

May - 08

TNPSC BITS

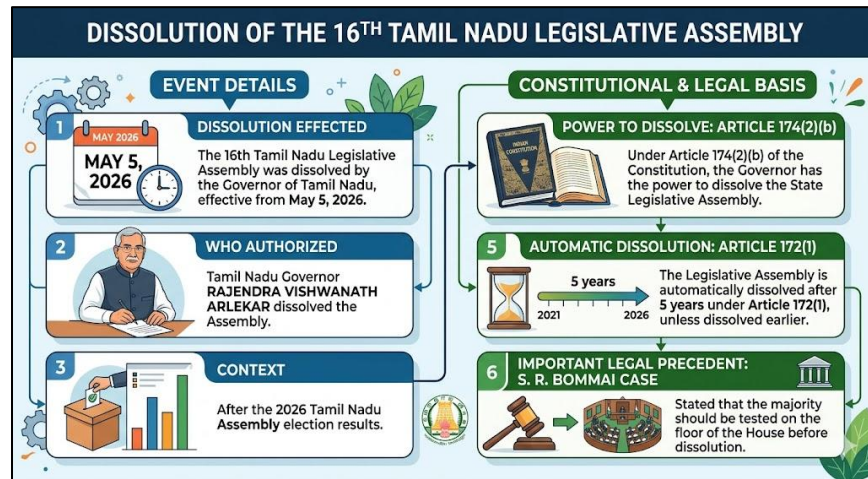
- ❖ Mayon Volcano erupted in the Philippines, forcing the evacuation of nearly 1,500 families and restrictions on airspace near Manila.
 - The Philippines lies in the Pacific Ring of Fire, a region frequently affected by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.
- ❖ Scientists have discovered “cleaner ants” in the Arizona, United States desert that groom much larger harvester ants without attacking them.
 - Small cone ants from the genus *Dorymyrmex* were observed cleaning the bodies and open jaws of harvester ants (*Pogonomyrmex barbatus*).
- ❖ Balikatan 2026, a joint military exercise between the Philippines and the United States (US), is being conducted from 20 April to 8 May 2026 in the Philippines.
- ❖ Pixxel and Sarvam are developing India’s first orbital data centre satellite, Pathfinder, a 200 kg-class satellite expected to be launched in Q4 2026.
 - The mission aims to enable real-time data processing for environmental monitoring, resource management, and infrastructure tracking.
- ❖ India Post marked the birth centenary of cartoonist Mario Miranda on 3 May 2026 with a philatelic tribute in Panaji, Goa.
- ❖ World Laughter Day 2026 will be observed on 3 May 2026 (first Sunday of May) to promote health, happiness, and peace through laughter.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "World Peace through Laughter".
- ❖ World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed on 8 May every year to honour humanitarian workers and volunteers.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Keeping Humanity Alive”.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Dissolution of the 16th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly

- ❖ The 16th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly was dissolved by the Governor of Tamil Nadu with effect from 5 May 2026.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar dissolved the Assembly after the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly election results.
- ❖ Under Article 174(2)(b) of the Constitution, the Governor has the power to dissolve the State Legislative Assembly.

- ❖ The Legislative Assembly is automatically dissolved after 5 years under Article 172(1), unless dissolved earlier.
- ❖ S. R. Bommai Case stated that the majority should be tested on the floor of the House before dissolution.
- ❖ The dissolution of the existing Assembly was a mandatory procedure for the constitution of a new Assembly after completing elections.



TN Elections 2026

Defeat of Sitting CM

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin was defeated in his Kolathur Assembly constituency, a seat he had represented thrice since 2011.
- ❖ Stalin is the fourth sitting Chief Minister in Tamil Nadu to lose an Assembly election.
- ❖ In the past, P.S. Kumarasamy Raja (1952), M. Bhakthavatchalam (1967), and Jayalalithaa (1996) were sitting Chief Ministers who lost elections.
- ❖ K. Kamaraj, another former Chief Minister, was also defeated in 1967, but he was not in office at the time; he lost from the Virudhunagar Assembly constituency.

Past History

- ❖ In what is clearly a tectonic shift in Tamil Nadu politics, the fledgling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) led by actor Joseph C. Vijay has emerged as the single largest party in the 2026 Assembly elections.
- ❖ With the Congress dominating until 1967, the ecosystem post that shifted to a Dravidian framework.
- ❖ Since 1967, Tamil Nadu has been dominated by one of the two major Dravidian parties — the DMK and the AIADMK.



- ❖ While the DMK has enjoyed two successive terms once initially (1967 and 1971), it did not sustain this for the entirety of its second term.
- ❖ The AIADMK has been able to come back to power three times consequently, under the leadership of M.G. Ramachandran (1977, 1980, and 1984), and once again under Jayalalithaa (2011 and 2016).
- ❖ Other than this, the State has been alternating power between the DMK and the AIADMK.
- ❖ In 2006, when Tamil Nadu last saw a hung Assembly, the PMK offered support to the DMK without sharing power in the ministry.

Resignation

- ❖ DMK president and outgoing Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said the Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) had secured only 17.43 lakh more votes than his party, a margin of just 3.52 percentage points over the DMK's vote share.
- ❖ M.K. Stalin resigns as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister.
- ❖ His resignation was sent to the Governor's office in Lok Bhavan.
- ❖ As per convention, the Governor is expected to request the incumbent Chief Minister to continue as interim Chief Minister, until the new government assumes office.

Results

- ❖ TVK was emerging as the single largest party with 108 seats in the 17th Tamil Nadu Assembly election.
- ❖ It fell just 10 seats short of the halfway mark in the 234-member House.
- ❖ The party secured an impressive 35% vote share, polling over 1.6 crore votes.
- ❖ Vijay himself won from both Perambur and Tiruchi East.
- ❖ J. Jayalalithaa won two assembly seats in the 1991 Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly elections.
- ❖ Contesting from both Kangeyam and Bargur, she registered handsome victories in both.
- ❖ Following the AIADMK landslide victory, she became the Chief Minister for the first time.
- ❖ Later she retained the Bargur seat and resigning from Kangeyam.
- ❖ Perhaps for the first time, the 17th Tamil Nadu Assembly will include a member who had previously served as a legislator in another House.
- ❖ This distinction will be achieved by N. Anand, alias 'Bussy' Anand, general secretary of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam.



- ❖ Minister K.R. Periyakaruppan lost the Assembly election from Tirupattur in Sivaganga district by just one vote.
- ❖ In Edappadi, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami recorded the highest victory margin in the State, winning by 98,110 votes.
- ❖ The Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA), led by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), has been pushed to second place with leads in 73 seats — a steep fall from 159 seats in 2021.
- ❖ DMK was reduced to the principal Opposition with 59 seats in what became a three-cornered contest.
- ❖ While the All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK)-led coalition, which includes the BJP and the PMK, has come third with leads in 54 seats.
- ❖ AIADMK finished third with around 47 seats.
- ❖ Naam Tamilar Katchi, led by Seeman, which contested all 234 seats, once again failed to open its account.
- ❖ In terms of vote share, however, the three formations are remarkably close — TVK: 35.09%, SPA: 31.4%, and the AIADMK-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA): 27.2%.
- ❖ It marks the second time Tamil Nadu voters, known for delivering decisive mandates for a single party or front (DMK alliance, 2006), have produced a hung Assembly.
- ❖ 1952 (Madras State): The first election saw the Indian National Congress (INC) win 152 seats out of 375, short of a majority, but they formed the government under C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji).
- ❖ C. Joseph Vijay is set to become the first Chief Minister not from either of the two principal Dravidian parties since the DMK first captured power in the State in 1967.
- ❖ He is likely to become the first minority Chief Minister (Christian Chief Minister) in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Vijay secured a commanding 34.92 per cent vote share in its maiden election.
- ❖ Historically, third-party aspirants in Tamil Nadu have struggled to cross the 10 per cent threshold.
- ❖ Vijay's TVK surpassed MGR's 1977 record of 30.6% vote share in a maiden election.
- ❖ Unlike MGR, who had an alliance with CPI(M) and IUML in his first election, Vijay's TVK contested alone in 233 of the 234 seats.
- ❖ On 30 June 1977, M.G.R. was sworn in as the chief minister of Tamil Nadu, becoming the first actor to become the chief minister in the Republic of India

- ❖ For the first time in 59 years a party other than the DMK or AIADMK has led the state in vote share.
- ❖ N.T. Rama Rao (TDP): Founded the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in March 1982 and led it to victory in the Andhra Pradesh assembly elections in January 1983, becoming CM in less than a year.
- ❖ Founded in February 2024, the TVK party is set to assume power in just over two years.
- ❖ The ADMK party was founded on 17 October 1972 by M. G. Ramachandran (M.G.R.) and swept to power, defeating the DMK in the 1977 assembly election after 5 years of party formation.
- ❖ Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was founded in Delhi by Arvind Kejriwal on 26 November 2012.
- ❖ First, it came to power in Delhi on 28 December 2013, with Arvind Kejriwal taking oath as the Chief Minister.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

EPC Summit 2026

- ❖ Canada became the first non-European country to attend a summit of the European Political Community (EPC).

- ❖ The 8th EPC Summit was held in Yerevan, Armenia.
- ❖ The European Political Community (EPC) was formed in 2022 after Russia invaded Ukraine.
- ❖ EPC is a political forum that includes European Union (EU) and non-European Union countries such as the United Kingdom (UK), Turkey, Norway, and Switzerland.
- ❖ The summit discussed issues related to politics, security, and infrastructure cooperation.

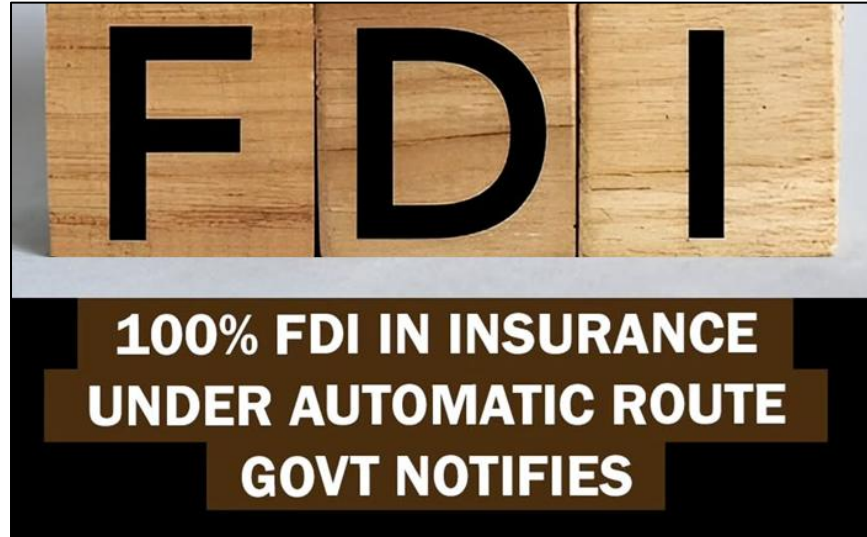


ECONOMY NEWS

100 percent FDI in the Insurance Sector

- ❖ India allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the insurance sector under the automatic route through amendments to the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) Rules, 2019.
- ❖ Under the automatic route, foreign investors do not need prior government approval for investment.
- ❖ The new rules apply to insurance companies, brokers, consultants, and Third-Party Administrators (TPAs).

- ❖ All investments will be regulated by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- ❖ The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit for Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) remains capped at 20%.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

PoET Telescope



- ❖ The Paranal solar ESPRESSO Telescope (PoET) achieved “first light” at the European Southern Observatory (ESO) Paranal Observatory in the Atacama Desert, Chile.

- ❖ ESPRESSO stands for Echelle SPectrograph for Rocky Exoplanets and Stable Spectroscopic Observations.
- ❖ PoET studies sunlight and starlight to improve the detection of exoplanets (planets outside the Solar System).
- ❖ The telescope includes a 60-centimetre mirror for observing sunspots and selected solar regions.
- ❖ “First light” means the first successful observation made by a telescope or scientific instrument.

Great Dyke of Zimbabwe



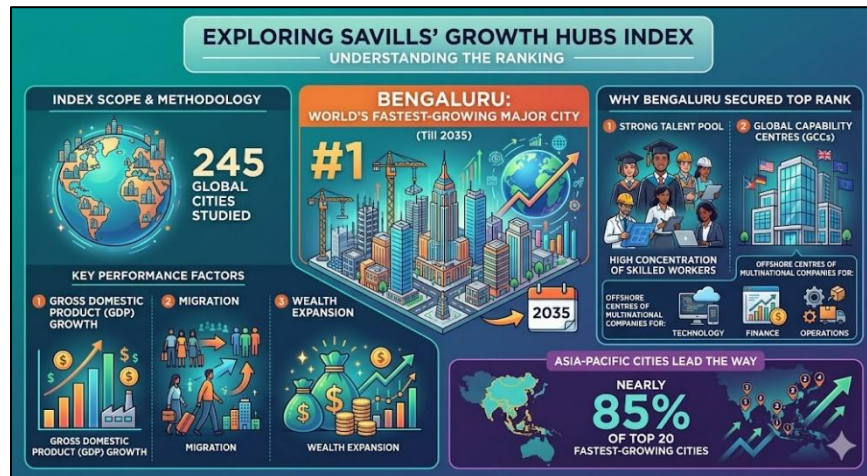
- ❖ NASA scientists discovered a hidden 2.5-billion-year-old internal structure inside the Great Dyke of Zimbabwe using satellite imaging and geophysics mapping.
- ❖ The Great Dyke is a 550-kilometre-long igneous rock formation located in central Zimbabwe.
- ❖ It is classified as a lopolith, which is a saucer-shaped igneous intrusion formed from cooled magma.
- ❖ The structure is believed to be linked to an ancient magma storage zone from the Archaean Eon.

- ❖ The Great Dyke contains important minerals such as platinum, chromium, nickel, copper, iron, titanium, vanadium, and tin.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Growth Hubs Index

- ❖ Bengaluru was ranked the world's fastest-growing major city till 2035 in Savills' Growth Hubs Index.
- ❖ The index studied 245 global cities based on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth, migration, and wealth expansion.
- ❖ Bengaluru secured the top rank due to its strong talent pool and Global Capability Centres (GCCs).
- ❖ Global Capability Centres (GCCs) are offshore centres of multinational companies for technology, finance, and operations.
- ❖ Asia-Pacific cities accounted for nearly 85% of the top 20 fastest-growing cities in the ranking.



STATE NEWS

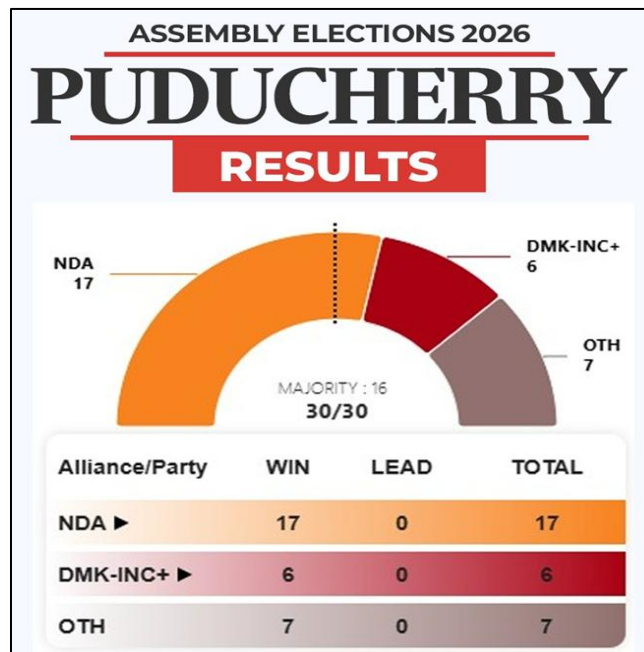
Centre of Excellence for Space Technology - Karnataka

- ❖ Karnataka launched India's first State-led Centre of Excellence for Space Technology in Bengaluru.
- ❖ The centre is set up by Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society in collaboration with SIA-India (Satcom Industry Association-India).
- ❖ It aims to promote advanced research, innovation, industry-aligned training, and talent development in space technologies.

- ❖ It will support the start-up incubation, ecosystem building, and cross-sector applications of space technology.
- ❖ The initiative focuses on converting the research into commercial outcomes, economic growth, and job creation.
- ❖ The centre aims to bridge the gap between research and market-ready solutions in the space sector.



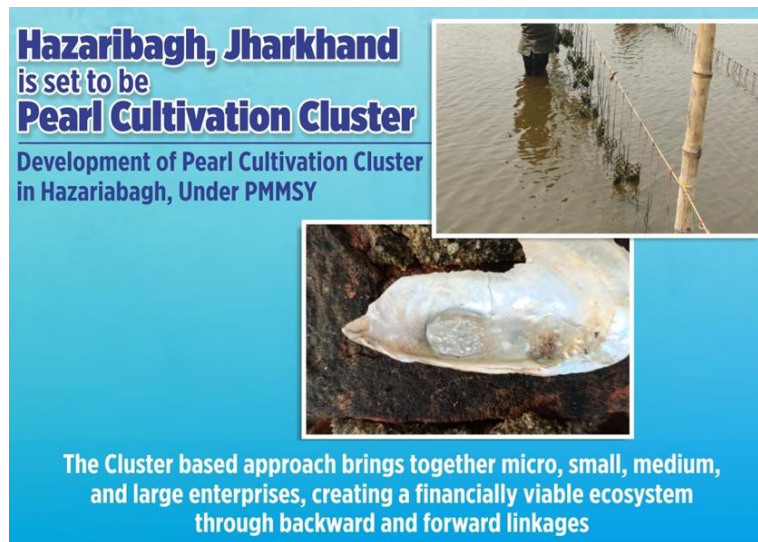
Puducherry Election Result 2026



- ❖ Puducherry Assembly Election Result 2026 was announced on 4 May 2026, with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) securing a majority of seats.

- ❖ N. Rangasamy led the All India N.R. Congress (AINRC)-led NDA, which won 18 out of 30 Assembly seats.
- ❖ AINRC secured 12 seats, while Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 4 seats in the alliance.
- ❖ N. Rangasamy is set to become Chief Minister for the fifth time after winning both constituencies he contested.
- ❖ The opposition INDIA bloc, led by Congress and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), won 6 seats in the election.

India's First Pearl Farming Cluster



- ❖ Hazaribag in Jharkhand became India's first pearl farming cluster under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- ❖ The project received an investment of ₹22 crore from the Central and Jharkhand governments.
- ❖ Hazaribag was officially notified as the Pearl Cluster on 30 August 2024.
- ❖ The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) recorded production of 1.02 lakh pearls from Hazaribag district.
- ❖ Hyriopsis cumingii is a freshwater mussel species used for pearl cultivation in the cluster.
- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is a central scheme for fisheries and aquaculture development.

