

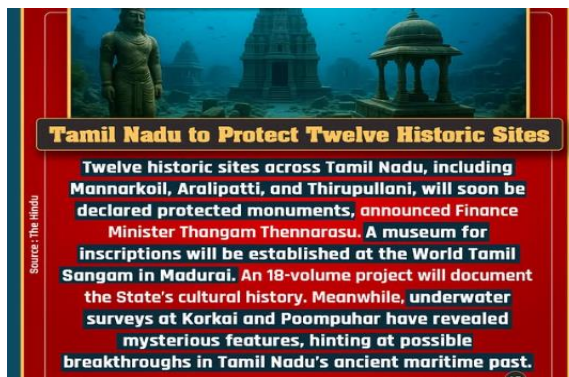
EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 18, 2025

TAMIL NADU

- **Cabinet Clears T.N. Space Industrial Policy 2025**
- ✓ A meeting of the Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, approved the Tamil Nadu Space Industrial Policy 2025.



- ✓ A special package and payroll subsidy are among the key features of the policy.
 - ✓ Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa said the Cabinet had approved an important policy on the space sector for the State, which had listed steps to attract investments to the tune of ₹10,000 crore into the sector during the next five years.
 - ✓ The aim was also to generate employment opportunities for about 10,000 people by creating a pool of talented youth for companies.
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- **12 Locations in T.N. to be declared Protected Sites, Monuments**
 - ✓ A total of 12 historically significant locations will be declared protected monuments/sites, Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu (also holding the archaeology portfolio) announced in the Assembly on Thursday.



- ✓ The Tamili inscriptions in Mannarkoil in Tirunelveli district, rock-cut caves in Aralipatti in Sivaganga district, Koothapoondiyan Valasu in Dindigul district, V. Kottaiyur in Pudukkottai district, Avoor in Tiruvannamalai district, and Nayanur in Villupuram district will be among the locations to be declared protected monuments/sites, he said.
- ✓ Dolmens in Mallachanthiram in Krishnagiri district, the palace in Thirupullani in Ramanathapuram district are to be made protected sites. The Maraiyur Choultry in Narikkudi and boulder and cave paintings in Meenakshipuram in Rajapalayam taluk, the old mandapams in Mamsapuram and in Pillayar Natham — all in Virudhunagar district will join the list too.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- James Webb Telescope Finds Possible Life on Exoplanet K2-18b



- ✓ In a breakthrough discovery, scientists from Cambridge University using NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) have detected potential biosignature molecules Dimethyl Sulphide (DMS) and Dimethyl Disulphide (DMDS) in the atmosphere of exoplanet K2-18b, located 124 light-years away in the Leo constellation.

- ✓ These molecules, produced by marine phytoplankton and bacteria on Earth, suggest possible extraterrestrial life, marking a significant advancement in astrobiology.

IMPORTANT DAYS

➤ **World Heritage Day – April 18**

- ✓ World Heritage Day, also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites, is observed on April 18 annually to promote the preservation of cultural and natural heritage, organized by ICOMOS and recognized by UNESCO since 1983.



- ✓ The 2025 theme, “Heritage under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts,” highlights the need for preparedness and resilience.
- ✓ India, ranked 6th globally with 43 UNESCO World Heritage Sites (35 Cultural, 7 Natural, 1 Mixed), includes iconic sites like the Taj Mahal, Ajanta & Ellora Caves, and Kaziranga National Park.

