

April - 24

TNPSC BITS


- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will reduce the allocation for the Governor's Discretionary Fund (DF) from ₹5 crore to ₹3 crore this year.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Government introduced a Bill in the Assembly seeking to amend the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Universities Act, 2012 (Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 2012).
 - It aims to empower the State government instead of the Governor to appoint Vice-Chancellors.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's peak power demand crossed 19,000 MW for the first time on April 19 by touching 19,087 MW.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India recognises Edappadi k. Palanisami as AIADMK general secretary.
- ❖ Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook has launched the company's first retail store in India at Mumbai.

TAMIL NADU

Reservation for Dalit Christians

'COMPLEX, CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION'

| | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, states SC status can only be accorded to Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists ➤ While BJP has been opposed to giving SC status to Dalit converts to Islam and Christianity, forming a panel suggests the party is exercising caution against any legal pitfall ➤ Calling it 'a seminal & historically complex sociological and | <p>Constitutional question gives its sensitivity and potential impact', govt's gazette notification says change in definition of SCs can only be done on the basis of a detailed study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Panel to also study changes Dalits go through on converting to other religions in terms of their customs, traditions, social and other status, as well as discrimination and deprivation |
|--|--|

 Ex-CJI KG Balakrishnan will head the 3-member panel

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly adopted a resolution seeking to bring Dalit Christians under the ambit of reservation for Scheduled Castes (SC).

- ❖ The resolution stated that Dalit Christians should also benefit from reservation like Buddhists and Sikhs.
- ❖ As per the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order of 1950, no person belonging to a religion other than Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism can be deemed Scheduled Caste and hence cannot avail reservation.
- ❖ M. Karunanidhi had demanded the same in 1996, 2006, and 2011.
- ❖ The central government was set up Justice K.G. Balakrishnan Commission in October 2022 .
- ❖ It is tasked to consider the pleas of Dalits Christians and Muslims to be included in reservation quotas.
- ❖ The Sachar Committee (2005) had recommended reservation for Dalit Christians and Muslims.
- ❖ The Justice Ranganath Mishra Commission (2007) had also recommended deletion of Para 3 of the Presidential Order of 1950.
- ❖ Para 3 in the order said that any non-Hindu could not be regarded as a scheduled caste.
- ❖ This order was amended in 1956 to include Sikhs, and in 1990 the Buddhists, among the scheduled castes.
- ❖ Now, it says that nobody who is not a Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist can be a scheduled caste.

Top digital payment transactions cities in 2022

| Indian cities in terms of highest digital transactions in the year 2022: | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------|
| City: | No. of transactions: | Worth: |
| 1. Bengaluru | 29 Million transactions | ₹6500 crore |
| 2. Delhi | 19.6 million transactions | ₹5000 crore |
| 3. Mumbai | 18.7 million transactions | ₹4950 crore |
| 4. Pune | 15 million transactions | ₹3280 crore |
| 5. Chennai | 14.3 million transactions | ₹3,550 crore |

- ❖ Chennai has become 5th leading city for digital payment transactions in 2022 in the country.

- ❖ The report was released by payment services firm World line India.
- ❖ Chennai has made 14.3 million transactions with a total value of USD 35.5 billion.
- ❖ Bengaluru topped the list with 29 million transactions worth USD 65 billion.
- ❖ It is followed by New Delhi, Mumbai and Pune.
- ❖ In 2022, frequently visited physical merchant categories together accounted for over 43 per cent in terms of volume and about 40 per cent in terms of value, across the country.
- ❖ E-commerce space, gaming, utility and financial services contributed to over 85 per cent of transactions and 25 per cent in terms of value.
- ❖ Education, travel and hospitality sector accounted for 15 per cent in volume and 75 per cent in terms of value.

Centre for Innovation in Governance



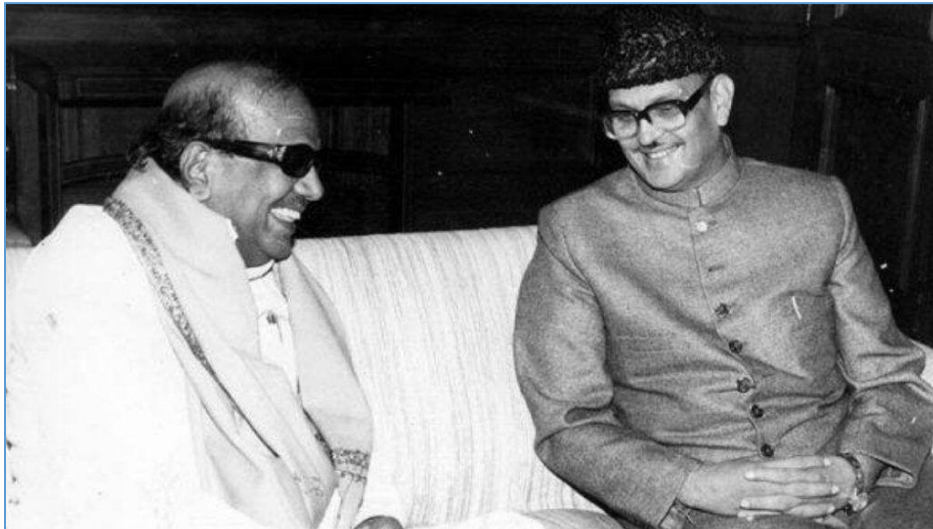
- ❖ Recently TN Finance Minister announces Centre for Innovation in Governance.
- ❖ It will be formed in the State Planning Commission under the Tamil Nadu Innovative Initiatives (TANII).
- ❖ It will work with cutting-edge institutions in innovation in governance.

- ❖ It helps to State government departments and district administrations to work with modern technology companies to implement innovations.
- ❖ It provides public services without any obstacles.
- ❖ The Department of Economics and Statistics will be modernised with additional IT facilities to improve functional efficiency.
- ❖ It will be strengthened by providing computers, wi-fi and other facilities to all government offices.

Monthly pension for MLAs

- ❖ The pension for MLAs and members of the erstwhile TN Legislative Council will be increased from ₹25,000 to ₹30,000 per month from June.
- ❖ This June marks the commencement of the birth centenary of late Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi.
- ❖ The medical allowance being provided to these pensioners will be increased from ₹50,000 to ₹75,000 per annum.
- ❖ The family pension provided will be increased from ₹12,500 to ₹15,000 per month.

V.P. Singh statue



- ❖ Tamil Nadu government is to install statue of former Prime Minister V.P. Singh in Chennai.
- ❖ The statue would be installed to express the “Tamil society’s gratitude” to the former PM for his contribution to social justice and other causes.
- ❖ The CM made this announcement under Rule 110 of the Assembly.

- ❖ V.P. Singh implemented 27% reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) in Central government jobs as per the recommendations of B.P. Mandal.
- ❖ He was PM for just 11 months and 8 days — from 2 December 1989 to 10 November 1990.

T.N. Fiscal Responsibility Act bill



FRBM ACT, 2003

- In the Fiscal Responsibility & Budget Management Act made obligatory for the govt. to reduce its RD & FD
- Reduction **beginning from 2004-05**

| | Yearly reduction from 2004-05 | |
|----|-------------------------------|----------|
| | | 2008 -09 |
| RD | 0.5% of GDP | 0 |
| FD | 0.3% | 3% |

- ❖ The State government tabled a Bill in the Assembly to amend the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003.
- ❖ It aims to extending the time limit to eliminate the revenue deficit by 2025-26.
- ❖ The Bill also seeks to reduce the fiscal deficit to 3% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) by March 31, 2025, to utilise the maximum fiscal space available.
- ❖ The State government's decision was based on the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission.

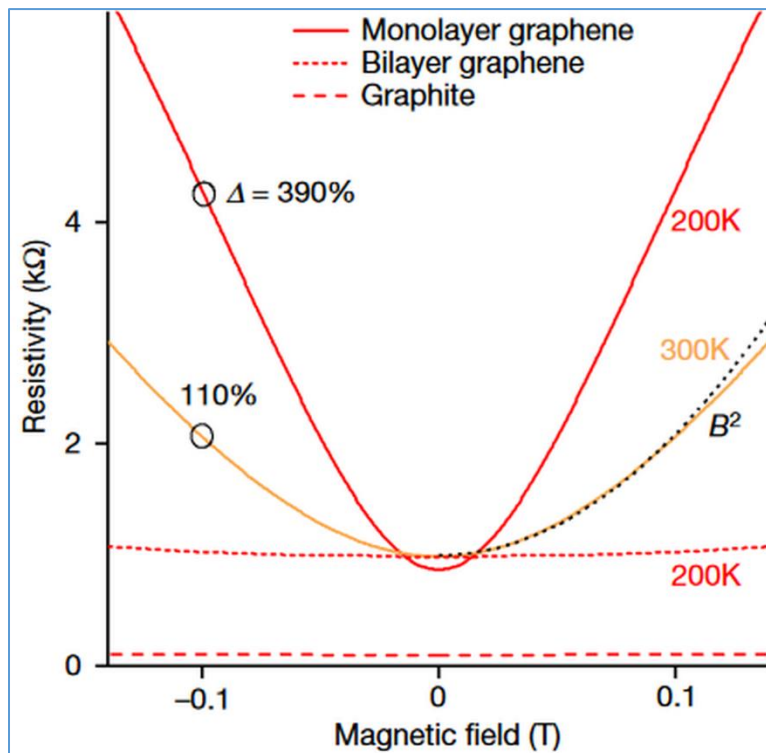
5 percent Education tax

- ❖ The government has decided to amend the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998.
- ❖ It will enable the urban local bodies in the State to levy and collect education tax at 5% of the annual value of the property.
- ❖ They may levy education tax within its area at a rate not exceeding 5% of the annual value of all buildings.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998, was suspended in 2000.

- ❖ But it was updated and revived as the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies (Amendment) Act, 2022.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Rules, 2023, were framed and came into force from April 13.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Magnetoresistance



- ❖ Researchers in the UK, have discovered another property of graphene.
- ❖ It is a single-atom-thick layer of carbon atoms bonded in a honeycomb pattern – that further distinguishes this ‘wonder’ material.
- ❖ Graphene displays an anomalous giant magnetoresistance (GMR) at room temperature.
- ❖ The magnetoresistance in monolayer graphene at 27° C held between two layers of boron nitride increased by 110% under a field of 0.1 tesla.
- ❖ To compare, the magnetoresistance in these conditions increases by less than 1% in normal metals.
- ❖ GMR is the result of the electrical resistance of a conductor being affected by magnetic fields in adjacent materials.

- ❖ It is used in hard disk drives and magneto resistive RAM in computers, biosensors, automotive sensors, microelectromechanical systems, and medical imagers.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Top 10 Wealthiest Cities in the World in 2023

- ❖ Consultancy firm Henley and Partners has ranked several cities by running through the numbers of millionaires residing in each city.
- ❖ New York City, Tokyo, The Bay Area, London and Singapore ranked in the first 5 spots.
- ❖ The list was dominated by cities in China and the United States.
- ❖ Bengaluru has been given a special mention as one of the fastest-growing cities in the Asia Pacific region.

| Wealthiest Cities in the World | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| NYC had the most millionaires in 2022, but Bay Area had more billionaires | | | |
| City/Area | Millionaires | Billionaires | HNWI Change (2012-2022) |
| New York City | 340,000 | 58 | +40% ▲ |
| Tokyo | 290,300 | 14 | -5 ▼ |
| Bay Area | 285,000 | 63 | +68 ▲ |
| London | 258,000 | 36 | -15 ▼ |
| Singapore | 240,100 | 27 | +40 ▲ |
| Los Angeles | 205,400 | 42 | +35 ▲ |
| Hong Kong | 129,500 | 32 | -27 ▼ |
| Beijing | 128,200 | 43 | +70 ▲ |
| Shanghai | 127,200 | 40 | +72 ▲ |
| Sydney | 126,900 | 15 | +35 ▲ |

