

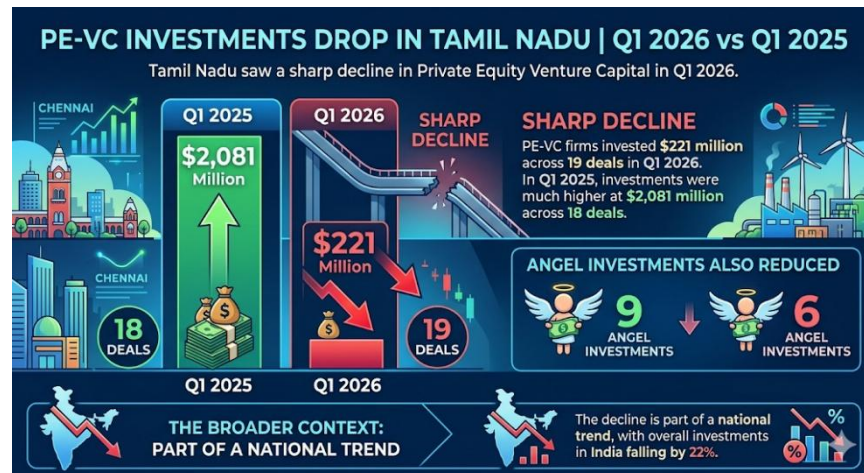
April - 08

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Railways has completed the 1,506 km long Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, connecting Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal to Dadri to improve freight transport across the country.
- ❖ China has the largest metro network (~11,000 km), followed by the United States of America (USA) (~1,400 km) and India (~1,100 km).
- ❖ The proposed Shree Jagannath International Airport in Puri, Odisha has received Stage-I forest clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.
  - The clearance was granted on 1 April 2026 for the diversion of about 27.886 hectares of forest land for the project.
- ❖ International Carrot Day 2026 is celebrated every year on April 4 to promote awareness about the benefits of carrots.
- ❖ International Romani Day is celebrated every year on April 8, marking the first World Romani Congress 1971 held in the United Kingdom.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### PE-VC Investments Drop in Tamil Nadu

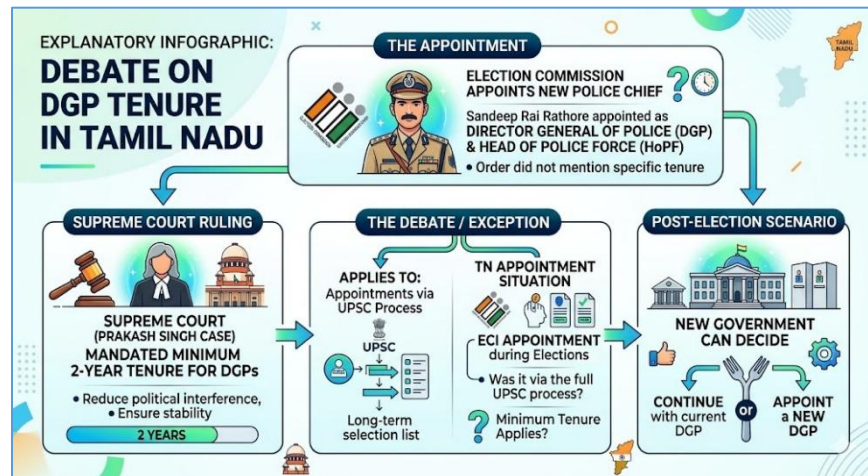


- ❖ Tamil Nadu saw a sharp decline in Private Equity Venture Capital in Q1 2026.
- ❖ PE-VC firms invested \$221 million across 19 deals in Q1 2026.
- ❖ In Q1 2025, investments were much higher at \$2,081 million across 18 deals.

- ❖ Angel investments reduced to 6 in Q1 2026 from 9 in Q1 2025.
- ❖ The decline is part of a national trend, with overall investments in India falling by 22%.

## DGP Tenure in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The Election Commission of India appointed a new police chief in Tamil Nadu, leading to a debate on his tenure.
- ❖ Sandeep Rai Rathore was appointed as Director General of Police (DGP) and Head of Police Force (HoPF).
- ❖ The order did not mention how long he will serve in this post.
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India earlier said DGP should have a minimum 2-year tenure in the Prakash Singh case.
- ❖ But this rule applies only to appointments made through the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- ❖ After elections, the new government can decide whether to continue or change him.



## Sattankulam Custodial Deaths Case Verdict

- ❖ A trial court in Madurai awarded the death penalty to nine policemen in the Sattankulam custodial deaths case.
- ❖ All nine policemen were found guilty by the Central Bureau of Investigation under the Indian Penal Code.
- ❖ The court also imposed a fine of over ₹1 crore on the convicts.
- ❖ The Madras High Court took suo motu action and found prima facie evidence of murder.

- ❖ The case was termed “rarest of rare,” and the maximum punishment was awarded.

## Tamil Nadu: Nine policemen get death sentence in Sattankulam custodial deaths case

In a landmark ruling, a Madurai court awarded death penalty to nine policemen in Sattankulam custodial deaths case.

### NATIONAL NEWS

#### Historic Cargo Handling by Ports



- ❖ India’s major ports handled a record 915.17 million tonnes of cargo in FY 2025–26, surpassing the target of 904 MT with 7.06% growth.
- ❖ Top performing ports include Deendayal Port Authority (160.11 MT), Paradip Port Authority (156.45 MT), and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (102.01 MT).
- ❖ Fastest growth was seen at Mormugao Port Authority and Kolkata Dock System.
- ❖ Growth is driven by better infrastructure, improved connectivity, digital systems, and faster ship turnaround time.

- ❖ India has 12 major ports handling bulk cargo, containers, and petroleum, supporting rising global trade.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Emergency Measles Vaccination Drive - Bangladesh



- ❖ Bangladesh has launched an emergency vaccination drive against a rapidly spreading measles outbreak.
- ❖ Measles is a highly contagious airborne disease caused by a virus from the paramyxovirus family.
- ❖ It spreads through coughing, sneezing, and contaminated air or surfaces, and can remain infectious for up to two hours.
- ❖ Common symptoms include high fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and skin rash, mainly affecting unvaccinated children.
- ❖ The measles-rubella (MR) vaccine provides long-term protection, and prevention through immunisation is the most effective control measure.

## ECONOMY NEWS

### CASA Ratio in Banks

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India data shows that the CASA (Current Account Savings Account) ratio fell to a two-year low of 37.9% in December 2025.
- ❖ CASA deposits are low-cost deposits made in current and savings accounts in banks.
- ❖ The decline happened as people shifted money to higher-return options like stocks, mutual funds, and gold.
- ❖ Savings account share fell to 28.9%, leading to the overall drop in the CASA ratio.


- ❖ Lower CASA increases banks' cost of funds, as they depend more on costly deposits and borrowings.
- ❖ This can reduce bank profits and affect their lending capacity.

## What is CASA Ratio?

$$\text{CASA Ratio} = \frac{(\text{CASA Deposits})}{\text{Total Deposits}} \times 100\%$$

### Why does it matter?

- Higher CASA = Lower cost of funds = Higher Net Interest Margin (NIM)
- Lower CASA = Dependence on expensive fixed deposits or borrowing
- Reflects customer trust and stickiness



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Madras Hedgehog Genome Study



## MADRAS HEDGEHOG

*Paraechinus nudiventris*

**FOUND IN**  
Peninsular India, primarily across Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and parts of Karnataka

**NUMBERS IN WILD**  
**NO KNOWN ESTIMATES**

**CONSERVATION STATUS**  
Least Concern under IUCN Red List

**MAJOR THREATS**  
Habitat loss from agriculture, plantations, and wind or solar infrastructure, poaching, road mortality

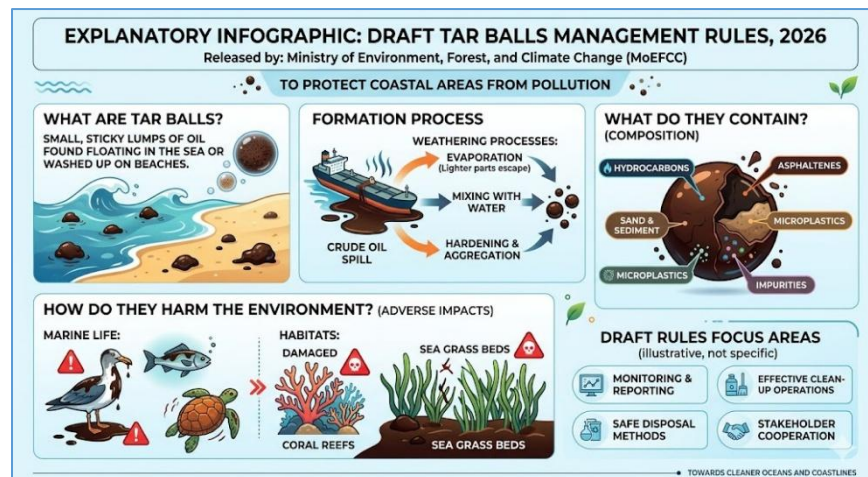
- ❖ Scientists completed the first mitochondrial genome analysis of the Madras hedgehog, giving new scientific data about this species.
- ❖ The study analysed its complete mitochondrial DNA, which helps understand genetic structure and evolution.

- ❖ It showed that the species is closely related to the Indian hedgehog.
- ❖ Both species separated around 3.69 million years ago during major climatic changes in South Asia.
- ❖ The genome contains 13 protein-coding genes, 22 transfer RNAs, and 2 ribosomal RNAs.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Tar Balls Management Rules 2026

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change released draft Tar Balls Management Rules, 2026, to protect coastal areas from pollution.
- ❖ Tar balls are small, sticky lumps of oil found floating in the sea or on beaches.
- ❖ They are formed when spilled crude oil undergoes weathering processes like evaporation, mixing with water, and hardening.
- ❖ Tar balls contain hydrocarbons, asphaltenes, and impurities like sand and microplastics.
- ❖ They harm marine life like fish, birds, and turtles, and can damage coral reefs and sea grass.

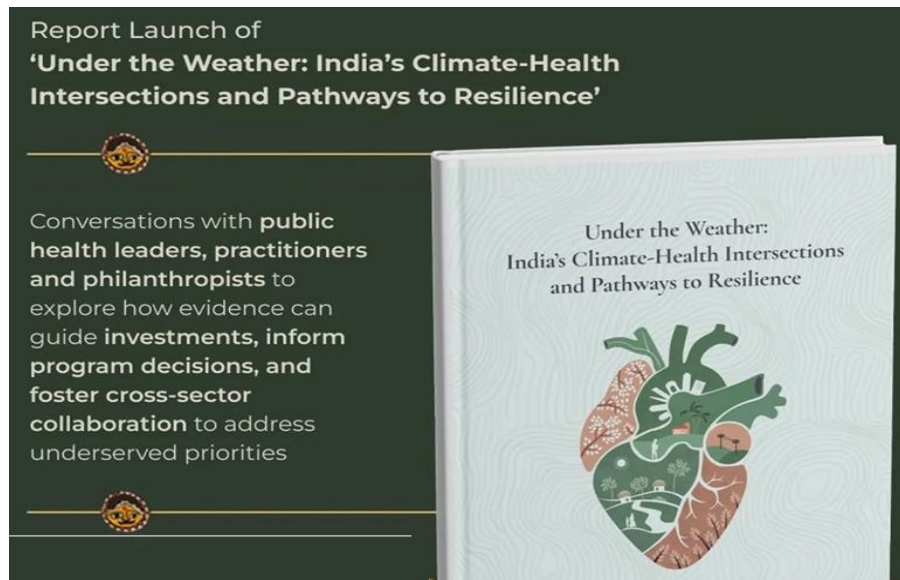


## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Climate Change Impact on Health in India

- ❖ A new report titled “Under the Weather: India’s Climate-Health Intersections and Pathways to Resilience,” released by Dasra, shows that Climate change is affecting health systems and disease patterns in India.

- ❖ Around 40% of districts in India are at high risk due to extreme weather events like floods, heatwaves, and cyclones.
- ❖ Climate change is increasing diseases like cholera and hepatitis (water-borne) and dengue and malaria (vector-borne).
- ❖ Heatwaves cause problems like dehydration, heatstroke, and heart-related diseases, while air pollution leads to respiratory illness.
- ❖ Poor and vulnerable groups like rural people, women, and children are most affected and face higher risks.



## STATE NEWS

### Meghalaya - Satellite Internet



- ❖ Meghalaya signed an MoU with Starlink to boost satellite internet services.
- ❖ Meghalaya became the third state, after Maharashtra and Gujarat, to partner with Starlink.
- ❖ Starlink was launched in 2019 by SpaceX to provide internet using satellites.
- ❖ Satellite internet uses satellites in orbits like Low Earth Orbit (LEO) to provide connectivity without cables.
- ❖ It helps connect remote areas, allows fast setup, and works during disasters.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Prevention of Blindness Week 2026 - April 1/7



- ❖ It is observed every year in the first week of April to spread awareness about eye health and prevent vision loss.
- ❖ The aim is to reduce avoidable blindness through awareness, early detection, and timely treatment.
- ❖ Glaucoma is a major cause of permanent blindness and is called the “silent thief of sight.”
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Uniting for a Glaucoma-Free World.”

