



July - 12

TNPSC BITS

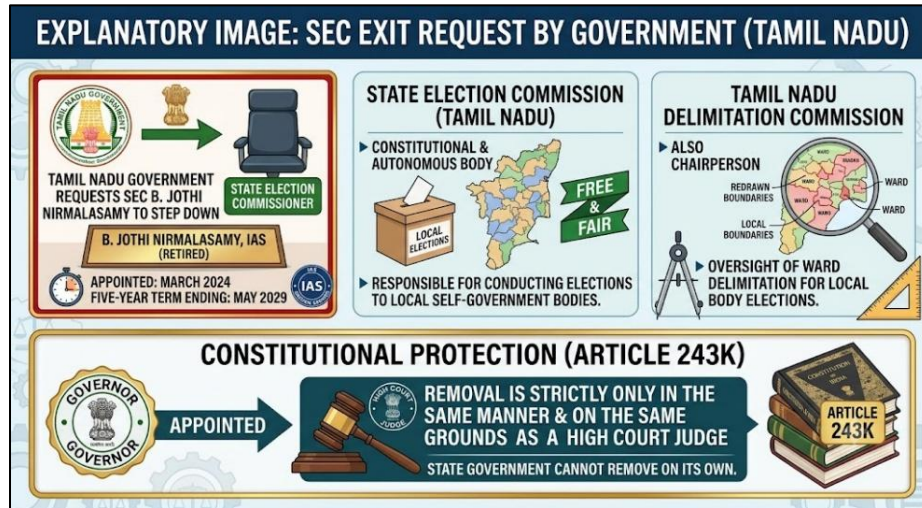
- ❖ V.T. Valluvan, a natural farmer from Pollachi, Coimbatore, secured third place in the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO) 'Soil Hero Guardian' contest.
 - He was recognised for increasing soil organic carbon to 1.56% through multi-level, multi-crop, tree-based natural farming.
- ❖ Clean energy sources met 50.2% of India's electricity demand on 6 July 2026, marking the second time this milestone was achieved.
- ❖ India introduced Awiqli (insulin icodec), the world's first once-weekly basal insulin by Novo Nordisk
 - It will be reducing insulin injections from 365 to 52 per year for adults with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.
- ❖ Varanasi Airport is set to get India's first six-lane underpass beneath an active runway, a 450-metre-long structure enabling road traffic movement below while aircraft operations continue above.
- ❖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) appointed Former Bank of England policymaker Silvana Tenreyro as its new Chief Economist and Economic Counsellor, succeeding Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas.
- ❖ Jaipur ranked 6th globally and became the only Indian city in the Top 10 of the Happy City Index 2026.
 - London (UK) topped the index, followed by New York City (USA) and Paris (France).

TAMIL NADU NEWS

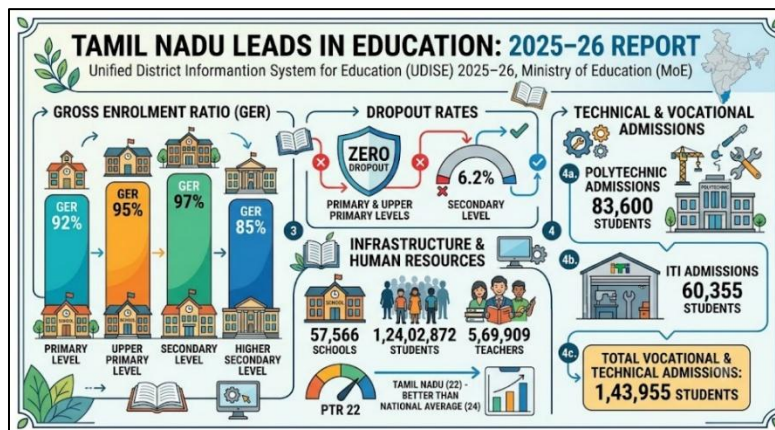
State Election Commissioner Resignation issue

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Government has asked the State Election Commissioner B. Jothi Nirmalasamy to step down from her post.
- ❖ B. Jothi Nirmalasamy became the State Election Commissioner in March 2024 for a five-year term ending in May 2029.
- ❖ The State Election Commission is a constitutional and autonomous body responsible for conducting free and fair elections to local self-government bodies.
- ❖ She is also the Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Delimitation Commission, which oversees ward delimitation for local body elections.

- ❖ She also oversaw the indirect by-elections to several urban local bodies following the resignation of the mayors of a few corporations.
- ❖ According to Article 243K of the Constitution of India, the State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Governor and shall not be removed from office except in the like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of a High Court.
- ❖ Further, the conditions of service shall not be varied to the State Election Commissioner's disadvantage after appointment, subject to the provisions of any law made by the State legislature.



Primary Enrolment of Tamil Nadu



- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded a 92% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at the primary level in the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) 2025-26 report released by the Ministry of Education (MoE).
- ❖ The State recorded 95% GER at the upper primary level, 97% at the secondary level, and 85% at the higher secondary level.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu maintained a zero-dropout rate at the primary and upper primary levels, while the secondary-level dropout rate was 6.2%.
- ❖ The State has 57,566 schools, 1,24,02,872 students, 5,69,909 teachers, and a Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) of 22, better than the national average of 24.
- ❖ During 2025–26, 83,600 students joined polytechnic institutions and 60,355 students enrolled in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), taking the total technical and vocational admissions to 1,43,955.

Return of Ancient Temple Treasures



- ❖ Australia will repatriate three stolen antiquities from Tamil Nadu temples to India during Prime Minister's visit to Australia.
- ❖ The artefacts are an 11th–12th-century Chola-era bronze trident of Goddess Bhadrakali, a granite Nandi idol, and a basalt six-headed Karthikeya (Shanmukha) sculpture.
- ❖ The antiquities are being returned under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) after investigations by the Tamil Nadu Idol Wing Crime Investigation Department (CID) confirmed they were illegally trafficked from Tamil Nadu temples.
- ❖ The National Gallery of Australia agreed to return the artefacts after an independent provenance review found no evidence of lawful export from India.
- ❖ The Bhadrakali Trident originated from Sri Kasi Viswanatha Swamy Temple, Kollumangudi (Tiruvarur), and the Karthikeya sculpture from Naganathaswamy Temple, Manambadi (Thanjavur).

Rename of Women's Bus Scheme

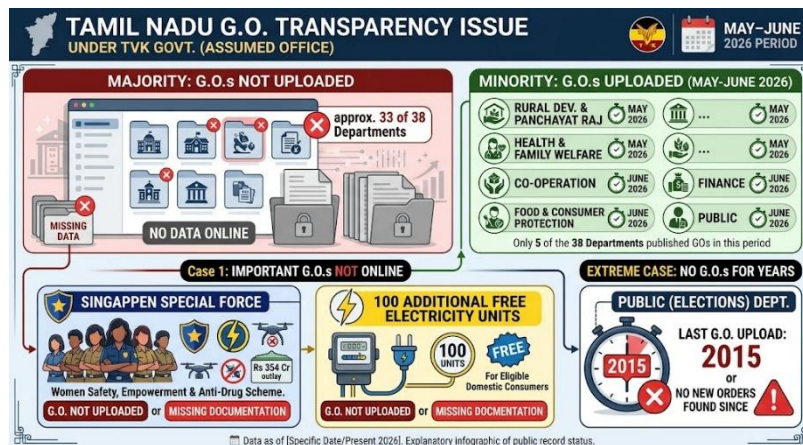
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has renamed the women's free bus travel scheme from "Magalir Vidiyal Payanam" to "Magalir Payanam".

- ❖ The free travel scheme, launched in May 2021, allows women to travel free on ordinary-fare buses operated by State Transport Corporations.
- ❖ The scheme covers more than 7,300 ordinary-fare buses across Tamil Nadu, including about 1,500 buses in Chennai.

Vidiyal Payanam Renamed As Magalir Payanam

The Tamil Nadu government has renamed its free bus travel scheme for women from Magalir Vidiyal Payanam to simply Magalir Payanam. Introduced by the previous DMK government under then Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, the pioneering initiative provides free travel on government town buses. Its widespread success later inspired several other states across India to introduce similar free bus travel schemes for women.

Tamil Nadu G.O. Transparency Issue



- ❖ A majority of Tamil Nadu government departments have not uploaded their recent Government Orders (G.O.s) on the official government website after the New government assumed office.
- ❖ Only 5 of the 38 departments have published May-June 2026 Government Orders on the website.
- ❖ Important Government Orders not uploaded include those related to the Singappen Special Force and 100 additional free electricity units for eligible domestic consumers.
- ❖ The departments that updated their Government Orders include Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Health and Family Welfare, Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection, Finance, and Public.

- ❖ Some departments have not updated their Government Orders for several years, with the Public (Elections) Department showing no new orders since 2015.

NATIONAL NEWS

PM Modi's Indonesia Visit 2026



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Indonesia and was conferred the country's highest civilian honour, the 'Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of Indonesia'.
- ❖ During the visit, India and Indonesia announced around 20 outcomes covering defence, trade, education, culture, technology, and maritime cooperation.
- ❖ India and Indonesia expanded defence cooperation, including collaboration on BrahMos supersonic missile systems.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Management Bangalore announced plans to establish its first overseas campus in Indonesia.
- ❖ India will support the conservation of the ancient Prambanan Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ❖ PM Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to address the Indonesian Parliament.
- ❖ The visit further strengthened the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Indonesia, established in 2018.

- ❖ With this award, PM Modi's tally of international honours increased to 35 global awards and recognitions.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India-New Zealand strategic partnership

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited New Zealand, marking the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister in 40 years, to strengthen bilateral relations.
- ❖ The visit is part of his three-nation tour covering Indonesia, Australia, and New Zealand.
- ❖ The Prime Ministers held talks to enhance cooperation in trade, defence, sports, culture, education, and people-to-people exchanges.
- ❖ India and New Zealand are celebrating 100 years of sporting ties, with hockey serving as a key link in their sporting friendship.
- ❖ The visit aims to strengthen India's Act East Policy, MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement of Security and Growth Across Regions) Vision, and commitment towards a free and open Indo-Pacific.



India-Australia PACTS Partnership

- ❖ India and Australia launched the Australia-India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains (PACTS) to strengthen cooperation in cybersecurity, critical technologies, and supply chain resilience.

- ❖ The partnership replaces the 2020 Framework Arrangement on Cyber and Cyber-Enabled Critical Technology Cooperation and focuses on secure, responsible technology development.
- ❖ PACTS has five pillars: Supply Chain Resilience, Critical Technology, Cybersecurity, Digital Resilience, and Defence Research Collaboration.
- ❖ It promotes cooperation in Artificial Intelligence (AI), space technology, telecommunications, biotechnology, advanced materials, and critical minerals.
- ❖ The partnership aims to enhance digital security, innovation, and resilient technology ecosystems between India and Australia.



India-Australia Nuclear Partnership

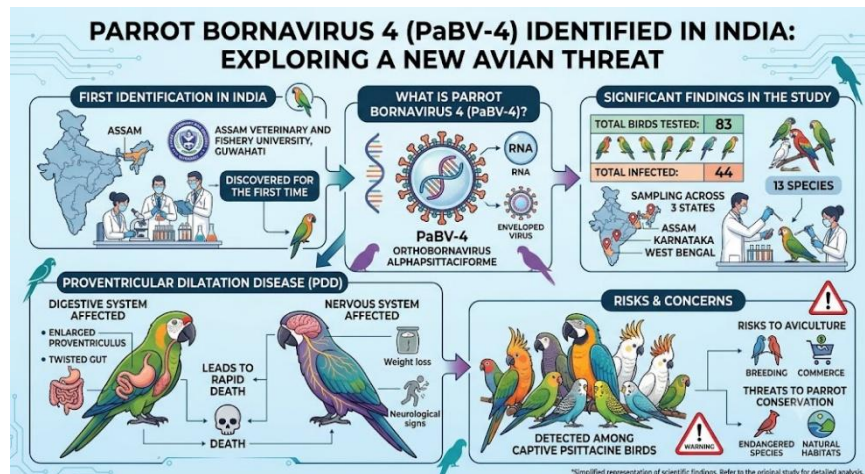
- ❖ India and Australia finalised an Administrative Arrangement under the India-Australia Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement during the 3rd India-Australia Annual Summit 2026.
- ❖ The arrangement enables long-term uranium exports from Australia to India for peaceful nuclear energy purposes under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.
- ❖ The cooperation builds upon the India-Australia Nuclear Cooperation Agreement signed in 2014, which allows Australia to supply uranium to India.

- ❖ Australia supported India's membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and reaffirmed cooperation in clean energy and energy security.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese signed a series of agreements to deepen India-Australia ties in civil nuclear energy, defence, maritime security, critical minerals, cyber technology and trade
- The civil nuclear pact will enable Australia to supply uranium to India for its nuclear power projects, while both sides also agreed to strengthen cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, accelerate talks on the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Parrot Bornavirus 4 (PaBV-4) in India



- ❖ Scientists from Assam Veterinary and Fishery University, Guwahati, identified Parrot bornavirus 4 (PaBV-4) in India for the first time.
- ❖ PaBV-4 is an avian virus belonging to the Orthobornavirus alphapsittaciforme, causing Proventricular Dilatation Disease (PDD) in parrots.

- ❖ PDD affects the digestive and nervous systems of birds and can lead to rapid death.
- ❖ The virus was detected among captive psittacine birds and poses risks to aviculture and parrot conservation.
- ❖ The study tested 83 birds from 13 species across Assam, Karnataka, and West Bengal, with 44 birds infected.

STATE NEWS

Full Literacy Status - Uttarakhand

- ❖ Uttarakhand became India's sixth fully literate state under the Ullas – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram (New India Literacy Programme).
- ❖ The state achieved a literacy rate of 98% or above, meeting the criteria for full literacy certification.
- ❖ Earlier, Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, and Sikkim were declared fully literate states.
- ❖ Under the programme, a state attains full literacy status after achieving at least 95% adult literacy among people above 15 years.
- ❖ Ladakh became the first Union Territory to receive full literacy certification under the scheme.

