

## 23/04/2026 Daily Current News

### 1. *Technology Development and Investment Promotion (TDIP) Scheme:*

Context: The Union Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, today released the revised guidelines for the Technology Development and Investment Promotion (TDIP) Scheme of the Department of Telecommunications.

#### About Technology Development and Investment Promotion (TDIP) Scheme:

- ❖ The revised TDIP Scheme, with a total outlay of ₹203 crore for the period 2026–31, has been designed as a comprehensive support framework to enable Indian entities to actively contribute to global standards, promote innovation, and enhance India's competitiveness in next-generation telecommunications technologies, including 5G Advanced and 6G.
- ❖ Technology Development Fund Scheme aims to promote self-reliance in defence technology under the Make in India programme.
- ❖ It encourages participation of public/private industries, especially MSMEs and startups, to strengthen cutting-edge defence technology capabilities.
- ❖ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ Funding support covers projects up to ₹50 crore, with assistance of up to 90% of total project cost.
- ❖ Maximum project development duration allowed is four years.
- ❖ Eligible entities include Indian-registered companies, LLPs, partnership firms, sole proprietorships, and one-person companies; foreign investment beyond 49% is not permitted.
- ❖ Startups must be DPIIT-recognized, majority-owned by resident Indian citizens (minimum 51% shareholding), and should not have received government grants for similar technology earlier.

### 2. *“VM Frames”:*

Context: Ministry of Culture Launches “VM Frames” National Filmmaking Competition to Mark 150 Years of Vande Mataram.

#### About “VM Frames”:

- ❖ VM Frames aims to reinterpret the spirit of “Vande Mataram” through modern creative formats.
- ❖ Competition categories include Reels, AI-based Films, and Short Films.
- ❖ Participants are encouraged to showcase themes such as patriotism, cultural identity, unity, and the vision of a progressive New India.
- ❖ The competition offers awards and recognition worth up to ₹50 lakh.

### 3. *IN-SLN DIVEX 2026:*

Context: INS Nireekshak, the Diving Support and Submarine Rescue Vessel of Indian Navy, arrived at the port of Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 21 Apr 2026 to participate in the 4th edition of IN-SLN DIVEX 2026, a bilateral diving exercise scheduled from 21-27 Apr 2026.

**About IN-SLN DIVEX 2026:**

- ❖ India and Sri Lanka are conducting a joint naval diving exercise to improve interoperability, coordination, and sharing of best practices.
- ❖ The week-long exercise strengthens Indo–Sri Lankan maritime cooperation and shared maritime interests.
- ❖ India will provide two Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri (BHISM) Cubes under the Aarogya Maitri programme.
- ❖ BHISM cubes can handle up to 200 emergency cases and are equipped with medicines and surgical tools for rapid medical response.

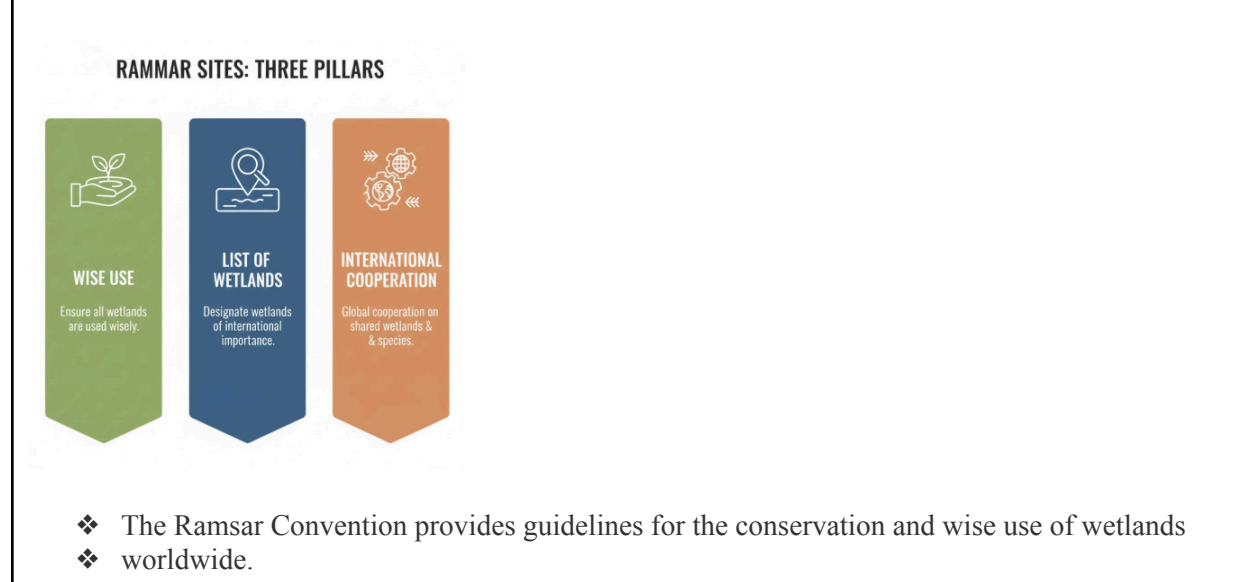
**4. 99th Ramsar site:**

Context: Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav announced the designation of Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, as a Ramsar site, taking India's total to 99 and the State's tally to 12.

**About Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary:**

- ❖ Shekha Bird Sanctuary is located near Shekha village, about 17 km east of Aligarh.
- ❖ The sanctuary is spread over a 25-hectare freshwater perennial lake.
- ❖ It is an important birding site where many migratory birds overwinter.
- ❖ The lake was formed after the construction of the Upper Ganges Canal in 1852.
- ❖ The sanctuary is maintained by the Forest Department of Uttar Pradesh.

**About Ramsar convention:**



- ❖ It is the only international environmental treaty focused on a specific habitat (wetlands).
- ❖ The Convention was adopted at Ramsar, Iran, in 1971 and came into force in 1975.
- ❖ Cobourg Peninsula (Australia) became the world's first Ramsar Site in 1974.
- ❖ India joined the Ramsar Convention on February 1, 1982.
- ❖ The Montreux Record identifies Ramsar sites requiring priority conservation attention.
- ❖ The Montreux Record was adopted in Brisbane in 1996.
- ❖ Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and Loktak Lake (Manipur) were added to the Montreux Record in 1990 and 1993, respectively.

### **5. Atal Pension Yojana (APY):**

Context: Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Crosses Historic Milestone: Total Gross Enrolments Surpass 9 Crore.

#### **About Atal Pension Yojana (APY):**

- ❖ The Atal Pension Yojana (APY), a flagship social security scheme of the Government of India administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- ❖ Launched on May 9, 2015, with the vision of establishing a universal social security system for all Indians, APY is a voluntary, contributory pension scheme primarily focused on the poor, the underprivileged, and workers in the unorganized sector.
- ❖ APY is designed to provide a 'Sampurna Suraksha Kavach' (Complete Security Shield) by ensuring the following triple benefits: - First, a guaranteed monthly pension ranging from ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 for subscribers after attaining 60 years of age; Second, same pension continues to the spouse after the subscriber's demise and third, the return of the corpus accumulated till the age of 60, to the nominee after the death of both.
- ❖ The scheme is open to all Indian citizens between the age of 18 and 40 years, except those who are or have been income tax payers.

### **6. Chernobyl Disaster:**

Context: Chernobyl Reactor explosion occurred at 1:23 a.m. on April 26, 1986 during a flawed safety test at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant.

#### **More about:**

- ❖ Immediate Response: Firefighters initially treated it as a normal fire; many suffered acute radiation exposure and died within weeks.
- ❖ Atomic Prestige: Historian Serhii Plokhyy argued Soviet leadership ignored reactor safety warnings to preserve "atomic prestige" and global status.
- ❖ Soviet System Failure: Pressure to maximize industrial output under Mikhail Gorbachev pushed plant officials toward unsafe operational practices.

- ❖ The Chernobyl tragedy was the result of a nuclear accident on 26 April 1986 at reactor No. 4 at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, near the town of Pripyat in the Ukrainian SSR (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic).
- ❖ There were nearly 8.4 million people exposed to radiation in the three nations.
- ❖ It occurred when a group of technicians in what was then Soviet-controlled Ukraine carried out a botched safety test that led to a series of explosions.
- ❖ It is said to have released 400 times more radiation than the atomic bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima in Japan.

## Quick Bites:

- ☐ The Ministry of Jal Shakti will organize the 9th edition of India International Water Week (IIWW-2026) on the theme “Climate Resilient Water Management” from 22nd to 26th September 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- ☐ Shri Joshi stated that India has recorded its best-ever year in wind energy capacity addition, with a historic 6.1 GW added during 2025–26. India currently ranks fourth globally in wind energy, with over 56.1 GW installed capacity and an additional 28 GW under implementation.
- ☐ Total textile exports, including handicrafts, increased from ₹3,09,859.3 crore in FY 2024–25 to ₹3,16,334.9 crore in FY 2025–26, registering a growth of 2.1%. Among the major segments, Ready-Made Garments (RMG) of all textiles remained the largest contributor to textile exports, rising from ₹1,35,427.6 crore to ₹1,39,349.6 crore, an increase of 2.9%.
- ☐ Ember releases the seventh annual Global Electricity Review 2026. The report provides a comprehensive overview of global and country level electricity generation in 2025 highlighting that clean energy is increasingly meeting electricity demand growth.
- ☐ Reserve Bank of India issued the ‘Digital Payments – E-mandate Framework, 2026,’ under the Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007. E-Mandate is a digital standing instruction that authorizes automatic debits from a bank account for recurring payments, facilitating seamless and automated transactions.
- ☐ India is the world’s largest importer of palm oil, which is obtained from the fruit of the African oil palm tree, *Elaeis guineensis*. Palm oil is mainly of two types: crude palm oil, extracted from the fruit pulp and widely used for cooking, and palm kernel oil, extracted from the seed and used in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and other non-edible products. Though oil palm trees are native to Africa, Indonesia and Malaysia together contribute over 85% of global production. In India, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Kerala are the major oil palm-growing states, accounting for nearly 98% of the country’s production.
- ☐ The United Kingdom has passed a landmark tobacco and vapes bill that will permanently ban people born on or after 1 January 2009 from legally buying tobacco products.

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