

April - 08

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government plans to borrow ₹20,000 crore in the first quarter of fiscal 2025-26.
- ❖ A High-Level Committee (HLC) led by Union Home Minister approved ₹1,280.35 crore additional Central assistance to Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, affected by flood, flash flood, cloudburst, landslides, cyclonic storm, during 2024.
- ❖ The Union Government has announced plans to establish 440 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), ensuring one school in every block with over 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal residents.
- ❖ India and Japan are finalising the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) to share the emission reduction credits under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement.
- ❖ Indian media and entertainment (M&E) sector grew 8.1% in 2023 to reach ₹2.32 trillion from ₹2.14 trillion in 2022 and is expected to reach ₹3.08 trillion in 2026.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Ooty's first multi-specialty medical college



- ❖ Ooty's first multi-speciality medical college, officially known as the Government Medical College, was inaugurated in the Nilgiris.
- ❖ The 40-acre hospital in Indu Nagar will have 21 departments and first-of-its-kind patient facilities.

- ❖ For the first time a special ward with 50 beds would be opened in the medical college for the tribal communities.
- ❖ This is India's Second one in Hill after Shimla.

Pamban Rail Bridge

All about the new rail bridge at Pamban (TN)

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|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Length 2.1 km</p> <p>Cost Rs 531 cr</p> <p>Construction period Feb 2019 to Nov 2024</p> | <p>Significance Links mainland India to Pamban island via Palk Strait</p> <p>No of spans 100</p> <p>No of piers/abutments 101</p> | <p>No of piles 333</p> <p>Average pile depth below sea bed 38 m</p> <p>Cement used 3,38,014 bags</p> | <p>Concrete used 25,000 cubic metres</p> <p>Structural steel used 4,500 MT</p> <p>Stainless steel reinforcement used 5,772 MT</p> <p>Painting scheme: Zinc metallising, Epilux zinc rich primer, Polysiloxane paint (two coats) The painting will last 35 years. Afterwards, patchworks can be undertaken when necessary.</p> |
|--|--|--|--|



Why is the vertical lift span a big deal?

The **72.5**-metre-long vertical lift span is used for navigation, meaning ships can pass under it. It is operated by an electro-mechanical system, which is interlocked with train control systems. It has **34**-metre-tall towers on both ends and can be lifted in 5 minutes and 30 seconds.

The navigational span, including towers and counterweights, weigh **1,470** MT.

The bottom of the navigational span's girder sits **5** m from the water level. The span can be raised up to **17** m. So floating pontoons, coast guard ships and fishing boats with an air clearance of **22** m can pass under this span.

The sub-structure of the new bridge has been designed and built to accommodate a second electrified track in the future.

134 trains can pass on the new bridge per week at a maximum speed of **75** km.



- ❖ Indian Prime minister inaugurated the Pamban Rail Bridge, which connects the mainland to Rameswaram.
- ❖ The bridge is the country's first vertical lift railway bridge.
- ❖ It replaced the century-old Pamban Bridge whose operations were suspended in December 2022.

- ❖ The construction work of old Pamban rail bridge began in June 1911 and was opened on February 24, 1914.
- ❖ The bridge was aimed to promote tobacco trade by the growers in Sri Lanka.

50 new firkas



ரூ.9.45 கோடியில்
22 மாவட்டங்களில் 27 புதிய வருவாய் ஆய்வாளர்
அலுவலகங்களுடன் கூடிய குடியிருப்புக் கட்டடங்கள் கட்டப்படும்.

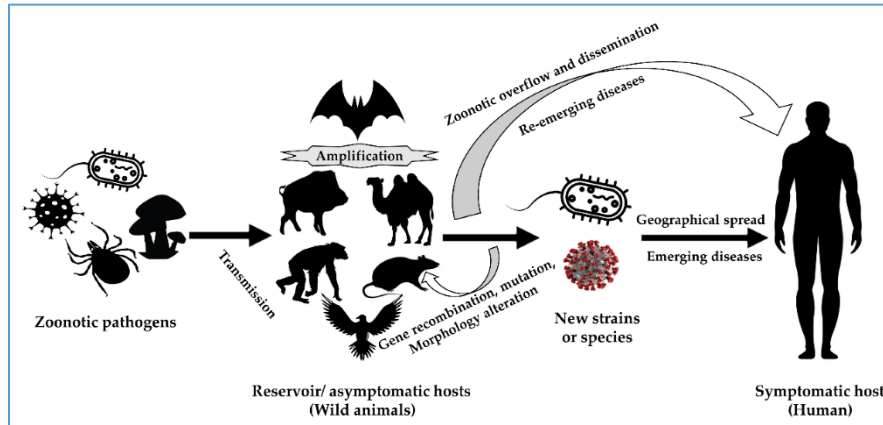
- தூத்துக்குடி மாவட்டத்தில் 3 குறுவட்டங்கள்,
- விழுப்புரம், இராமநாதபுரம் & திருவள்ளூர் ஆகிய 3 மாவட்டங்களில் தலா 2 குறுவட்டங்கள்
- கடலூர், திண்டுக்கல், மதுரை, விருதுநகர், வேலூர், திருநெல்வேலி, மயிலாடுதுறை, நாகப்பட்டினம், திருச்சி, திருவண்ணாமலை, புதுக்கோட்டை, கிருஷ்ணகிரி, கரூர், நாமக்கல், திருவாரூர், தஞ்சாவூர், தருமபுரி மற்றும் திருப்பத்தூர் ஆகிய 18 மாவட்டங்களில் தலா 1 குறுவட்டம்.

- ❖ Chennai, Chengalpattu, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram and several districts with a growth in population will get additional revenue inspectors for administering 50 new firkas.
- ❖ The 50 new firkas, comprising a group of villages, will be headed by a revenue inspector.
- ❖ Chennai district alone would get 14 new firkas, Chengalpattu 4, Tiruvallur 2 and Kancheepuram 2.
- ❖ Madurai would get 7 new firkas while Salem would get 4. For Tirunelveli, it would be 3 additional firkas.
- ❖ Cities such as Thoothukudi, Tiruvannamalai, Erode, Tirupattur, Dindigul, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Tiruppur and Villupuram would get one firka each.
- ❖ The government would also create 25 new revenue villages in districts such as Chengalpattu, Tiruchi and Madurai.
- ❖ Currently, there are 1,197 firkas and 16,744 villages in the 38 districts of the State.

Study on zoonotic diseases

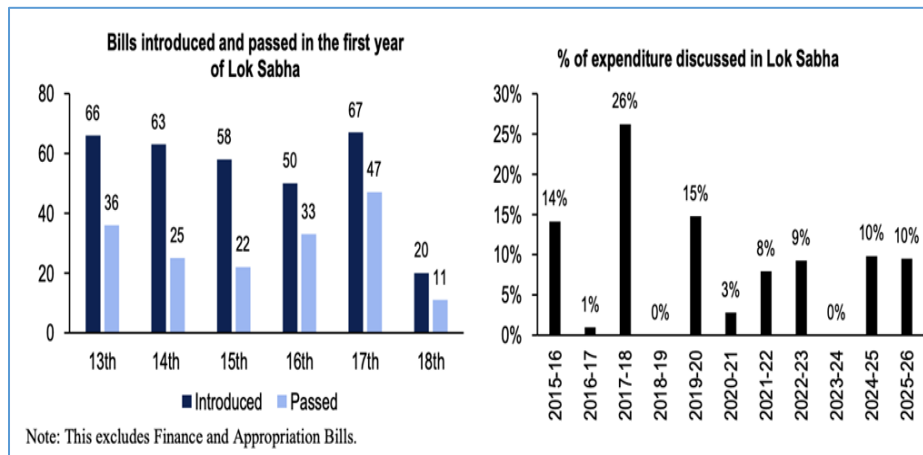
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is among three States taking part in a first-of-its-kind study led by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

- ❖ This study aims to build a surveillance model for tracking zoonotic diseases in increased bird-human interaction settings, such as sanctuaries.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, the study will be conducted at the Point Calimere bird sanctuary in Nagapattinam and Vaduvur bird sanctuary in Tiruvarur.



NATIONAL NEWS

First Budget Session of the 18th Lok Sabha



- ❖ The first Budget Session of the 18th Lok Sabha was marked with the very high productivity.
- ❖ It saw disruptions on the last day, with adjournments in both Houses.
- ❖ The Rajya Sabha broke old records by sat without a break for 17.02 hours to clear the Waqf Bill.
- ❖ The Motion of Thanks on the President's address was debated for 17 hours 23 minutes in Lok Sabha exceeding the allotted time of 12 hours.
- ❖ In Rajya Sabha, this debate went on for 21 hours 46 minutes.

- ❖ The Union Budget was discussed in Lok Sabha for 16 hours and 13 minutes and in Rajya Sabha for 17 hours and 56 minutes.
- ❖ A total of 16 Bills were passed by both Houses of Parliament.
- ❖ The Lok Sabha recorded 118% productivity and the Rajya Sabha is 119%.
- ❖ Only 28% of starred questions were answered orally.
- ❖ Eleven bills were passed in the first year of the 18th Lok Sabha — the lowest since 1999.
- ❖ The Lok Sabha debated the expenditure of only three ministries.

SC on Right to shelter

- ❖ Supreme Court, in the case of Zulfiqar Haider vs State of Uttar Pradesh of 2021, has directed Prayagraj Development Authority to pay compensation of Rs 10 lakh each to five people whose houses were illegally razed in 2021.
- ❖ It also stated that, the right to shelter is a fundamental right and an integral part of Article 21 of the Constitution.
- ❖ The SC reinstated the mandatory 15 days' prior notice with a clear mention of violations, and a fair chance for occupants to challenge demolition orders.



Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025

- ❖ Parliament approved the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025 that will help reduce risks and costs for aircraft leasing by airlines in India.
- ❖ The Bill builds on the framework of the Cape Town Convention of 2001.

- ❖ This Convention has aimed to simplify and the standardize international leasing agreements.
- ❖ India formally adopted this convention in 2008.

Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025

- **Legal Force to Cape Town Convention**
Ensures enforceability of its provisions in India for consistency in aircraft transactions
- **Enhanced Remedies for Lessors & Financiers**
Empowers stakeholders with Irrevocable De-registration and Export Request Authorization (IDERA) for swift aircraft repossession in case of default
- **Streamlined Judicial Mechanism**
Designates the High Court as the relevant court for dispute resolution under the Convention

ZooWIN platform



- ❖ The union health ministry has introduced a digital platform, ZooWIN.



- ❖ It is designed to track and manage the real-time availability of the anti-rabies vaccines (ARV) and anti-snake venom (ASV) across the country.
- ❖ Similar to the Co-WIN and U-WIN platforms, ZooWIN will centralise the data and improve collaboration among the healthcare providers, municipal authorities, and veterinary services.
- ❖ India alone accounts for nearly 36 per cent of global rabies fatalities, with approximately 60,000 deaths worldwide each year.
- ❖ Additionally, snake bites cause around 50,000 deaths annually in India.

PMJDY accounts

| | |
|---|---|
| 55.7% of 54.58 Crore Jan Dhan Accounts held by women (30.37 crore accounts) | Earning Potential of over ₹1.75 Lakh Annually |
| Bima Sakhi Yojana to Employ 2 Lakh Women | An average ₹15,000 per month for LIC agents |

- ❖ The Indian government has successfully opened over 55 crore Jan Dhan accounts under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY),
- ❖ The National Mission for Financial Inclusion (NMFII) has launched through the PMJDY in August 2014.
- ❖ The PMJDY aims to provide universal banking access to all unbanked adults.
- ❖ Jan Dhan account holders can receive funds directly through the government's Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system.

Hansa Next Generation Trainer Aircraft

- ❖ Centre finalised the Transfer of Technology (ToT) of CSIR's indigenously designed and developed HANSA-3 (NG) trainer aircraft for commercial pilot licensing (CPL).

- ❖ It is a next-generation, two-seater, ab-initio trainer aircraft developed for the pilot training.
- ❖ It was designed and developed indigenously by the CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) in Bengaluru.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

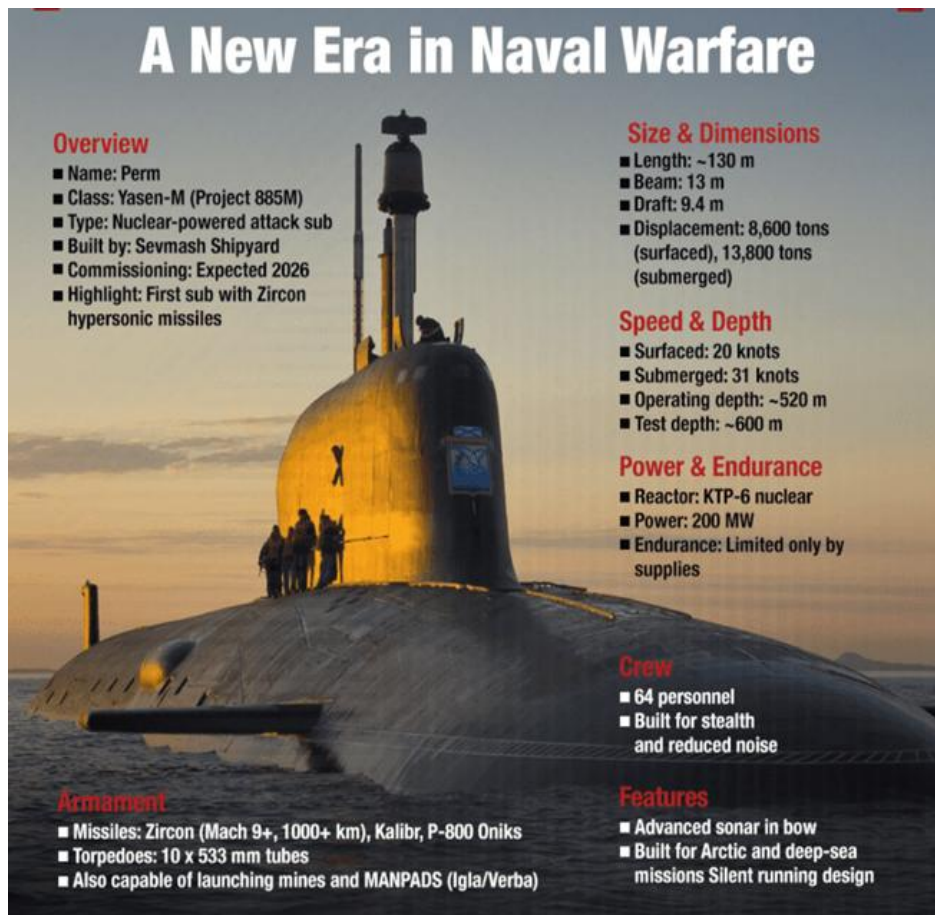
USA Reciprocal Tariffs

| Country | Tariffs charged on US goods * | US reciprocal tariffs ▾ |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Lesotho | 99% | 50% |
| 2 Saint Pierre and Miquelon | 99% | 50% |
| 3 Cambodia | 97% | 49% |
| 4 Laos | 95% | 48% |
| 5 Madagascar | 93% | 47% |
| 6 Vietnam | 90% | 46% |
| 7 Myanmar | 88% | 44% |
| 8 Sri Lanka | 88% | 44% |
| 9 Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) | 82% | 42% |
| 10 Syria | 81% | 41% |

- ❖ US President Donald Trump has announced a range of reciprocal tariffs targeting almost all countries that the United States trades.
- ❖ In 2023, the US imports were worth \$1.1 trillion more than its exports; no other country has as large a trade deficit as the US.

- ❖ Trump had been describing April 2 as “Liberation Day”.
- ❖ Chinese goods will face a 34 percent reciprocal tariff, bringing the overall tariff on Chinese goods to 54 percent.
- ❖ China also announced a reciprocal 34% tariffs on all imports from the United States from April 10.
- ❖ In 2024, China was the second-largest trading partner of the US.
- ❖ Cambodia been hit with the highest level of tariffs (49%).
- ❖ India has been smacked with a tariff rate of 26%.

Perm submarine



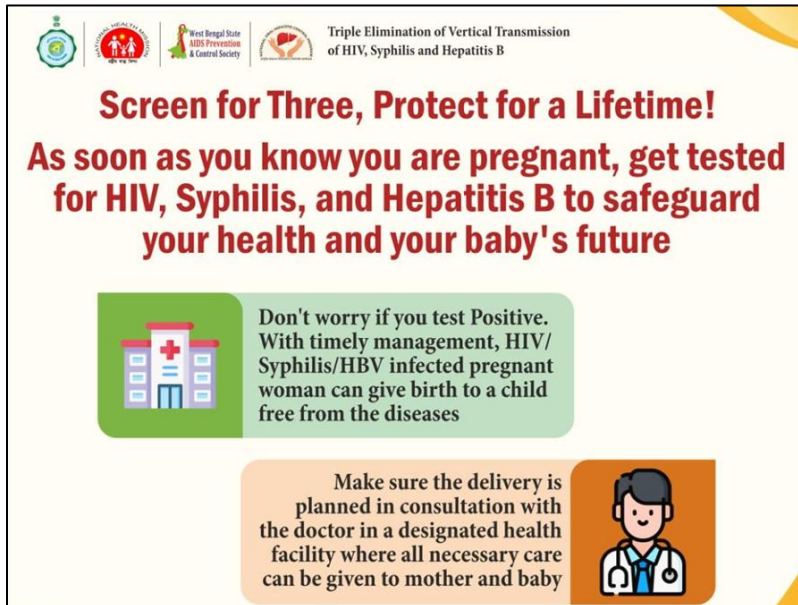
- ❖ President Vladimir Putin launched a nuclear-powered submarine named Perm, equipped with hypersonic Zircon missiles.
- ❖ Zircon is capable of traveling at several times the speed of sound.
- ❖ Zircon missiles have a range of 900 km and are hard to defend against.


- ❖ The Perm, built by the Sevmash shipyard, is the first of its class to feature these missiles as a standard weapon.

STATES' NEWS


West Bengal's Triple Elimination Initiative


- ❖ West Bengal has launched the 'Triple Elimination' initiative in partnership with the William J Clinton Foundation (WJCF) and WHO.
- ❖ It is believed to be the first-of-its kind in the country.
- ❖ It aims to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and Hepatitis B by 2026.
- ❖ All three diseases - HIV, syphilis and Hepatitis B are infectious, and their mode of transmission is similar, sexual and vertical (mother-to-child) transmission.



 Triple Elimination of Vertical Transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B

Screen for Three, Protect for a Lifetime!
As soon as you know you are pregnant, get tested for HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis B to safeguard your health and your baby's future

 Don't worry if you test Positive. With timely management, HIV/Syphilis/HBV infected pregnant woman can give birth to a child free from the diseases

Make sure the delivery is planned in consultation with the doctor in a designated health facility where all necessary care can be given to mother and baby 

IMPORTANT DAYS

Samata Diwas 2025 - April 5

- ❖ It is celebrated to remember the birth anniversary of Jagjivan Ram, a great leader and social reformer.
- ❖ During the provisional government, Jagjivan Ram became its youngest minister.
- ❖ After independence, he was appointed as the country's first labour minister.
- ❖ He was the defence minister during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971.



- ❖ During the Morarji Desai reign, Jagjivan Ram was appointed as the Deputy Prime Minister.
- ❖ He has a world record of being an MP for 50 years from 1936 to 1986 without interruption.
- ❖ He was also the longest-serving cabinet minister in India (30 years).

