

Daily Current Affairs

(21st April 2025)

International

Thousands Hit Streets in '50501' Anti-Trump Protests Across US

In the United States, thousands of people across the country joined protests against President Donald Trump in a movement called "50501" which is a short for "50 protests, 50 states, 1 movement." The demonstrations were held on the 250th anniversary of the American Revolutionary War. Protesters gathered in major cities and outside the White House.

Earlier in April, an even larger protest movement, the "Hands Off" demonstrations, drew massive crowds in 1,200 locations, making it the biggest protest since Trump returned to office.

Serbia's Parliament Appoints Djuro Macut as Prime Minister

Serbia's parliament has approved medical professor Djuro Macut as Prime Minister of the Balkan country, following months of anticorruption protests that led his predecessor to resign. The new government will have 31 ministers, 22 of whom served under former Prime Minister Milos Vucevic, who resigned amid protests that began in November, following a roof collapse at a train station in Novi Sad, which killed 16 people.

<u>US-Russia ISS Crew Returns After 220-Day Mission</u>

Russian astronauts Alexey Ovchinin and Ivan Wagner have returned to Earth along with American Donald Pettit after a seven-month science mission on board the International Space Station (ISS).

The Russian Soyuz MS-26 spacecraft carrying the trio touched down southeast of the town of Dzhezkazgan, Kazakhstan. The crew arrived on the orbiting ISS laboratory on September 11, 2024, spending 220 days in space, during which they orbited the Earth 3,520 times, completing a journey of 150.15 million km.

<u>Image of Gaza Airstrike Survivor Wins</u> 2025 World Press Photo of the Year

A poignant image of a nine-year-old amputee Mahmoud Ajjour from Gaza is the 2025 World Press Photo of the Year. Mahmoud Ajjour lost both arms in an Israeli airstrike. His portrait was taken by Palestinian photographer Samar Abu Elouf for The New York Times.

National

Indian Air Force Joins Multinational 'Desert Flag-10' Exercise in UAE

A contingent of the Indian Air Force reached Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates to participate in Exercise Desert Flag-10. The exercise is being hosted by the UAE Air Force, with participating contingents from the air forces of Australia, Bahrain, France, Germany, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Republic of Korea, Turkey, the UAE, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, in addition to the Indian Air Force. The primary aim of the exercise is to undertake complex and diverse fighter engagements, with the exchange of operational knowledge and best practices with some of the most capable air forces in the world.

Civil Services Day Observed on April 21

Every year, on April 21, the Government of India commemorates National Civil Services Day to acknowledge and celebrate the exceptional efforts of its civil servants engaged in public service. This national observance was first marked on April 21, 2006. The day's history can be traced back to the time when the first Home Minister of independent India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers at Metcalf House in Delhi, referring to the civil servants as the "steel frame of India" on April 21, 1947.

Business and Economy

No GST on UPI Transactions Over ₹2,000

The Union Government has clarified that it is not planning to levy GST on UPI transactions exceeding ₹2,000. Clarifying on reports, which said that the government is considering levying Goods and Services Tax (GST) on UPI transactions over ₹2,000, the Finance Ministry said they are completely false, misleading, and without any basis.

Delhivery, Ecom Express Seek CCI Nod for Their ₹1,400-Crore Deal

Logistic firm Delhivery Limited and Ecom Express have sought Competition Commission of India's approval for their ₹1,400-crore deal. Under the deal announced on April 5, Delhivery will acquire a controlling stake in Ecom Express for a cash consideration of ₹1,400 crore.



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AIIB Appoints Ajay Pandey as Vice President of Investment Solutions

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has announced the appointment of Ajay Bhushan Pandey as Vice President of Investment Solutions, effective April 2025. In this role, Pandey provides strategic leadership and oversees three key departments: the Sectors, Themes and Finance Solutions Department (STF); the Sustainability and Fiduciary Solutions Department (SFD); and the Portfolio Management Department (PMD).

Sports

F1 Saudi Arabia GP 2025: Piastri Wins

Oscar Piastri, with his third win in five races, won the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix and seized the Formula One championship lead from McLaren teammate Lando Norris. Red Bull's four-time champion Max Verstappen was the runner-up, 2.843 seconds behind the Australian, after starting from the pole at Jeddah's Corniche circuit. Charles Leclerc took Ferrari's first podium of 2025 by coming in third.

<u>Tennis: Svitolina Wins First Title in Nearly Two Years in Rouen</u>

Top seed Elina Svitolina picked up her first title in nearly two years with a hard-fought 6-4, 7-6 (10/8) win over Serbian Olga Danilovic in the final of the ATP event in Rouen. She has been back on the circuit for just two months after a maternity leave and last won a title in Strasbourg in 2023.

Tennis: Holger Rune Beats Carlos Alcaraz to Win Maiden Barcelona Open Title

Danish professional tennis player Holger Rune beat World No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz 7-6 (8/6), 6-2 to win the Barcelona Open for the first time. Rune became only the second player to beat Alcaraz in his last 23 matches on clay.

ISSF World Cup 2025: Rudrankksh, Arya Win Silver in Air Rifle Mixed Team

In shooting, India's 10m air rifle mixed team duo Rudrankksh Patil and Arya Borse secured a silver medal at the ISSF World Cup in Lima, Peru. The Indian pair lost 11-17 to Norway's Jon-Hermann Hegg and Jeanette Hegg Duestad in the gold medal match.

This marks India's third silver medal at the Lima World Cup, adding to the country's tally.

Golf: Justin Thomas Wins RBC Heritage

Justin Thomas won for the 16th time on the PGA Tour. Thomas rolled in a birdie from 21 feet out on the first playoff hole to win the RBC Heritage at Harbour Town Golf Links, claiming a tournament title for the first time in nearly three years.