

April - 18

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ TIME magazine released the TIME100 list 2026 recognising the world's most influential people based on impact and leadership, featuring names like Xi Jinping (14th time), Donald Trump, along with Indian personalities such as Sundar Pichai, Vikas Khanna and Ranbir Kapoor.
- ❖ ITC Limited achieved Global Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA) 3.0 certification for wheat and paddy, becoming the first company in India to receive this global recognition.
- ❖ The Government of India approved the first Semiconductor Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Dholera, Gujarat, for Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Private Ltd.
- ❖ Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali won the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2026 and became the challenger for the Women's World Chess Championship.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Inscriptions about Shivaji and Afzal Khan

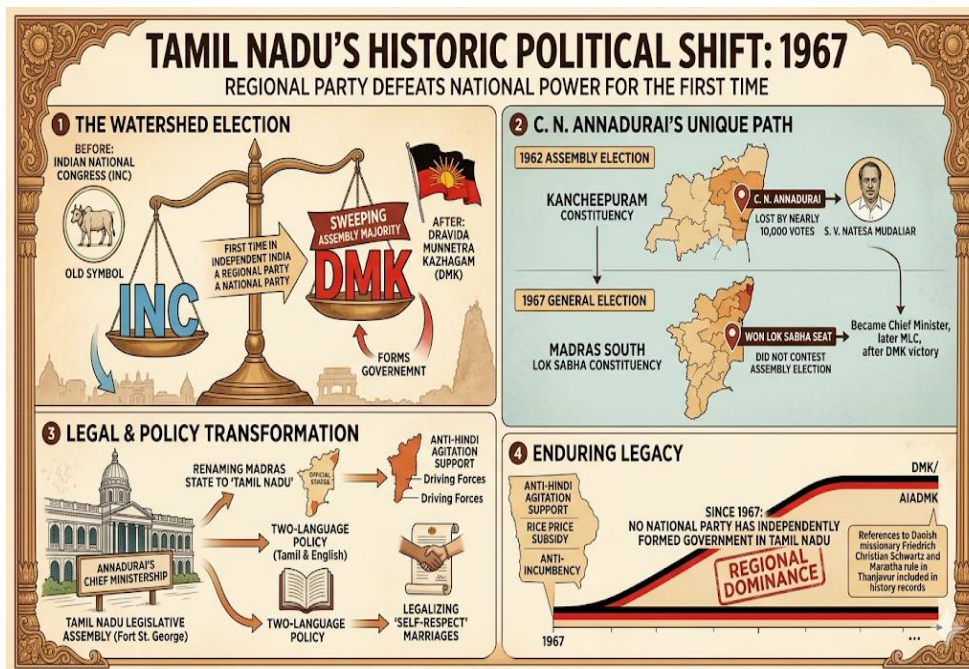
**THANJAVUR TEMPLE INSCRIPTIONS: BRIHADEESWARAR TEMPLE CHRONICLES**

- LOCATION:** LOCATED ON SOUTH-WEST WALLS, NEAR VINAYAGAR SHRINE
- LANGUAGE:** WRITTEN IN MARATHI LANGUAGE
- Historical Context:**
  - BHONSALE DYNASTY & SERFOJI II:** Belong to the period of Serfoji II. Record history of Bhonsale Dynasty. References to Maratha rule in Thanjavur.
  - SERFOJI II & BRITISH ALLIANCE:** Support given by Serfoji II to British in war against Marudu Brothers.
  - DANISH MISSIONARY & RULE:** Include references to Danish missionary Friedrich Christian Schwartz.
- SHIVAJI & AFZAL KHAN BATTLE (1659):** Shivaji uses tiger-claws to kill Afzal Khan "WAGH NAKH".
- JAWALI FORT MEETING:** Describe the historic battle and meeting.

- ❖ Inscriptions at the Brahadeeshwarar Temple describe the historic battle between Shivaji and Afzal Khan.
- ❖ The inscriptions are written in Marathi and located on the south-west walls near the Vinayagar temple.

- ❖ They belong to the period of Serfoji II and record the history of the Bhonsale dynasty.
- ❖ They narrate how Shivaji killed Afzal Khan using tiger-claws during their meeting at Jawali fort, Maharashtra.
- ❖ The inscriptions also mention support given by Serfoji II to the British during the war against the Marudu brothers.
- ❖ They further include references to Danish missionary Friedrich Christian Schwartz and Maratha rule in Thanjavur.

### Tamil Nadu Political Shift 1967



- ❖ The 1967 elections saw Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam form the government in Tamil Nadu for the first time.
- ❖ It was the first time in independent India that a regional party defeated the Indian National Congress and came to power.
- ❖ C. N. Annadurai had earlier lost the 1962 Assembly election from Kancheepuram to S. V. Natesa Mudaliar by nearly 10,000 votes.
- ❖ In 1967, Annadurai did not contest the Assembly elections and instead won the Lok Sabha seat from Madras South.
- ❖ After DMK's sweeping majority in the Assembly, Annadurai became Chief Minister and later a Member of the Legislative Council.
- ❖ Since 1967, no national party has independently formed a government in Tamil Nadu.



## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026**

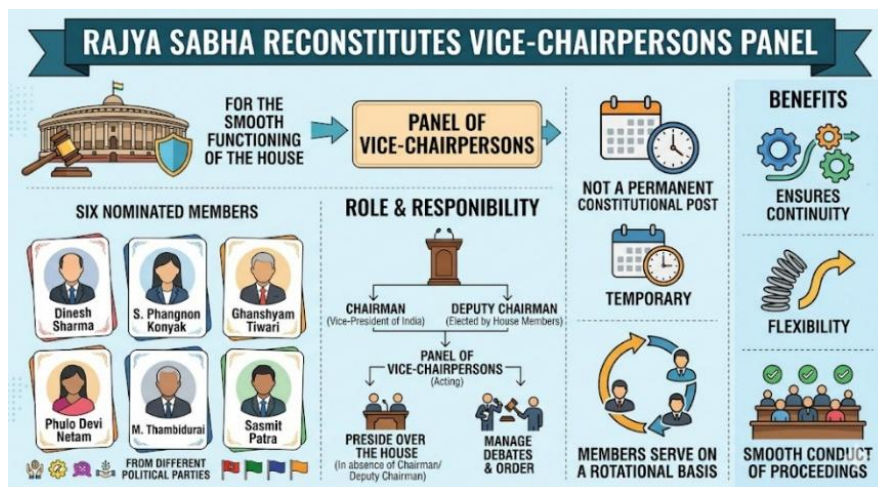
- ❖ The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on April 16, 2026, after a division vote with 251 Members of Parliament supporting and 185 opposing.
- ❖ It was introduced by Union Law Minister Arjun Meghwal along with the Delimitation Bill, 2026 and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 as a linked package, where the latter two depend on this amendment.
- ❖ The Bill proposes to amend Articles 81, 82, 170, 332 and 334A of the Constitution.
- ❖ It aims to increase the strength of the Lok Sabha to a maximum of 850 members, including up to 815 from States and 35 from Union Territories.
- ❖ Earlier, Article 81 limited the Lok Sabha strength to 530 members from States and 20 from Union Territories based on population.
- ❖ It removes the long-standing freeze on seat readjustment based on population that has been in effect since 1976.
- ❖ It allows delimitation to be carried out immediately by deleting the condition of waiting for the first Census after 2026.
- ❖ It states that the population for seat allocation will be based on a Census decided by Parliament.
- ❖ It assigns the responsibility of delimitation clearly to a Delimitation Commission instead of leaving it to Parliament to decide.
- ❖ It enables fresh readjustment of seats and redrawing of constituencies in State Legislative Assemblies under Article 170.
- ❖ It removes the third proviso of Article 170 which had postponed delimitation until after the 2026 Census.
- ❖ It ensures that constituency boundaries within States will be redrawn based on updated population data.
- ❖ It enables one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies to be implemented immediately after delimitation.
- ❖ It amends Article 334A to remove the delay condition introduced by the 106th Amendment Act, 2023.
- ❖ It provides that women's reservation will continue for 15 years from the commencement of the 106th Amendment unless extended by Parliament.
- ❖ It ensures that reserved constituencies for women will be rotated in future delimitation exercises.

- ❖ It provides safeguards to protect the representation of Scheduled Tribes in State Assemblies.
- ❖ It amends Article 332 to ensure that Scheduled Tribe seats are not reduced, especially in Northeastern States like Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland.



**According to the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, Lok Sabha seats will be increased to a maximum of 850 from the current 543 to "operationalise" the women's reservation law before the 2029 parliamentary polls, following a delimitation exercise based on the 2011 Census.**

### **Rajya Sabha Vice-Chairpersons Panel**



- ❖ Rajya Sabha has reconstituted its Panel of Vice-Chairpersons, for the smooth functioning of the House.
- ❖ Six members were nominated, including Dinesh Sharma, S. Phangnon Konyak, Ghanshyam Tiwari, Phulo Devi Netam, M. Thambidurai and Sasmit Patra from different political parties.

- ❖ The panel members preside over the House in absence of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman and manage debates and order.
- ❖ The Chairman of Rajya Sabha is the Vice-President of India, and the Deputy Chairman is elected by members of the House.
- ❖ The panel is not a permanent constitutional post, and members serve on a rotational and temporary basis.
- ❖ This system ensures continuity, flexibility and smooth conduct of parliamentary proceedings.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### First BRICS Health Working Group Meeting 2026



- ❖ India hosted the first BRICS Health Working Group meeting in New Delhi to discuss global health cooperation.
- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organised the meeting under the BRICS framework (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa).
- ❖ The theme was “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability, focusing on people-centric healthcare.
- ❖ The meeting aimed to strengthen cooperation in pandemic preparedness, health technology and Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- ❖ India introduced new focus areas like healthy lifestyles and promotion of mental health and wellness.
- ❖ Key areas included tuberculosis (TB) research, digital health, traditional medicine, early warning systems and access to medicines and vaccines.

## ECONOMY NEWS

### 6<sup>th</sup> Largest Economy - India

GDP at current prices (\$tn)						
Country	2024	2025	2026	2027	2030	2031
US	29.3	30.8	32.4	33.8	37.7	39
China	18.9	19.6	20.9	21.9	26	27.5
Germany	4.7	5	5.5	5.6	<b>6.18</b>	<b>6.35</b>
Japan	4.19	4.44	4.38	<b>4.56</b>	5	5.13
UK	<b>3.7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.26</b>	<b>4.47</b>	5.15	5.4
<b>India</b>	<b>3.76</b>	<b>3.92</b>	<b>4.15</b>	<b>4.58</b>	<b>6.17</b>	<b>6.79</b>

Source: IMF WEO

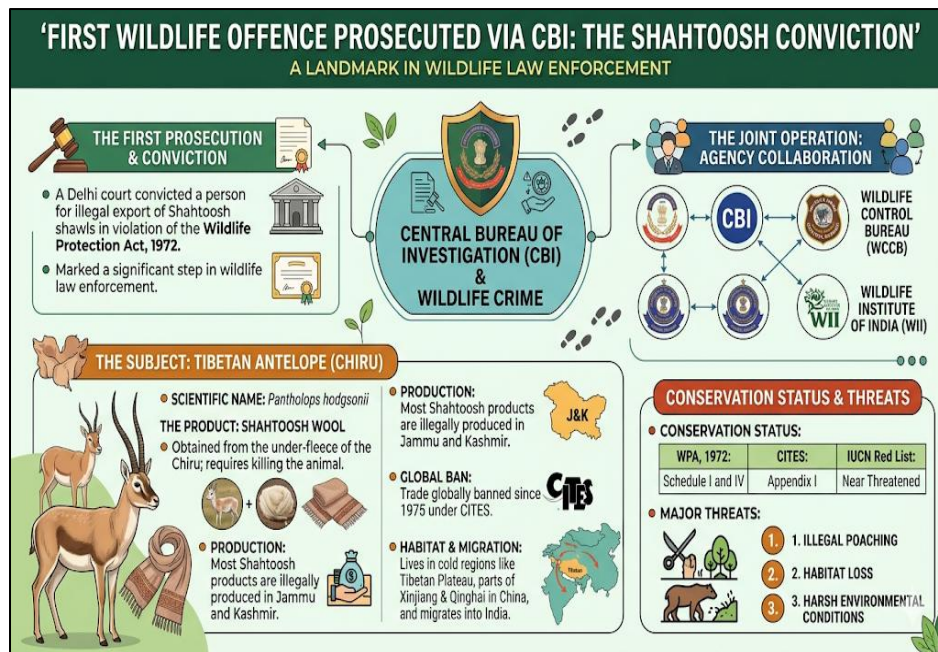
- ❖ The International Monetary Fund stated that India became the 6th largest economy in 2025 based on global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rankings.
- ❖ India's GDP is about 3.92 trillion United States dollars, and rankings are calculated in dollar terms for global comparison.
- ❖ India dropped from 5th position and is now behind the United Kingdom and Japan, while the United States, China and Germany remain ahead.
- ❖ The change is mainly due to depreciation of the Indian rupee and strengthening of the United States dollar, not due to weak domestic growth.
- ❖ India recorded about 9 % nominal GDP growth in rupee terms, showing strong economic performance.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### First Wildlife Offence

- ❖ The first wildlife offence prosecuted through the Central Bureau of Investigation marked a significant step in wildlife law enforcement.
- ❖ A Delhi court convicted a person for illegal export of Shahtoosh shawls in violation of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ❖ The operation was jointly conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Customs and the Wildlife Institute of India.
- ❖ Shahtoosh wool is obtained from the under-fleece of the Tibetan Antelope.
- ❖ Most Shahtoosh products are illegally produced in Jammu and Kashmir.

- ❖ The trade of Shahtoosh has been globally banned since 1975 under CITES.
- ❖ The Chiru has the scientific name *Pantholops hodgsonii*.
- ❖ It lives in cold regions like the Tibetan Plateau and parts of Xinjiang and Qinghai in China, and migrates into India.
- ❖ Its conservation status is Schedule I and IV under the Wildlife Protection Act, Appendix I under CITES and Near Threatened under the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ Major threats include illegal poaching, habitat loss and harsh environmental conditions.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### ILO Report on Universal Social Protection

- ❖ The International Labour Organization (ILO) released a report on universal social protection in changing labour markets.
- ❖ The report titled “Universal social protection in changing labour markets: Protecting workers in all types of employment”.
- ❖ Social protection includes benefits like health care, unemployment support, maternity benefits, and pensions.
- ❖ It aims to reduce poverty, improve economic stability, and address gender inequalities.
- ❖ The report stresses the inclusion of gig, self-employed, and informal workers under social security systems.



## STATE NEWS

### Karnataka Menstrual Leave Policy



- ❖ Karnataka High Court directed the State to strictly implement the menstrual leave policy across all sectors, recognising it under Article 21 (Right to Life).
- ❖ The policy mandates one day of menstrual leave per month for women aged 18–52 years in registered establishments.

- ❖ The Court ordered the State to issue guidelines to ensure uniform implementation in both organised and unorganised sectors.
- ❖ It stated that recognising biological differences does not violate equality under Article 14 but supports dignity and health.
- ❖ The proposed Karnataka Menstrual Leave and Hygiene Bill, 2025, will formalise the policy and rules must be framed without delay after its enactment.
- ❖ The policy currently applies to workers under laws like the Factories Act, Shops and Establishments Act, Plantation Labour Act, Beedi and Cigar Workers Act and Motor Transport Workers Act.

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