

Daily Current Affairs

23 April 2025

Pahalgam Terror Attack

- A terror attack in Pahalgam, Anantnag (J&K) killed over 26 civilians, including tourists, making it the deadliest such attack since 2019.
- The strike coincided with PM Modi's visit to Saudi Arabia and US Vice President JD Vance's trip to India, signalling calculated geopolitical messaging. Terrorists ambushed a group of ~40 tourists at the popular Baisaran meadow using automatic rifles and small arms.



- **Victims were identified by name** (and likely religion) before being executed. Injured tourists were later evacuated by helicopter to Army hospitals.
- Claimed by The Resistance Front (TRF):
- **TRF, believed to be a Lashkar-e-Taiba affiliate**, claimed responsibility, citing opposition to "demographic changes" through domicile certificates.

NSO, IGIDR Organize Data Users Conference

- **National Statistics Office (NSO)**, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (Mospi), organised the Data Users Conference in collaboration with the **Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR)**, Mumbai.
- The conference aimed to foster constructive dialogue between data producers and data users, facilitating knowledge exchange on methodologies, insights from the **latest Household Consumption Expenditure Survey**, Methodology changes in Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) and key initiatives in macro-economic statistics, including GDP and Consumer Price Indices.



- He highlighted Mospi's efforts toward enhancing data credibility, timeliness, accessibility, and relevance through technological interventions for the timely release of **key indicators like PLFS monthly estimates**, quarterly unincorporated sector surveys, and a focus on comprehensive metadata standardisation.
- He underlined the Ministry's commitment to integrate administrative and survey **data to fill existing gaps in the statistical ecosystem**. Dr. Garg mentioned that Mospi is actively working with research institutes to promote collaborative research.
- The event witnessed active participation from more than 250 attendees, **comprising policymakers, academicians, researchers, economists, industry representatives**, and international organisations. The conference was chaired by Dr. Saurabh Garg, Secretary, MOSPI, who emphasised the Ministry's core vision of 'Data for Development'.

‘Buddha Dhamma & Culture Of North- East India’

- Arunachal Pradesh **Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein** inaugurated the International Conclave on the theme **Buddha Dhamma and the Culture of North-East India** in Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh.



Arunachal Pradesh's Namsai Hosts International Buddhist Conference

- The two-day conference is being organised by the International Buddhist Confederation in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Culture, Government of India. **Buddhist monks and scholars from India and several** other countries, including Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Bhutan, are participating in the two-day conference.

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

- **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is set to** resume on 30th June after a four-year suspension following the COVID-19 pandemic. This pilgrimage will take place via the Uttarakhand route.
- The yatra will be organised under the joint supervision of the Government of **Uttarakhand and the Ministry of External Affairs**. The **Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN)** has been entrusted with the responsibility of managing the pilgrimage.



- The journey will commence from Delhi and proceed through the Lipulekh Pass in Pithoragarh district to enter China. **A total of 250 pilgrims will undertake** this spiritually significant and physically demanding 22-day journey.
- **During the journey, halts will be made at Tanakpur, Dharchula, Gunji, and Nabhidhang.** On the return leg, pilgrims will pass through Bundi, Chaukori, and Almora before reaching Delhi. **To ensure the health and safety of all participants, medical screenings will be conducted in Delhi and at Gunji in Pithoragarh with the assistance of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).**

Poshan Tracker Application

- **PoshanTracker Application**, developed by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)**, has been awarded the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in **Public Administration 2024 under the Innovation (Centre)** category. This recognition was announced during the 17th Civil Services Day held on April 21, 2025, in New Delhi.



POSHAN Abhiyaan

Poshan Tracker
(Mobile App)

Its Features

- The award was received by Secretary Shri Anil Malik on behalf of the Ministry. The PoshanTracker has become an essential tool in advancing nutrition outcomes through tech-driven, data-centric governance under Mission Saksham **Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0. Poshan Tracker program** identifies and addresses growth issues among children aged 0-6 years, utilizing real-time monitoring and WHO growth charts to ensure optimal nutritional outcomes.



- **Anganwadi Workers (AWWs)** play a crucial role in evaluating children's health status and implementing timely interventions when deviations from expected growth patterns are detected.
- The **Poshan Tracker employs advanced ICT tools and Growth Measuring Devices (GMD)** at each Anganwadi Center (AWC) to facilitate accurate data collection and regular monitoring.
- The program's real-time growth monitoring has significantly improved child health outcomes in India, covering millions of children under Mission Poshan 2.0.

Time's 2025 Influential People List

- The 2025 edition of **TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People** list features high-profile global figures such as **U.S. President Donald Trump, Tesla CEO Elon Musk, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus.**
- Interestingly, this year's **list does not include any Indian nationals**, a notable shift from 2024 when Indian celebrities like Bollywood star Alia Bhatt and Olympian wrestler Sakshi Malik were featured.



Summary/Static	Details
Why in the news?	Trump, Musk, Yunus Shine in TIME's 2025 Influential People List
Donald Trump (USA)	Recognized for political leadership and continued global influence as the U.S. President.
Elon Musk (USA)	Honored for revolutionizing technology through Tesla, SpaceX, and digital innovation.
Keir Starmer (UK)	Celebrated for his electoral victory and leadership as the UK Prime Minister.
Muhammad Yunus (Bangladesh)	Acknowledged for pioneering microfinance and empowering communities through social business.

Project SeaCURE

- **Project SeaCURE is a pioneering initiative** based on England's south coast, aimed at enhancing the ocean's role in combating climate change. Launched in Weymouth, this pilot project seeks to extract carbon dioxide (CO₂) directly from seawater.
- **Funded by the UK government**, it explores innovative technologies to improve the ocean's **capacity as a carbon sink**. Project SeaCURE targets the ocean, where CO₂ concentrations are higher than in the atmosphere. By extracting carbon from seawater, the project aims to develop a cost-effective and scalable

solution to reduce atmospheric CO₂ levels. The initiative is part of the UK's **broader strategy to develop technologies** that capture and store greenhouse gases. The project operates by pumping seawater into a facility where it undergoes a process of acidification.



- This treatment encourages dissolved carbon to convert into gas, which is then captured before it escapes into the atmosphere. The CO₂ is concentrated using sustainable materials, such as charred coconut husks, for secure storage.
- **The treated seawater is then neutralised and returned** to the ocean, ready to absorb more CO₂. SeaCURE has the potential to remove substantial amounts of CO₂. **If 1% of the world's surface seawater could** be processed, estimates suggest up to 14 billion tonnes of CO₂ could be removed annually. This would require the entire operation to be powered by renewable energy sources, such as floating solar panels.

Mission Anveshan

- Central Government is considering extending **Mission Anveshan**. This initiative incentivises seismic surveys to map oil and gas deposits. Launched in fiscal year 2025, the programme **aims to boost energy security by identifying** new reserves.
- **The scheme is set to conclude in fiscal year 2026** but may continue until fiscal year 2027. The primary goal of Mission Anveshan is to enhance India's energy security.



- It encourages state-owned companies like **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** and **Oil India Ltd** to conduct seismic data acquisition. This includes processing, interpretation, and mapping of hydrocarbon reserves in sedimentary basins. The scheme was **allocated ₹720 crore over two years**, covering fiscal years 2025 and 2026.
- It focuses on conducting **2D seismic surveys across 20,275 line-kilometres** in seven onshore sedimentary basins. **These basins include** Ganga-Punjab, Rajasthan, Saurashtra, Deccan Syncline, Cuddapah, Krishna-Godavari, and Chhattisgarh. **Mission Anveshan places emphasis** on advancing survey techniques. While 2D surveys are crucial, there is a shift towards 3D seismic surveys.



- These 3D surveys provide more **accurate assessments of hydrocarbon reserves**. The government aims to adopt these superior technologies to improve

exploration outcomes. **Oil India has progressed** by gathering seismic data in the Rajasthan and Ganga-Punjab basins.

- They have **completed approximately 1,683 line-kilometres of 2D seismic data**. However, ONGC's progress has been hindered due to legal disputes over contracts.
- Their experimental surveys in the Cuddapah area are underway, with further data acquisition anticipated. The government is actively seeking to explore previously restricted areas for oil and gas. This effort is crucial as India relies on **imports for approximately 85% of its energy needs**. The focus on domestic production aims to decrease this dependency and enhance self-sufficiency.

Humpy Koneru

- In Chess, Indian Grandmaster **Humpy Koneru seized the lead at the Women's Grand Prix in Pune** with a crucial victory over Chinese Grandmaster Zhu Jiner in the seventh round.



- Humpy surprised Zhu in the opening, gradually increasing her positional advantage in the mid-game. **Under pressure, Zhu blundered a piece** in a long tactical sequence, ultimately leading to her defeat.

Simranpreet Kaur

- In Shooting, **India's Simranpreet Kaur Brar** has clinched her maiden senior international medal with a **silver in the women's 25m pistol event** at the International Shooting Sport Federation, **ISSF World Cup in Lima, Peru**.
- The Indian shooter shot a total of 33 hits in the 10-series of five rapid-fire shots final, finishing one hit behind China's Sun Yujie, who won back-to-back World Cup golds in the event.



SSB Crack
EXAMS

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Who Inaugurated International Conclave On "Buddha Dhamma And Culture Of North- East India" In Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh**

- A. Pema Khandu
- B. Chowna Mein
- C. Kiren Rijiju
- D. Sarbananda Sonowal

ANSWER: B

2. **Who Won The Laureus World Comeback Of The Year Award In 2025**

- A. Rebeca Andrade
- B. Rishabh Pant
- C. Simone Biles
- D. Armand Duplantis

ANSWER: A

3. What Is The Theme For Earth Day In 2025

- A. Our Planet, Our Future
- B. Restore Our Earth
- C. Our Power, Our Planet
- D. Save the Environment

ANSWER: C

4. Who Appointed As Chairperson Of The 23rd Law Commission Of India

- A. Hitesh Jain
- B. Prof. D P Verma
- C. Dinesh Maheshwari
- D. Ranjan Gogoi

ANSWER: C

5. Which Country Signed Headquarters Agreement With International Big Cat Alliance, Pledged ₹150 Crore For Its Support

- A. India
- B. China
- C. United States
- D. Brazil

ANSWER: A

6. Which New Category Was Added By The Central Pollution Control Board To Classify Essential Environmental Services

- A. Yellow
- B. Black
- C. Blue
- D. Violet

ANSWER: C

7. Which State Inaugurated The T-SHIELD Cybersecurity Hardware Lab At The Police Training College

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Telangana
- C. Odisha
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: B

8. By Which Year Does India Aim To Achieve A Defence Production Target Of ₹3 Lakh Crore

- A. 2029
- B. 2030
- C. 2027
- D. 2025

ANSWER: A

9. In Which Year Was Registration Of Births And Deaths Act Enacted In India

- A. 1969
- B. 1956
- C. 2023
- D. 1955

ANSWER: A

10. In Which State Is ASI Conducting A Scientific Study To Explore Submerged Archaeological Remains At Dwarka And Beyt Dwarka

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Gujarat
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: B

11. Which Indian State Employs The Highest Share Of Women In Formal Manufacturing

- A. Karnataka
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: D

12. In Which Country Was The ISSF World Cup 2025 Held

- A. Brazil
- B. Peru
- C. Spain
- D. South Korea

ANSWER: B

13. From Which Indian State Around 50,000 Gond Tribals Displaced In 2005 Due To A Counter-insurgency Strategy Against Maoists

- A. Chhattisgarh
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Gujarat
- D. Odisha

ANSWER: A

14. By What Percentage Did India's Leather And Footwear Exports Grow In FY25 To Reach \$5.7 Billion

- A. 10%
- B. 15%
- C. 20%
- D. 25%

ANSWER: D

15. Which Bank Has Introduced The 'Grahak Mitras' Initiative To Promote Alternate Banking Channel Adoption

- A. Punjab National Bank
- B. HDFC Bank
- C. Bank of Baroda
- D. State Bank of India

ANSWER: D

16. Who Has Been Appointed Vice-president Of The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

- A. Nandan Nilekani
- B. Raghuram Rajan
- C. Ajay Bhushan Prasad Pandey
- D. Shaktikanta Das

ANSWER: C

17. Under The IOS Sagar Mission, INS Sunayna Made A Port Call At Which Country's Port Nacala

- A. Seychelles
- B. Kenya
- C. Mozambique
- D. Sri Lanka

ANSWER: C

18. On Which Date Is World Creativity And Innovation Day (WCID) Observed Annually

- A. April 19
- B. April 20
- C. April 22
- D. April 21

ANSWER: D

19. Which Country Is Set To Become The World's Fastest-growing Major Aviation Market By 2026

- A. United Kingdom
- B. India
- C. United States
- D. Japan

ANSWER: B

20. Brettonwood Agreement Was Signed To Establish Which Of The Following Organization

- A. United Nations
- B. IMF
- C. World Bank
- D. WEF

ANSWER: C