



September - 07

TNPSC BITS

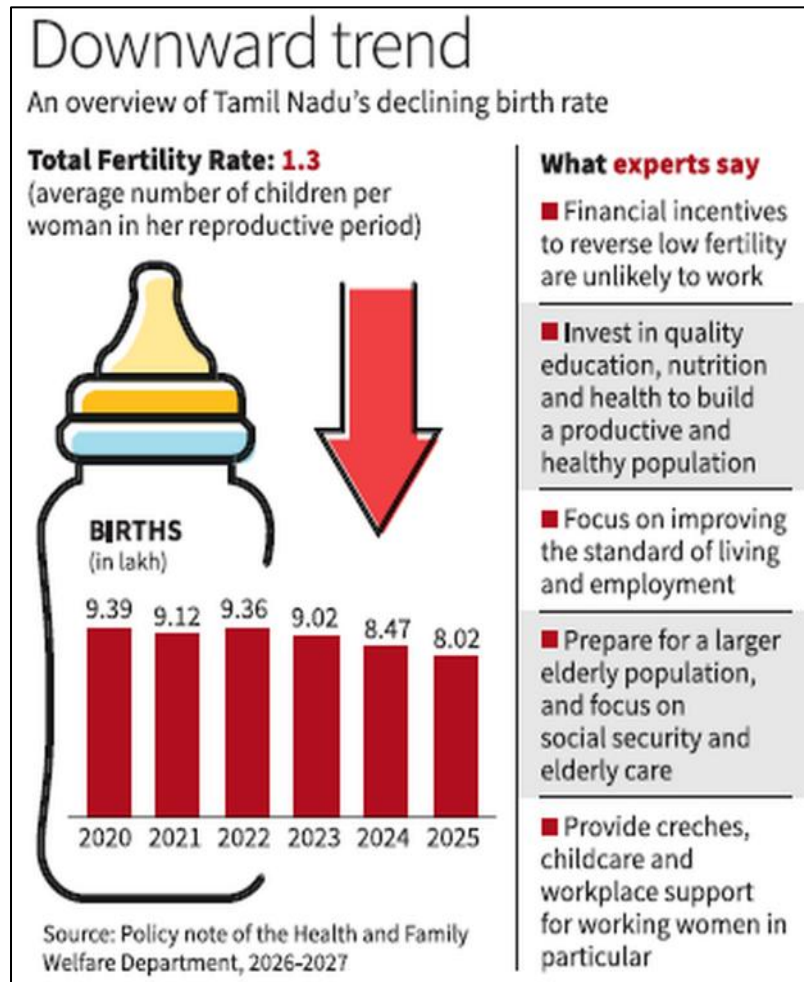
- ❖ Scientists have identified the new flowering plant *Osbeckia ulotricha* of the Melastomataceae family in the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve of the Western Ghats.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has shortlisted Cheyyur in Chengalpattu district and Manellore near Gummidipoondi in Tiruvallur district as the possible sites for Chennai's second airport.
 - The move follows the State government's decision to drop the proposed greenfield airport at Parandur and identify alternative sites.
- ❖ Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced that teachers in the State can use the prefix "Tr." (Teacher) before their names from Teachers' Day, September 5, 2026.
 - The prefix is intended as a mark of respect and recognition for the contribution of teachers to society.
- ❖ NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) partnered with Uzbekistan's National Interbank Processing Centre (NIPC) to enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) merchant payments in Uzbekistan.
 - Uzbekistan becomes the 11th country to accept UPI, after Singapore, United Arab Emirates, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Bhutan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Greece.
- ❖ Giorgia Meloni's government has become Italy's longest-serving government since World War II (WWII), surpassing the previous record of 1,412 consecutive days.
 - Meloni became Italy's first woman Prime Minister after her party, Brothers of Italy, won the 2022 general election.
- ❖ International Vulture Awareness Day 2026 was observed on September 5, the first Saturday of September, to raise awareness about the ecological importance of vultures and promote their conservation.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Strengthen the Vulture Safe Zone."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu Birth Rate Decline

- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded 8.02 lakh births in 2025, about 45,000 fewer than the 8.47 lakh births recorded in 2024, marking a 5.3% decline.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's total fertility rate (TFR) fell below the replacement level of 2.1 nearly 20 years ago, and population growth is now expected to decline after the effect of population momentum.
- ❖ The declining birth rate is expected to lead to a smaller working-age population and a larger elderly population in the future.
- ❖ The State may need to focus more on quality education, childcare, social security, elderly care, nutrition and employment opportunities rather than simply trying to increase births.



Restoration of Veera Vasantharayar Mandapam

- ❖ The Veera Vasantharayar Mandapam at the Meenakshi Amman Temple, Madurai, was formally inaugurated on August 30, 2026, after being reconstructed.
- ❖ The mandapam was built in 1611 CE by Muthu Veerappa Nayak, brother of King Thirumalai Nayak, and is located near the temple's eastern tower (Kizhakku Gopuram).

- ❖ Of the 136 pillars, 79 monoliths were completely carved anew by around 150 sculptors led by sthapani V.P. Velmurugan.
- ❖ Each new pillar had an 18.6-foot shaft and reached about 29 feet after adding the capital elements, including lion motifs.
- ❖ A Nandi facing the Sundareswarar shrine is located inside a stone cistern in the mandapam; the Nandi dates back to the Early Pandya period.



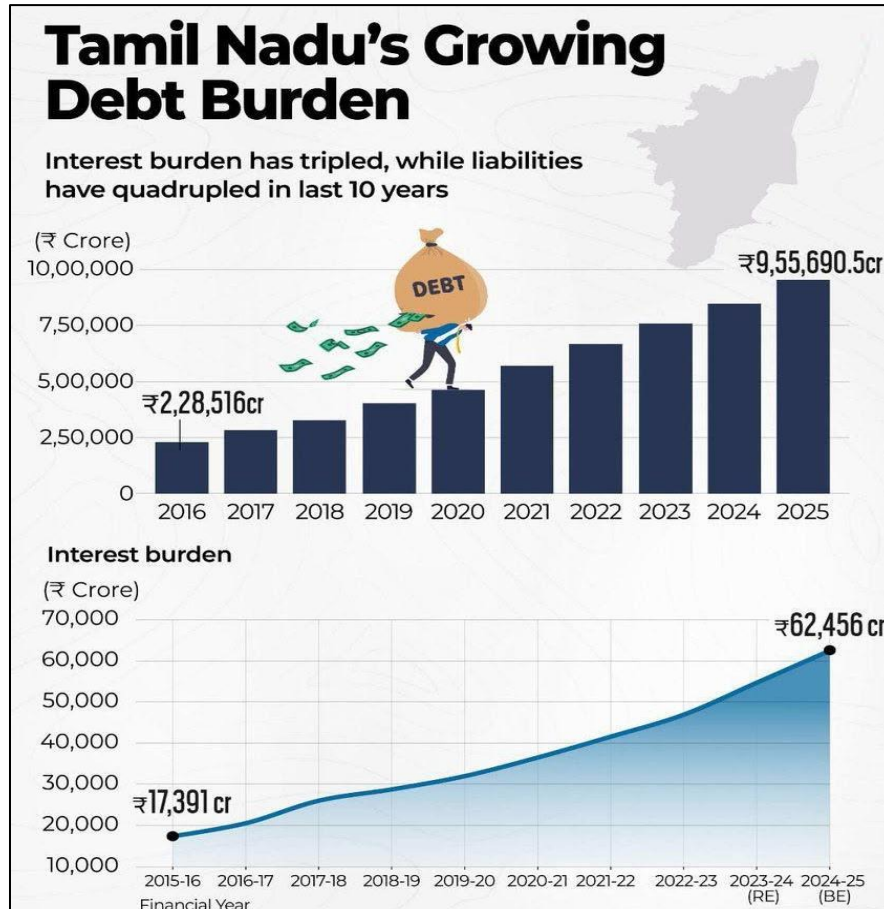
Sustainable debt-GSDP ratio for Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The sustainable level of the debt-gross state domestic product (GSDP) ratio for the State is 23%.
- ❖ There is a demand for the reduction of the level from the existing 27%.
- ❖ The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Committee headed by former civil servant N.K. Singh, in its report prepared in 2017, prescribed 20% as the prudent limit for the States in general.



- ❖ An allowance of an additional three percentage points can be provided for Tamil Nadu, considering the progress of macroeconomic factors in the last five-odd years.
- ❖ Emphasising that borrowing, per se, is not an undesirable activity, it is one of the major sources of financing development projects.
- ❖ When borrowed funds are invested in productive assets and infrastructure that generate economic growth and future income, the government will be able to service its debt with increased income.
- ❖ However, when the debt-GSDP ratio exceeds the prudent level, it becomes unsustainable, and the burden of debt servicing becomes excessive for the future,
- ❖ It is crowding out productive expenditure and pushing the government into a debt trap.
- ❖ The debt trap is a situation that is “bad for growth, development and stability.
- ❖ The debt issue is widespread in the country and not confined only to Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Only three States – Gujarat, Odisha, and Maharashtra – have debt-GSDP ratios below the 20% mark.
- ❖ While all others have crossed the threshold, nine States – Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal – have higher ratios than that of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Like in most other States, the debt-GSDP ratio in Tamil Nadu shot up in the COVID-19 pandemic year (2020-21), from which it has not been able to stage a comeback.
- ❖ In 2019-20, it was 22.78%.
- ❖ The next year, it rose to 28.67%.
- ❖ It has been hovering in the range of 28% to 26% since then.
- ❖ Though appreciative of Tamil Nadu for being able to keep its fiscal deficit at 3% of the GSDP, the revenue deficit (the excess of revenue expenditure over revenue receipts) is about 1.4% of the GSDP.
- ❖ It means that nearly 50% of the borrowed money is spent on consumption and not on investment.
- ❖ To reach the sustainable level of a debt-GSDP ratio of 23% around 2050-51, the State should achieve 15% nominal economic growth annually and keep the fiscal deficit at 3%.
- ❖ If it wants to attain the level faster, it should, at least, reduce the fiscal deficit.
- ❖ For example, assuming the State is able to keep the fiscal deficit at 2.5% with 14% nominal economic growth, it can reach 23% by 2033-34.

- ❖ By strongly advocating expenditure rationalisation, the government should not hesitate to drop outdated and unproductive welfare schemes.



NATIONAL NEWS

Article 142 - Limits and Powers

- ❖ The Supreme Court used Article 142 of the Constitution to quash criminal cases registered against NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) protesters.
- ❖ Article 142 empowers the Supreme Court to pass orders necessary to “do complete justice” in any case before it, and such orders are enforceable throughout India.
- ❖ The power is very wide, but it cannot be used to pass an order that violates the Constitution or fundamental rights.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has held that Article 142 can supplement existing law, but normally cannot replace substantive law or affect the rights of people who are not parties to the case.

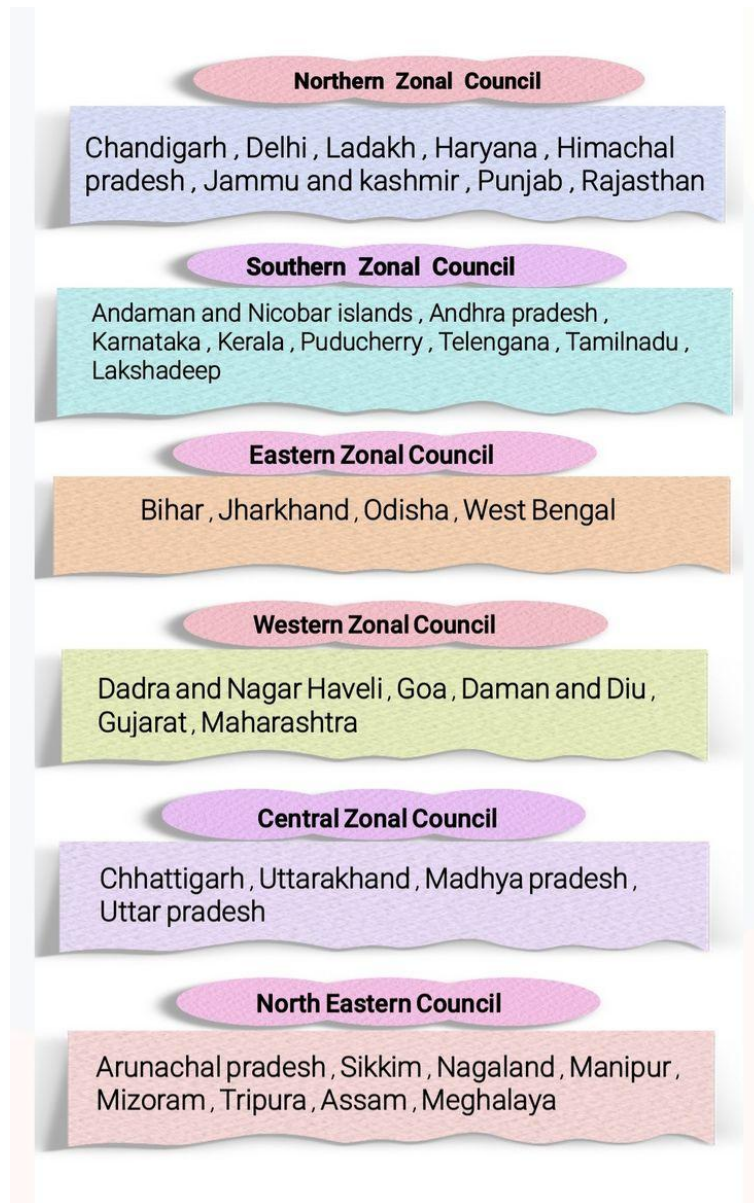
- ❖ In *Shilpa Sailesh v. Varun Sreenivasan* (2023), the Court held that Article 142 can allow departure from procedural or substantive law when necessary to achieve complete justice, subject to public policy.
- ❖ In *High Court Bar Association, Allahabad v. State of Uttar Pradesh* (2024), the Court reiterated that Article 142 cannot violate natural justice, including the right to be heard.



Western Zonal Council Meet

- ❖ Union Home Minister chairs the 28th meeting of the Western Zonal Council in Panaji, Goa.
- ❖ Zonal Councils are statutory bodies created under the State's Reorganisation Act, 1956, to promote cooperation and discuss issues between States and the Centre.
- ❖ India has 5 Zonal Councils — Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern.
- ❖ The Western Zonal Council consists of Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and the Union Territory (UT) of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.
- ❖ The Council includes the Chief Ministers and two ministers from each State; representatives of the UT and senior officers from the Centre and States also participate.

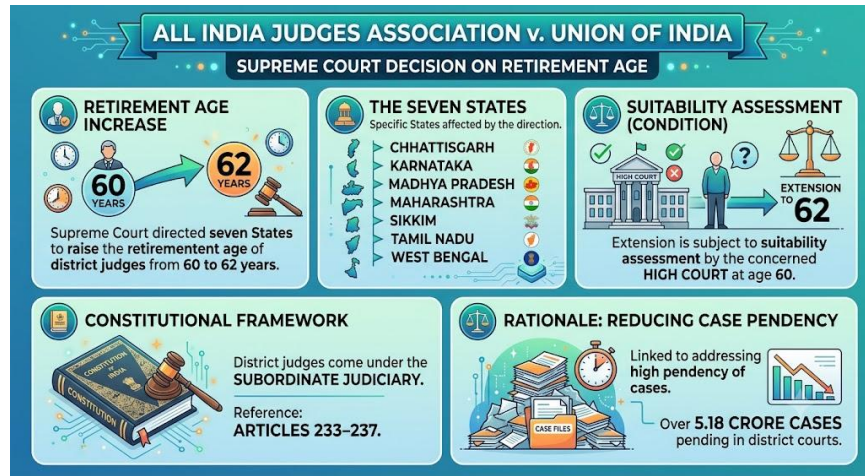
- ❖ The meeting is organised by the Inter-State Council Secretariat of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).



All India Judges Association v. Union of India

- ❖ In All India Judges Association v. Union of India, the Supreme Court directed seven States to raise the retirement age of district judges from 60 to 62 years.
- ❖ The seven States are Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.
- ❖ The extension to 62 years is subject to a suitability assessment by the concerned High Court at age 60.

- ❖ District judges come under the subordinate judiciary under Articles 233–237 of the Constitution.
- ❖ The decision is linked to the pendency of over 5.18 crore cases in district courts.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Trump US dollar 1 Commemorative Coin



- ❖ The United States Mint launched a \$1 commemorative coin featuring President Donald Trump to mark the country's 250th anniversary of independence.

- ❖ Trump became the first living U.S. president to appear on a U.S. coin since Calvin Coolidge in 1926.
- ❖ The coins are collectibles and are not issued for daily circulation, but they are legal tender.
- ❖ The coin has a golden colour but contains no actual gold; it is mainly made of copper, with zinc, nickel and manganese brass.
- ❖ The 1926 half-dollar featuring President Calvin Coolidge was the previous instance of a living U.S. president appearing on a U.S. coin.

UN Adopts Africa-Accurate Map



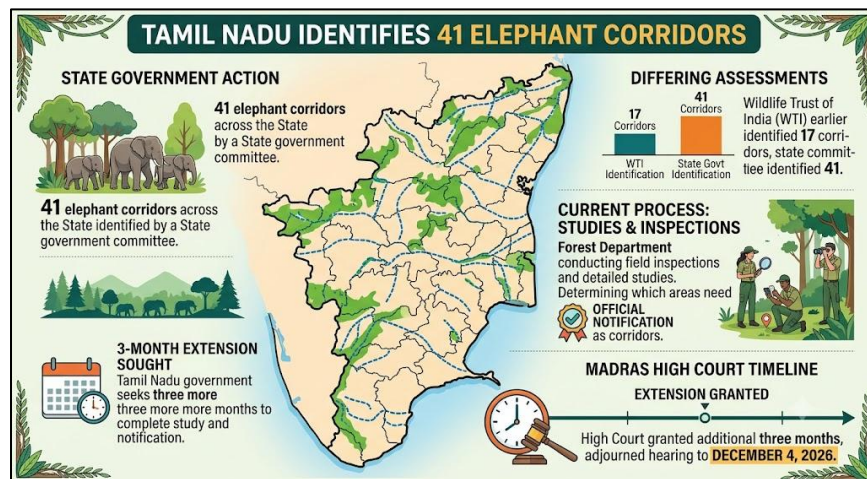
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the “Correct the Map” resolution to promote world maps that represent Africa’s size more accurately.
- ❖ The resolution was supported by 164 countries, while the United States voted against it and six countries abstained.
- ❖ It promotes the Equal Earth projection, which shows the relative sizes of continents more accurately than the Mercator projection.

- ❖ The Mercator projection, created in 1569, makes regions near the poles appear larger and Africa appear smaller; Africa is actually about 14 times larger than Greenland.
- ❖ The resolution is non-binding, but it is expected to encourage international institutions to use more accurate world maps.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

41 elephant Corridors in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has identified 41 elephant corridors across the State and sought three more months to complete their study and notification.
- ❖ The Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) had earlier identified 17 elephant corridors, while a state government committee identified 41 corridors.
- ❖ The Forest Department is conducting field inspections and detailed studies to determine which identified areas need to be officially notified as elephant corridors.
- ❖ The Madras High Court granted the additional three months and adjourned the hearing to December 4, 2026.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

New LG of Andaman Islands

- ❖ Dinesh Sharma, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament (MP), was appointed Lieutenant Governor (LG) of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ He previously served as the Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

- ❖ He is also the Vice-Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, and his Rajya Sabha term was scheduled to end on November 25, 2026.
- ❖ The Lieutenant Governor is the Administrator of the Union Territory (UT) and is appointed by the President of India under Article 239 of the Constitution.
- ❖ The LG administers the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on behalf of the President and exercises powers and functions assigned by the President and the Central Government.
- ❖ The Andaman and Nicobar Islands is a Union Territory without a Legislative Assembly, so its administration is directly under the Union Government through the LG.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is the nodal ministry for Union Territory administration, including matters relating to the appointment of LGs and Administrators.

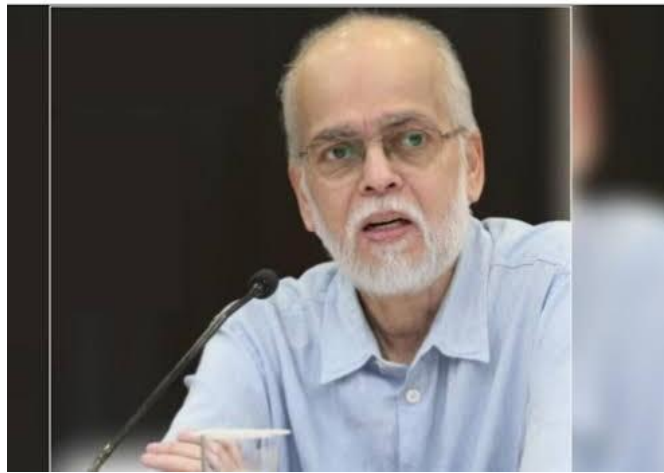


Krishna Achuta Rao Demise

- ❖ Renowned climate scientist and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi professor Krishna Achuta Rao died at 62 on September 4, 2026.
- ❖ He contributed to identifying the human influence on climate change, including temperature changes across Indian sub-regions.
- ❖ He worked on climate event attribution, such as heat waves, and applied Artificial Intelligence (AI) in climate and monsoon research.

- ❖ He served as Head of the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences and Dean (Faculty) at IIT Delhi and helped establish its Centre of Excellence for Climate Change Adaptation.
- ❖ He was a member of the World Climate Research Programme's Joint Scientific Committee from 2025.

Climate scientist and IIT Delhi professor Krishna AchutaRao dies at 62



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