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## Kankaria Becomes India's First Water-Neutral Railway Depot | National Current Affairs | 21 Apr 2026

### Why in News?

The **Kankaria Coaching Depot** in **Ahmedabad** has been declared India's first "**water-neutral railway depot**", achieving a major milestone in sustainable water management.

### Key Points

- **First in India:** Kankaria Coaching Depot (Ahmedabad, Gujarat) becomes the **first railway depot in India** to achieve **water neutrality**.
  - The depot saves nearly **1.6 lakh litres of water daily**, which is equivalent to more than 300 household water tanks.
  - This leads to an estimated saving of about **5.84 crore litres of water annually**.
- **Recycling:** The depot treats and reuses wastewater generated from **coach washing and maintenance operations**, ensuring zero wastage.
  - Water undergoes a **scientific multi-stage process**, including wetland-based treatment, sand filtration, carbon filtration, and UV disinfection.
  - A key feature of the system is **phytoremediation**, where plants are used to naturally absorb and remove pollutants from wastewater.
- **Model for Indian Railways:** The depot is being seen as a **replicable model** for other railway depots and stations across the country.

Read More: [Wastewater Treatment](#)

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## Meghalaya Recognises Khasi and Garo as Official Languages | National Current Affairs | 21 Apr 2026

### Why in News?

In a landmark reform aimed at linguistic preservation and administrative inclusivity, the Meghalaya Cabinet approved the **Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026**. This decision grants **Khasi and Garo full official status alongside English**, marking a historic shift in the state's language policy.

### Key Points

- **Repeal of 2005 Act:** The new ordinance repeals the **Meghalaya State Language Act, 2005**, which previously designated **English as the sole official language, with Khasi and Garo functioning only as "associate" languages**.
- **Phased Implementation:** While the status is granted immediately, the full rollout will be

gradual.

- The state must first **establish translation systems**, recruit personnel, and create the necessary administrative infrastructure.
- **Administrative Use:** Official government notifications, orders, and communications will eventually be issued in all **three languages—English, Khasi, and Garo.**
- **Legislative Changes:** The state plans to amend the **Meghalaya State Legislature (Continuance of the English Language) Act, 1980.**
  - This will allow legislators to speak and debate in their native Khasi and Garo during assembly sessions.
- **Constitutional Significance:** By exercising powers under **Article 345 of the Indian Constitution**, the state government has officially formalised the use of indigenous languages for administrative purposes.
- **Eighth Schedule Demand:** Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma stated that according state-level official status is a strategic move to strengthen the long-standing demand for the **inclusion of Khasi and Garo in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.**
- **Link Language:** Despite the new status for indigenous tongues, **English will continue to serve as the "common thread"** or link language for inter-district communication and formal file notings to ensure administrative continuity.

**Read More:** [Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.](#)

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## Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao Honoured with 9th Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Award | National Current Affairs | 21 Apr 2026

### Why in News?

**Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao**, Director of the ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), has been conferred with the prestigious 9th Prof. **M.S. Swaminathan Award for the 2024-2025 period.** The award recognises his pioneering contribution to **Climate-Resilient Agriculture (CRA)** and **sustainable dryland farming** in India.

### Key Points:

- **Climate Adaptation:** Dr. Rao has played a critical role in developing and scaling **climate-resilient technologies** across rainfed regions in India, focusing on soil health and carbon sequestration.
- **Policy Planning:** He was instrumental in designing the **National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project**, which helps farmers adapt to extreme weather events like droughts and heatwaves.
- **Contingency Mapping:** His work includes the development of district-level agricultural contingency plans for over 650 districts in India, providing a roadmap for state governments to handle monsoon variability.
- **Soil Management:** His research on soil carbon sequestration and "**Climate-Smart**" villages has helped smallholder farmers improve crop yields while reducing the environmental footprint of farming.
- **Significance:** In the era of global boiling and unpredictable monsoons, Dr. Rao's recognition underscores the shift in Indian agriculture from "production-centric" to "resilience-centric."
- **Climate Goals Alignment:** His efforts align with India's **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)** and the goal of making Indian agriculture self-reliant (Atmanirbhar) in the face of climate challenges.

**Read More:** [M.S. Swaminathan Award](#)

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## Civil Services Day 2026 | National Current Affairs | 21 Apr 2026

### Why in News?

The **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** will observe the **18th Civil Services Day on 21st April 2026** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

### Key Points

- **Organising Authority:** The event will be organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- **Chief Guest:** The Vice President of India, **C. P. Radhakrishnan**.
- **Theme for 2026:** The theme for Civil Services Day 2026 is **“Viksit Bharat: Citizen-Centric Governance and Development at the Last Mile.”**
- **Breakaway Sessions:** Four thematic **breakaway sessions** will be organised to deliberate on key governance priorities.
  - One of the sessions titled **“Sustainable Livelihood through PM Vishwakarma”** will focus on strengthening livelihood opportunities for traditional artisans.
  - The session will be chaired by **Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Jitan Ram Manjhi**.
- **Objective:** The day provides an opportunity for civil servants across India to recommit themselves to public service, good governance and citizen-centric administration.
- **Historical Significance:** Civil Services Day commemorates **21st April 1947**, when **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** addressed the first batch of probationers of the All India Administrative Service and described civil servants as the **“Steel Frame of India.”**

**Read More:** [PM Vishwakarma](#)

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