



August - 07

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu Budget 2026-27 - Key Highlights

Budget Overview & Fiscal Position

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson presented the TVK-led government's first Budget for 2026-27 in the Legislative Assembly on 5 August 2026.
- ❖ The Budget focused on women, students, youth, senior citizens, healthcare, education, industries, infrastructure, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and welfare schemes.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's State Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) is projected to grow by 9.78%.
- ❖ The state's outstanding debt is estimated at ₹10.99 lakh crore.
- ❖ ₹708 crore allocated for renovation works, consecration of 3,000 temples, and restoration of 84 temple cars.

Education, Youth & Skill Development

- ❖ Vetri Laptop Scheme received ₹2,000 crore for providing laptops to students.
- ❖ Puthiya Payanam, Puthiya Vegam scheme will provide bicycles with helmets and water bottles to 5.3 lakh Class XI students with ₹277 crore allocation.
- ❖ Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Model Schools will provide free education, food, accommodation, uniforms, books, and healthcare with ₹125 crore allocation.
- ❖ Super Clean, Super Campus Scheme will improve cleanliness, drinking water, toilets, and security facilities in 10,000 schools with ₹139 crore allocation.
- ❖ School Education Department received ₹44,527 crore, while Higher Education Department received ₹8,393 crore.
- ❖ Vetrithiran Training Scheme received ₹150 crore for skill training, employment opportunities for 1 lakh job seekers, and youth internships.
- ❖ Five new Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) will be established with ₹90 crore, and 10 Olympic Centres of Excellence will be created with ₹50 crore.
- ❖ Student Hostels and Infrastructure Corporation will develop 200 hostels with 1 lakh accommodation facilities.

Welfare Schemes, Women & Social Justice

- ❖ Annan Seer Thittam will provide eligible brides with an 8-gram (one-sovereign) gold coin and silk saree with ₹812 crore allocation.
- ❖ Thai Maaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam will provide a 1-gram gold ring for every child born in government hospitals with ₹560 crore allocation.



- ❖ Thai Care Centres will support pregnant women through food, medical care, and health monitoring with ₹23 crore allocation.
- ❖ Vetri Veedu Thittam will provide houses for families living in kutcha huts.
- ❖ Aran shelter homes will support transgender persons in five districts.
- ❖ Nambikkai Illam centres will be established for children with intellectual disabilities with ₹4 crore allocation.
- ❖ Haj subsidy increased from ₹25,000 to ₹35,000.
- ❖ Differently-abled Welfare Department received ₹1,485 crore.

Technology, Industry & Infrastructure Development

- ❖ Arivagam, India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Innovation City, will include an AI university, semiconductor testing lab, skill centre, and innovation hubs; feasibility study with ₹5 crore allocation.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu AI Mission will introduce AI-based services in healthcare, agriculture, education, and citizen services.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Institute of Design will be established with ₹60 crore to support artisans and design education.
- ❖ A Space Industrial Investment Zone will be created in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi near the Kulasekarapattinam spaceport.
- ❖ 1,000 electric air-conditioned MTC buses will be purchased with ₹500 crore allocation.
- ❖ 20,000 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations will be developed in five years with ₹50 crore allocation.
- ❖ Coimbatore–Ariyalur 765 Kilovolt (kV) transmission line project will be implemented through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) at an estimated cost of ₹4,000 crore.
- ❖ Third Chennai Master Plan (2027–2046) will be prepared with ₹25 crore allocation.

Energy, Environment & Natural Resource Conservation

- ❖ Rooftop Solar Subsidy Scheme will provide up to ₹1 lakh subsidy for domestic consumers installing solar panels.
- ❖ Smart meters will be installed for Chennai consumers and 50 lakh industrial and commercial consumers across Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ TN-SHORE Project will restore mangroves across 2,500 hectares with ₹322 crore allocation.
- ❖ Human–wildlife conflict mitigation programme will cover 100 villages with ₹20 crore allocation.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Palmyra Development Corporation will be established with ₹16 crore to promote palm-based products.

Agriculture, Fisheries, Healthcare & Rural Development

- ❖ Cauvery–Vaigai–Gundar River Linking Project will begin with an initial allocation of ₹150 crore.
- ❖ Traditional fishermen will receive increased lean-period assistance of ₹7,000 per family, benefiting 1.93 lakh families with ₹135 crore allocation.
- ❖ Mannin Magal Scheme received ₹20 crore to help Adi Dravidar and Tribal agricultural labourers become landowners.
- ❖ Ayothidas Pandithar Habitat Development Scheme received ₹300 crore for Adi Dravidar habitations.
- ❖ Aandror Development Scheme received ₹250 crore for tribal habitations.
- ❖ Mobile Geriatric Treatment Centres will provide free health check-ups and medicines for senior citizens with ₹33 crore allocation.

TAMILNADU BUDGET 2026 HIGHLIGHTS ;

- 1). SCHOOL EDUCATION - ₹44,527 CRORES**
- 2). MUNICIPALITY & WATER - ₹29,863 CRORES**
- 3). HEALTHY & FAMILY - ₹23,357 CRORES**
- 4). HIGHWAY & ROADS - ₹21,524 CRORES**
- 5). SOCIAL WELFARE - ₹9818 CRORES**
- 6). LIQUOR CESS TARGET - ₹16,000 CRORES**
- 7). DIFFERENTLY ABLED WELFARE - ₹1485 CRORES**
- 8). SPORTS & YOUTH WELFARE - ₹1051 CRORES**
- 9). WEDDING ASSISTANCE SCHEME - ₹812 CRORES**
- 10). FREE LAPTOP - ₹2000 CRORES**
- 11). STUDENTS BICYCLE - ₹277 CRORES**
- 12). ANIMAL HUSBANDRY - ₹4880 CRORES**

Namakkal Kavignar Maaligai - CM New Office

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has decided to shift his Chief Minister's Office (CMO) to the 10th floor of Namakkal Kavignar Maaligai at Fort St. George, Chennai, due to space constraints.
- ❖ Namakkal Kavignar Maaligai is a 10-storeyed government building constructed in 1975 inside the Fort St. George campus and houses several government departments and senior officials.
- ❖ The need for a larger Secretariat building emerged in the late 1950s due to increasing government staff; in 1973, the Tamil Nadu government decided to

construct a 10-storeyed building within the Fort St. George campus with a plinth area of 24,750 square metres.

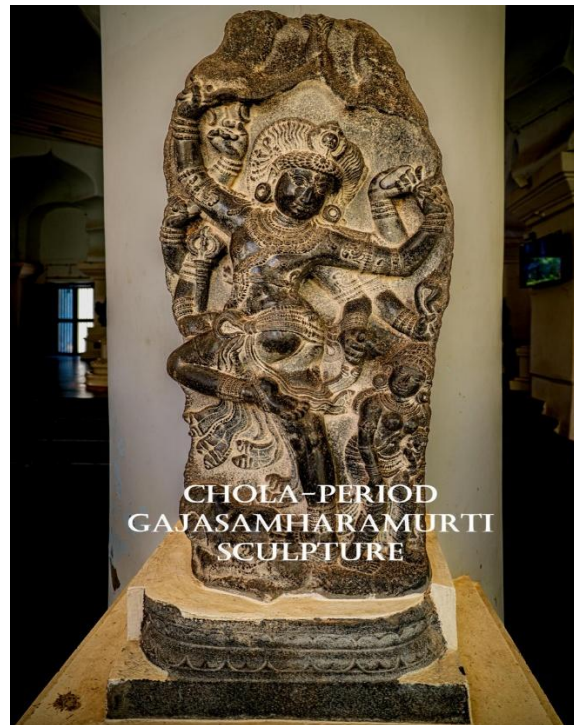
- ❖ The building was declared open on August 14, 1975, by Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi in the presence of Public Works Minister P.U. Shanmugam.
- ❖ It was named Namakkal Kavignar Maaligai after Tamil poet Namakkal Kavignar V. Ramalingam Pillai.
- ❖ The building was renovated 12 years ago at a cost of ₹28 crore and was inaugurated by former Chief Minister J. Jayalithaa.
- ❖ At present, CM functions from the main block of the 17th-century Fort St. George structure.
- ❖ Fort St. George is a protected historical monument established by the British East India Company in 1644 and later became the administrative centre of the Madras Presidency.
- ❖ The shift aims to provide more administrative space while continuing operations from the historic campus.



Gajasamharamurti Chola Sculptures

- ❖ Chola-period Gajasamharamurti sculptures in Tamil Nadu highlight the artistic excellence of ancient bronze and stone sculpture traditions.
- ❖ Vazhuvur in Mayiladuthurai district is one of the Ashta Veerattanams (eight sacred Shiva temples) where Lord Shiva is believed to have displayed his heroic acts.

- ❖ The Veeratteswarar Temple, Vazhuvur, houses a famous bronze idol of Gajasamharamurti, depicting Lord Shiva after defeating the elephant demon Gajasura; the idol is generally dated to the reign of Rajaraja I (Chola dynasty).
- ❖ Gajasamharamurti represents the fierce form of Lord Shiva, known in Tamil as Yanai Uritha Thevar (the Lord who flayed the elephant demon's skin), unlike Nataraja, which represents Shiva as the Cosmic Dancer.
- ❖ Another important Gajasamharamurti sculpture is found at Brahmapuriswarar Temple, Pullamangai, Thanjavur district, while a stone sculpture from Darasuram Temple is preserved in the Thanjavur Maratha Palace campus art gallery.



Tamil Nadu's First Mangrove Conservation Centre

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's first Mangrove Conservation Centre is being established at Muzhukuthurai near Killai in Cuddalore district under the Tamil Nadu Shoreline Restoration Initiative (TN-SHORE).
- ❖ The project has an estimated cost of ₹26.50 crore and aims to support mangrove conservation, ecological restoration, scientific research, biodiversity protection, and environmental awareness.
- ❖ The centre will act as a hub for the conservation and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems and promote climate resilience and coastal ecosystem protection.

- ❖ The project is located near Pichavaram Mangrove Forest, one of the largest and ecologically important mangrove forests in India, and aims to improve conservation education and sustainable eco-tourism facilities.
- ❖ The centre will support Ramsar Convention commitments on wetland conservation and provide livelihood opportunities through sustainable eco-tourism while involving local communities.



NATIONAL NEWS

One Nation, One Fertilizer Initiative

- ❖ The 'One Nation, One Fertilizer' initiative has improved fertilizer availability and distribution across India during the Kharif 2026 season.
- ❖ The initiative was launched under the Pradhanmantri Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojana (PMBJP) from August 24, 2022, and requires all fertilizer companies to sell subsidized fertilizers under the common "BHARAT" brand.
- ❖ Subsidized fertilizers, including Urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP), and NPKS (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium and Sulphur) fertilizers are marketed under the Bharat brand.
- ❖ The scheme aims to remove confusion among farmers due to multiple brands, improve transparency, reduce unfair practices, and ensure equal access to fertilizers across states.

- ❖ Fertilizer movement is monitored through the Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS), a web-based platform that tracks supply chains and helps maintain real-time availability.



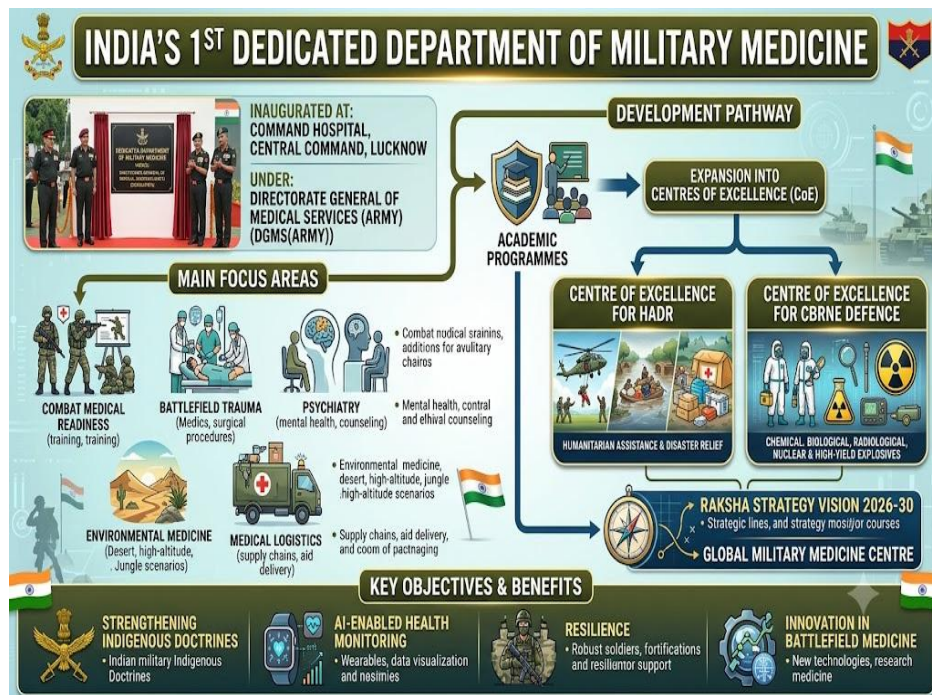
India's Indigenous Diving Support Vessel (DSV) – NPIUN



- ❖ Recently, India's 2nd diving support vessel was delivered to the Navy.

- ❖ Its builder was Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. was delivered at Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ It is a specialised DSV for deep-sea dive operations and submarine rescue operations.
- ❖ Its goals are advanced dynamic positioning, saturation diving systems and deployment gear for remotely operated vehicles.
- ❖ It serves as a mother ship for the Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV).
- ❖ It is the second indigenously built DSV after INS Nistar (2025)
- ❖ Its indigenous Content will be 75%, aligned with Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

India's 1st Dedicated Department of Military Medicine



- ❖ It was inaugurated at Command Hospital, Central Command, Lucknow
- ❖ It was under – Directorate General of Medical Services (Army).
- ❖ Its focus will be Combat medical readiness, battlefield trauma, psychiatry, environmental medicine, and medical logistics.
- ❖ The facility will first start with academic programmes, then expand into Centres of Excellence for HADR and CBRNE defence.
- ❖ HADR – Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief;
- ❖ CBRNE – Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosives
- ❖ Centres of Excellence and Global Military Medicine Centre are under Raksha Strategy Vision 2026-30.

- ❖ It strengthens indigenous doctrines, AI-enabled health monitoring, resilience and innovation in battlefield medicine.

Machilipatnam ASW Warship

- ❖ Indian Navy launched Machilipatnam Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Watercraft (ASW SWC)
- ❖ It was built by – Cochin Shipyard Ltd.
- ❖ Historic port city Machilipatnam (Andhra Pradesh) is reflecting the city's rich maritime heritage.
- ❖ Coastal/littoral operations – underwater surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, mine warfare, low-intensity ops are its objectives.



IASV Triveni Team

- ❖ The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Honours IASV Triveni Team for Landmark All-Women Sailing Expedition.
- ❖ The nine women officers of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force have successfully completed the country's first-ever Tri-Service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition — 'Samudra Pradakshina'.
- ❖ They sailed nearly 25,500 nautical miles across four oceans.

- ❖ The voyage fulfilled all internationally recognised criteria for circumnavigation by crossing all meridians of longitude, crossing the Equator twice, traversing the International Date Line and rounding the three Great Capes — Cape Leeuwin, Cape Horn, and the Cape of Good Hope.
- ❖ The crew also successfully navigated the Drake Passage, earning membership of the prestigious fraternity of Cape Horners.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Diamond in Space



- ❖ World's first lab-grown diamond jewel was sent to space.

- ❖ Bengaluru start-up sends world's first lab-grown diamond jewel to space aboard Skyroot's Vikram-1.
- ❖ It was the Cosmos Bloom Diamond; lotus-shaped, handcrafted in gold, set with 16.9 carats lab grown diamonds.
- ❖ Skyroot's Vikram 1 is India's first private orbital rocket.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan



- ❖ India launched the Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan (CAP) on International Clouded Leopard Day (August 4, 2026) to protect the rare wild cat in Northeast India.
- ❖ The Action Plan was prepared under the Government of India–Global Environment Facility (GEF)–United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) initiative and released during the 91st Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL) meeting in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The CAP identifies 14 priority conservation landscapes in Northeast India and focuses on habitat protection, forest corridor restoration, and landscape-level conservation.

- ❖ It includes scientific monitoring through camera traps, occupancy surveys, genetics, and environmental DNA (eDNA) methods.
- ❖ The species has been included under the Species Recovery Programme of the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) scheme to strengthen conservation efforts.
- ❖ The plan also focuses on anti-poaching measures, frontline staff training, community participation, sustainable livelihoods, and climate-resilient conservation.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Bone and Joint Day 2026 – August 4

- ❖ The day aims to promote awareness about bone, joint, spine, and musculoskeletal (bones, joints, muscles, and related tissues) health.
- ❖ The day was started by the Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA) in 2012 with the slogan "Stronger Bones, Stronger India."
- ❖ It encourages early diagnosis, preventive care, and healthy lifestyle habits to reduce bone and joint disorders.
- ❖ Common bone and joint diseases include osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis, gout, and back and spine disorders.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is "Healthy Bones, Healthy Joints, Healthier India".

