

May - 23

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the Agricola Medal, the highest honour given by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- ❖ A. Amalraj was appointed as the new Commissioner of Police for Chennai, while G. S. Sameeran assumed charge as Commissioner of the Greater Chennai Corporation in May 2026.
- ❖ Manindra Agrawal, Director of the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, was elected Fellow of the Royal Society, London.
- ❖ Kevin Warsh is set to be sworn in as the 11th Chair of the Federal Reserve, the central banking system of the United States.
- ❖ Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Indian War Memorial at Imjingak Park near Seoul to mark the 75th anniversary of the Korean War.
- ❖ West Bengal made the singing of “Vande Mataram” compulsory in all State-aided madrasas through an order issued by the Directorate of Madrasa Education.
 - Students must sing “Vande Mataram” before classes along with the National Anthem “Jana Gana Mana”.
- ❖ International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) is observed every year on 17 May to raise awareness about discrimination and violence faced by LGBTQIA+ people.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "At the heart of democracy."
- ❖ World Bee Day is observed every year on 20 May to raise awareness about the importance of bees and other pollinators.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Bee together for people and the planet – A partnership that sustains us all.”

TAMIL NADU NEWS

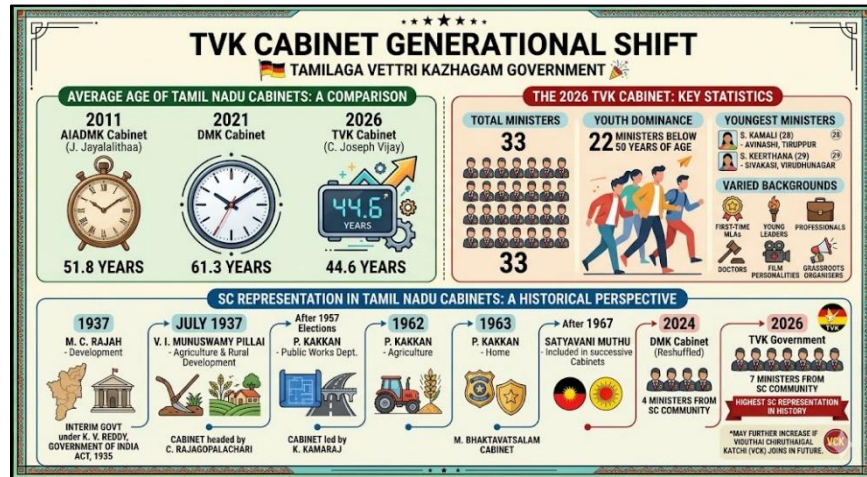
TVK Cabinet Generational Shift

- ❖ The 2026 Cabinet, led by C. Joseph Vijay, has an average age of 44.6 years.
- ❖ The average age was 51.8 years in the 2011 All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Cabinet led by J. Jayalalithaa and 61.3 years in the 2021 Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Cabinet.
- ❖ Out of the 33 Ministers in the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam government, 22 Ministers are below 50 years of age.



- ❖ The Cabinet includes several first-time MLAs, young leaders, professionals, lawyers, doctors, film personalities, and grassroots organisers from different parts of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ S. Kamali, representing Avinashi constituency in Tiruppur district, became the youngest Minister in the Cabinet at the age of 28.
- ❖ S. Keerthana, representing Sivakasi constituency in Virudhunagar district, became one of the youngest Ministers at the age of 29.
- ❖ The Cabinet has seven Ministers from the Scheduled Caste (SC) community, the highest SC representation in the history of Tamil Nadu Cabinets.
- ❖ Earlier, the reshuffled 2024 DMK Cabinet had four Ministers from the SC community.
- ❖ SC representation in Tamil Nadu Cabinets dates back to the Madras Presidency period.
- ❖ In 1937, M. C. Rajah was included in the interim Cabinet formed under K. V. Reddy under the Government of India Act, 1935.
- ❖ M. C. Rajah was given the Development portfolio in the Madras Presidency government.
- ❖ In July 1937, V. I. Munuswamy Pillai became Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Cabinet headed by C. Rajagopalachari.
- ❖ After the 1957 general elections, P. Kakkan joined the Cabinet led by K. Kamaraj and handled the Public Works Department.
- ❖ In 1962, P. Kakkan was given the agriculture portfolio.
- ❖ In 1963, when M. Bhakthavatchalam became Chief Minister, the home portfolio was assigned to P. Kakkan.
- ❖ After the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam came to power in 1967, Satyavani Muthu was included in successive Cabinets.
- ❖ The present SC representation in the Cabinet may increase further if Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi joins the government in the future.
- ❖ With the induction of Vanni Arasu from VCK, the number of Scheduled Caste members in the Cabinet has increased to eight.
- ❖ This is the first time that eight people from the SC community have been included simultaneously in the Tamil Nadu Cabinet
- ❖ With VCK's Vanni Arasu and IUML's Shahjahan on board, Vijay's Cabinet in Tamil Nadu now has 35 Ministers.
- ❖ Mr. Shahjahan will be the Minister for Minorities Welfare, while Mr. Vanni Arasu will be handling the Adi Dravidar Welfare and Hill Tribes portfolio, and will be known as Minister for Social Justice.

- ❖ This is the first time the VCK and the IUML have been made part of the government.
- ❖ With the induction of Congress MLAs into the Cabinet, the party has joined the government after 59 years, since 1967.
- ❖ It was making the State's first coalition government since 1952.



Tamil Nadu Cabinet Expansion 2026



- ❖ The Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam-led Tamil Nadu Cabinet expanded from 10 to 33 ministers.
- ❖ Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay inducted 23 new ministers into the Cabinet.
- ❖ The Indian National Congress joined the Tamil Nadu government after 59 years, making it the State's first coalition government after 1952.

- ❖ Velachery MLA R. Kumar was appointed Minister for Artificial Intelligence (AI), Information Technology (IT), and Digital Services.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu became the second State in India, after Kerala, to create a dedicated Artificial Intelligence ministry.

SC Judges in Stalin Election Case



- ❖ Two Supreme Court judges withdrew from delivering the verdict in the 2011 Kolathur election dispute case involving DMK leader M.K. Stalin and AIADMK leader Saidai S. Duraisamy.
- ❖ Supreme Court Justices J.K. Maheshwari and Vijay Bishnoi recused themselves from the case on 15 May 2026.
- ❖ The case relates to allegations of “corrupt practices” during the 2011 Tamil Nadu Assembly election in the Kolathur constituency in Chennai.
- ❖ AIADMK (All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) leader Saidai S. Duraisamy accused DMK (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) leader M.K. Stalin of influencing voters using money and gifts.
- ❖ The appeal had been pending in the Supreme Court since 2017 and was reserved for judgment on 19 February 2026 after detailed hearings.
- ❖ The judges ordered that the matter be reheard before another Bench in which neither of them would be members.
- ❖ The Madras High Court had dismissed the allegations in 2017 due to a lack of conclusive evidence and the absence of a valid digital evidence certification under Section 65B of the Indian Evidence Act.

- ❖ A charge of corrupt practice, including bribery of electors to vote in favour of a candidate comes under Section 123 of the 1951 Act.

NATIONAL NEWS

BIS Fuel Standards 2026

- ❖ Bureau of Indian Standards notified new standards for E22, E25, E27, and E30 ethanol-blended petrol fuels under IS 19850:2026.
- ❖ E30 fuel contains 30% ethanol blended with petrol, and India aims to achieve 30% ethanol blending by 2030 under the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018.
- ❖ BIS also released IS 18698:2026 standards for Dimethyl Ether (DME) blended Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), replacing the 2024 standard.
- ❖ Dimethyl Ether (DME) is a clean-burning synthetic fuel used as an alternative to LPG, and China accounts for nearly 90% of global DME production capacity.
- ❖ BIS develops standards for petrol, biofuels, hydrogen, biodiesel, and green fuels to ensure fuel quality, safety, and reduced environmental impact.

BIG UPDATE FOR INDIA
NEW PETROL STANDARDS
E22-E30 NOTIFIED!
NEW STANDARD IS 19850:2026 NOTIFIED BY BIS
WILL COME INTO EFFECT FROM **MAY 15, 2026**

| WHAT DO E22-E30 MEAN? | WHY INDIA IS DOING THIS? | WHAT THIS MEANS FOR VEHICLE OWNERS |
|---|--|--|
| E22 22% ETHANOL 78% PETROL | To reduce crude oil imports | Current E20-compatible vehicles may not be fully optimized for E25-E30. |
| E25 25% ETHANOL 75% PETROL | To lower emissions | Government has asked ARAI to study the impact of E25 on existing vehicles (mileage, performance & durability). |
| E27 27% ETHANOL 73% PETROL | To use surplus domestic ethanol production | Automakers may need further engine calibration and fuel-system upgrades for higher blends. |
| E30 30% ETHANOL 70% PETROL | To improve energy security amid global oil supply issues | |

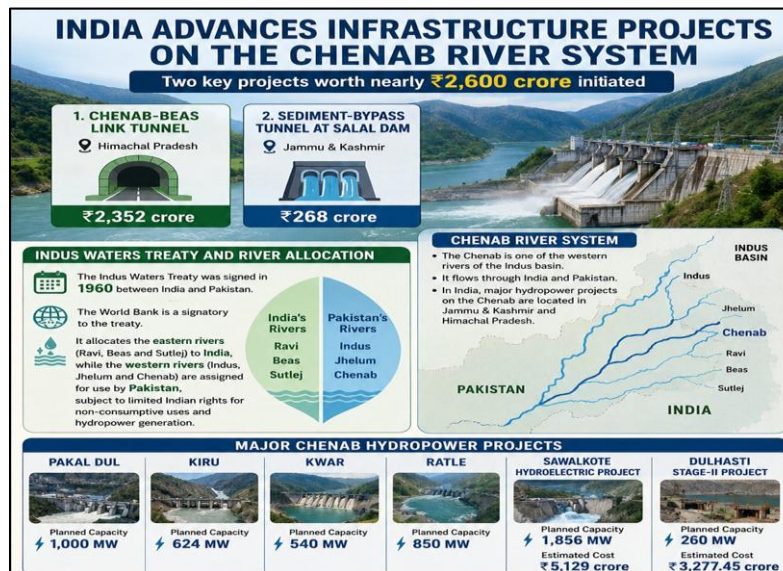
PRAGATI Platform

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired interactions through PRAGATI to review major government projects and public grievance matters.
- ❖ PRAGATI stands for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation.

- ❖ It is an Information and Communication Technology (ICT)-based multi-modal digital governance platform launched in 2015.
- ❖ The platform helps the Prime Minister review infrastructure projects, government schemes, and citizen grievances directly with Central and State officials.
- ❖ PRAGATI improves coordination between the Central Government, State Governments, and district-level administration for faster project implementation and decision-making.



Chenab Hydropower Projects



- ❖ India started work on new Chenab River hydropower projects amid the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty.
- ❖ The projects include the ₹2,352 crore Chenab-Beas Link Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh and the ₹268 crore sediment-bypass tunnel at Salal Dam in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The Chenab is one of the western rivers of the Indus river system shared by India and Pakistan.

- ❖ The Indus Waters Treaty was signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan with the World Bank as a signatory.
- ❖ India has also fast-tracked major Chenab hydropower projects such as Pakal Dul, Kiru, Kwar, Ratle, and Sawalkote in Jammu and Kashmir.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India-UK Steel Trade Issue



- ❖ India joined several countries at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in opposing the United Kingdom's steel safeguard measures.
- ❖ The United Kingdom (UK) imposed tariff-rate quotas and a 25% tariff on steel imports above quota limits.
- ❖ The safeguard measures were introduced after global steel overcapacity and the United States (US) Section 232 steel tariffs imposed in 2018.
- ❖ India said the new UK steel restrictions could affect the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).
- ❖ A safeguard measure is a temporary trade restriction allowed under WTO rules to protect domestic industries from a sudden rise in imports.

ECONOMY NEWS

India's First Weather Derivative

- ❖ National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) launched India's first Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)-approved weather derivative contract called RAINMUMBAI.

- ❖ The contract is linked to Mumbai rainfall during the monsoon season from June to September.
- ❖ Weather derivatives are financial contracts used to manage risks caused by changes in weather conditions.
- ❖ The contract uses official rainfall data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- ❖ NCDEX developed the contract in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay.



STATE NEWS

Hoysala Hero Stone Found



- ❖ A 12th-century Hoysala Veeragallu (hero stone) was discovered in Maniyur village of Mandya district, Karnataka.
- ❖ The Veeragallu belongs to the reign of the Hoysala ruler Vishnuvardhana.



- ❖ Veeragallu are memorial stones erected in honour of warriors who died in battles or acts of bravery.
- ❖ The Hoysala Empire ruled parts of present-day Karnataka between the 10th and 14th centuries Common Era (CE).
- ❖ Belur in Hassan district is an important heritage centre of the Hoysala dynasty.

