

May - 04

TNPSC BITS

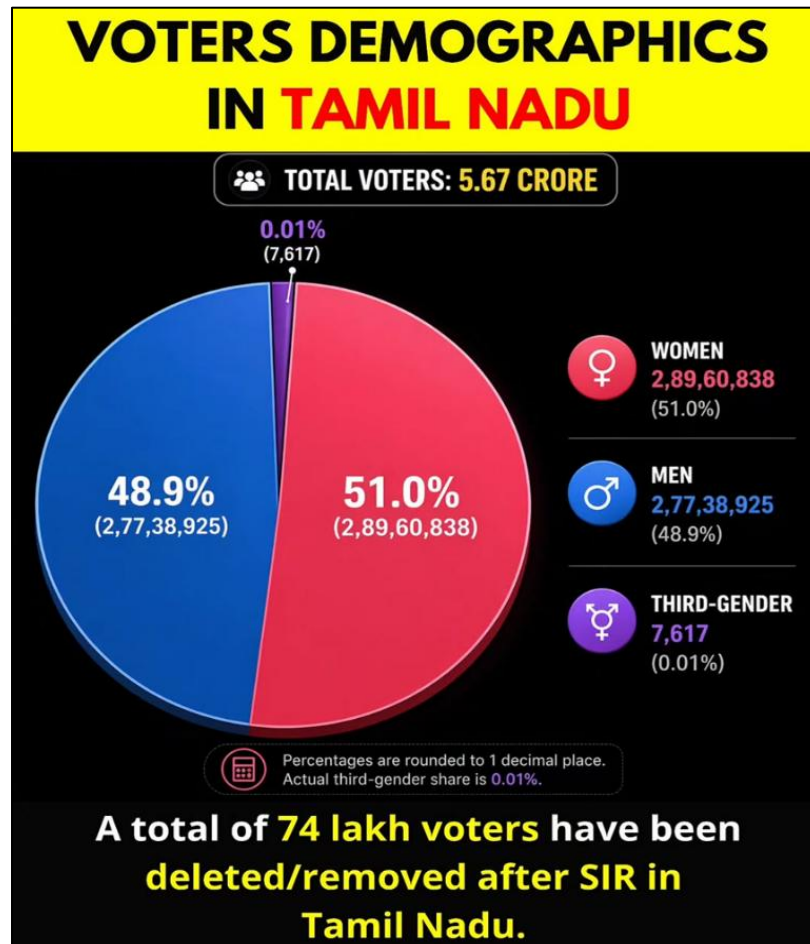
- ❖ India launched its first official F1 Sim Racing India Open 2026 to connect esports with motorsport, organised by Formula 1 and Mumbai Falcons Racing Limited.
- ❖ The 17th Old Seed Festival was held in Araku Valley, Andhra Pradesh, to promote tribal biodiversity and traditional farming.
- ❖ A stretch of National Highway 44 in Tamil Nadu has been painted red for the first time to improve road safety and visibility.
 - The red markings are introduced on Thoppur Ghat Road, an accident-prone area with over 200 deaths in the last 3 years.
- ❖ Two new jumping spider species belonging to the Salticidae family, *Mogrus shushka* and *Mogrus pune*, have been discovered in India.
 - *Mogrus shushka* was found in the dry regions of Rajasthan and Gujarat, while *Mogrus pune* was found in urban parks in Maharashtra.
- ❖ The Indian Army is hosting the first multilateral exercise “Pragati” in Meghalaya at Umroi with participation from 11 countries to improve interoperability, coordination and defence cooperation.
 - “Pragati” stands for Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region.
- ❖ World Tuna Day is observed on May 2 annually to promote sustainable fishing and protect marine resources.
- ❖ International Firefighters’ Day is observed on May 4 annually to honour firefighters for their service and sacrifice.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

TN Assembly Elections 2026 Voting Data

- ❖ Final voting data for the Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections 2026 has been released.
- ❖ A total of 4,87,98,833 voters out of 5,73,43,291 cast their votes on April 23 across 75,064 polling booths.
- ❖ The overall voter turnout was 86.2% for women, 83.96% for men, and 58.45% for others.
- ❖ Women voters (2,52,59,596) outnumbered men voters (2,35,34,720); 4,517 voters were from other gender category.

- ❖ Final figures may increase as postal ballots of officials, police personnel, service voters, and Form 12D voters (persons aged 85+ and persons with disabilities) are yet to be included.



NATIONAL NEWS

Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2026 – Key Changes

- ❖ Ministry of Home Affairs notified the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2026, to streamline Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) processes.
- ❖ Minor children cannot hold both an Indian passport and a foreign passport at the same time.
- ❖ OCI cards can now be issued in electronic form (e-OCI) along with physical cards.
- ❖ All OCI services, including registration, are made fully online.
- ❖ A digital system introduced for renunciation and cancellation of OCI with mandatory surrender of the physical card.

- ❖ Applicants can share biometric data for Fast Track Immigration (FTI) for quicker entry at airports.



NMC on MBBS Seat Cap

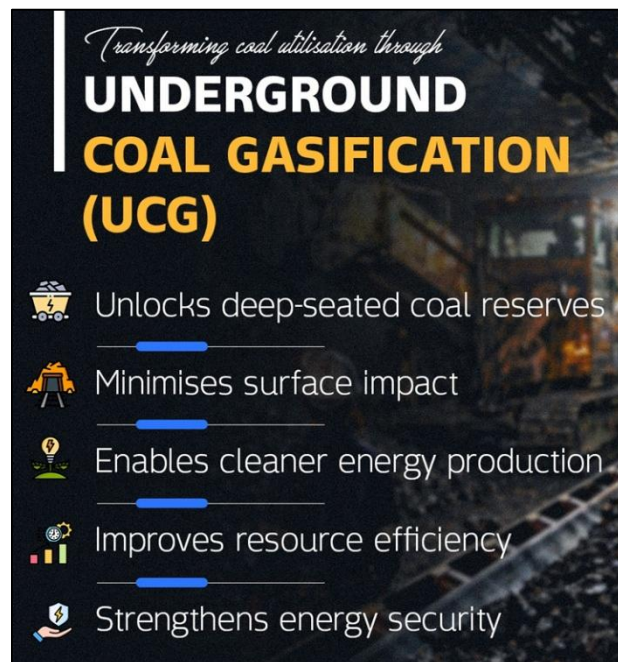


- ❖ National Medical Commission (NMC) removed the cap on MBBS seats in medical colleges.
- ❖ The earlier limit of 150 seats per college has been removed to allow expansion.
- ❖ The population-based rule of 100 seats per 10 lakh people has also been removed.

- ❖ The distance rule for teaching hospitals is revised to 10 km (15 km for hilly states).
- ❖ The move aims to increase medical seats and improve doctor availability in India.

Underground Coal Gasification - India

- ❖ Ministry of Coal signed Coal Mine Development and Production Agreements for four coal blocks with UCG provisions.
- ❖ This marks the first use of Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) in India's commercial coal mining.
- ❖ UCG converts coal into synthetic gas (syngas) underground without physical mining.
- ❖ Syngas contains hydrogen, carbon monoxide and methane and is used in fertilisers, petrochemicals and fuels.
- ❖ It helps utilise deep or unworkable coal reserves and reduces dependence on imported natural gas and naphtha.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UAE on OPEC and OPEC+

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates announced it will exit Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and OPEC+ from May 1, 2026.

- ❖ The move aims to increase production flexibility and allow independent energy policy decisions.
- ❖ The UAE has been a member of OPEC since 1967, marking nearly six decades of association.
- ❖ It is one of the few countries with high spare oil production capacity.
- ❖ The exit may weaken OPEC's control over global oil supply and price stability.



US Waiver on Chabahar Port

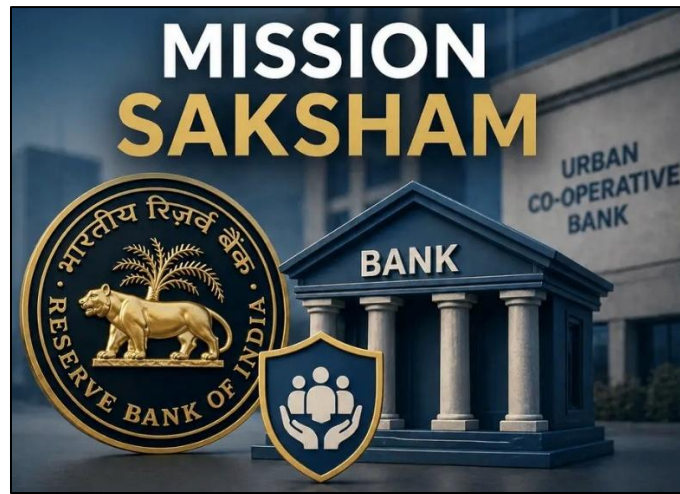


- ❖ The United States ended the sanctions waiver on Chabahar Port on April 26, 2026.
- ❖ This creates uncertainty for India's connectivity project linking Afghanistan and Central Asia via Iran.
- ❖ India is reviewing its role and has withdrawn personnel while prepaying \$120 million investment.

- ❖ Chabahar Port is located in Sistan-Baluchistan, Iran, and provides access bypassing Pakistan.
- ❖ It connects to the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) for trade with Central Asia and Europe.

ECONOMY NEWS

Mission SAKSHAM for Cooperative Banks



- ❖ Reserve Bank of India launched Mission SAKSHAM for Urban Cooperative Banks.
- ❖ It is a nationwide capacity-building programme to improve governance, resilience and professional standards.
- ❖ The mission will cover about 1.40 lakh participants through physical and digital training.
- ❖ It targets board members, management, risk and compliance officials, and staff of Urban Cooperative Banks.
- ❖ Urban Cooperative Banks are regulated by the RBI for banking operations and by state cooperative laws for management.

STATE NEWS

Maharashtra AI Policy 2026

- ❖ The Maharashtra government has announced the AI Policy 2026 to promote Artificial Intelligence in governance and industry.
- ❖ The policy aims to attract ₹10,000 crore investment and create over 1.5 lakh jobs by 2031.

- ❖ It proposes setting up the Maharashtra AI Mission and training 2 lakh youth in AI skills.
- ❖ AI cities will be developed, and a State AI Data Exchange platform will be created.
- ❖ A ₹500 crore AI Startup Venture Fund and 12 AI incubators will support startups.
- ❖ MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) will get 20% subsidy for AI adoption.

Big Push for AI Growth

- Maharashtra government announces AI Policy 2026
- Targets ₹10,000 crore investment and 1.5 lakh jobs by 2031
- Decision taken under CM Devendra Fadnavis

Vision & Objective

- Position Maharashtra as a national hub for ethical AI
- Policy aligned with India AI Mission
- Focus on innovation, governance, and public service transformation

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Meena Muthiah demise



- ❖ Meena Muthiah, noted educationist and philanthropist from Chennai, passed away at the age of 91.

- ❖ She founded Kumara Rajah Muthiah School of Traditional Arts and Crafts to promote Tanjore painting.
- ❖ She served as Secretary and Correspondent of institutions like Chettinad Vidyashram and Kumararani Dr. Meena Muthiah College.
- ❖ She received the Living Craft Treasure Award (2016–17) from Poompuhar, Government of Tamil Nadu.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Press Freedom Day 2026 - May 03



- ❖ The day aims to promote freedom of expression and independent journalism.
- ❖ It was proclaimed in 1993 on the recommendation of UNESCO.
- ❖ The day marks the anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration (1991), which supports free, independent and pluralistic media.
- ❖ As per the UNESCO World Trends Report 2022–2025, press freedom has seen its steepest decline since 2012, with over 60% rise in self-censorship.
- ❖ The UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize honours individuals or organisations defending press freedom.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Shaping a Future of Peace: Promoting Press Freedom for Human Rights, Development, and Security”.

