

February - 05

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated the renovated Poompuhar tourism complex at Poompuhar, Mayiladuthurai district, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Carlos Alcaraz of Spain defeated Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the 2026 Australian Open men's singles final.
 - Novak Djokovic became the oldest man in the Open Era to reach an Australian Open final.
- ❖ Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan clinched her second Grand Slam title by defeating world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in the 2026 Australian Open women's singles final.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated an eco-park at Navalur Lake in SIPCOT (State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited), Siruseri, Chengalpattu district.
- ❖ Ministry of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India (AAI), and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organized a major civil aviation conference and exhibition named Wings India 2026 in Hyderabad.
- ❖ Indian Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) conducted the "Agni Pariksha" joint exercise at Sagar in East Siang, Arunachal Pradesh.
 - The exercise focused on training non-artillery personnel in artillery procedures and marked the first integrated firepower drill between the two forces.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

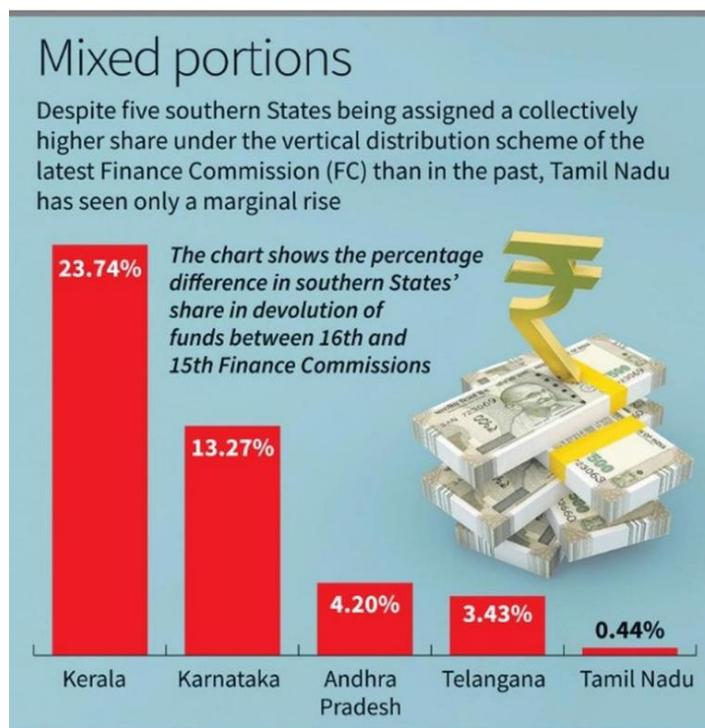
Tamil Nadu Global Tourism Summit 2026

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced that the Tamil Biennale will be held in January 2027 at the Tamil Nadu Global Tourism Summit 2026 in Chennai.
- ❖ The State government signed 127 MoUs worth ₹22,794 crore, expected to generate 65,937 jobs.
- ❖ A ₹100 crore Special Area Development Authority will be set up for Mamallapuram to create world-class tourism infrastructure.
- ❖ 31 locations across Tamil Nadu have been selected to develop theme parks, accommodation facilities, camping sites and nature-based resorts.

- ❖ Under the Tamil Nadu Tourism Policy 2023, SIPCOT (State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu) will identify tourist locations and develop facilities in districts like Kanniyakumari, Kallakurichi, Erode and Thoothukudi.
- ❖ In the last five years, Tamil Nadu invested ₹612.18 crore in tourism, attracting 128.97 crore domestic tourists and 45 lakh foreign tourists.



Tamilnadu and Union Budget 2026

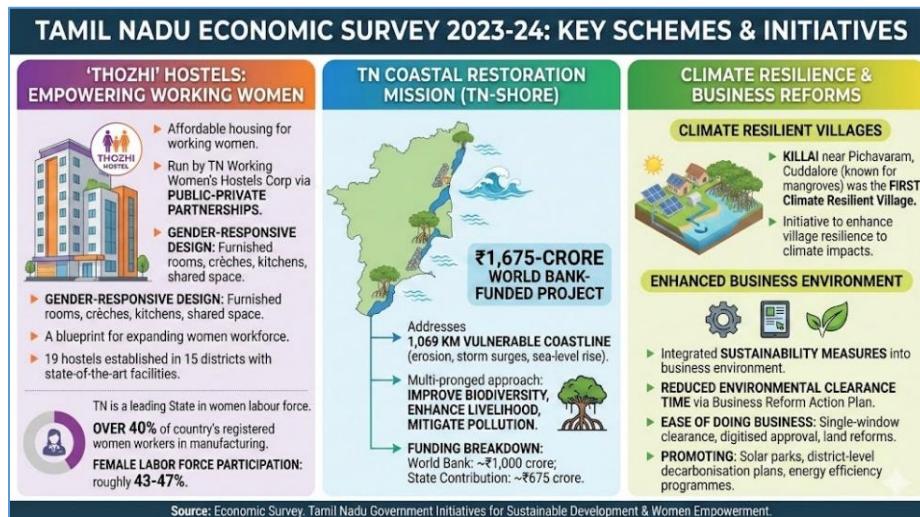


- ❖ Tamil Nadu will receive 4.097% of the net proceeds of shareable Central taxes, as per the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission.

- ❖ It will take effect on April 1, 2026.
- ❖ This is slightly higher when compared to the 4.079% of the net proceeds of shareable Central taxes recommended by the 15th Finance Commission.
- ❖ Thus, it is accounting for a rate of increase of 0.44%.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is expected to receive ₹62,530.65 crore as net proceeds of sharable Central taxes as per the Budget Estimate for 2026-27.
- ❖ It is higher than the Revised Estimate for 2025-26 of ₹56,819.23 crore.
- ❖ Tamilnadu was followed by Telangana with a rise of 3.43% and Andhra Pradesh with 4.2%.
- ❖ Only Karnataka and Kerala have witnessed a double-digit rate of increase — 13.27% and 23.74%.
- ❖ At the all-India level, Kerala's degree of rise is only next to Haryana's 24.52%, while the third slot goes to Karnataka.
- ❖ The weights assigned to the criteria of area, demographic performance and per-capita GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) have reduced affecting States like T.N and Kerala.
- ❖ Only the criterion of population has seen an increase in weight from 15% to 17.5%.
- ❖ However, it does not benefit the southern States including Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- ❖ The rise in the vertical devolution for the south seems to have been achieved by decreasing the share of six northern States such as Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, besides West Bengal.
- ❖ The combined share of the seven States, which stood at 51.20%, has been brought down to 49.93%.
- ❖ The 16th FC has dealt elaborately with the subject of subsidies, an area where the south has been a trendsetter.
- ❖ At ₹78,453 crore, Tamil Nadu had the highest absolute level of subsidy in 2023-24.
- ❖ It is followed by Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana at ₹70,149 crore, ₹63,951 crore and ₹62,847 crore respectively.
- ❖ The FC is pointing out that the absolute subsidy levels are “somewhat misleading” given the State’s size.
- ❖ The Commission names Telangana as one of the States wherein subsidy levels, as a proportion of respective GSDP, exceeded 5% during 2024-26, and Andhra Pradesh having the subsidy level standing between 3% and 5%.

- ❖ Even though the southern States had taken a similar stand on many issues, they differed among themselves over revenue deficit grants, meant for bridging the revenue gap.
- ❖ While Karnataka expressed scepticism, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu wanted the continuation of these grants.
- ❖ However, the 16th FC's recommendation was against the grants.
- ❖ The Union government maintained the status quo with respect to the vertical share of devolution to State from the divisible pool at 41%.

Economic Survey on Tamil Nadu schemes



- ❖ The Economic Survey highlighted Tamil Nadu's 'Thozhi' hostels for working women.
- ❖ 'Thozhi' working women's hostels provide affordable housing to working women.
- ❖ These hostels are run by the Tamil Nadu Working Women's Hostels Corporation through public-private partnerships.
- ❖ These are equipped with gender-responsive design, furnished rooms, crèches, kitchens, and shared space.
- ❖ They offer a practical blueprint for States seeking to expand women workforce.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is a leading State in India in terms of women labour force.
- ❖ It has over 40% of the country's registered women workers in manufacturing.
- ❖ It has a female labor force participation rate of roughly 43-47%.
- ❖ So far, 19 'Thozhi' hostels, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, have been established in 15 districts.

- ❖ The survey notes that Tamil Nadu has a coastline of 1,069 kilometres across 14 districts that are vulnerable to shoreline erosion, storm surges, and sea-level rise.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission (TN-SHORE) employs a multi-pronged approach to improve coastal biodiversity and protection, enhance livelihood, and mitigate pollution.
- ❖ TN-SHORE is a ₹1,675-crore World Bank-funded project.
- ❖ Of the total investment, around ₹1,000 crore will come from the World Bank and the State will contribute the rest.
- ❖ The survey also highlights Climate Resilient Villages, an initiative taken up in Tamil Nadu and in a few other States.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, Killai near Pichavaram in Cuddalore district, known for its vast mangrove forests, was the first Climate Resilient Village.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is among the few States that have not only enhanced their business environment by integrating sustainability measures.
- ❖ It has also reduced the time taken for environmental clearance through the Business Reform Action Plan.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has enhanced the ease of doing business through single-window clearance, digitised approval, and land reforms, while promoting solar parks, district-level decarbonisation plans, and energy efficiency programmes.

NATIONAL NEWS

Kavach 4.0



- ❖ Indian Railways commissioned 472.3 km of Kavach Version 4.0 safety system in a single day, the largest ever in the country.

- ❖ The rollout covers key sections across Western, Northern, and East Central Railways, taking total Kavach coverage beyond 1,300 km.
- ❖ Kavach 4.0 is India's indigenous Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system.
- ❖ The system prevents Signal Passing at Danger (SPAD), over speeding, and enhances operational reliability on high-density rail corridors.

Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0

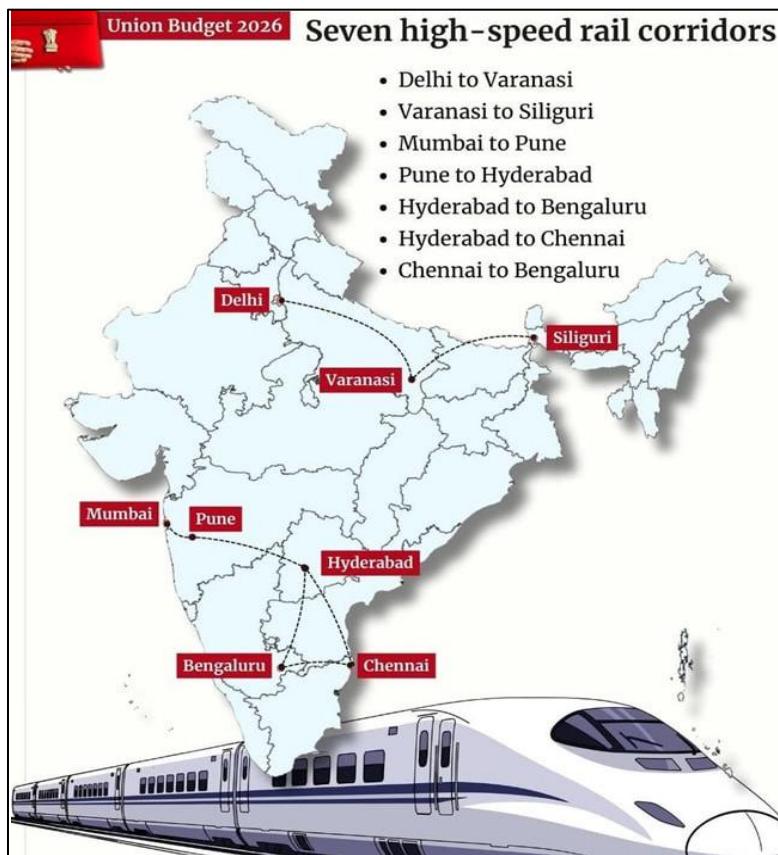
- ❖ NITI Aayog launched Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0 as a 3-month campaign from 28 January to 14 April 2026.
- ❖ The campaign aims to achieve saturation of 5 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in 112 Aspirational Districts and 6 KPIs in 513 Aspirational Blocks across India.
- ❖ The focus areas include nutrition and health of children, functional facilities in Anganwadi Centres, girls' toilets in schools, and animal vaccination.
- ❖ Districts and Blocks will prepare 3-month action plans, conduct monthly progress tracking, and carry out field monitoring visits.
- ❖ The initiative builds on Sampoornata Abhiyan 2024 and supports the goals of the Aspirational Districts Programme (2018) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (2023).



High-speed rail corridors

- ❖ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in the Union budget 2026, announced seven new high-speed rail (HSR) corridors, including two corridors from Chennai.

- ❖ Chennai is set to get two new routes of high-speed rail in the future.
- ❖ The seven HSR corridors are: Mumbai to Pune, Pune to Hyderabad, Chennai to Bengaluru, Chennai to Hyderabad, Hyderabad to Bengaluru, Delhi to Varanasi, and Varanasi to Siliguri.
- ❖ Three of the seven high-speed rail corridors announced in the Union Budget 2026-27, connect Hyderabad.
- ❖ The project would be executed by National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL).



- ❖ The trains in the new high-speed rail corridor would be operated at a minimum speed of 230 km/h.
- ❖ While the bullet trains would be operated at a speed of 370 km/h.
- ❖ For the HSR corridor, new tracks, similar to international standards, similar to those of bullet trains, would be constructed.
- ❖ The HSR corridors would be operated between cities where most passengers undertake air travel.
- ❖ These corridors will be of 4000 km in length, and be developed at an outlay of ₹16 lakh crore.

- ❖ At present, the Chennai to Bengaluru travel time in trains, including the Vande Bharat, is around six hours, and more than 12 hours to Hyderabad.
- ❖ The corridors will reduce travel time between Chennai to Bengaluru to 1.5 hours, Bengaluru to Hyderabad to 2 hours, Hyderabad to Chennai to 2 hours and 55 minutes.
- ❖ The FM also announced a new dedicated freight corridor connecting Dankuni in West Bengal to Surat in Gujarat.

Union Budget Numbers 2026

Key Numbers				
In ₹ crore	2024-25 (Actuals)	2025-26 (Budget Estimates)	2025-26 (Revised Estimates)	2026-27 (Budget Estimates)
Revenue Receipts	3,03,6619	34,20,409	33,42,323	35,33,150
Capital Receipts	16,16,249	16,44,936	16,22,519	18,14,165
Total Receipts	46,52,867	50,65,345	49,64,842	53,47,315
Total Expenditure	46,52,867	50,65,345	49,64,842	53,47,315
Effective Capital Expenditure	13,24,609	15,48,282	14,03,906	17,14,523
Revenue Deficit	5,64,296	5,23,846	5,26,764	5,92,344
Effective Revenue Deficit	2,91,640	96,654	21,8,613	99,642
Fiscal Deficit	15,74,431	15,68,936	15,58,492	16,95,768
Primary Deficit	4,58,856	2,92,598	28,4154	2,91,796

- ❖ Gross market borrowings for 2026-27 are estimated at ₹17.2 lakh crore, with net borrowings at ₹11.7 lakh crore.
- ❖ It was compared to ₹14.8 lakh crore in FY26 and is 16% higher than FY26 Budget Estimates.
- ❖ For FY26 itself, the bond market struggled to absorb ₹14.82 lakh crore of borrowings.
- ❖ The fiscal deficit is projected at 4.3% of GDP, slightly lower than 4.4% in 2025-26.
- ❖ Revenue deficit in 2026-27 is targeted at 1.5% of GDP.
- ❖ While the debt-to-GDP ratio is expected to ease to 55.6% in BE 2026-27, compared to 56.1 percent of GDP in RE 2025-26.

- ❖ For 2026-27, non-debt receipts are projected at ₹36.5 lakh crore and total expenditure at ₹53.5 lakh crore, with net tax receipts estimated at ₹28.7 lakh crore.
- ❖ In comparison, 2025-26 revised estimates placed non-debt receipts at ₹34 lakh crore and net tax receipts at ₹26.7 lakh crore.
- ❖ While total expenditure stood at ₹49.6 lakh crore, including around ₹11 lakh crore in capital spending.
- ❖ Borrowings and other liabilities form the largest source of funds for this Budget, accounting for 24% of total inflows, unchanged from the previous year.
- ❖ Income tax is the second-largest contributor at 21% (down from 22% last year), followed by GST and other taxes at 15%, compared with 18% in 2025-26.
- ❖ Corporation tax also makes up a significant share at 18%.
- ❖ The remaining budgetary resources come from non-tax revenue, Union excise duties, customs duties, and non-debt capital receipts.
- ❖ In the Budget, 22% of expenditure (unchanged from last year) is allocated to States' share of taxes and duties, followed by interest payments at 20%.
- ❖ Interest payments account for 26% of the total expenditure, and 40% of revenue receipts.
- ❖ Central sector schemes account for 17% of total spending.
- ❖ Defence receives 11%, while Finance Commission and other transfers and centrally sponsored schemes get 8% and 7%, respectively.
- ❖ Pensions account for 2% of government expenditure, while the remaining 7% is spent on other items.
- ❖ The government has estimated a nominal GDP growth rate of 10% in 2026-27.

Higher allocation in Budget

- ❖ The Union Budget for 2026-27, with a total outlay of ₹53.5 lakh crore, is divided between sectoral and non-sectoral expenditure.
- ❖ The ministry of finance has received the largest allocation of Rs 19.72 lakh crore, including Rs 17.22 lakh crore for revenue expenditure and Rs 2.50 lakh crore for capital expenditure.
- ❖ The allocation reflects spending on interest payments, subsidies and transfers to states.
- ❖ In the Union Budget 2026-27, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a record ₹7.85 lakh crore allocation for defence, the highest ever.

- ❖ It will be comprising Rs 5.54 lakh crore in revenue expenditure and Rs 2.31 lakh crore in capital outlay.
- ❖ The ministry of railways received Rs 2.93 lakh crore.
- ❖ Non-sectoral expenditure comprises mandatory commitments that are not attributed to individual ministries.
- ❖ This includes interest payments on past borrowings, pensions for defence and civil services personnel, and statutory transfers such as tax devolution and grants to states and Union Territories.
- ❖ The Government provided ₹1.4 lakh crore to the States for the FY 2026-27 as Finance Commission Grants as recommended by the 16th Finance Commission.

BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR FY 2026-27

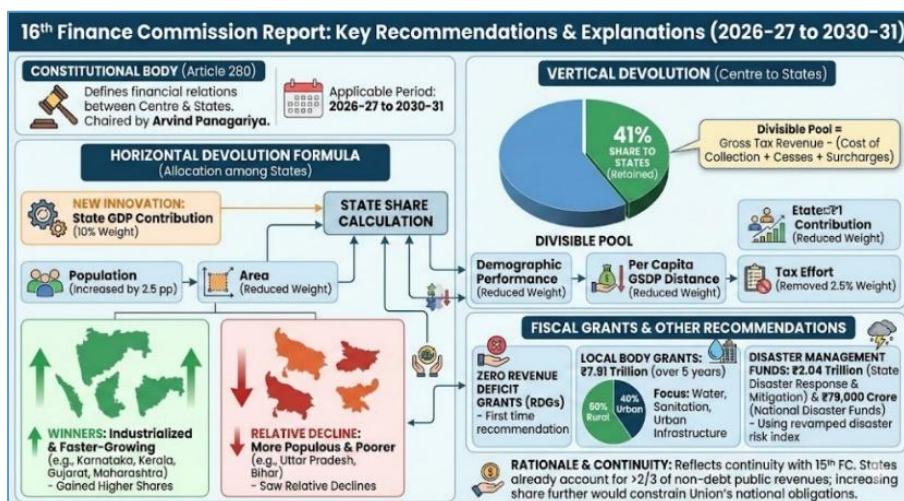
1. Defence	₹7,84,678 Crore
2. Transport	₹5,98,520 Crore
3. Railways	₹2,93,030 Crore
4. Rural Development	₹2,73,108 Crore
5. Home Affairs	₹2,55,234 Crore
6. Agriculture	₹1,62,671 Crore
7. Education	₹1,39,289 Crore
8. Energy	₹1,09,029 Crore
9. Health	₹1,04,599 Crore
10. Urban Development	₹85,522 Crore

ECONOMY NEWS

16th Finance Commission report

- ❖ The 16th Commission was chaired by Arvind Panagariya.

- ❖ The Finance Commission is a constitutional body (Article 280) that defines the financial relations between the Centre and the States.
- ❖ The 16th Finance Commission retained 41% tax devolution from the divisible pool to states.
- ❖ The divisible pool consists of gross tax revenue excluding the cost of collection, cesses, and surcharges
- ❖ Its recommendations will apply from 2026-27 to 2030-31.
- ❖ A major innovation is the introduction of State GDP contribution as a new parameter in the horizontal devolution formula, with a 10% weight.
- ❖ It argued that states already account for over two-thirds of total non-debt public revenues, and increasing their share further would constrain the Union government's ability to meet national obligations.



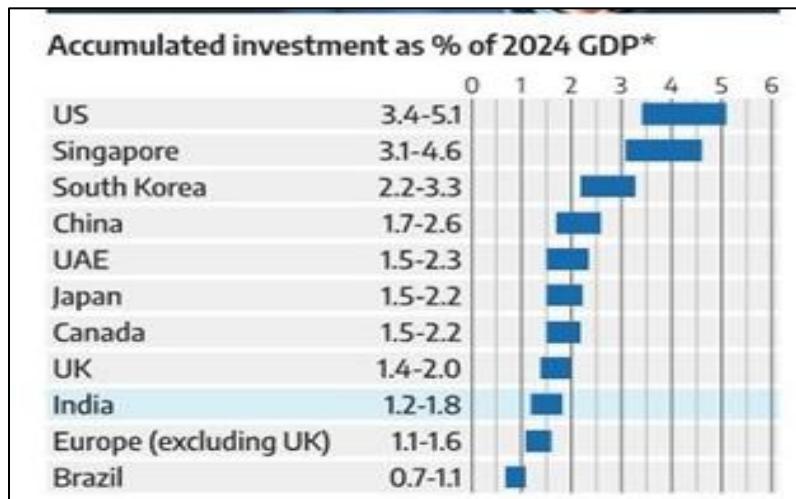
- ❖ This decision reflects continuity with the 15th Finance Commission
- ❖ It removed the 2.5% weight for tax effort, increased the population weight by 2.5 percentage points.
- ❖ And it reduced the weights for area, demographic performance, and per capita GSDP distance.
- ❖ As a result, industrialized and faster-growing states like Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat and Maharashtra gained higher shares, while more populous and poorer states such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar saw relative declines.
- ❖ For the first time, the Commission recommended zero Revenue Deficit Grants (RDGs).
- ❖ While cutting RDGs, the Commission earmarked ₹7.91 trillion for rural and urban local bodies over five years, with a 60:40 rural-urban split, focusing on water, sanitation and urban infrastructure.

- ❖ It also recommended ₹2.04 trillion for State Disaster Response and Mitigation Funds and ₹79,000 crore for national disaster funds, using a revamped disaster risk index.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Global AI Investments

- ❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF) white paper reported that India ranks 8th among 11 countries in Artificial Intelligence (AI) investment as a share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- ❖ India invested about 1.2%–1.8% of its 2024 GDP in AI during 2010–2024.
- ❖ The United States (US) and Singapore lead with the highest AI investment shares of GDP.
- ❖ The US and China together account for about 65% of global AI investments since 2010.
- ❖ Global AI infrastructure investments, including data centres, have crossed USD 600 billion since 2010.
- ❖ India is expected to receive over USD 67 billion in AI-related investments in the next three years.



Global Soft Power Index 2026

- ❖ The Global Soft Power Index 2026 was released by Brand Finance.
- ❖ India ranks 32nd globally with a score of 48.0.
- ❖ The top 3 countries are the United States, China, and Japan.

- ❖ The index measures a country's ability to influence others through culture, values, diplomacy, and innovation.



STATE NEWS

India's top renewable energy state - Gujarat

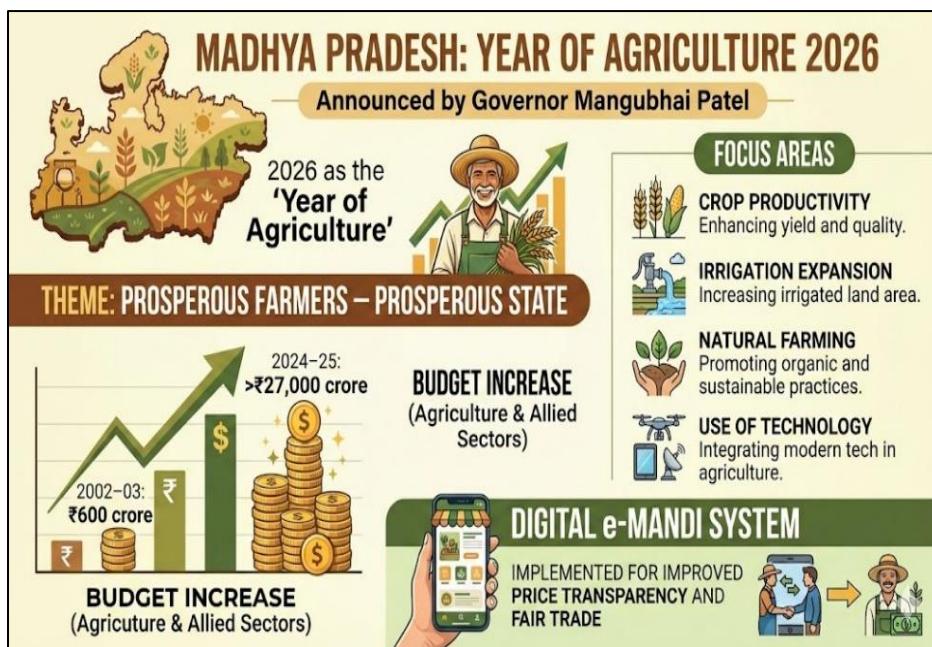


- ❖ Gujarat has emerged as India's top renewable energy state with 42.58 GW capacity, contributing 16.5% of the national total.
- ❖ The state contributes 16.50% of India's total renewable capacity, reflecting its strong policy support and infrastructure readiness.
- ❖ Gujarat also ranks first in wind power capacity and second in solar power installations.

- ❖ Gujarat has emerged as a major solar energy hub with 25,529.40 MW installed solar capacity as of December 2025.

Year of Agriculture 2026 – Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh will observe 2026 as the 'Year of Agriculture'.
- ❖ The theme for the year is "Prosperous Farmers – Prosperous State."
- ❖ The budget for agriculture and allied sectors increased from ₹600 crore in 2002–03 to over ₹27,000 crore in 2024–25.
- ❖ A digital e-Mandi (electronic market) system has been implemented to improve price transparency and fair trade for farmers.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Padma Awards 2026 – Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The President of India has approved the conferment of Padma Awards for 2026 on 13 persons from Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ This year comprises two Padma Bhushan and 11 Padma Shri awards from Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ While S.K.M. Maeilanandhan will receive Padma Bhushan for social work, K.R. Palaniswamy will receive the award for distinguished service of a high order in the field of medicine.

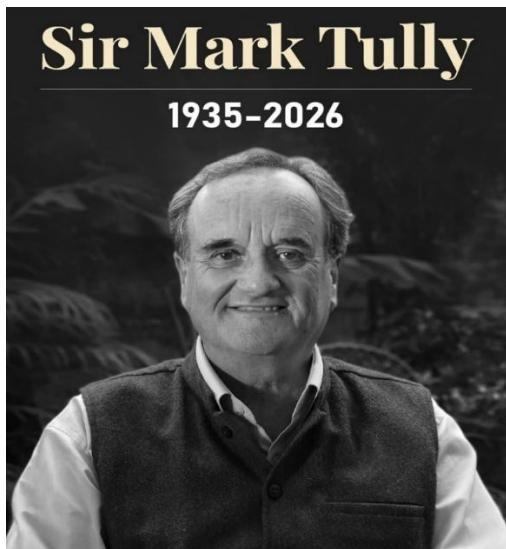
- ❖ Maeilanandhan is the executive chairman of the Erode-based SKM Group of Companies.
- ❖ H.V. Hande, who was the Health Minister in AIADMK founder M.G. Ramachandran's Cabinet, was awarded Padma Shri.
- ❖ Carnatic vocalists and sisters Ranjani-Gayathri were chosen for the Padma Shri award.
- ❖ Punniamurthy Natesan, retired professor at Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, has been selected for the Padma Shri in the field of medicine.
- ❖ Sculptor Rajastapathi Kaliappa Goundar has been chosen for the Padma Shri.
- ❖ V. Kamakoti, IIT-Madras Director, has been chosen for the Padma Shri in the field of Science and Engineering.
- ❖ The other Padma Shri awardees are K. Ramasamy for science and technology, Othuvaar Thiruthani Swaminathan for art, Thiruvaarur Bakthavathsalam for art and writer Sivasankari for literature and education.

Padma Awards 2026 - Tamil Nadu: Explanatory Table			
OVERVIEW: Total 13 Awards from Tamil Nadu (2 Padma Bhushan, 11 Padma Shri)- Approved by President of India for 2026 conferment.			
RECIPIENT NAME	AWARD CATEGORY	FIELD / DISCIPLINE	KEY HIGHLIGHTS / NOTES
S.K.M. Maeilanandhan	Padma Bhushan	Social Work	Executive Chairman of Erode-based SKM Group of Companies.
K.R. Palaniswamy	Padma Bhushan	Medicine	Distinguished service of a high order in the field.
H.V. Hande	Padma Shri	[Field Not Specified in Text]	Former Health Minister in M.G. Ramachandran's Cabinet.
Ranjani-Gayathri (Duo)	Padma Shri	Art	Carnatic vocalists and sisters.
Punniamurthy Natesan	Padma Shri	Medicine	Retired professor at Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University.
Rajastapathi Kaliappa Goundar	Padma Shri	Art	Sculptor.
V. Kamakoti	Padma Shri	Science and Engineering	Director of IIT-Madras.
K. Ramasamy	Padma Shri	Science and Technology	
Othuvaar Thiruthani Swaminathan	Padma Shri	Art	
Thiruvaarur Bakthavathsalam	Padma Shri	Art	
Sivasankari	Padma Shri	Literature and Education	Writer.

Sir Mark Tully

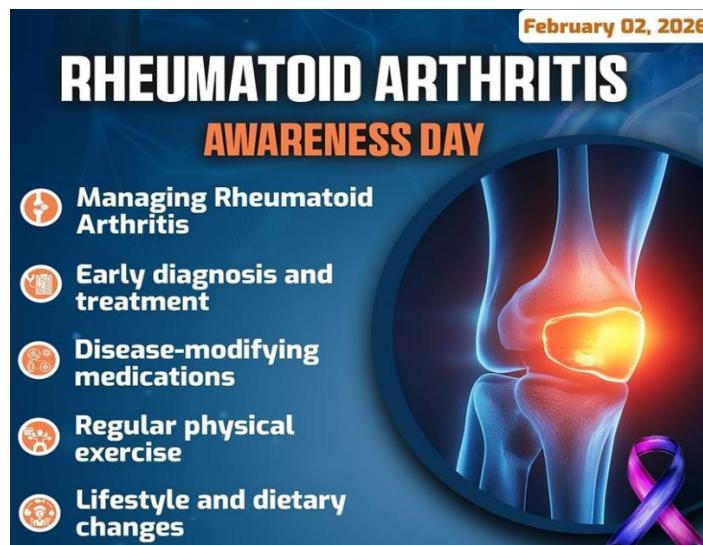
- ❖ Sir Mark Tully, a former BBC journalist and long-time BBC India Bureau Chief, passed away in New Delhi.

- ❖ He served as BBC Chief of Bureau in India for 22 years and covered events such as the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, Emergency (1975) and Operation Blue Star (1984).
- ❖ He authored books on India, including The Heart of India and India's Unending Journey.
- ❖ He was knighted in 2002 and awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2005.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day 2026 - February 02



- ❖ The day aims to create awareness about rheumatoid arthritis, early diagnosis and proper medical treatment.

- ❖ It is observed that rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic autoimmune disease and not just normal joint pain.
- ❖ Rheumatoid arthritis occurs when the immune system attacks healthy joint tissues, causing pain, swelling and stiffness.
- ❖ The disease can also affect organs like the heart, lungs and eyes, making it a systemic disorder.

India Energy Week 2026

- ❖ India Energy Week (IEW) 2026 was held in January 2026 in Goa.
- ❖ It aims to promote energy security, sustainability and global cooperation in the energy sector.
- ❖ IEW 2026 highlighted India's strategy of energy addition, focusing on both conventional and renewable energy sources.
- ❖ The event is organised under the patronage of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG).

