

May - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Indian journalists R. K. Anand and Suparna Sharma won the Pulitzer Prize (2026) for Illustrated Reporting and Commentary, shared with Natalie Obiko Pearson for work published in Bloomberg.
 - The award-winning investigation titled ‘trAPPEd’ highlighted cyber fraud and a “digital arrest” scam involving a neurologist in India.
- ❖ Ted Turner, founder of CNN, died at the age of 87, and he created the world’s first 24-hour all-news television network.
- ❖ Hyderabad-based startup EON Space Labs launched Lumira_E40I50, India’s first germanium-free thermal drone camera for surveillance applications.
 - The system is designed for aerial intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) missions using drone platforms.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

17th Legislative Assembly - Key Governance Updates



- ❖ Karuppaiah M.V. (Sholavandan MLA) sworn in as Pro-tem Speaker by Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar at Lok Bhavan.
- ❖ The 17th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly convened its first sitting at 9:30 a.m. on May 11, 2026.
- ❖ All newly elected MLAs are to take the oath or affirmation during the inaugural session.

- ❖ Election for Speaker and Deputy Speaker scheduled on May 12, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.
- ❖ C. Joseph Vijay resigned as MLA from Tiruchi East constituency in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ Resignation submitted by ministers K.A. Sengottaiyan and P. Venkataramanan to Principal Secretary K. Srinivasan.
- ❖ Vijay was elected from the Perambur and Tiruchi East constituencies; Tiruchi East resignation triggered a by poll within six months.
- ❖ Udhayanidhi Stalin was elected leader of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Legislature Party and to serve as Leader of Opposition.
- ❖ K.N. Nehru appointed Deputy Leader of the DMK Legislature Party, and E.V. Velu was designated as DMK Whip.

CM's First Day Actions



- ❖ C. Joseph Vijay, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, signed three key files immediately after the swearing-in ceremony in Chennai.
- ❖ The decisions include approval of 200 units of free electricity for domestic consumers using up to 500 units bimonthly.
- ❖ The launch of an elite women's safety unit named 'Singa Pen Special Force' for the rapid response to women-related complaints.
- ❖ Creation of an Anti-Narcotic Task Force to combat illegal drugs and psychotropic substances across the State.


- ❖ The task force will function through 65 police stations across 37 districts and nine cities.
- ❖ Senior IAS officer P. Senthil Kumar was appointed as Secretary-I to the Chief Minister.
- ❖ G. Laxmi Priya was appointed as Secretary-II to the Chief Minister shortly after he assumed office.

Tamil Nadu CM - Second Debutant Legislator Milestone

TVK GOVERNMENT


9 MINISTERS TO BE SWORN IN WITH

VIJAY




THE 9 TVK MINISTERS

- 1 'BUSSY' N. ANAND**
Chennai, T. Nagar
- 2 AADHAV ARJUNA**
Chennai, Villivakkam
- 3 K.G. ARUNRAAJ**
Tiruchengodu
- 4 K.A. SENGOTTAIYAN**
Gobichettipalayam
- 5 P. VENKATARAMANAN**
Mylapore
- 6 C.T.R. NIRMALKUMAR**
Thirupparankundram
- 7 A. RAJMOHAN**
Chennai, Egmore
- 8 T.K. PRABHU**
Karaikudi
- 9 S. KEERTHANA**
Sivakasi




CHENNAI
WILL HAVE
5 MINISTERS


REGIONAL REPRESENTATION




WESTERN BELT
2 MINISTERS



SOUTH
3 MINISTERS



1 REPRESENTATIVE
FOR WOMEN



1 REPRESENTATIVE
FOR SCHEDULED CASTES

- ❖ C. Joseph Vijay, founder of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam and actor, became the second debutant legislator since 1967 to be sworn in as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ He is also the first Chief Minister from a minority religious denomination (Christian) in the State.
- ❖ In 2001, O. Panneerselvam became Chief Minister in his first term as legislator after the Supreme Court disqualified J. Jayalalithaa from office.
- ❖ Unlike that case, Vijay entered electoral politics as the Chief Ministerial face of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, which he launched in February 2024.



- ❖ C.N. Annadurai served as a legislator from 1957–62 before becoming Chief Minister in 1967, while his successor, M. Karunanidhi, was a third-time legislator when he took office in 1969.
- ❖ M.G. Ramachandran served as a legislator in 1967 and 1971 before becoming Chief Minister in 1977 during his third term.
- ❖ J. Jayalalithaa became Chief Minister in 1991 after earlier serving as a legislator and Leader of Opposition in 1989, and having been a Rajya Sabha member earlier.
- ❖ Edappadi K. Palaniswami became Chief Minister in 2017 during his fourth term as a legislator and after holding ministerial experience.
- ❖ M.K. Stalin assumed office as Chief Minister in 2021 during his seventh entry into the Assembly.
- ❖ Incidentally, Janaki Ramachandran, widow of M.G. Ramachandran, briefly served as Chief Minister without being a member of the legislature, but her ministry was short-lived.

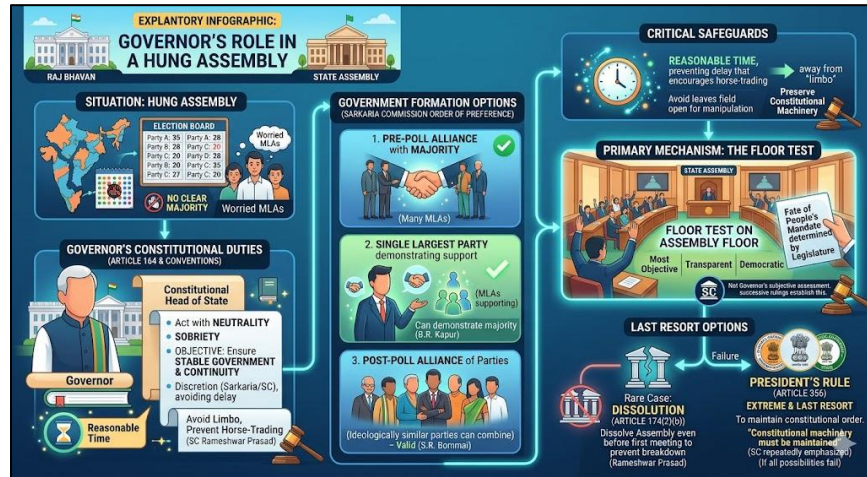
Governor's Role in a Hung Assembly

- ❖ Under Article 164 of the Constitution, the Governor appoints the Chief Minister, but there is no fixed constitutional procedure for selecting a Chief Minister in a hung Assembly.
- ❖ Constitutional conventions require the Governor to act with neutrality, sobriety, and the objective of ensuring a stable government.
- ❖ The Governor, as the constitutional head of the State, is primarily responsible for ensuring continuity of constitutional governance and political stability.
- ❖ The Sarkaria Commission, the Committee of Governors appointed after the November 1970 Conference in New Delhi, and the Supreme Court conventions state that the Governor's personal bona fides are irrelevant in decision-making.
- ❖ The Governor must explore all possible options by consulting political parties, coalitions, and independent MLAs within a reasonable time to enable government formation.
- ❖ The Constitution does not define "reasonable time," but Governors cannot delay indefinitely, as such delay may encourage horse-trading and political instability.
- ❖ The Governor's duty is to act to preserve constitutional machinery in the State and avoid breakdown of governance.
- ❖ If all possibilities fail, the Governor may recommend President's Rule under Article 356 as a last resort to maintain constitutional order.



- ❖ The Governor cannot remain in limbo, neither appointing a government nor dissolving the Assembly without constitutional justification.
- ❖ The Supreme Court in B.R. Kapur (2001) and Rameshwar Prasad (2006) held that a Governor may dissolve a Legislative Assembly under Article 174(2)(b) even before its first meeting in rare cases to prevent constitutional breakdown.
- ❖ The Governor must avoid leaving the field open for manipulation or delay that undermines the electorate's mandate.
- ❖ The Sarkaria Commission (1988), later endorsed by the Supreme Court, laid down a clear order of preference for government formation.
 - First preference is to invite a pre-poll alliance that has a clear majority in the House.
 - Second preference is to invite the single largest party that can demonstrate the ability to form a stable government.
 - The third preference is a post-poll alliance of parties that can collectively demonstrate majority support.
- ❖ The use of post-poll alliances has become more common due to coalition politics and fragmented mandates.
- ❖ The Supreme Court in S.R. Bommai (1994) held that the Constitution does not require that a government must necessarily have a pre-formed majority at the time of appointment.
- ❖ Ideologically similar parties may form post-poll alliances to secure a majority in the House, which is constitutionally valid.
- ❖ If none of the options result in a stable government, the Governor may recommend President's Rule, but only as an extreme and last resort measure.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has repeatedly emphasized that "constitutional machinery in the State should, as far as possible, be maintained."
- ❖ The Committee of Governors also concluded that testing majority support should normally be done on the floor of the Assembly.
- ❖ Though S.R. Bommai included observations limiting floor tests to situations where an incumbent Chief Minister is alleged to have lost majority, later judgments expanded its use.
- ❖ Successive Supreme Court rulings have established the floor test as the most objective, transparent, and democratic method to determine majority support.
- ❖ Courts have stressed that the fate of the people's mandate must not depend on the Governor's subjective discretion.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has repeatedly ordered floor tests to resolve disputes over majority, whether for existing or incoming governments.

- ❖ The floor test has become the primary constitutional mechanism to ensure stability and prevent misuse of discretionary power.
- ❖ The Court has affirmed that the legislature, not the Raj Bhavan, is the true forum where democracy is exercised.
- ❖ Ultimately, the decision on who governs must be determined on the floor of the House, not by the Governor's personal assessment.



NATIONAL NEWS

DigiPIN - Digital Address System



- ❖ India Post launched the DigiPIN (Digital Postal Index Number) system under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, for digital address identification.
- ❖ DigiPIN is a 10-digit geo-coded digital address system linked with latitude and longitude for precise location mapping and delivery.
- ❖ It improves address accuracy in postal services through fine location-based digital mapping.

- ❖ The system is integrated with India Post for mail delivery, tracking, last-mile connectivity, and emergency services support.
- ❖ DigiPIN is developed in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad and National Remote Sensing Centre (ISRO) and works alongside the traditional 6-digit PIN code system introduced in 1972.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Non-Tariff Barriers and Tariff Barriers



- ❖ UN Trade and Development released the report “Invisible Barriers: The Costs of Non-Tariff Measures”, stating that Non-Tariff Measures now cost more than tariffs for most countries.
- ❖ Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) include rules like technical standards, quality checks, safety norms, and certification requirements in trade.
- ❖ The report says NTMs impose higher export costs than tariffs for about 88% of countries.
- ❖ Developing countries face a double burden of tariff duties and high compliance costs for meeting complex trade regulations.



- ❖ Least Developed Countries (LDCs) lose around 10% of exports to G20 countries due to a lack of testing facilities and certification systems.
- ❖ Global trade negotiations are now focusing more on regulatory simplification rather than only reducing tariffs.

