

April - 15

## TNPSC BITS

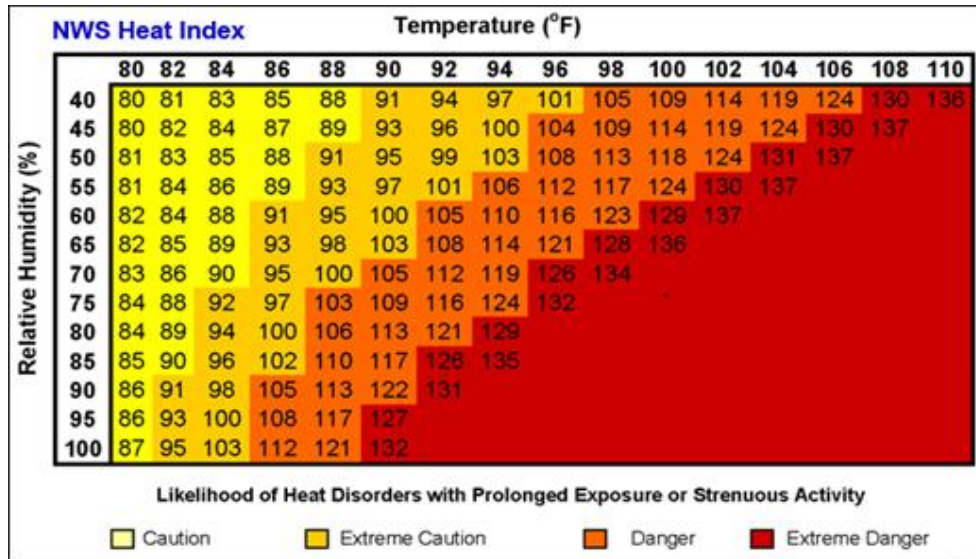
- ❖ The weavers of the renowned Kancheepuram cotton saree and the Rasipuram silk saree have applied for the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ The Amalsad Chikoofruit, which takes its name from a village in Gujarat's Navsari district, was awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh Chief Minister has laid the foundation stone for state's first Gallium Nitride (GaN)-based semiconductor fabrication facility in New Raipur.
- ❖ Japan has built the world's first 3D-printed train station in just six hours.
- ❖ During the 62nd National Maritime Day, Rajesh Unni, the founder of Synergy Marine Group, was honored with the National Maritime Varuna Award 2025.
- ❖ A team of researchers from Kerala has been awarded the Future Conservationist Award by the Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) for their project on the conserving the Malabar Grey Hornbill, an endemic and vulnerable species of the Western Ghats.
- ❖ The Paradip Port Authority (PPA) has retained its No. 1 status in cargo handling among the Indian Major Ports for the second consecutive year by handling an impressive 150.41 MMT.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Heat index for weather forecasts

- ❖ The Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai, is now using the heat index on an experimental basis.
- ❖ By using this, it will forecast how temperature and humidity could affect human discomfort in the State.
- ❖ The Heat index maps for Tamil Nadu is now being used by weather forecasters, provide information about the impact of humidity on high temperature and real feel temperature.
- ❖ With colour codes like red, yellow and orange used for experimental heat index.
- ❖ It would give guidance to initiate additional care to reduce citizens' discomfort and heat-related illness.
- ❖ A total of 22 agro-meteorology automatic weather stations would be set up across the State where the various agro-based weather parameters, including the soil temperature, would be measured.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu would get additional two more doppler weather radars, including in Kanniyakumari.



### Samagra Siksha in TN

**At a glance**

The fund allocation and disbursement by the Union government, and the State's share of funding under the Samagra Shiksha scheme

Year	Proposed allocation	Actual disbursement	State's share
2018-19	1,497.50	1,474.44	9,48.34
2019-20	1,801.73	1,769.12	1,114.48
2020-21	1,649.96	1,621.54	1,099.97
2021-22	1,649.96	1,598.82	1,099.97
2022-23	2,117.59	2,107.23	1,316.11
2023-24	2,090.76	1,871.96	1,393.84
2024-25	2,151.59	-	1,434.39

*Note: Unused funds for the year gets carried over*

- ❖ The Union government till date has released over ₹10,443 crore to the State under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) scheme.
- ❖ The last instalment of funds that Tamil Nadu received from the Union government under the SSA was in the financial year 2023-24 — ₹1,871 crore.
- ❖ Since then, the Union government has withheld its share of ₹2,152 crore as Tamil Nadu refused to accept provisions of the National Education Policy, 2020.
- ❖ In 2018, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was renamed and merged into the SSA.


- ❖ For 2018-19, the Union government disbursed ₹1,474 crore to Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In 2023-24, the State received ₹1,871 crore under the scheme — a 26% increase in five years.
- ❖ In March this year, Tamil Nadu government decided to bear the Centre's share of ₹2,152 crore, which the Union government had withheld.
- ❖ The halt in funding was also due to the Tamil Nadu government's reportedly refusing to implement the three-language formula stipulated under the NEP, and to sign a MoU pertaining to the establishment of PM-SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India).

### Tamil Nadu government's notification on 10 Acts

#### **Bills turn laws**

The 10 Acts which have been notified by the T.N. government

■ The Tamil Nadu Fisheries University (Amendment) Act, 2020	■ The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (Amendment) Act, 2022
■ The Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (Amendment) Act, 2020	■ The Tamil University (Second Amendment) Act, 2022
■ The Tamil Nadu Universities Laws (Amendment) Act, 2022	■ The Tamil Nadu Fisheries University (Amendment) Act, 2023
■ The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University (Amendment) Act, 2022	■ The Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (Amendment) Act, 2023
■ The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai (Amendment) Act, 2022	■ The Tamil Nadu Universities Laws (Second Amendment) Act, 2022



- ❖ In a historic first, the Tamil Nadu government notified 10 Acts without receiving assent from either the Governor or the President.
- ❖ This move, unprecedented in Indian legislative history, was enabled by a recent Supreme Court verdict.
- ❖ On April 11, 2025, the Tamil Nadu government officially notified 10 Acts in the state Gazette.
- ❖ These Acts had previously been passed by the state Assembly and re-adopted in a special session, after Governor withheld assent and later forwarded them to the President.

- ❖ Most of the acts deal with the appointments of Vice-Chancellors in the State-run universities, taking away the powers vested with the Governor-Chancellor, and instead the powers would now vest with the government.
- ❖ The Supreme Court verdict has brought what was outside judicial review, under judicial review, and introduced a provision of deemed approval in case of delay in assent for Bills.
- ❖ Now, this verdict is applicable across India.
- ❖ With the Supreme Court fixing a deadline of one to three months for Governors to take a call on any future Bills and it is expected that the Governors of all States will fall in line.
- ❖ Of course, it is a debatable point whether a Constitutional issue could have been decided by a two-member Bench when the Constitution prescribes that it must be decided by a five-member Bench.

## Tamil Nadu Vs Governor case 2025

### Unravelling the order: What the SC said on...

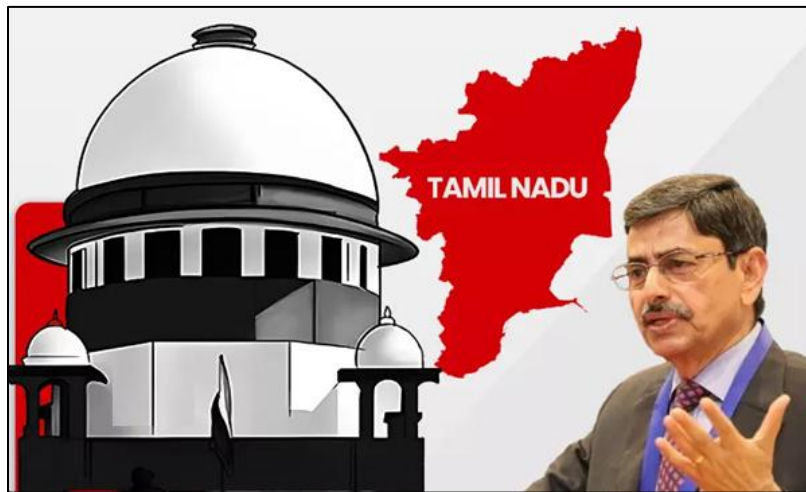
<b>TOP COURT'S AUTHORITY</b> <p>Apex court established its authority to review constitutional functions, defending its prescription of timelines. It said that such a measure balances the need for expedient decision-making with the right of states in a federal system to fulfil their mandate to voters.</p>	 <p>"It is clear as a noon day, that no exercise of power under the Constitution is beyond the pale of judicial review."</p>	<b>GOING FORWARD...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● President can obtain SC's advisory opinion on a bill received from gov, which appears to be "patently unconstitutional".</li><li>● States should consider entering into pre-legislation consultation with Centre before introducing bills that might require Presidential assent.</li><li>● Governors should respect the will of the people expressed through the legislature.</li></ul>
<b>TIMELINE FOR PRESIDENT</b> <p>It extended the timeline discipline to the central government and held that the President must decide within three months of receiving a bill from a governor. If there is any delay beyond this period, the President's office will be required to convey reasons to the state concerned.</p>	 <p>"We prescribe that the President is required to take a decision on the bills reserved for his consideration by the Governor within a period of three months."</p>	<b>GOVERNOR'S POWERS</b> <p>Verdict clarified the constitutional role of governors, stressing that they must act on the advice of the council of ministers as they do not have discretionary powers under Article 200.</p> <p>"Governor cannot be vested with such a power...which would enable him to collude with the Union cabinet and ensure the death of any and all legislation initiated by the state."</p>

- ❖ The Supreme Court has published its judgment related to Tamil Nadu govt Vs Governor R.N. Ravi's case.
- ❖ The Court has equally set aside consequential steps taken by President Murmu on the Bills as non-est.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has held that the reservation of a Bill by a Governor for the consideration of the President on the grounds like his personal dissatisfaction, the political expediency or any other "extraneous or irrelevant considerations" is strictly impermissible by the Constitution.



- ❖ A Governor's reference of a Bill to the President for these reasons would be liable to be set aside forthwith by the constitutional courts.
- ❖ The Court explained that the reservation of Bill for consideration of the President would be solely on the grounds of great peril to democratic principles with clearly assigned reasons.
- ❖ The State governments can challenge such a reservation on the ground of failure on part of the Governor to furnish the necessary reasons.
- ❖ The State government can also approach the competent court with a writ of mandamus if a Governor sits on a Bill for a period exceeding the time limits of three months.
- ❖ The apex court reminded constitutional authorities occupying high offices that they must be guided by the values of the Constitution.

### **Tamil Nadu Government Vs Governor controversies**



- ❖ In April, 2023, Governor proclaimed that when a Governor withholds assent to a Bill passed by the Assembly, it means the “Bill is dead”.
- ❖ He had argued that the Supreme Court had defined withholding assent as “the Bill falling through”, implying the Bill is dead.
- ❖ In November 2023, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court while dealing with the Punjab Governor's case, held that the rejection of a Bill by a Governor does not mean its death.
- ❖ A law proposed by a state legislature is not extinguished merely because that the Governor refuses to sign his assent.
- ❖ In February 2022, the Governor Ravi returned to the Assembly Speaker the Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Bill 2021.

- ❖ The Bill had sought exemption from the NEET-based admissions to MBBS/BDS courses and instead admit students on the basis of class 12 Board exam marks in government quota seats.
- ❖ The Bill was also drafted on the recommendations of the Justice A.K. Rajan Committee.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly, for the first time, has re-adopted that Bill returned by the Governor, and sent it back to Raj Bhavan.
- ❖ This time, Governor forwarded it to the President, who has since declined assent.
- ❖ In June 2023, Governor unilaterally “dismissed with immediate effect” V. Senthil Balaji from the Council of Ministers, hours after the latter were arrested by ED in an alleged money laundering case.
- ❖ But Chief Minister had retained Mr. Senthil Balaji as a Minister without portfolio.
- ❖ Late on the same day, the Governor quickly backtracked on his decision.
- ❖ In March 2024, the Governor refused to re-induct K. Ponmudy into the Cabinet, though the Supreme Court had suspended his conviction in a corruption case.
- ❖ Later, the Chief Justice of India slammed Governor for “defying the Supreme Court of India” by refusing to re-induct as Minister.
- ❖ The Governor then administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Ponmudy.
- ❖ In October 2023, a man threw a Molotov cocktail at the main gate of the Raj Bhavan in Chennai.
- ❖ A day later the Raj Bhavan has accused the police of Suo motu diluting the attack “as an act of simple vandalism”.
- ❖ Subsequently, the National Investigation Agency took over probe in the case and rejected the Raj Bhavan’s claim that more assailants were involved or serious attack.

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Supreme Court's deadline on President**

- ❖ The Supreme Court has put the President on a three-month deadline to decide whether or not to assent to State Bills referred to her by a Governor.
- ❖ The count begins from the day the Governor referred the Bill to the President for her consideration.
- ❖ In case of any delay beyond this period the appropriate reasons would have to be recorded and conveyed to the State concerned.
- ❖ The States, in turn, must be cooperative to any queries or suggestions from the Centre on the Bills.

- ❖ The President ought to, as a measure of prudence, seek the Supreme Court's advice on the Bills reserved by a Governor for her consideration on grounds of perceived unconstitutionality.
- ❖ If there is no action by the president within the time limit, then the state can file writ petitions such as mandamus against the president.
- ❖ The President cannot exercise absolute veto on state bill under article 201, The judgement paves the way for restoring a 'lapsed' Bill.
- ❖ As per the Constitution, once the Bill has been returned, or assent to it withheld by the President, the legislation lapses.
- ❖ It has to be reintroduced in the Assembly for the passage, with the amendments suggested or without, as desired by the Assembly.
- ❖ The April 8 judgement does not consider this ground.

Action by Governor	Time Limit	Conditions
(i) Withholding assent / Reserving for President	1 month	With aid/advice of Council
(ii) Withholding assent against advice	3 months	Must return with reasons
(iii) Reservation against advice	3 months	Must send to President within time
(iv) Reconsidered Bill (after Assembly resends it)	1 month	Must assent

## Palna Scheme



- ❖ In 2022, the erstwhile National Creche Scheme was reorganized and renamed as Palna Scheme under the sub scheme 'Samarthya' of 'Mission Shakti'.

- ❖ It aims to deliver a comprehensive set of services to children aged 6 months to 6 years.
- ❖ These services are designed to support early childhood care, development, and nutrition in convergence with Mission Poshan 2.0.
- ❖ Day care crèche facilities are being provided through Palna Scheme.

### Key Employment Unemployment Indicators for 2024

Indicator	Rural			Urban			Rural + Urban		
	male	female	person	male	female	person	male	female	person
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
January 2023 – December 2023									
LFPR	79.8	47.3	63.4	74.9	27.2	51.4	78.3	41.3	59.8
WPR	77.7	46.4	61.9	71.6	25.2	48.8	75.8	40.1	58.0
UR	2.7	1.9	2.4	4.4	7.5	5.2	3.2	3.0	3.1
January 2024 – December 2024									
LFPR	80.6	45.8	62.9	76.2	27.6	52.2	79.2	40.3	59.6
WPR	78.4	44.8	61.4	72.8	25.8	49.6	76.6	39.0	57.7
UR	2.8	2.1	2.5	4.4	6.7	5.0	3.3	3.1	3.2

- ❖ In Urban areas, the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) increased for males (74.3% in 2023 to 75.6% in 2024) and slightly for females (25.5% to 25.8%).
- ❖ It was leading to an overall rise in LFPR (50.3% to 51.0%).
- ❖ The overall LFPR remained constant at 56.2%, despite minor variations across categories.
- ❖ Over all Worker Population Ratio (WPR) improved from 47.0% to 47.6% in Urban areas.
- ❖ At all India level overall WPR remained relatively unchanged (53.4% to 53.5%).
- ❖ In the rural area, marginal decline in overall unemployment (4.3% to 4.2%), with slight reductions for both men and women.
- ❖ In the urban male unemployment rose (6.0% to 6.1%), but female unemployment declined (8.9% to 8.2%), keeping the overall urban rate stable at 6.7%.
- ❖ At all India level, Unemployment saw a minor drop (5.0% to 4.9%).



- ❖ In all-India level, the worker population ratio (WPR) recorded a marginal decline, moving from 58.0% to 57.7%.

### **Mining Leases in 5th And 6th Schedule Areas**

- ❖ The State-wise total number of Mining Leases for the major minerals in States included under the 5th and 6th Schedule areas of the country along with total areas and number of operational mines were released.
- ❖ The revenue from the mining leases accrues to the State Governments.
- ❖ During the last 5 years (from 2020-21 onwards) 7 leases have been granted in the Scheduled areas for the State of Madhya Pradesh covering total area of 107 hectares.

<b>State</b>	<b>Total Number of Leases</b>	<b>Sum of Total Lease Area (in Ha.)</b>	<b>Number of Operational/ Working Leases</b>
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	27	657	10
<b>Assam</b>	6	859	4
<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	78	16146	38
<b>Gujarat</b>	3	1108	2
<b>Jharkhand</b>	31	4548	4
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	153	6318	77
<b>Maharashtra</b>	50	7102	33
<b>Meghalaya</b>	23	825	15
<b>Odisha</b>	127	40023	79
<b>Rajasthan</b>	17	6715	14
<b>Telangana</b>	15	1835	6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>86136</b>	<b>282</b>

### **Digital Threat Report 2024**

- ❖ It was released by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) along with other global players.
- ❖ The report has identified 7 major attack vectors that are expected to dominate 2025 threat landscape.
- ❖ It includes AI Deepfakes and Social Engineering, Malicious AI Tools and Crypto - currency and Cybercrime etc.

- ❖ WazirX, one of India's major crypto exchanges, was hit by a cyber-attack where hackers allegedly stole nearly half of the platform's crypto reserves worth more than \$230 million.
- ❖ More recently, the hackers stole digital assets worth over \$1.5 billion from Dubai-based crypto exchange Bybit, in what is said to be the largest crypto heist till date.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2025

- ❖ The United Nations ESCAP released the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2025.
- ❖ It warned that the Asia-Pacific economies face significant macroeconomic risks due to intensifying climate shocks and an insufficient readiness for the green transitions.
- ❖ Asia-Pacific developing economies grew by 4.8 per cent on average in 2024, down slightly from 5.2 per cent in 2023.
- ❖ The region's economic growth is projected to dip slightly to 4.4-4.5 per cent in 2025-2026 due to weaker external demand, fragile market sentiments.

- ❖ The Climate shocks could cause annual economic losses of at least 6% in a third of Asia-Pacific countries.
- ❖ 11 out of 30 Countries Identified as Most Climate-Vulnerable are in the region.

