

April - 17

TNPSC BITS

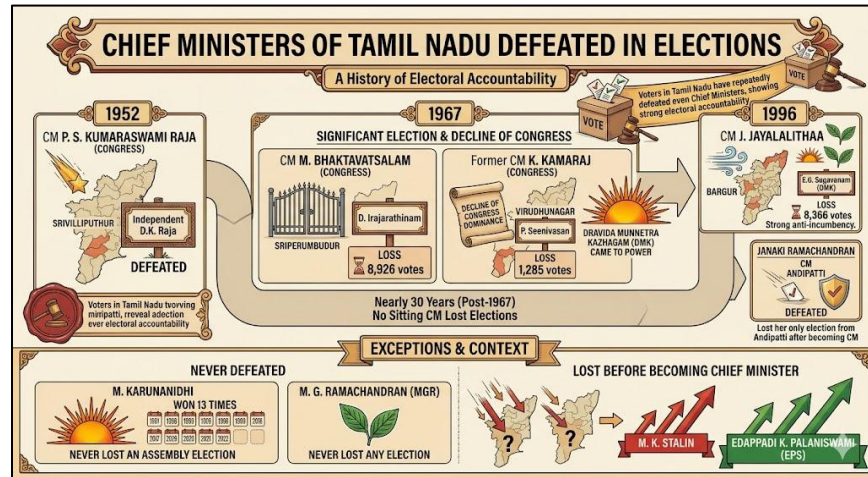
- ❖ Ayush Shetty won a silver medal at the Badminton Asia Championships 2026 held in Ningbo, China.
- ❖ The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh launched India's first indigenous quantum computing testbeds, including two systems named 1S and 1Q.
- ❖ Australia has appointed Susan Coyle as the first woman to head its Army in 125 years.
- ❖ China plans a 120 km undersea high-speed rail tunnel, Bohai Strait Cross-Sea Channel, linking Dalian and Yantai across the Bohai Strait between the Liaodong and Shandong Peninsulas.
- ❖ OpenAI expanded its Trusted Access for Cyber programme and introduced GPT-5.4-Cyber, a specialised model for defensive cybersecurity tasks like malware analysis and vulnerability detection.
- ❖ Mitchell Starc (Australia) and Deepti Sharma (India) were named Leading Cricketers in the World for 2025 by Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.
- ❖ Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI) Bengaluru received ISO 15189:2022 accreditation for its clinical laboratory.
 - It is the first institute under the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) to achieve this recognition.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu in Elections

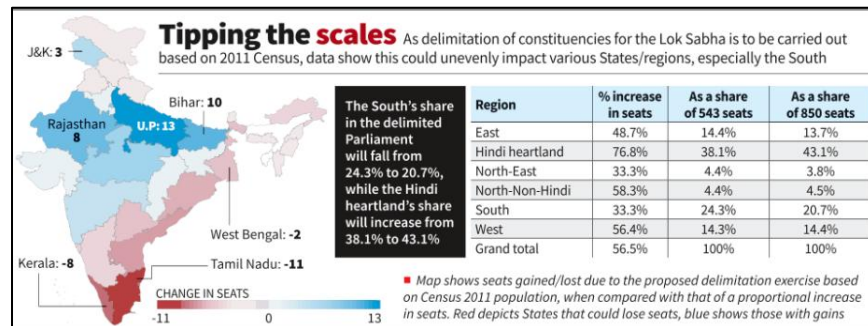
- ❖ Voters in Tamil Nadu have repeatedly defeated even Chief Ministers, showing strong electoral accountability.
- ❖ In 1952, CM P. S. Kumaraswami Raja (Congress) lost from Srivilliputhur to Independent D.K. Raja.
- ❖ In 1967, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) came to power defeating Congress; CM M. Bhakthavatchalam lost from Sriperumbudur to D. Rajarathinam by 8,926 votes.
- ❖ In the same 1967 election, former CM K. Kamaraj lost from Virudhunagar to P. Seenivasan by 1,285 votes, marking the decline of Congress dominance.
- ❖ After 1967, no sitting CM lost elections for nearly 30 years until 1996, when CM J. Jayalalithaa lost from Bargur to E.G. Sugavanam (DMK) by 8,366 votes due to strong anti-incumbency.

- ❖ Janaki Ramachandran lost her only election from Andipatti after becoming CM.
- ❖ M. Karunanidhi never lost an Assembly election (won 13 times), and M. G. Ramachandran also never lost any election.
- ❖ M. K. Stalin and Edappadi K. Palaniswami had lost elections earlier before becoming Chief Ministers.



NATIONAL NEWS

131st Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2026

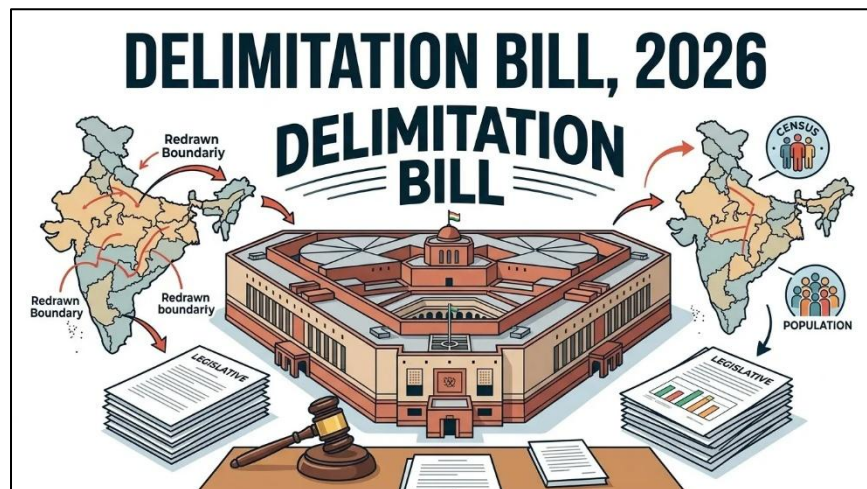


- ❖ The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, proposed to expand the Lok Sabha and enable early women's reservation.
- ❖ It proposes to increase Lok Sabha strength from 543 to 850 members (815 from States + 35 from Union Territories).
- ❖ It amends Articles 81, 82, and 334A to allow delimitation using the latest data before the 2026 Census.
- ❖ It enables the immediate implementation of a 1/3rd reservation for women after delimitation.

- ❖ A new Delimitation Commission will redraw constituencies; its orders will have legal force and cannot be challenged in court.

Delimitation Bill, 2026

- ❖ The Delimitation Bill, 2026, is proposed to redraw electoral constituencies before the 2029 elections.
- ❖ It aims to redefine the boundaries of the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies using the latest population data.
- ❖ It will remove the freeze on delimitation imposed since the 1971 Census (extended till 2026).
- ❖ The process is based on Articles 82 and 170 of the Constitution.
- ❖ A Delimitation Commission headed by a retired Supreme Court judge, with the Chief Election Commissioner and State Election Commissioners, will conduct the exercise.
- ❖ The Commission will ensure equal population representation based on “one person, one vote, one value”.
- ❖ Its orders will have legal force and cannot be challenged in any court.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

COP of the Future Vision

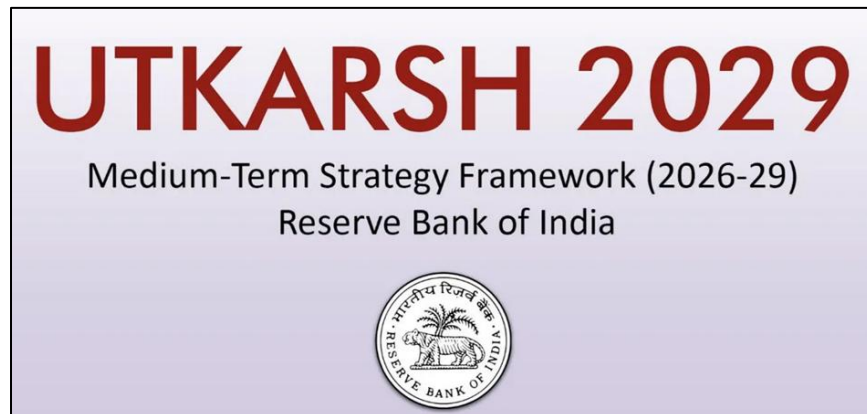
- ❖ Türkiye has announced a new “COP of the Future” vision for the COP31 climate summit.
- ❖ COP31 (Conference of the Parties) will be held in Antalya (Türkiye) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

- ❖ Türkiye will host and lead the Action Agenda, while Australia will handle negotiations.
- ❖ The vision focuses on implementation, inclusivity, and global cooperation with principles of Dialogue, Consensus, and Action.
- ❖ Key areas include clean energy, sustainable agriculture, climate-resilient infrastructure, and ocean protection.
- ❖ It emphasises climate finance, technology transfer, and support for developing countries like India.



ECONOMY NEWS

RBI Utkarsh 2029 Framework

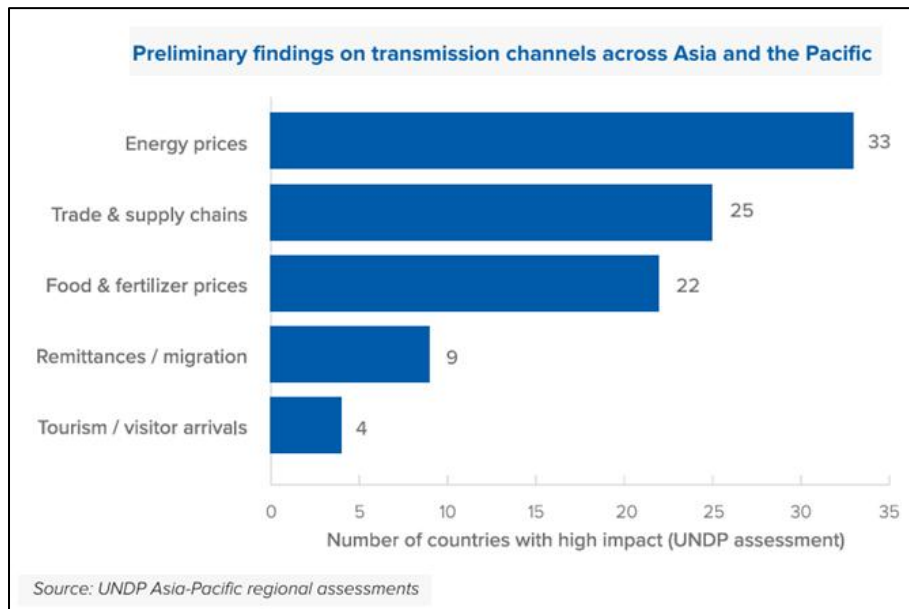


- ❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched its medium-term strategy “Utkarsh 2029” for April 2026–March 2029.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen the RBI as a leading global central bank with a focus on digital growth and financial stability.

- ❖ Key initiatives include Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), Unified Lending Interface (ULI), and global expansion of Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- ❖ It promotes internationalisation of the Indian Rupee and better cross-border payments.
- ❖ Focus areas include regulation, customer-centric services, financial markets, and technology like Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ❖ The framework also emphasises innovation, transparency, and efficient resource allocation.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Middle East Conflict Impacts on Asia-Pacific



- ❖ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) released the report titled “Military Escalation in the Middle East: Human Development Impacts Across Asia and the Pacific.”
- ❖ The report highlights that military escalation in the Middle East is affecting human development across Asia and the Pacific.
- ❖ Rising fuel, transport, and input costs are reducing purchasing power, increasing food insecurity, and straining government budgets.
- ❖ A ceasefire agreement supported by Pakistan came into effect on 7 April 2026 to ease tensions.
- ❖ Output losses in Asia-Pacific are estimated between \$97–299 billion (0.3–0.8% of GDP), with South Asia most affected.

- ❖ Around 8.8 million people may fall into poverty, with a major impact in Iran.
- ❖ Low-skilled workers are expected to face higher unemployment, and human development progress may decline significantly if conflict continues.

SPORTS NEWS

Asian Wrestling Championships 2026

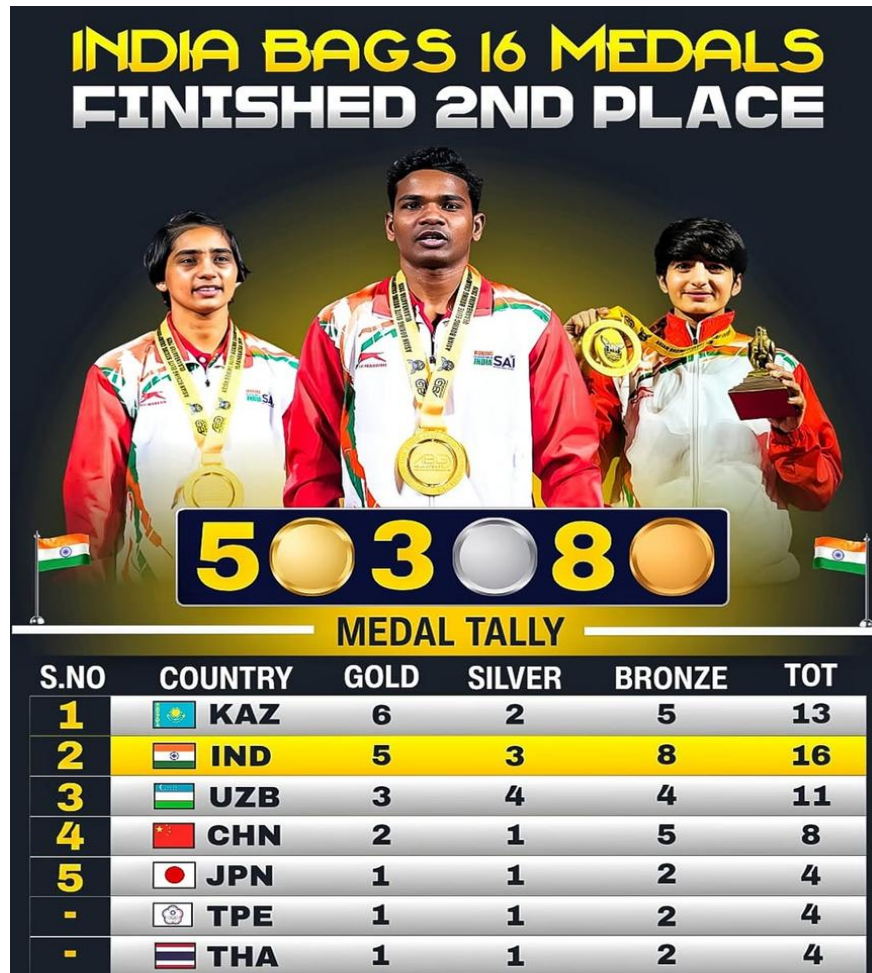
- ❖ At the 2026 Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Iran secured the top position, while India finished 5th with 17 medals.
- ❖ The 22nd edition of the championships was held from 6–12 April 2026.
- ❖ India won 2 gold, 7 silver, and 8 bronze medals in total.
- ❖ Sujeet Kalkal and Abhimanyu Mandwal won gold in the men’s freestyle 65 kg and 70 kg categories.
- ❖ The men’s freestyle team won 7 medals, the Greco-Roman team 5 medals, and the women’s team 5 medals.



Asian Boxing Championships 2026

- ❖ India finished 2nd with 16 medals at the 2026 Asian Boxing Championships held in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), while Kazakhstan topped the medal tally.
- ❖ India won 5 gold, 3 silver, and 8 bronze medals in total.

- ❖ Vishvanath Suresh won gold in the men's 50 kg category, ending India's 5-year wait for a men's Asian title.
- ❖ Sachin Siwach won silver in the men's 60 kg category.
- ❖ Indian women boxers won 10 medals, including 4 gold medals.
- ❖ India had the highest total medal count but ranked second due to fewer gold medals than Kazakhstan.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Hemophilia Day 2026 - April 17

- ❖ The day is observed to raise awareness about bleeding disorders and improve diagnosis and care.
- ❖ It is organised by the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH).
- ❖ Hemophilia is a genetic disorder caused by a deficiency of clotting factors VIII (Type A) or IX (Type B), leading to prolonged bleeding.

- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Diagnosis: First Step to Care”, highlighting that over 75% of patients remain undiagnosed globally.

