

June - 04

TNPSC BITS

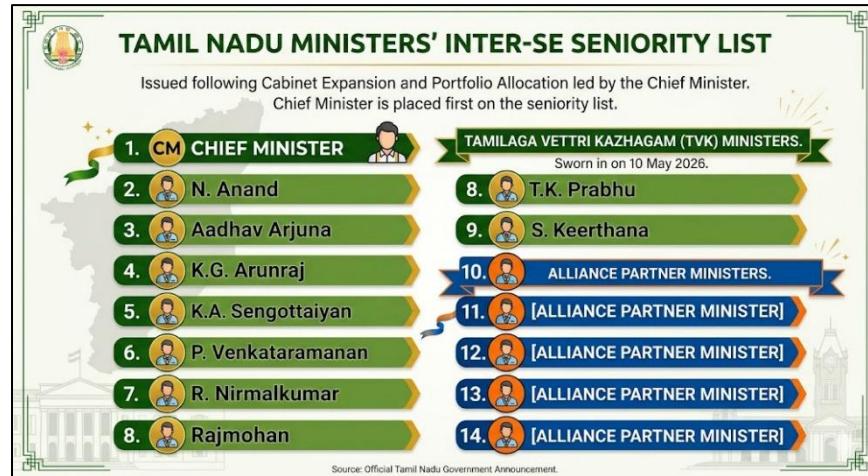
- ❖ Tripura has launched Mission Queen Pineapple with an outlay of ₹236 crore to promote its Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged Queen pineapple in domestic and international markets.
 - Queen Pineapple of Tripura received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2018.
- ❖ India's first SkyCast System was inaugurated at Indira Gandhi International Airport by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
 - With this installation, India became the 19th country to deploy the SkyCast System, an integrated atmospheric remote sensing system that provides real-time weather intelligence for aviation operations.
- ❖ Bharti Airtel launched Priority Postpaid, India's first consumer-focused 5G Network Slicing service.
 - 5G Network Slicing divides a single 5G network into multiple virtual networks (slices) with dedicated resources for specific users or applications.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has introduced Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based examination management, with Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU) launching an AI-powered system for attendance and seating arrangements to improve transparency and security.
- ❖ Global Day of Parents is observed every year on 1 June to honour parents and recognise their role in raising and protecting children.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Together for Parents".

TAMIL NADU NEWS

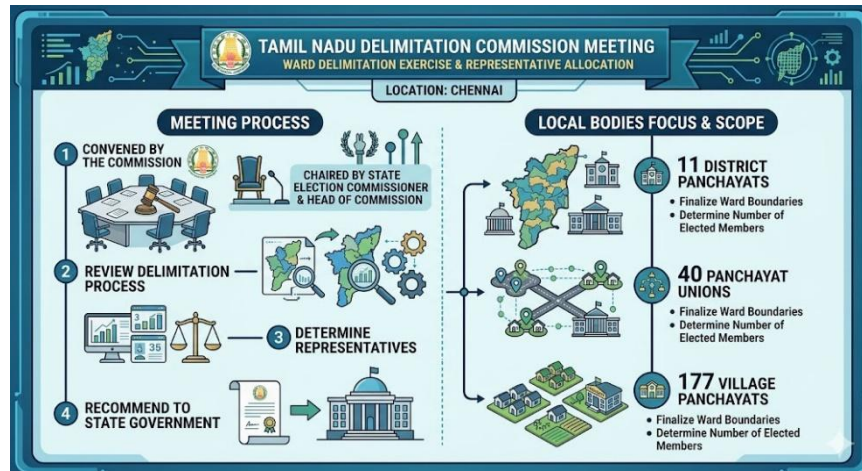
Tamil Nadu Ministers' Inter-se Seniority List

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government released the inter-se seniority list of Ministers following the induction of new Ministers and allocation of portfolios in the State Cabinet.
- ❖ The seniority list was issued after the Cabinet expansion led by the Chief Minister.
- ❖ The Chief Minister is placed first in the seniority list, followed by Ministers N. Anand, Aadhav Arjuna, K.G. Arunraj, K.A. Sengottaiyan, P. Venkataramanan, R. Nirmalkumar, Rajmohan, T.K. Prabhu, and S. Keerthana.
- ❖ These Ministers belong to the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) and were sworn in on 10 May 2026.

- ❖ Four Ministers from alliance partners were placed in the 11th to 14th positions in the seniority list.



Tamil Nadu Delimitation Commission Meeting



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Delimitation Commission held a meeting to discuss the ward delimitation exercise and the number of representatives to be elected in local bodies.
- ❖ The meeting was chaired by State Election Commissioner B. Jothi Nirmalasamy in Chennai.
- ❖ B. Jothi Nirmalasamy also serves as the head of the Tamil Nadu Delimitation Commission.
- ❖ Officials discussed determining the number of members to be elected in 11 District Panchayats, 40 Panchayat Unions, and 177 Village Panchayats.
- ❖ The Commission reviewed the ward delimitation process for the concerned local bodies.

- ❖ It was decided to finalise the number of elected representatives and recommend them to the State Government.

Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 Extension

- ❖ The Centre and Tamil Nadu signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the extended implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 in the State.
- ❖ The agreement was signed after the Union Cabinet approved the extension of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) till December 2028.
- ❖ Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) and ensure safe drinking water to rural households.
- ❖ Under the first phase of the mission, 46.71 lakh household tap connections were provided in Tamil Nadu, benefiting about 1.86 crore people.
- ❖ The State is implementing 45 Multi Village Schemes (MVSs), retrofitting works in 56 Combined Water Supply Schemes (CWSSs), and 21,258 Single Village Schemes (SVSs).
- ❖ Following the MoU, Tamil Nadu will initially receive ₹2,177.27 crore from the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) for JJM 2.0 implementation.



Pumped Storage Hydro Power Plant - Kadamparai

- ❖ The Kadamparai Pumped Storage Hydro Power Plant is Tamil Nadu's only pumped storage facility with reversible two-way turbines.

- ❖ The plant is currently operating at only 25% of its capacity due to ageing equipment and recurring faults.
- ❖ The plant was commissioned in 1987 and was Tamil Nadu's first pumped storage hydroelectric project.
- ❖ It can operate in both generator mode and motor (pump) mode.
- ❖ The plant has an installed capacity of 400 Megawatts (MW) with four units of 100 MW each, but currently only one unit is generating power while the other three are under repair.
- ❖ During periods of surplus solar and wind power, the plant pumps water from the Lower Aliyar Dam to the Kadamparai Dam, storing energy for future use.

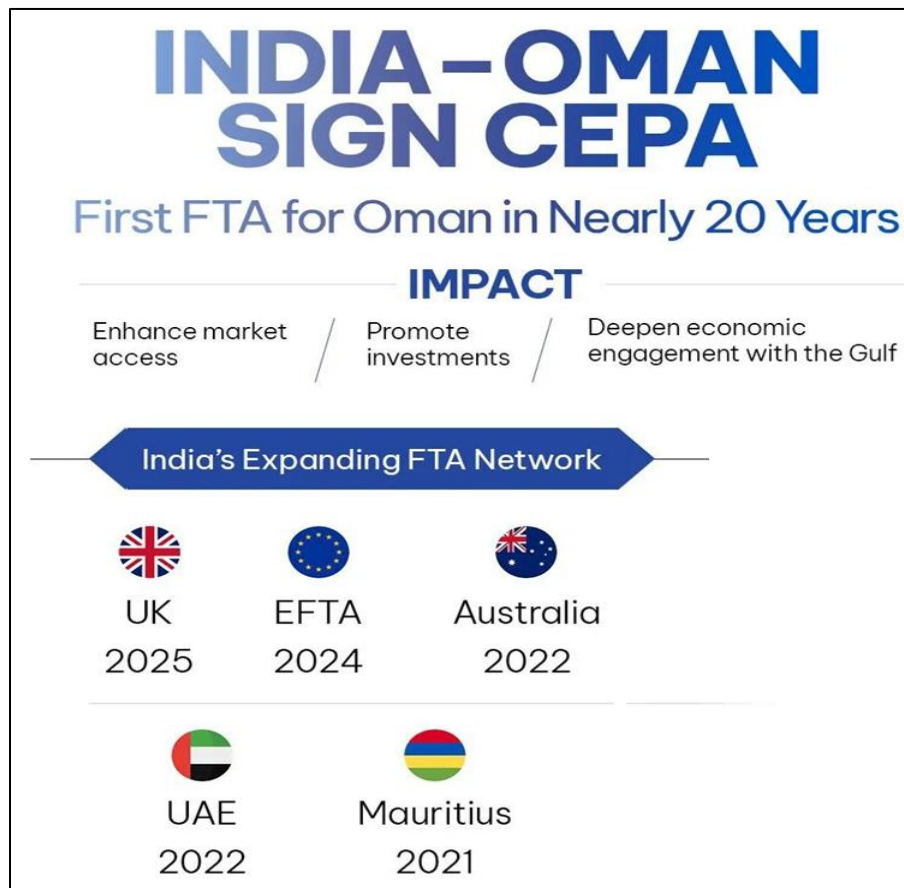


INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India–Oman Strategic Partnership

- ❖ The India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) came into force on 1 June 2026.
- ❖ Under the agreement, India will receive duty-free access to 98.08% of Oman's tariff lines, covering 99.38% of bilateral trade value based on 2022–23 averages.
- ❖ Indian exports such as textiles, agricultural products, processed food, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, gems and jewellery, and transport equipment will get immediate zero-duty access to the Omani market.

- ❖ The agreement also provides easier mobility for Indian professionals, including higher quotas for intra-corporate transferees and simplified temporary entry for business visitors.
- ❖ India has signed five major trade agreements of this type: CECPA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement) with Mauritius (2021), CEPA with the UAE (2022), ECTA (Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement) with Australia (2022), Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with the European Free Trade Association (2024), and CEPA with Oman (2026).
- ❖ India–Oman bilateral trade reached USD 11.18 billion in 2025–26.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Divyastra Mk 1 - Loitering Munition

- ❖ The Indian Army conducted an operational demonstration of the indigenous Divyastra Mk-1 tactical loitering munition in Jodhpur on 1 June 2026.

- ❖ Divyastra Mk-1 is an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered tactical unmanned aerial vehicle developed by Hoverit, a Lucknow-based defence technology startup, with about 95% indigenous content.
- ❖ A loitering munition is a weapon system that can remain over a target area before identifying and striking a target; it is also known as a suicide drone or kamikaze drone.
- ❖ The system features Artificial Intelligence (AI) and swarm capabilities for autonomous navigation, target recognition, and coordinated strike operations.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

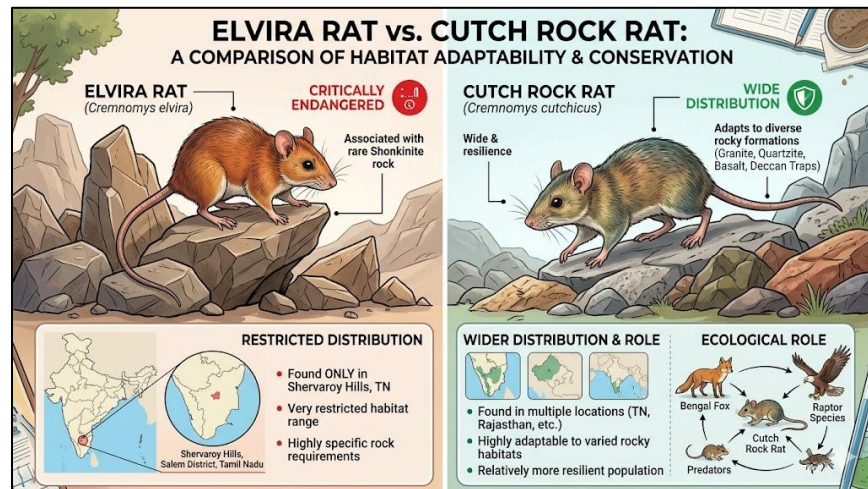
Photosynthesis in Mouse Eye Cells

- ❖ Researchers have successfully demonstrated photosynthesis in mouse eye cells using a plant-derived nano-system called LEAF (Light-driven Engineered Artificial Thylakoid Factory).
- ❖ Researchers introduced chloroplast-derived structures into mouse corneal cells, enabling them to produce energy-related molecules under light exposure.
- ❖ LEAF functions as a temporary neo-organelle and generates ATP (Adenosine Triphosphate) and NADPH (Nicotinamide Adenine Dinucleotide Phosphate) using light energy.

- ❖ The study explored its use in treating dry eye disease (Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca).
- ❖ In preclinical mouse trials, LEAF therapy improved corneal health, increased tear film stability, and outperformed several standard treatments.



Elvira Rat and Cutch Rock Rat



- ❖ Adaptability to different rocky habitats influences the survival and distribution of the Elvira rat and the Cutch rock rat.
- ❖ The Elvira rat is a Critically Endangered rodent found only in the Shervaroy Hills of Salem district, Tamil Nadu, and is closely associated with the rare Shonkinite rock formation.
- ❖ The Cutch rock rat has a wider distribution because it can adapt to various rocky habitats, including granite, quartzite, basalt, and Deccan Trap formations.
- ❖ The Elvira rat has a very restricted habitat range, while the Cutch rock rat is found in parts of Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan, making it relatively more resilient.

- ❖ The Cutch rock rat plays an important ecological role as a prey species for animals such as the Bengal fox and several raptor species.

STATE NEWS

Telangana Formation Day 2026

- ❖ Telangana celebrated its 12th Formation Day on 2 June 2026, marking 12 years since it became India's 29th state in 2014.
- ❖ Telangana was formed on 2 June 2014 under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.
- ❖ The Telangana region was merged with Andhra State in 1956 to form Andhra Pradesh, leading to demands for a separate Telangana state.
- ❖ The modern Telangana movement gained momentum in 2001 with the formation of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) by K. Chandrasekhara Reddy (KCR).



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Dr. P. Varadarajulu memorial

- ❖ Renewed calls have been made for a proper memorial in Tamil Nadu to honour freedom fighter and journalist Dr. P. Varadarajulu Naidu.
- ❖ Dr. P. Varadarajulu Naidu was a freedom fighter, noted journalist, and Congress legislator, popularly known as the “Bal Gangadhar Tilak of South India.”
- ❖ Like Bal Gangadhar Tilak in Maharashtra, Naidu was part of a southern political triumvirate along with T. V. Kalyanasundaram and E. V. Ramasamy.
- ❖ He served as editor of the Tamil weeklies Prapanchamitran and Tamil Nadu, and launched the English daily Indian Express in 1932.

- ❖ Similar to Tilak, who faced sedition charges for his writings in Kesari, Naidu was also tried for sedition for a speech delivered on the political situation in Madurai on 18 August 1918.
- ❖ During the second term of C. Rajagopalachari (1952–1954), Naidu strongly opposed the new school education policy introduced by the government.
- ❖ There is no major memorial dedicated to Varadarajulu Naidu in Tamil Nadu, except an Ashoka Pillar in Salem, where he spent most of his life.

