

April - 11

TNPSC BITS


- ❖ Chennai's second airport at Parandur has received the in-principal approval from the Centre.
- ❖ Delhi has officially joined the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, becoming the 35th State/UT to implement the national health insurance scheme.
- ❖ The DRDO and the Indian Army successfully conducted four flight tests of the Army variant of the Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) system.
- ❖ Hitesh Gulia of Haryana made history by becoming the first Indian boxer to win a gold medal in the 2025 World Boxing Cup in Brazil.
- ❖ The President of India Droupadi Murmu has received the 'City Key of Honour' of Lisbon City from the Mayor of Lisbon, Portugal.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu vs. Governor of Tamil Nadu case

Bills withheld by Governor, now assented to by SC

Originally, the Tamil Nadu Assembly sent 12 Bills, mostly dealing with the appointments of Vice-Chancellors in State-run universities, to the Governor for consent between January 2020 and April 2023. The Governor sat on them indefinitely. When the State government approached the Supreme Court in November 2023 against the Governor's perceived inaction, the latter had quickly referred two of the Bills to the President and proceeded to withhold consent on the remaining 10, which are as follow:

<p>1. The Tamil Nadu Fisheries University (Amendment) Bill, 2020</p>	<p>2. The Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (Amendment) Bill, 2020</p>	<p>3. The Tamil Nadu Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill 2022</p>	<p>5. The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai (Amendment) Bill, 2022</p>
<p>6. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (Amendment) Bill, 2022</p>	<p>7. The Tamil University (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022</p>	<p>8. The Tamil Nadu Universities Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022</p>	<p>9. The Tamil Nadu Fisheries University (Amendment) Bill, 2023</p>
			
<p>10. The Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (Amendment) Bill, 2023</p>			

- ❖ The Supreme Court held that Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi's reservation of 10 bills for President's assent is "illegal and liable to be set aside".



- ❖ A Bench of the Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Justice R. Mahadevan bench have unanimously pronounced the judgement.
- ❖ The court said that under Article 200 of the Constitution, the Governor does not possess any discretion and has to mandatorily act on the aid and advice of the council of ministers.
- ❖ Article 200 of the Constitution deals with assent to Bills.
- ❖ Timelines prescribed for Governors when Bills are presented to them:
 - In case of withholding assent, one month
 - In case of withholding assent contrary to advise of the State Cabinet, three months
 - In case of Bills presented for reconsideration by Governors, one month
- ❖ The Bench said the Governor cannot withhold the assent and adopt concept of absolute veto or pocket veto.
- ❖ It said the Governor is obligated to adopt one course of action — give assent to Bills, withhold assent and reserve for consideration of the president.
- ❖ The Bench said the Governor must assent to the Bills produced before him in the second round, and the only exception is in case the Bill in the second round is different from the first one.
- ❖ The bench also reiterated that the constitutional scheme does not make place for the idea of an “absolute veto” or a “pocket veto”.
- ❖ The bench concerned that there was no reason of long period of time taken by the Governor and “scant respect” shown to the past judgments of the Supreme Court (the State of Punjab judgement).
- ❖ The Bench invoked its inherent powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to declare that 10 Bills have been deemed to have been assented to.
- ❖ In closing, Justice Pardiwala invoked the words of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: “However good a constitution may be, if those who are implementing it are not good, it will prove to be bad. However bad a constitution may be, if those implementing it are good, it will prove to be good.”
- ❖ The court emphasised that the Governor must act in accordance with the “settled conventions of Parliamentary democracy.”
- ❖ The Governor is not a political actor, but a “friend, philosopher and guide”.

Background

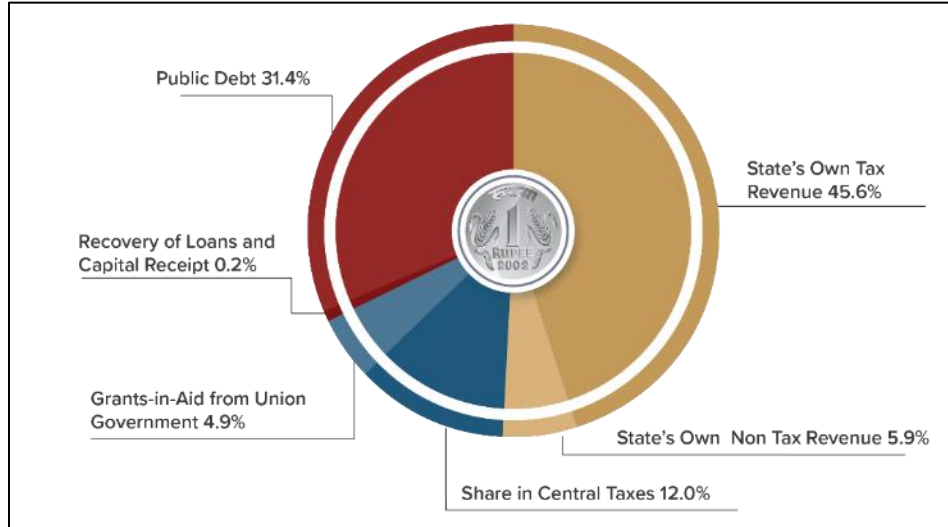
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu’s case, originally 12 Bills are mostly dealing with appointments of Vice-Chancellors in State universities.
- ❖ These were sent by the State Legislature for consent to the Governor under Article 200 of the Constitution between January 2020 and April 2023.

- ❖ The Governor had sat on them indefinitely.
- ❖ Ultimately, when the State had approached the top court against the Governor's perceived inaction in November 2023, the latter had quickly referred two of the Bills to the President and proceeded to withhold consent on the remaining 10.
- ❖ The State Assembly had re-passed the 10 Bills in a Special Session within days, and had sent them to the Governor again for assent.
- ❖ The State argued in the apex court that it was following procedure under the first provision of Article 200.
- ❖ The Governor had proceeded to refer all of those 10 Bills to the President for consideration.
- ❖ The President had subsequently assented to only one Bill, rejected seven and not considered the remaining two proposed laws.

Borrowing plan in Q1 of 2025-26

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government plans to borrow ₹20,000 crore in the first quarter of fiscal 2025-26.
- ❖ It was according to the indicative market borrowings schedule of States released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ❖ The States including Tamil Nadu raise funds through issue of bonds known as State Development Loans (SDLs).
- ❖ The auction for the bonds is conducted by the RBI.
- ❖ The bonds are issued for various tenures and States have to repay the principal along with interest on maturity.
- ❖ The estimates for receipt and repayment of borrowings have been finalised on the basis of overall borrowing ceiling fixed by the Government of India.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government plans to borrow a total amount of ₹1,62,096.76 crore during 2025-26 and make repayment of ₹55,844.53 crore.
- ❖ As a result, the outstanding borrowing as on March 31, 2026 will be ₹9,29,959.30 crore.
- ❖ In Budget Estimates 2025-26, Debt to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) ratio was projected to be 26.07%.
- ❖ It was well within the very target of 28.70% prescribed under the 15th Finance Commission.
- ❖ In fiscal 2024-25 (till January), Tamil Nadu's gross market borrowings stood at ₹88,025 crore as per RBI data.
- ❖ After adjusting for repayments, the net borrowing was ₹60,175 crore

- ❖ Maharashtra has indicated the highest number of gross borrowings of ₹50,000 crore for the first quarter of 2025-26.
- ❖ Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh account for nearly three-fourths of the incremental borrowings for first quarter of 2025-2026.



NATIONAL NEWS

Classification of Industries – CPCB

Green	Orange	Red
<p>Permitted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discharge of industrial effluent Non-Obnoxious & non-hazardous industries Employees up to 100 Process does not involve- tanning, dyeing, pickling, pulping, etc. E.g. Toys, ice cream, candles, carpet weaving, etc. 	<p>Permitted after MoEF approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liquid effluent up to 500 KLD which can be controlled with suitable proven technology Coal/fuel up to 24 TPD Employees up to 500 E.g. Ceramics, tyres, soft-drinks, wire drawing, instant tea/coffee, petroleum storage, etc. 	<p>Not Permitted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liquid effluent > 500 KLD which can not be controlled with suitable technology Coal/fuel > 24 TPD Employees > 500 E.g. Cement, refinery, sugar, explosives, acid & their salts, power plants fertilizers, etc.

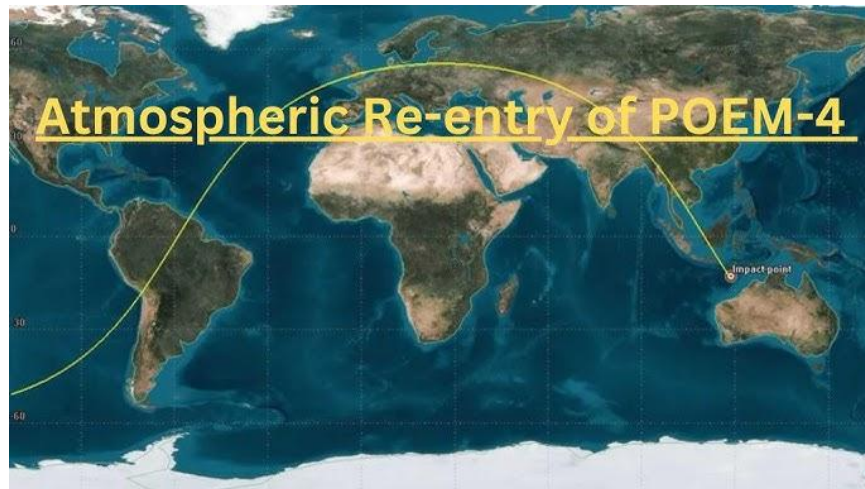
- ❖ The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has directed state pollution control boards to adopt a revised classification of industries with a new category, blue.
- ❖ They are the so-called “essential environmental services” such as those engaged in maintaining landfills or biomining.

- ❖ The “Blue Category sector” is an incentive for the essential services an additional two years validity for consent to operate.
- ❖ As per the revised methodology, the category of the sector is decided based on the following ranges of Pollution Index: Red: $PI > 80$; Orange: $55 \leq PI < 80$; Green: 25.
- ❖ White category industries are defined as those with minimal pollution potential.
- ❖ The CPCB introduced this classification in 2016 to reclassify industries based on their pollution potential.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Re-Entry of POEM-4 Module

- ❖ The upper stage (PS4) of PSLV-C60 (PSLV Orbital Experimental Module – POEM - 4), which was launched by ISRO, was re-entered the atmosphere recently.
- ❖ ISRO’s PSLV-C60 launched twin SPADEX satellites.
- ❖ POEM-4 has hosted altogether 24 payloads (14 payloads from ISRO and 10 from various NGEs) to orbits.
- ❖ It is another accomplishment to the ISRO’s commitment to contain the growth of space debris.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Small hive beetle in India

- ❖ An alien or non-native beetle threatening the honeybee industry globally has been recorded for the first time in India.

- ❖ The small hive beetle (the *Aethinatumida*) was recorded from a moderately large colony of European honeybees, or *Apis mellifera*, in an apiary in West Bengal.
- ❖ Since it was described from the sub-Saharan Africa in 1867, it has dispersed and created havoc across continents.
- ❖ In Asia, it was recorded in the Philippines, the South Korea, and China less than a decade ago.
- ❖ They pose a serious threat to the apiary industry, as the species can proliferate and spread very fast.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Maternal Mortality 2000-2023 Report

- ❖ The report, titled 'Trends in maternal mortality 2000-2023', was prepared by the WHO, UNICEF, UN Population Fund, World Bank and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (population division).
- ❖ Nigeria had the highest number of maternal deaths and accounted for more than a quarter (28.7 percent) of all estimated global maternal deaths in 2023, with approximately 75,000 deaths.
- ❖ In 2023, India accounted for the second highest maternal deaths globally and tied with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with 19,000 and second only to Nigeria.

- ❖ This amounted to 52 fatalities each day.
- ❖ India's maternal mortality rate (MMR) was 362 in 2000 and came down to 80 in 2023, marking a decline of 78 percent over the period.
- ❖ Together, these four countries accounted for almost half (47 percent) of all maternal deaths globally in 2023.
- ❖ China registered just 1,400 maternal deaths in 2023.

