

June - 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Police has designated Helpline 1091 as the official helpline of the Singappen Special Force (SSF).
 - Helpline 1091 has been integrated with the 112 Emergency Response System (ERS) for faster communication and emergency response.
- ❖ The Government of India has officially revived the Qadian–Beas New Railway Line Project in Punjab's Majha region after nearly a century of delays.
 - The project will connect Qadian (Gurdaspur district) and Beas (Amritsar district) under the Socially Desirable Rail Connectivity Programme.
- ❖ United Nations (UN) Public Service Day is observed on 23 June every year to recognise the value and importance of public service in development.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Transforming Public Institutions: Advancing innovation, Participation, and Inclusion".
- ❖ International Widows' Day is observed on 23 June every year to highlight the challenges and rights of widows globally.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Invisible Women, Invisible Problems".

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamilnadu Economy 2026

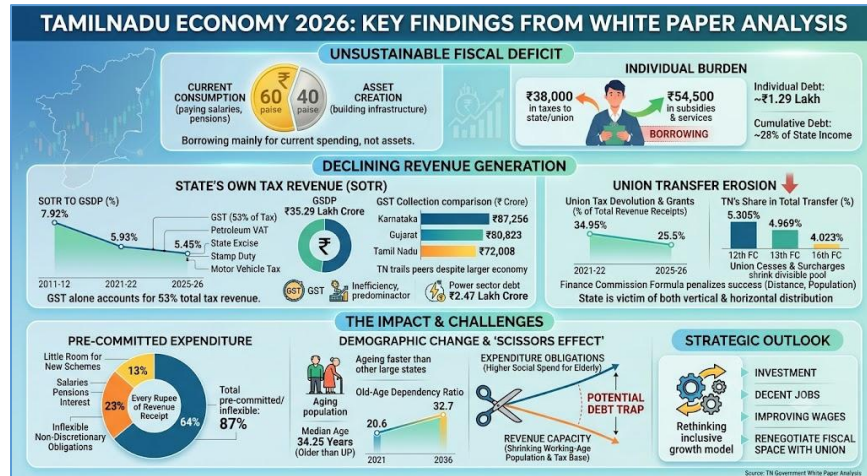
- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu's white paper is a comprehensive analysis of the State's financial status and economic conditions.
- ❖ It states that "the current levels of fiscal deficit are unsustainable primarily because a substantial portion of the fiscal deficit is simply to fund the revenue deficit".
- ❖ It means the State is simply borrowing to fund current consumption rather than to create assets.
- ❖ To be sure, for every rupee borrowed, about 60 paise goes to current consumption.
- ❖ The substantial expenditure for health and education is under the revenue account.
- ❖ In an economy, the government needs to raise resources to pay for the provision of public goods and services, build social and physical infrastructures needed for growth and protect the vulnerable from the market forces.

- ❖ An individual pays ₹38,000 in all taxes to the State and the Union government and receives about ₹54,500 worth of subsidies and services.
- ❖ The gap is typically funded by borrowing.
- ❖ The consolidated debt of each individual is then around ₹1.29 lakh, and the cumulative debt is about 28% of the State's income.
- ❖ The serious concern that the report flags is not just debt, but the collapse of the revenue generation itself.
- ❖ While the white paper shows the account of revenue generation of the past five years, the collapse precedes this by at least a decade.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu was one of the few States that predominantly sustained itself on its own revenue for its expenditure, about 70% of its expenditure from its own tax.
- ❖ It was in sharp contrast to States such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, which largely rely on the Centre's transfer.
- ❖ With the introduction of the GST in 2017, States have lost their sovereignty on taxation.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu suffered the most.
- ❖ The State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) to GSDP, which was 7.92% in 2011-12, has been steadily declining, and was down to 5.93% in 2021-22 and further down to 5.45% in 2025-26.
- ❖ While the white paper clearly shows that the decline is spread across all major tax heads — GST, petroleum VAT, State excise, stamp duty and motor vehicle tax, the GST alone accounts for about 53% total tax revenue.
- ❖ Despite having the second-largest economy with a GSDP of ₹ 35.29 lakh crore, its GST collection was ₹72,008 crore lower than that of Karnataka (₹87,256 crore) and Gujarat (₹80,823 crore).
- ❖ Besides the systemic corruption and inefficiencies in tax collection, the predominance of the service sector also contributed to the decline in GST collection.
- ❖ The power sector alone carries ₹2.47 lakh crore of debt.
- ❖ Besides the steady decline in its own tax collection, the State has also been increasingly losing its share in the Union transfer.
- ❖ For instance, Union tax devolution and grants-in-aid together constituted about 34.95% of Total Revenue Receipts in 2021-22, and it declined to 25.5% in 2025-26.
- ❖ The State's share in total transfer was 5.305% in the 12th Finance Commission period, but it came down to 4.969% in the 13th Finance Commission period and fell down to 4.023% for the 16th Commission.



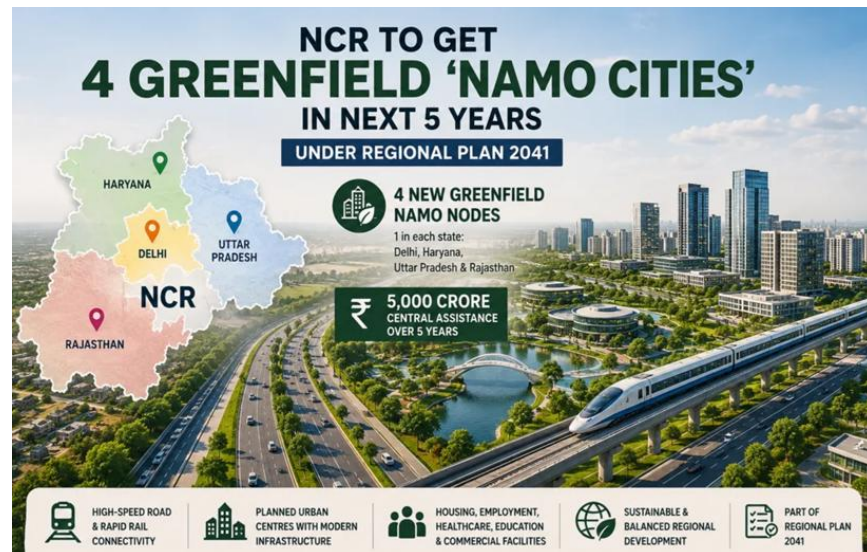
- ❖ This declining share is due to the formula adopted by the successive Finance Commissions.
- ❖ The high weightage to the per capita income distance, combined with population, has disadvantages.
- ❖ The State has become a victim of its success.
- ❖ Even the weight GDP contribution introduced in the 16th Finance Commission did not help, as the formula was inverted.
- ❖ Neither the criteria of area nor forest cover could help.
- ❖ On the other hand, the shareable divisible pool has been shrinking thanks to the arbitrary cess and surcharges imposed by the Union government that take away the legitimate resources of the States.
- ❖ In that sense, the State is a victim of both vertical and horizontal distribution.
- ❖ With declining Union transfers and the erosion of its own revenue base, Tamil Nadu's government size, measured by total expenditure as a share of GSDP, has shrunk, weakening the State's fiscal capacity.
- ❖ As the white paper shows, about 64% of every rupee of revenue receipts in 2025-26 is pre-committed on the account of salaries, pensions and interest.
- ❖ With the inflexible non-discretionary obligations of 23% per cent, this pre-committed expenditure goes up to 87%, leaving little room for any additional expenditure or any new schemes.
- ❖ This potential debt trap also comes at a time when the State is witnessing faster demographic change.
- ❖ It's ageing faster than any other large State in India.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's median age is 34.25 years — nearly 9.5 years older than Uttar Pradesh, and its old-age dependency ratio is projected to increase from 20.6 in 2021 to 32.7 by 2036.
- ❖ This has two implications.
- ❖ The ability to repay the debt is limited, the paper argues, because a shrinking working-age population means a shrinking tax base.
- ❖ It also means the need for higher social expenditure as the share of the elderly population goes up.
- ❖ The interaction between a rising debt stock and a shrinking working-age population can create conditions for a debt trap, which demographers call the 'scissors effect' — the widening gap between revenue capacity and expenditure obligations.
- ❖ However, Tamil Nadu's problem today is not fiscal profligacy or corruption.
- ❖ The pressing problem is the model of inclusive growth itself.

- ❖ The real challenge thus is getting investment, generating decent jobs, improving wages, while actively renegotiating fiscal space with the Union.



NATIONAL NEWS

Transit-Oriented Namo Cities Plan



- ❖ Four new greenfield “Namo Cities” are proposed under the National Capital Region (NCR) Regional Plan 2041 to promote balanced urban development in India.
- ❖ The proposal was approved during the 42nd meeting of the NCR Planning Board under the National Capital Region Planning Board Act, 1985.
- ❖ One city each is planned in Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan in India.

- ❖ These cities will be developed as Transit-Oriented Developments (TOD) along the Namo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors.
- ❖ The project includes a ₹5,000 crore performance-linked incentive (including ₹1,000 crore grant) over five years for development.

Smart Warehousing System for Foodgrain Storage

- ❖ The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, launched a Smart Warehousing System for foodgrain storage to modernise public sector warehouses using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies.
- ❖ The system is the world's largest deployment of AI and IoT-based technologies in public sector foodgrain warehousing.
- ❖ It includes FASTag and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) for gate automation and geo-tagged smart locks for access control.
- ❖ It is implemented in 215 warehouses of the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and 150 warehouses of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), India.
- ❖ It aims to improve efficiency, reduce vehicle turnaround time, enhance monitoring, and provide real-time warehouse visibility.

Powering Food Security Through Intelligent Storage

Smart Warehousing System
CWC's AI & IoT-Enabled Foodgrain Warehouses

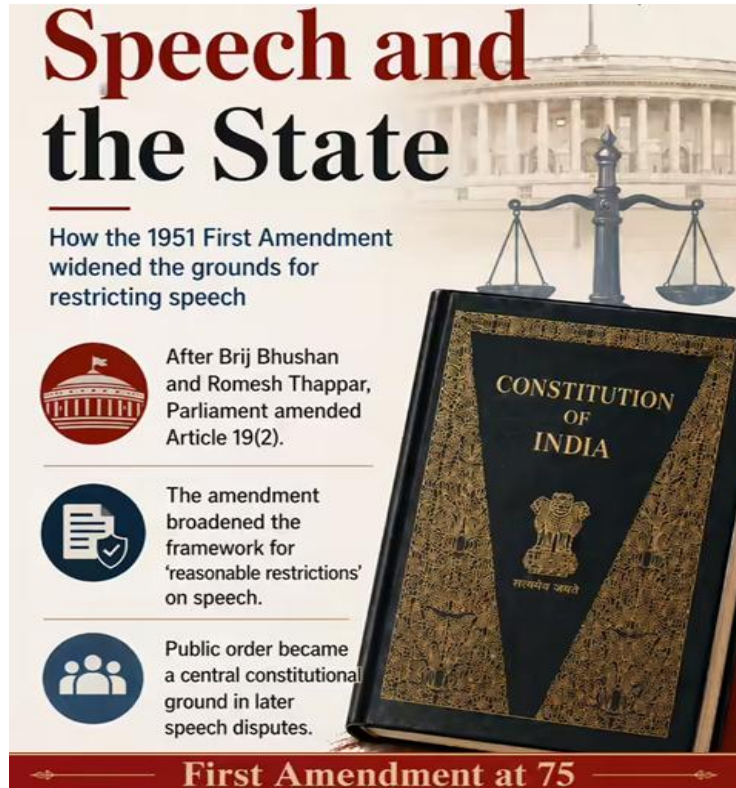
18 June 2026

Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

75 Years of the Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951

- ❖ June 18, 2026, marked the 75th anniversary of the Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951.
- ❖ It was enacted in June 1951, only 15 months after the Constitution came into force, under Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
- ❖ The amendment made major changes to freedom of speech, equality provisions, and property rights.

- ❖ It inserted Article 15(4) to allow special provisions for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- ❖ It added Articles 31A and 31B and created the Ninth Schedule to protect land reform laws, including zamindari abolition laws, from judicial review.
- ❖ It amended Article 19(1)(a) to permit reasonable restrictions on free speech in the interests of security of the State, public order, friendly relations with foreign states, decency, morality, contempt of court, defamation, and incitement to an offence.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Turquoise Nexus Initiative

- ❖ Turkey's Presidency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP31) and the Food and Agriculture Organization have launched the Turquoise Nexus Initiative (TNI).
- ❖ The initiative aims to integrate food security, water management, and climate adaptation into national climate plans and align Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with the Paris Agreement.
- ❖ It seeks to help developing countries adopt farmer-inclusive strategies and improve access to climate finance.

- ❖ The initiative is proposed under the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership, a multi-stakeholder initiative launched at COP27 in 2022 at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.
- ❖ The FAST Partnership aims to accelerate the transformation of agriculture and food systems by 2030 for people, the climate, and nature.
- ❖ Its three pillars are access to finance, knowledge and capacity building, and policy support and dialogue.

TURQUOISE NEXUS INITIATIVE

Developing Globally Integrated Food Security, Water-Centred Agriculture, and Climate-Resilient Food Systems

16 June 2026



About FAST Partnership

The Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership is a multi-stakeholder platform established in 2022 that works to strengthen the quantity and quality of climate finance in agrifood systems for the most vulnerable.

ECONOMY NEWS

NSE index portfolio expansion 2026



- ❖ NSE Indices Limited in India has launched 11 new sector-specific indices, expanding its total sectoral indices count to 34.

- ❖ The indices were introduced by NSE Indices Limited, a subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), India.
- ❖ The new indices cover sectors such as power, retail, NBFC (Non-Banking Financial Company), insurance, hospitals, and telecommunications in India.
- ❖ The aim is to provide more granular benchmarks for asset managers and investors in India.
- ❖ These indices can be used in Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), index funds, and other passive investment products.

Saatvik 100 Index - BSE

- ❖ BSE Index Services in India has launched the BSE Saatvik 100 Index to promote value-based and ethical investing.
- ❖ The index is derived from the BSE 500 Index and focuses on companies aligned with “Saatvik” principles of purity, responsibility, and ethical conduct.
- ❖ It has been introduced by BSE Index Services Private Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), India.
- ❖ The index is designed for Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)-style investing and supports passive investment products like ETFs and index funds.
- ❖ The financial services sector has the highest weight in the index, followed by the consumer discretionary and energy sectors in India.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Smart Seed Coating Technology

- ❖ The ICAR–Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research has developed a patented Smart Seed Coating Technology to improve crop establishment and resilience against climate stress.

- ❖ It is a biodegradable, biopolymer-based seed enhancement technology that provides protection, nutrition, and biological support through a single seed coating.
- ❖ The coating contains beneficial microorganisms, nutrients, crop protection agents, and plant growth-promoting compounds, which are released near the roots during germination.
- ❖ The technology aims to support climate-resilient agriculture, reduce risks in rainfed farming, and protect crops from drought, erratic monsoons, temperature stress, soil degradation, and pests.
- ❖ It can be customised for cereals, millets, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables, spices, and horticultural crops.
- ❖ Multi-location trials showed 12% to 37% increase in productivity in crops such as maize, chickpea, cotton, mustard, and pigeon pea compared with untreated seeds.



ICAR-IOR's SMART SEED COATING TECHNOLOGY
Strengthening Climate-Resilient Agriculture through Enhanced Seed Quality and Crop Establishment

INNOVATION FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE
ICAR-IOR has developed a patented biopolymer-based Smart Seed Coating Technology that transforms conventional seeds into Smart Seeds. The multifunctional coating delivers bio-protection, nutrition, and growth support right at the seed-soil interface.

- BENEFICIAL MICROBES**: Enhances nutrient availability and plant growth
- NUTRIENTS & MICRONUTRIENTS**: Ensures balanced nutrition for vigorous growth
- CROP PROTECTION AGENTS**: Protects against pests and diseases
- PLANT GROWTH PROMOTERS**: Promotes root development, germination and vigor

KEY BENEFITS

- Enhanced germination & seedling vigor
- Stronger root development
- Improved tolerance to abiotic & biotic stresses
- Better nutrient & water use efficiency
- Higher yields & improved farm profitability
- Eco-friendly & biodegradable

PROVEN RESULTS. HIGHER YIELDS.
Up to **30% Higher Yields** in Groundnut & Soybean

GROUNDNUT: 30% Higher Yield
SOYBEAN: 30% Higher Yield

Field demonstrations in Telangana under farmer conditions

MULTI-LOCATION AICRP-SEED TRIALS
Consistent improvements in seedling vigour, crop establishment & yield across major crops

Soybean | Maize | Groundnut | Chickpea | Cotton | Mustard | Pigeon Pea
Yield improvement of 12% - 37% over untreated controls

PARTNERSHIPS FOR LARGE-SCALE IMPACT

State Seed Corporations | National Seed Corporation | Cooperative Seed Federations | FPOs & Seed Hubs | Seed Processing Units | Seed Entrepreneurs & Private Seed Companies

Collaborating to deliver quality-enhanced Smart Seeds to farmers across India

Smart Seeds STRONGER CROPS RESILIENT FARMS PROSPEROUS FARMERS

A NEXT-GENERATION SOLUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE, CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURE

WIDE SCOPE ACROSS CROPS
Cereals | Millets | Pulses | Oilseeds | Fibre Crops | Fodder Crops | Vegetables | Spices | Horticultural Crops

REPORTS AND INDICES

Energy Transition Index 2026

- ❖ The Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026 was released by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with Accenture, highlighting progress and challenges in the global energy transition.
- ❖ The index measures countries' progress towards secure, sustainable, and equitable energy systems and their readiness for future energy transition.

- ❖ India ranked 70th globally, improving by 2 places from the previous year and emerging as one of the strongest global improvers in energy transition readiness.
- ❖ India's progress was driven by renewable energy expansion, grid infrastructure development, green hydrogen initiatives, and increased investment in sustainability and clean-energy infrastructure.
- ❖ The index assesses 120 countries using 44 indicators, with scores based on system performance (60%) and transition readiness (40%).
- ❖ Sweden, Finland, and Denmark retained the top three positions globally in the ETI 2026 rankings.

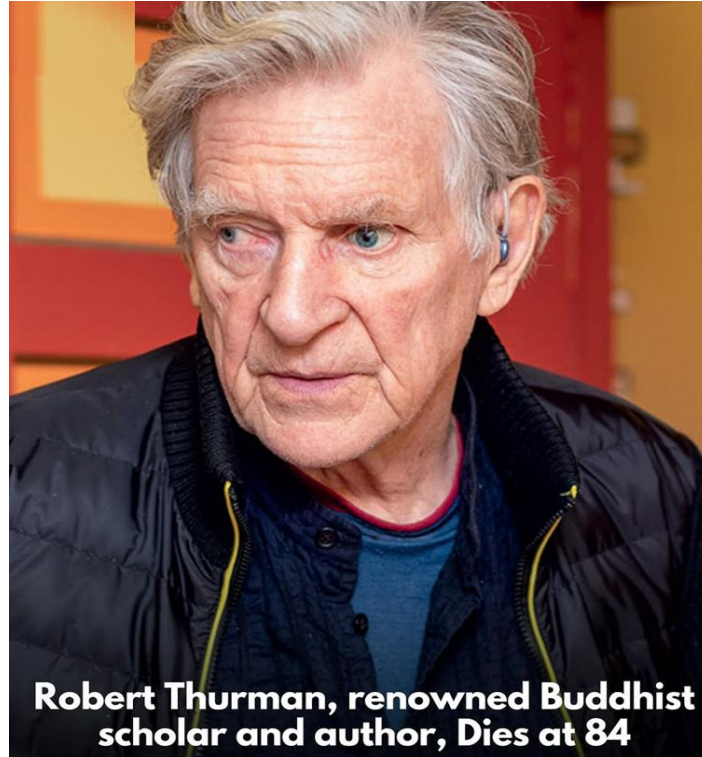


PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Robert A.F. Thurman's demise

- ❖ Robert A.F. Thurman (1941–2026), an American scholar of Tibetan Buddhism, passed away at the age of 84 in the United States.
- ❖ He was a renowned author, translator, educator, and co-founder of Tibet House US, which promotes Tibetan culture and Buddhist teachings.
- ❖ He travelled to India, embraced Buddhism, and became a Buddhist monk under the guidance of the Dalai Lama.

- ❖ He spent three years as a Buddhist monk and later became one of the foremost interpreters of Tibetan Buddhism in the Western world.
- ❖ His notable works include Inner Revolution, Infinite Life, and the translation of The Holy Teaching of Vimalakirti.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Yoga 2026 - June 21



- ❖ The day aims to promote yoga as a practice for health and well-being.

- ❖ The day marks the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) and is celebrated under the theme “Yoga for Healthy Ageing”.
- ❖ Yoga is described as a holistic practice combining physical activity, breathing techniques, mindfulness, and meditation.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (2014) declared 21 June as International Yoga Day, with support from 175 member states.
- ❖ The date 21 June was chosen because it is the summer solstice, symbolising light, balance, and longevity.

International Olympic Day 2026 - June 23

- ❖ The day aims to commemorate the birth of the modern Olympic movement and promote sports participation.
- ❖ It was established in 1948 by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) during its 42nd session held in St. Moritz, Switzerland.
- ❖ The date 23 June marks the founding of the IOC in 1894 in Paris, France, by Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games.
- ❖ The day promotes Olympic values of excellence, friendship, and respect through sports and physical activity across countries.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is "You Can Do This! Let's Move".

