

April - 29

TNPSC BITS

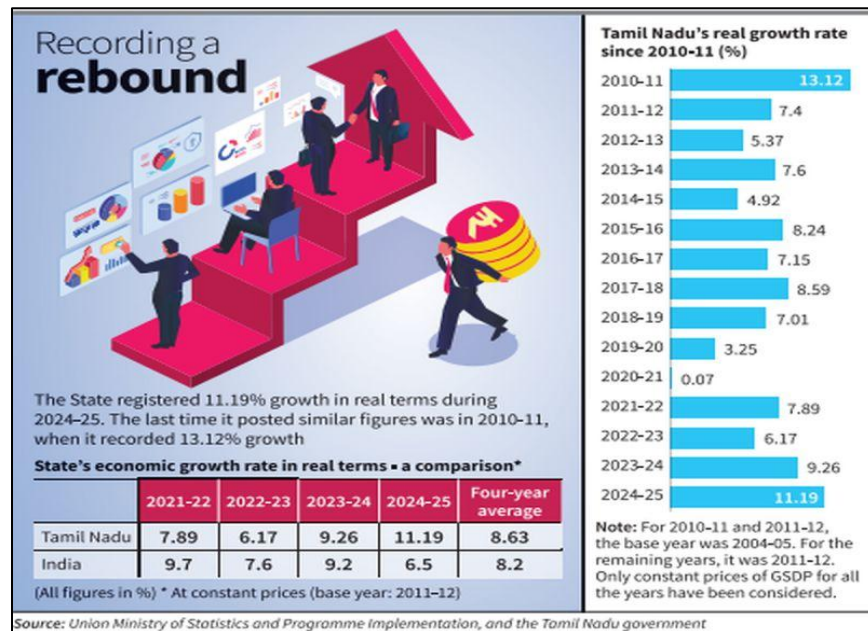
- ❖ The World Health Organization has prequalified the first malaria treatment for newborns and infants, artemether-lumefantrine, designed for babies weighing 2–5 kg for safe dosing.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh received India’s first integrated recycling facility for lithium-ion batteries and rare earth magnets at Sikandrabad, which processes batteries, rare earth magnets, and industrial waste to support clean energy.
- ❖ India-Africa Forum Summit IV logo, theme, and website were launched; the summit will be held on May 31, 2026, in New Delhi with the African Union Commission.
 - The theme for the summit is “IA SPIRIT: India Africa Strategic Partnership for Innovation, Resilience, and Inclusive Transformation.”
- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranks first in India for public healthcare usage, with the highest number of people receiving treatment in government hospitals.
- ❖ International Girls in ICT Day is celebrated every year on the fourth Thursday of April (23 April 2026) to encourage girls to pursue careers in Information and Communication Technology (ICT).
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “AI for Development: Girls shaping the digital future”.
- ❖ International Dance Day is celebrated every year on 29 April to promote awareness of dance and its cultural value.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Strong Economic Growth of Tamilnadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded a high real economic growth rate of 10.83% in 2025–26, as per Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data.
- ❖ This is the second consecutive double-digit growth, after 11.19% in 2024–25, higher than India’s average of 7.4% (base year: 2011–12).
- ❖ Over 2021–22 to 2025–26, the State achieved an average growth of 9.07%, higher than 5.21% (2016–17 to 2020–21) and 7.18% (pre-COVID period).
- ❖ The State’s Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) rose to ₹35.29 lakh crore in 2025–26 from ₹31.19 lakh crore in 2024–25, with a nominal growth rate of 13.16% (includes inflation).

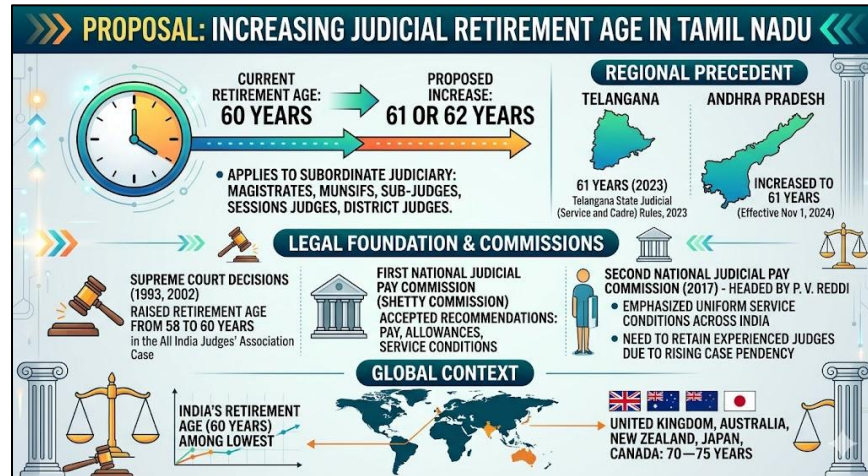
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is the second-largest State economy in India, with consistently high nominal growth: 15.91% (2021–22), 14.47% (2022–23), 13.34% (2023–24), 15.98% (2024–25).
- ❖ The secondary sector grew about 15%, the services sector about 8.5%, and the primary sector about 6%, all higher than national averages.
- ❖ The agriculture sector showed strong recovery with nearly 9% growth in 2025–26, after negative growth of –1.96% (2023–24) and –1.83% (2024–25).
- ❖ The State’s per capita income reached ₹4.08 lakh, second only to Karnataka (₹4.33 lakh).



Retirement Age of Judicial Officers

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is considering a proposal to increase the retirement age (superannuation) of judicial officers from 60 to 61 or 62 years.
- ❖ The proposal covers magistrates, munsifs, sub-judges, sessions judges, and district judges in the subordinate judiciary.
- ❖ It is likely to be implemented as Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have already increased the retirement age of judicial officers.
- ❖ Telangana raised the age to 61 years through the Telangana State Judicial (Service and Cadre) Rules, 2023, while Andhra Pradesh increased it from 60 to 61 years with effect from November 1, 2024.
- ❖ The proposal refers to the All-India Judges’ Association case and subsequent Supreme Court decisions in 1993 and 2002, which raised the retirement age from 58 to 60 years.

- ❖ The court also accepted recommendations of the First National Judicial Pay Commission (Shetty Commission) on pay, allowances, and service conditions.
- ❖ The Second National Judicial Pay Commission (2017), headed by P. V. Reddi, emphasised uniform service conditions across India and the need to retain experienced judges due to rising case pendency.
- ❖ India's retirement age of 60 years for subordinate judiciary is among the lowest in the world, compared to countries like the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and Canada, where it is 70–75 years.



NATIONAL NEWS

UNESCO Gender Inclusion Initiative

India & Asia's First UNESCO Chair
Gender Inclusion and Skill Development
Launches at SSPU

Listen to key insights actionable policy and industry alignment from the Women Leading the Future of Work which anchor the UNESCO Chair launch.

Unesco Chair - Gender Inclusion and Skill Development for Women Empowerment

- ❖ Symbiosis Skills and Professional University (SSPU), Pune, launched Asia's first UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion & Skill Development.
- ❖ The initiative was announced at an international conference on "Women Leading the Future of Work" in collaboration with UNESCO.

- ❖ The UNESCO Chair focuses on gender inclusion and skill development, especially for girls and women in emerging sectors.
- ❖ About 10,000 girls have been trained in future skills such as robotics, automation, semiconductor technology, advanced manufacturing, and defence technology.

ECONOMY NEWS

Panel to Assess AI Risks in Banking



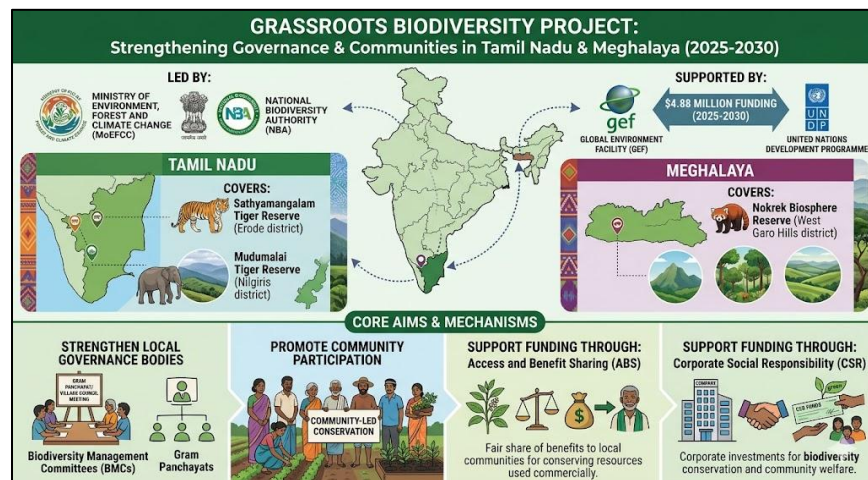
- ❖ The Government of India has formed a panel to assess risks from the AI platform Mythos.
- ❖ The panel is headed by C. S. Setty, Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI) and includes participation from the banking sector.
- ❖ The move comes amid global concerns that advanced AI systems can create vulnerabilities in banking networks and trigger cyberattacks.
- ❖ The panel will examine potential risks, required investments, and the adoption of new technologies in the banking system.
- ❖ It will recommend measures to mitigate AI-related risks and strengthen cybersecurity in banks.
- ❖ The initiative will also explore the use of AI tools to counter emerging AI-driven threats in the financial sector.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

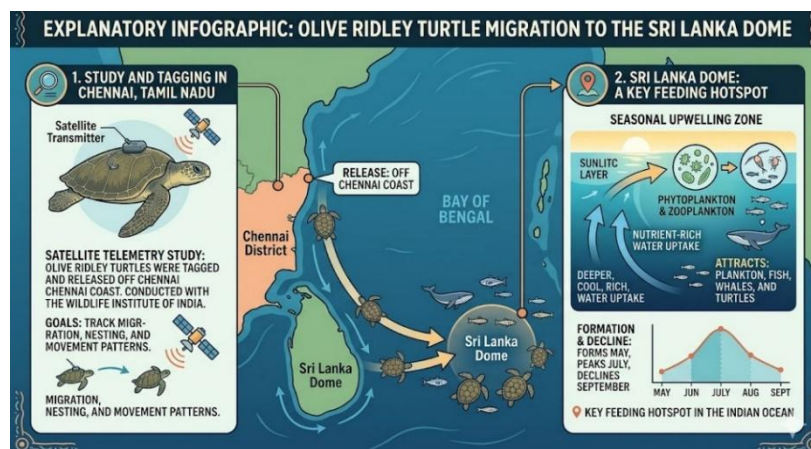
Grassroots Biodiversity Project

- ❖ The Government of India launched a new biodiversity conservation project in Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya.

- ❖ The project is led by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) with the National Biodiversity Authority.
- ❖ It is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with \$4.88 million in funding for 2025–2030.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, it covers Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Erode district and Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in Nilgiris district.
- ❖ In Meghalaya, it includes the Nokrek Biosphere Reserve in the West Garo Hills district.
- ❖ The project aims to strengthen local governance bodies, promote community participation, and support funding through Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).



Turtle Migration



- ❖ Olive Ridley turtle from Tamil Nadu has migrated towards the Sri Lanka Dome.

- ❖ The turtles were tagged and released off the Chennai coast under a satellite telemetry study.
- ❖ The study is conducted with the Wildlife Institute of India to track migration, nesting, and movement patterns.
- ❖ The Sri Lanka Dome is a seasonal upwelling zone that brings nutrient-rich waters, attracting plankton, fish, whales, and turtles.
- ❖ It forms from May, peaks in July, and declines by September, making it a key feeding hotspot in the Indian Ocean.

STATE NEWS

Mushroom Mission 2026

₹13,000 Cr.
One mission.

Andhra Pradesh
aims to become
India's largest
mushroom producer.

High Demand
High Potential

Low Investment
High Returns

Big Opportunities
Global Impact

Boosting
Farmers'
Income

Strengthening
Rural
Economy

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh has launched its first Mushroom Mission with an investment of ₹13,000 crore.
- ❖ The mission aims to make the state the largest mushroom producer in India.
- ❖ It targets an annual production of 67,500 tonnes, higher than Bihar's current output.
- ❖ Around 1.62 lakh mushroom units will be set up across the state.
- ❖ The scheme focuses on small farmers and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for employment generation.
- ❖ The government will provide about 40% subsidy support to promote participation.

