

June - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates has fixed 15 years as the minimum age for social media use, becoming the first Arab country to introduce such a rule.
 - Children below 15 years cannot create, use or operate personal social media accounts and cannot post, comment, share content or join public groups.
- ❖ The traditional Tripura Sarinda, a stringed musical instrument of Tripura's indigenous communities known for its unique craftsmanship and cultural significance, has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
 - With this recognition, Tripura now has four GI-tagged products—Tripura Queen Pineapple, Risa, Pachra (Rignai) and Tripura Sarinda.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the Order of the White Double Cross, First Class, the highest State honour of Slovakia.
- ❖ World Crocodile Day is observed every year on 17 June to create awareness about the conservation of crocodiles and other crocodylian species.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Legacy in Every Scale.”

TAMIL NADU NEWS

17th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly - First Session

- ❖ The first session of the 17th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly began with the Governor's Address.
- ❖ After a gap of three years, the Governor's Address was read completely in the House without any disruption.
- ❖ For the first time, the National Anthem was played both at the beginning and at the end of the Governor's Address.
- ❖ The session started with the State song Tamil Thaa Vazhthu, followed by the National Anthem.
- ❖ This marked a departure from the earlier convention of playing the National Anthem only at the end of the Governor's Address.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu announced that it would conduct a Social Justice Survey after the Union government completes the caste enumeration exercise.
- ❖ The State government will formulate a comprehensive Sustainable Tourism Policy to protect natural resources and maintain ecological balance.



- ❖ The government will continue efforts to shift education from the Concurrent List to the State List.
- ❖ The government reaffirmed its commitment to the two-language policy of Tamil and English.
- ❖ It recalled the 1968 Assembly resolution led by C. N. Annadurai that rejected the three-language formula and supported only Tamil and English in schools.
- ❖ The Assembly urged the Union government to permit the use of Tamil for pleadings in the Madras High Court and its Madurai Bench.
- ❖ The State also requested the establishment of a Bench of the Supreme Court in Chennai.
- ❖ The government declared that it would strongly oppose the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has set a target of becoming a \$1.5-trillion economy by 2036.
- ❖ The government will continue archaeological research at Keeladi, Adichanallur, Kodumanal, Mayiladumparai, Sivagalai, Azhagankulam, Arikamedu, Saluvankuppam and Poempuhar.
- ❖ The government will seek UNESCO World Heritage Site status for the Keeladi and Adichanallur archaeological sites.

Governor Calls TVK Victory A Revolution

The first session of the 17th Legislative Assembly began with the customary Governor's Address. Describing TVK's victory as a revolution, the Governor said the govt led by Vijay was committed to protecting state's rights. He announced that a social justice survey would be conducted after the ongoing Census. The govt would also formulate a new industrial policy while continuing key policies introduced by previous govt.

Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS) Rules

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has notified rules and procedures for implementing the Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS) on 18 June 2026.
- ❖ TAPS applies to government employees appointed on a regular pay scale on or after 1 April 2003, who were covered under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and completed at least 10 years of service.



- ❖ Eligible employees retiring on or after 1 January 2026 can receive an interim monthly payout until TAPS becomes fully operational.
- ❖ The interim payout will be 30% of the last drawn basic pay or ₹10,000, whichever is higher, plus 60% Dearness Relief (DR).
- ❖ In case of the death of a retired employee, an eligible family member will receive 60% of the interim monthly payout until the regular family pension is fixed under TAPS.
- ❖ The scheme provides two opt-out stages—Stage I (Immediate Opt-Out) and Stage II (Post-Notification Further Opt-Out); choosing Stage I is final and permanently ends all future TAPS benefits.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme broadly follows the principles of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) while continuing employee and government contributions until TAPS is fully implemented.

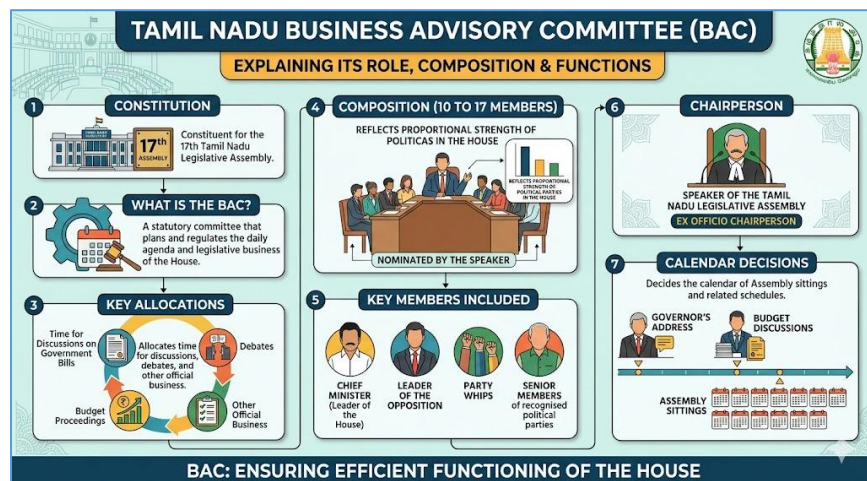
Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS): Key Announcements

- **Assured pension:** 50% of last-drawn basic pay for State government employees
- **Government contribution:** State to bear entire additional pension fund requirement along with 10% employee contribution
- **Dearness allowance:** DA hikes every six months, on par with serving government employees
- **Family pension:** 60% of pension payable to nominated family members after the pensioner's death
- **Gratuity:** Up to Rs 25 lakh for employees retiring or dying during service, based on length of service
- **Minimum pension:** To be provided even to employees retiring without completing the qualifying service period
- **Compassionate pension:** For Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) employees who retired without pension during the interim period before TAPS
- **Financial commitment:** Additional Rs 13,000 crore contribution to the pension fund
- **Annual outlay:** Around Rs 13,000 crore every year, including Rs 11,000 crore as government contribution

Tamil Nadu Business Advisory Committee

- ❖ A new Business Advisory Committee (BAC) has been constituted for the 17th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ The Business Advisory Committee (BAC) is a statutory committee that plans and regulates the daily agenda and legislative business of the House.

- ❖ It allocates time for discussions on government Bills, debates, Budget proceedings and other official business.
- ❖ The Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly serves as the ex officio Chairperson of the committee.
- ❖ The committee usually has 10 to 17 members nominated by the Speaker and reflects the proportional strength of political parties in the House.
- ❖ Its members generally include the Chief Minister (Leader of the House), Leader of the Opposition, party whips and senior members of recognised political parties.
- ❖ The BAC decides the calendar of Assembly sittings, including the schedule for the Governor's Address and time allotted for Budget discussions.



NATIONAL NEWS

New Producer Price Index Framework

- ❖ The Government of India released the Producer Price Index (PPI) data and a revised Wholesale Price Index (WPI) series.
- ❖ The Producer Price Index (PPI) measures changes in prices received by producers before goods and services reach final consumers.
- ❖ India's new framework includes Output PPI, Trial Input PPI, and Service PPI.
- ❖ The revised Wholesale Price Index (WPI) uses 2022-23 as the base year, replacing the 2011-12 base year, and the item basket has increased from 697 to 957 items.
- ❖ The Service Producer Price Index (Service PPI) initially covers seven sectors, including banking, insurance, railways, air passenger transport, and telecom services.

- ❖ The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Producer Price Index (PPI) will be published together for five years, after which the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) will be phased out.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

New Development Bank - Uzbekistan

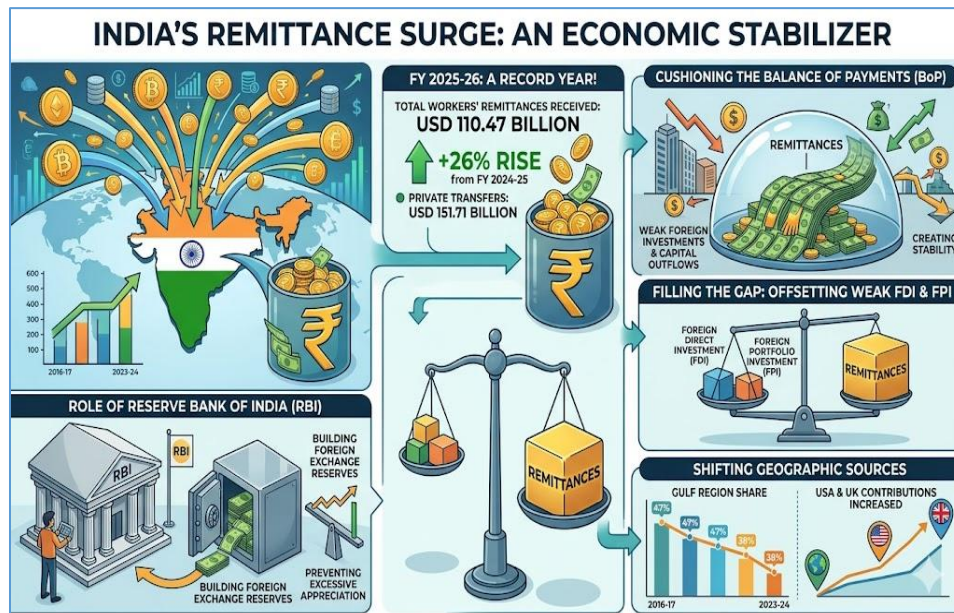


- ❖ Uzbekistan has joined the New Development Bank as its 10th member country and the first country from Central Asia to become a member.

- ❖ The New Development Bank (NDB) was established by the BRICS countries in 2015 to mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects.
- ❖ The founding members of NDB are Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- ❖ Other member countries include Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Algeria.
- ❖ The NDB is headquartered in Shanghai and aims to complement the efforts of existing multilateral and regional financial institutions.

ECONOMY NEWS

India's Remittance Surge

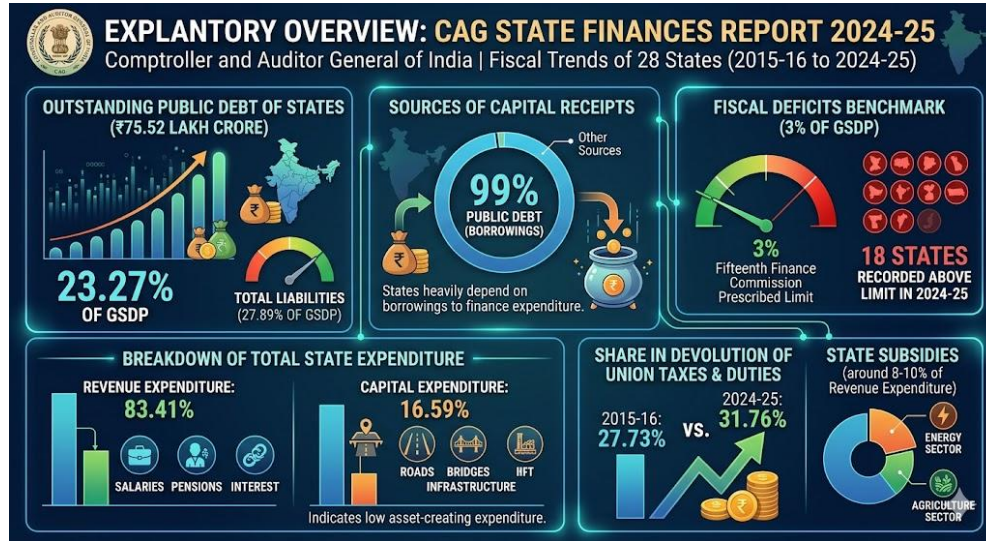


- ❖ India received over USD 100 billion in workers' remittances in FY 2025-26, helping cushion the Balance of Payments (BoP) amid weak foreign investments and capital outflows.
- ❖ Workers' remittances reached USD 110.47 billion, a 26% rise from FY 2024-25, while private transfers increased to USD 151.71 billion.
- ❖ Remittances helped offset weak Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) inflows and supported foreign exchange reserves.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) uses these foreign currency inflows to build reserves and prevent excessive appreciation of the Indian Rupee (INR).

- ❖ The Gulf region's share in India's remittances declined from 47% in 2016-17 to 38% in 2023-24, while contributions from the United States (US) and the United Kingdom (UK) increased.

REPORTS AND INDICES

CAG State Finances Report 2024-25



- ❖ The Comptroller and Auditor General of India released the State Finances 2024-25 Report.
- ❖ This report provides a fiscal overview of all 28 States from 2015-16 to 2024-25.
- ❖ The combined outstanding public debt of States stood at ₹75.52 lakh crore, equal to 23.27% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), while total liabilities reached 27.89% of GSDP.
- ❖ About 99% of capital receipts came from public debt, showing that States depend heavily on borrowings to finance expenditure.
- ❖ Against the Fifteenth Finance Commission benchmark of 3% of GSDP, 18 States recorded fiscal deficits above the prescribed limit in 2024-25.
- ❖ Revenue expenditure formed 83.41% of total expenditure, while capital expenditure accounted for only 16.59%, indicating relatively low asset-creating expenditure.
- ❖ The share of States in the devolution of Union taxes and duties increased from 27.73% in 2015-16 to 31.76% in 2024-25, while subsidies remained around 8-10% of total revenue expenditure, mainly for the energy and agriculture sectors.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

QS World University Rankings 2027

- ❖ The QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Rankings 2027 were released, with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi becoming India's top-ranked institution for the second consecutive year.
- ❖ IIT Delhi climbed five places to 118th globally, the highest rank achieved by an Indian institution in the 2027 rankings.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology Bombay ranked 134th globally, while Indian Institute of Technology Madras ranked 170th, making them the only other Indian institutions in the global top 200.
- ❖ India has 52 universities in the QS rankings, placing it fifth globally after the United States, United Kingdom, China and Germany.
- ❖ Massachusetts Institute of Technology topped the global rankings for the 15th consecutive year, followed by Stanford University, Imperial College London, University of Oxford and Harvard University.

