

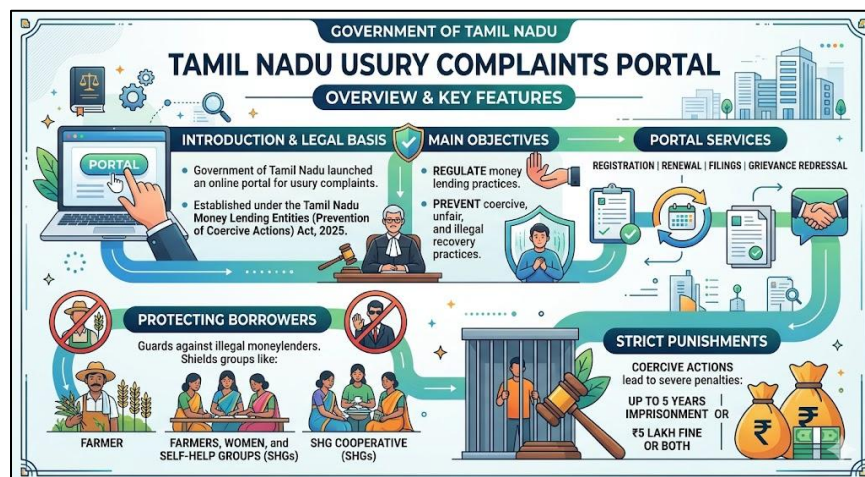
April - 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Sujeet Kalkal (65 kg freestyle category) and Abhimanyu Mandwal (70 kg freestyle category) won gold medals at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2026 held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet of India approved a 4-lane Barabanki–Bahraich project on National Highway-927 to improve India–Nepal connectivity and boost trade via the Rupaiddiha–Nepalgunj route.
- ❖ Samrat Choudhary took oath as Chief Minister of Bihar, after replacing Nitish Kumar, who stepped down after being nominated to the Rajya Sabha.
 - He is becoming the first leader from the Bharatiya Janata Party to hold the post.
- ❖ Roman Gofman has been appointed as the new head of Mossad in Israel.
- ❖ World Voice Day 2026 is observed every year on April 16 to create awareness about voice health and to promote prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of voice disorders.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Caring for Our Voices”.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu Usury Complaints Portal



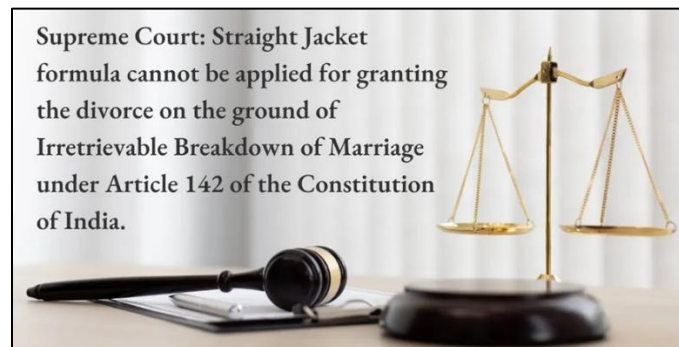
- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu launched an online portal for victims of usury to file complaints.

- ❖ The portal is created under the Tamil Nadu Money Lending Entities (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Act, 2025.
- ❖ It aims to regulate money lending and prevent coercive, unfair, and illegal recovery practices.
- ❖ The portal provides services like registration, renewal, filings, and grievance redressal.
- ❖ It protects borrowers such as farmers, women, and self-help groups from illegal moneylenders.
- ❖ Coercive actions can lead to punishment up to 5 years imprisonment or ₹5 lakh fine or both.

NATIONAL NEWS

Article 142 Powers of the Supreme Court

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India has dissolved a marriage using Article 142 of the Constitution.
- ❖ Article 142 allows the Court to pass orders for complete justice.
- ❖ The case involved withdrawal from a mutual divorce settlement after receiving money and filing a domestic violence case.
- ❖ The Court held that mediated settlements are legally binding and cannot be misused.
- ❖ It observed that the allegations lacked evidence and termed them improper.
- ❖ The Court quashed all cases and ordered payment of the remaining settlement amount.



Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0

- ❖ The Government of India notified Startup India Fund of Funds (FoF) 2.0 with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore.

- ❖ It aims to mobilise capital and support startups, especially in sectors with low private funding.
- ❖ It builds on Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) 1.0, launched in 2016 under Startup India.
- ❖ The fund will invest in Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).
- ❖ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will implement the scheme.
- ❖ It focuses on deep technology, early-stage startups, and innovative manufacturing sectors.



e-SafeHER Initiative

- ❖ The Government of India launched the e-SafeHER Cyber Security Awareness Programme for rural women.
- ❖ It aims to train one million women to safely use the digital ecosystem over three years.
- ❖ It is under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Programme and implemented by C-DAC with Reliance Foundation.
- ❖ It will create “Cyber Sakhis” to spread cybersecurity awareness and safe digital practices.
- ❖ It follows a community-based approach through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for last-mile digital awareness.
- ❖ The programme will start in Madhya Pradesh and Odisha and expand nationwide in phases.

- ❖ It promotes safe digital transactions, cyber risk awareness, and digital inclusion for women.



Lok Sabha Expansion Proposal



Constitutional Amendment Bill
proposes to expand LS seats
from 543 to 850

- ❖ The Government of India proposed to expand the strength of the Lok Sabha from 543 to 850 seats through a Constitutional Amendment.
- ❖ The proposal includes 815 seats for states and 35 seats for Union Territories to better reflect population growth.
- ❖ It is linked to the implementation of 33% reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies.

- ❖ The changes are likely to be implemented from the 2029 general elections after delimitation.
- ❖ Delimitation will redraw constituencies based on population, with debate over using 2011 or updated Census data.
- ❖ Article 81 of the Constitution defines the Lok Sabha composition and seat allocation.
- ❖ The last delimitation was done in 2002 based on the 2001 Census.
- ❖ The proposal requires a two-thirds majority in Parliament and approval by the states.

ECONOMY NEWS

Retail Inflation in India – March 2026

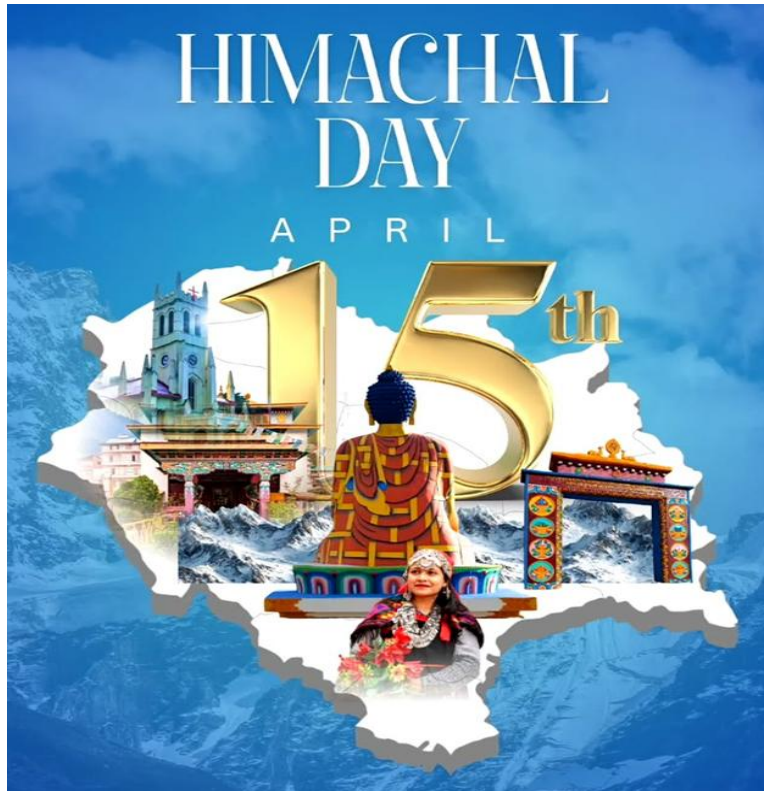


- ❖ Retail inflation increased from 3.21% in February 2026 to 3.4% in March 2026.
- ❖ It showing a slight rise in prices of goods and services consumed by households.
- ❖ It is measured using the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which includes items like food, fuel, housing, and other essential services.
- ❖ The increase was mainly driven by higher food inflation, especially due to rising prices of vegetables, coconut, and some precious items like gold and silver.
- ❖ The data is based on the new CPI series with 2024 as the base year, which reflects current consumption patterns more accurately.

- ❖ Global factors such as tensions in West Asia also impacted supply chains and increased transportation and commodity costs.
- ❖ Despite the rise, inflation remains within the target range of the Reserve Bank of India ($4\% \pm 2\%$), indicating that inflation is moderate and under control.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Himachal Day 2026 - April 15



- ❖ The day is observed to mark the formation of Himachal Pradesh in 1948.
- ❖ On this day, around 28–30 princely states were merged to form a single administrative unit.
- ❖ It was first formed as a Chief Commissioner's Province in 1948 and became a Union Territory in 1950.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh became a full state on January 25, 1971 as the 18th state of India.
- ❖ Shimla is the capital and was once the summer capital of British India.

