a mass of about 30 quadrillion suns.
- ❖ Observations were made using the Southern African Large Telescope and the MeerKAT radio telescope.

- ❖ It is one of the most massive known structures, comparable to the Shapley Supercluster and influences galaxy motion (cosmic flows).



Zero-Emission Coal Fuel Cell



- ❖ China developed the world's first coal-based fuel cell that can generate electricity with near-zero carbon emissions.
- ❖ Coal is processed and used inside a fuel cell instead of being burned.
- ❖ Electricity is produced through an electrochemical reaction that directly converts chemical energy into electrical energy.
- ❖ This method avoids combustion, so it gives higher efficiency and reduces pollution.
- ❖ The carbon dioxide produced is captured and converted into useful products like synthesis gas or sodium bicarbonate.
- ❖ This technology helps make coal energy cleaner and supports low-carbon energy use.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Chernobyl Disaster – 40 Years



- ❖ The 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster was marked on 26 April 2026.
- ❖ Radioactive materials are unstable substances that release energy (radiation) when atoms break down; in a reactor, uranium atoms split (nuclear fission) to produce heat and energy.
- ❖ In 1986, an explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear plant released radioactive particles into the air, spreading across Europe and exposing millions.
- ❖ These particles travelled as dust and smoke, contaminating land, water and living beings, and causing diseases like cancer.
- ❖ The area became an exclusion zone and is now covered by a protective structure called New Safe Confinement.
- ❖ Recent risks during the Russia-Ukraine war, including damage near the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, have raised fresh safety concerns.

STATE NEWS

Virli Khandar Excavation

- ❖ A new excavation at Virli Khandar revealed unique burial structures and artefacts.
- ❖ It is a 2,500-year-old megalithic burial site located in the Bhandara district, Maharashtra.

- ❖ Excavation found composite structures with stone circles and Menhirs, different from dolmen burials.
- ❖ Pots were placed upside down in a systematic pattern over black cotton soil for stability.
- ❖ Artefacts include a copper necklace, iron tools, carnelian beads, a gold earring and bone remains.
- ❖ The site dates around 500 BCE, with cultural evidence ranging from 1000 BCE to 300 CE.



2,500-year-old burial site
with bizarre 'upside-down'
pots discovered in
Maharashtra's Bhandara

SPORTS NEWS

ISSF Junior World Cup 2026

- ❖ India topped the medal tally at the ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 held in Cairo, Egypt.
- ❖ India won a total of 16 medals, including 5 gold, 6 silver and 5 bronzes.
- ❖ Hemant Burman won a silver medal in the 50m Rifle 3 Positions event.

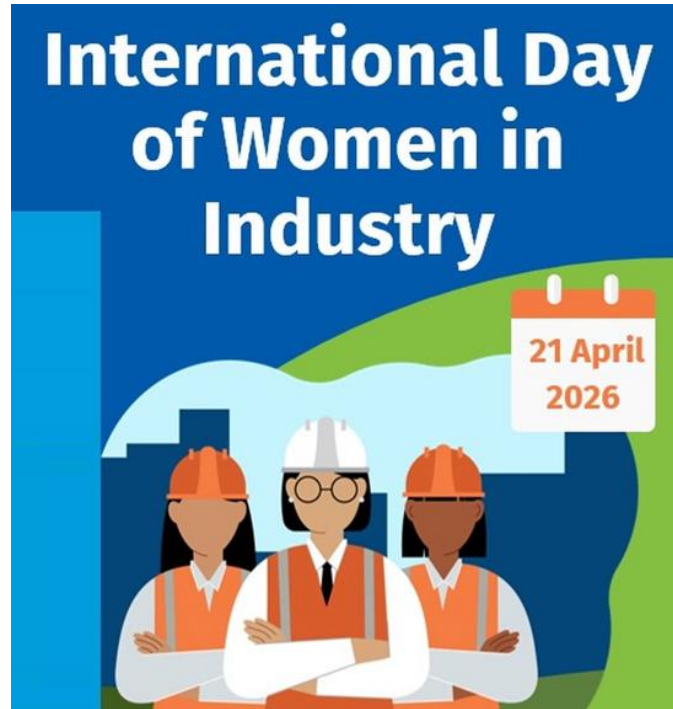
- ❖ India also won a bronze medal in the Trap Mixed Team event.
- ❖ The next major event is the ISSF Junior World Championship to be held in Suhl in June 2026.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Women in Industry 2026 – April 21

- ❖ The first-ever global celebration of International Day of Women in Industry was held on 21 April 2026.
- ❖ The day was proclaimed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) during its 21st General Conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ It aims to promote women’s participation and leadership in industries for inclusive and sustainable development.
- ❖ The day highlights the need for equal opportunities for women in sectors like manufacturing, clean energy and digital technology.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Celebrating Women's Leadership in Industrial Development.”



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Ice Age Zombie Worm Revival



- ❖ Scientists revived a 24,000-year-old microscopic organism from Siberian permafrost and observed it reproducing.

- ❖ The organism is a bdelloid rotifer (a multicellular freshwater animal), often called a “zombie worm” in the media.
- ❖ It was discovered near the Alazeya River in Siberia and dated to the Late Pleistocene period using radiocarbon dating.
- ❖ It remained frozen in Yedoma permafrost (ice-rich permanently frozen soil) at about -20°C for thousands of years.
- ❖ It survived through cryptobiosis (a state of almost zero metabolism where life processes nearly stop).
- ❖ After thawing in laboratory conditions, it resumed movement, feeding, and reproduced asexually, producing clones.

