

February - 17

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A World Radio Day Conclave 2026 was hosted by Akashvani Raipur in collaboration with UNESCO in Chhattisgarh.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

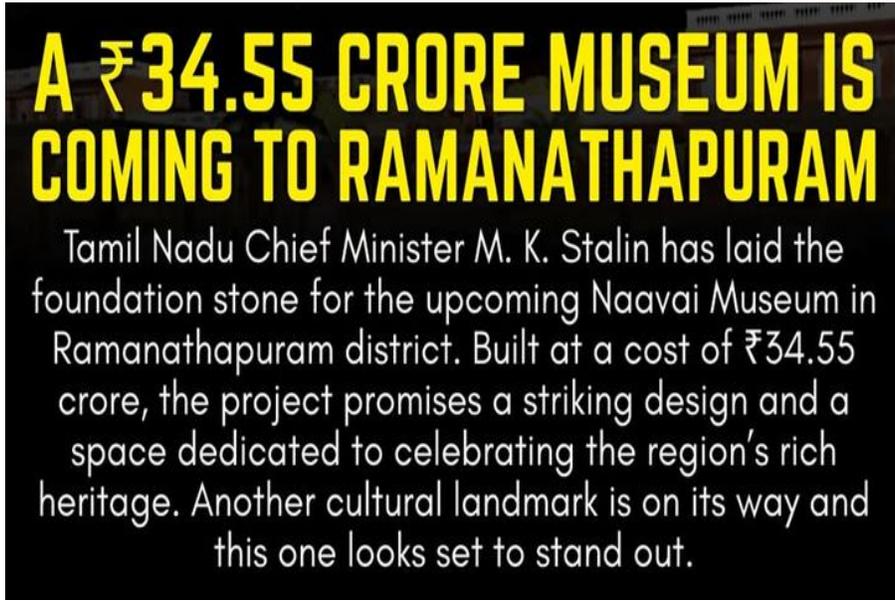
### TN Welfare Program 2025-26



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government accorded administrative sanction of ₹3,500 crore to construct one lakh more houses under the Kalaingarinar Kanavu Illam programme for 2025-26.
- ❖ The scheme aims to provide permanent houses to eligible beneficiaries across the State.
- ❖ The Chief Minister has launched the 'Thervukkalam' mobile application to help job aspirants prepare for competitive examinations.
- ❖ He also launched the Thiran 360 portal to support youth skill development.

- ❖ He laid the foundation stone for a ₹62.50 crore building in Shenoy Nagar, Chennai, which will function as a coaching centre for All India government services.

### **Museums and Memorial Projects in Tamil Nadu**



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin inaugurated several cultural projects and laid the foundation for multiple museums across the State.
- ❖ An open-air museum was inaugurated at Keeladi in Sivaganga district at a cost of ₹24 crore.
- ❖ Foundation stones were laid for the Noyyal Museum in Erode district, the Navai Museum in Mandapam, and the Grand Chola Museum in Thanjavur.
- ❖ New infrastructure and façade lighting were inaugurated at the Manora Memorial Pillar in Thanjavur district.
- ❖ A memorial hall for Keelapazhuvur Chinnasamy was inaugurated in Ariyalur district.
- ❖ He sacrificed his life for the protection of Tamil and fought against the imposition of Hindi at his home town.
- ❖ A bronze equestrian statue of freedom fighter Theeran Chinnamalai was unveiled in the Erode district.
- ❖ The CM also unveiled a statue of former Member of Parliament and former member of Cauvery Retrieval Committee C. Muthusamy.
- ❖ He worked for the rights of farmers and staged several protests, at Vairamada near Karur.

- ❖ He released the book Rock Art of Tamil Nadu, authored by K. Rajan and R. Sivanandam.
- ❖ The Chief Minister virtually unveiled the bust of former Chief Minister of the then Madras Presidency P. Subbarayan, along with a memorial hall, constructed in Namakkal district.
- ❖ He also unveiled a statue of former MP C. Muthusamy in Karur district.
- ❖ The Chief Minister virtually inaugurated ELCOSEZ, set up by the Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited in Sholinganallur in Chennai.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Right to Recall

#### RIGHT TO RECALL IN INDIA: Strengthening Democratic Accountability

WHAT IS IT?	HISTORICAL CONTEXT & PROPOSAL	CURRENT STATUS & IMPLEMENTATION
 <p>A democratic mechanism allowing citizens to <b>REMOVE</b> an elected representative <b>BEFORE</b> the completion of their full term through a formal petition.</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>M. N. ROY (1944):</b> DRAFT CONSTITUTION Proposed the idea</p> <p><b>JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN (1974):</b> TOTAL REVOLUTION Supported for accountability</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>PRIVATE MEMBER BILL (PARLIAMENT)</b> Discussed to enhance democratic accountability.</p> </div> </div>	<p><b>NATIONAL LEVEL (MPs, MLAs)</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p><b>NOT AVAILABLE</b> for Members of Parliament (MP) and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA).</p> <hr/> <p><b>LOCAL LEVEL (Panchayats, Municipalities)</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p><b>IMPLEMENTED</b> in some states like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh for local bodies.</p>
<p><b>LEGAL FRAMEWORK</b> (Representation of the People Act, 1951)</p> <p>Currently, removal is allowed <b>ONLY</b> for <b>LEGAL OFFENCES</b>. <b>NOT</b> for <b>PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION</b> or poor performance.</p>		

- ❖ A Private Member Bill proposing the Right to Recall for elected representatives has been discussed in Parliament in the context of strengthening democratic accountability in India.
- ❖ Right to Recall is a democratic system that allows voters to remove an elected representative before the end of their term.
- ❖ The idea was proposed in India by M. N. Roy in 1944 and later supported by Jayaprakash Narayan in 1974.
- ❖ The Right to Recall is not available for Members of Parliament (MP) and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) at the national level.
- ❖ Some states like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh have implemented Right to Recall provisions in local bodies such as Panchayats and Municipalities.

- ❖ The Representation of the People Act (1951) allows the removal of representatives only for legal offences, not for public dissatisfaction.

### **Seva Teerth — New Prime Minister’s Office Complex**



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi shifted his official workspace to Seva Teerth, a newly built complex near Raisina Hill in New Delhi.
- ❖ This ended nearly eight decades of the Prime Minister’s Office functioning from South Block.
- ❖ North Block and South Block were originally built for the British government and were taken over by independent India in 1947.
- ❖ They were designed by architect Herbert Baker, a contemporary of Edwin Lutyens.
- ❖ South Block earlier housed the Prime Minister’s Office and the Union Ministries of External Affairs and Defence, while North Block housed the Ministries of Home Affairs and Finance.
- ❖ These buildings will now be converted into museums.
- ❖ The new Seva Teerth complex brings together the Prime Minister’s Office, the Cabinet Secretariat, and the National Security Council Secretariat, which were previously located in different places, as part of the Central Vista Project.
- ❖ The architectural design includes an entrance inspired by Chalukyan temple stone screen-work from the 11th–13th centuries, and a carved stone plinth band inspired by the Chennakeshava Temple.

- ❖ The Union Cabinet passed a resolution naming the new Prime Minister's Office complex "Seva Teerth".
- ❖ The Prime Minister unveiled the plaque bearing the name in Devanagari script along with the motto "Nagrik Devo Bhava" (Citizen is akin to God).
- ❖ The shift took place on the day marking 95 years since the inauguration of New Delhi as India's modern capital in 1931.
- ❖ Earlier, the capital of British India had been shifted from Kolkata to Delhi in 1912.
- ❖ The Prime Minister's residence continues to be located on Lok Kalyan Marg, formerly known as Race Course Road.

### **PM RAHAT Scheme**

**PM RAHAT Scheme**  
*Life-Saving Protection for Every Citizen*

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**The Prime Minister has approved the launch of the PM RAHAT Scheme**

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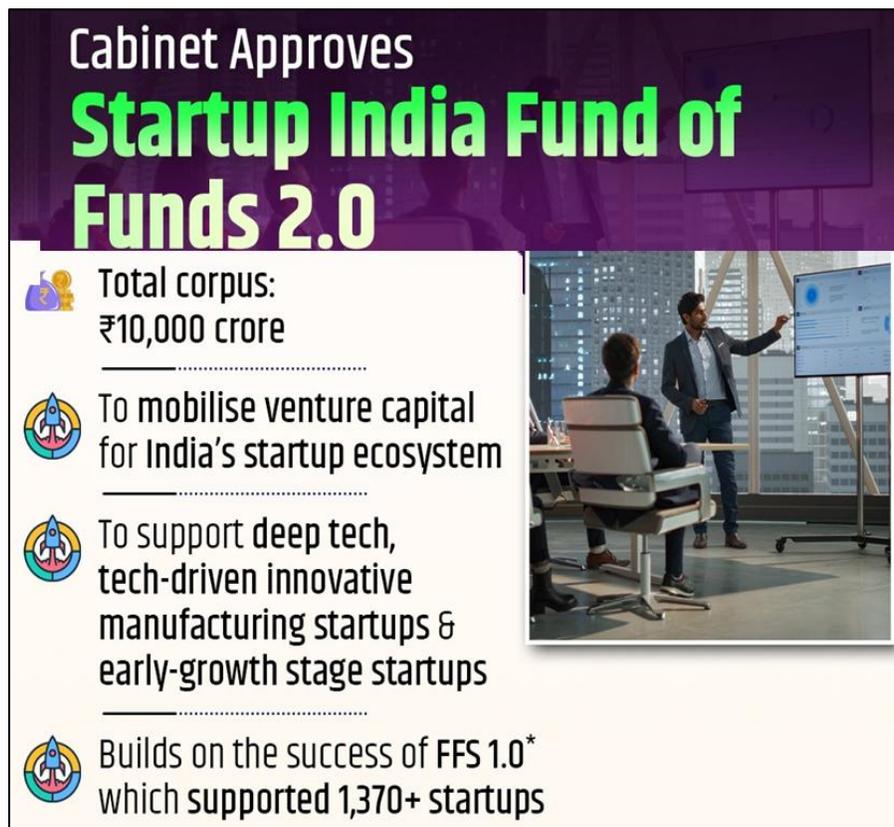
**Under this initiative, accident victims will get cashless treatment of up to ₹1.5 lakh, ensuring that no life is lost due to lack of immediate medical help**

- ❖ The Government launched PM RAHAT (Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment).
- ❖ The scheme provides cashless treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh per road accident victim for 7 days from the date of the accident.
- ❖ Victims or bystanders can dial ERSS (Emergency Response Support System) 112 to reach the nearest designated hospital within the Golden Hour.
- ❖ The scheme is implemented through the integration of the eDAR (Electronic Detailed Accident Report) platform of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the TMS (Transaction Management System) 2.0 of the National Health Authority.

### **Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (FoF 2.0) with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore.

- ❖ The fund aims to mobilise long-term domestic capital and strengthen India's startup and venture capital ecosystem.
- ❖ It follows Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS 1.0), launched in 2016 under the Startup India initiative.
- ❖ Under FFS 1.0, ₹10,000 crore was committed to 145 Alternative Investment Funds, which invested over ₹25,500 crore in more than 1,370 startups.
- ❖ FoF 2.0 will focus on deep technology, innovative manufacturing, early-stage founders and priority sectors across India.
- ❖ The scheme is implemented by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and managed by the Small Industries Development Bank of India.



**Cabinet Approves**  
**Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0**

-  **Total corpus:**  
₹10,000 crore
-  **To mobilise venture capital for India's startup ecosystem**
-  **To support deep tech, tech-driven innovative manufacturing startups & early-growth stage startups**
-  **Builds on the success of FFS 1.0\* which supported 1,370+ startups**

*\*FFS 1.0 supported 145 Alternative Investment Funds which invested over ₹25,500 crore in more than 1,370 startups.*



### **Complaints Against Judges in India**

- ❖ The Union Government informed Lok Sabha that 8,630 complaints were received against sitting judges in the last 10 years.
- ❖ Complaints relate to corruption, sexual misconduct, and other serious impropriety against judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.
- ❖ Complaints against judges are handled under the “in-house procedure” by the Chief Justice of India and the Chief Justices of High Courts.

- ❖ Complaints submitted through CPGRAMS (Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System) are forwarded to the concerned judicial authorities.

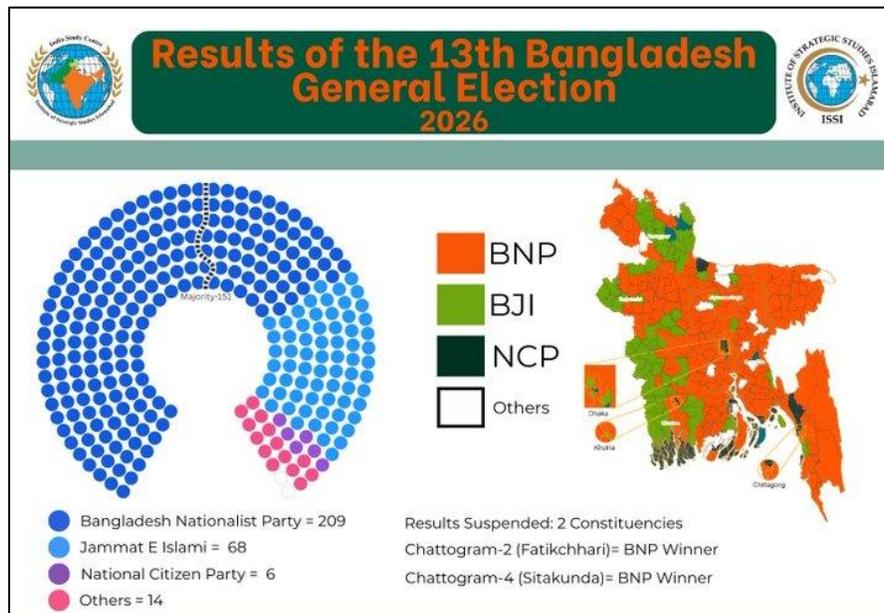


## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **Bangladesh General Elections 2026**

- ❖ Bangladesh held its 13th parliamentary election in February 2026, the first national election after the 2024 mass uprising that removed Sheikh Hasina's government.
- ❖ The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) won a landslide victory, securing a strong majority in Parliament.
- ❖ Tarique Rahman, chairman of the BNP and son of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, is set to become Prime Minister after the election victory.
- ❖ Rahman will become the first male Prime Minister of Bangladesh in decades, following his mother Khaleda Zia, the country's first female PM
- ❖ She died in December 2025.
- ❖ His father, Gen Ziaur Rahman, took power in 1975 and became Bangladesh's President, before he was assassinated in 1981.
- ❖ The country had been governed by an interim administration led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus since the political crisis of 2024.

- ❖ In July 2025, Bangladesh approved a constitutional referendum known as the “July Charter.”
- ❖ The referendum proposed major constitutional reforms to replace the 1972 Constitution framework.
- ❖ The Charter was drafted by the interim government’s National Consensus Commission, drawing on recommendations from six reform commissions focused on the constitution, judiciary, electoral system, police, public administration and anti-corruption.
- ❖ Key charter reforms include increasing women’s political representation, imposing prime ministerial term limits, enhancing presidential powers, expanding fundamental rights, and protecting judicial independence.
- ❖ The referendum will give people a chance to vote on reforms to state institutions.
- ❖ A referendum in direct democracy is a voting process where citizens directly accept or reject specific laws, constitutional amendments, or policies, rather than leaving decisions solely to elected representatives.

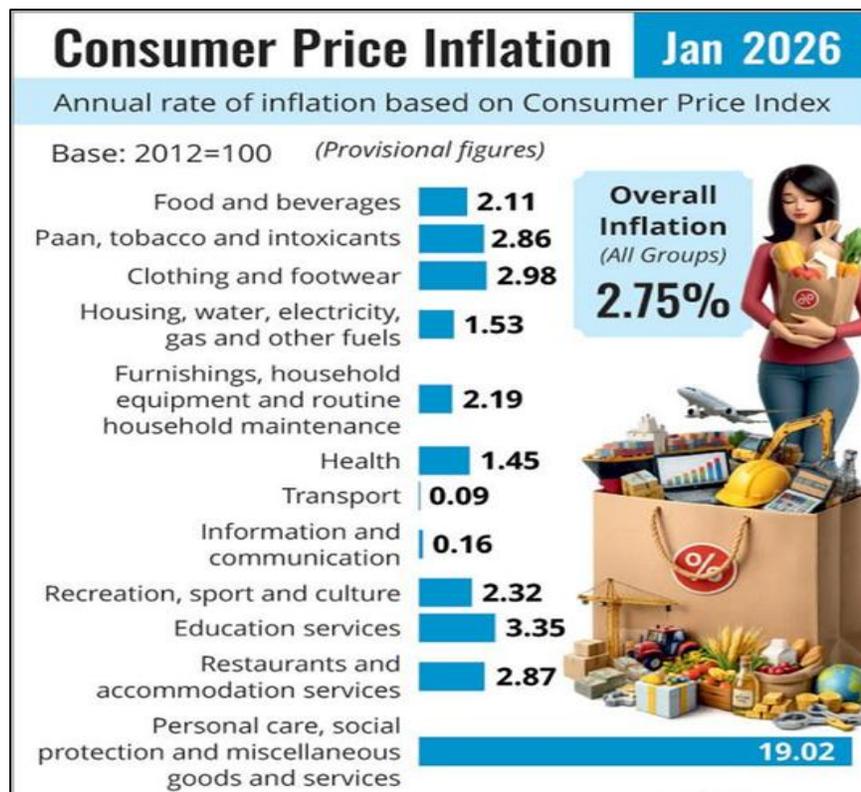


## **ECONOMY NEWS**

### **New CPI Series based Retail Inflation**

- ❖ India’s retail inflation was recorded at 2.75% in January 2026 under the new Consumer Price Index (CPI) series (Base: 2024 = 100).

- ❖ The data was released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and is the first inflation estimate under the revised CPI framework.
- ❖ The new CPI series replaces the earlier base year of 2012 and is based on the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (2023–24).
- ❖ The CPI basket now includes 358 weighted items (earlier 299), reflecting changing consumption patterns and the growing share of services.
- ❖ Newly added items include online streaming services, rural housing, cleaner fuels (CNG, PNG), exercise equipment, and value-added dairy products.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### BIRAC–RDI Fund for Biotechnology

- ❖ The Centre announced the first national call for the BIRAC–RDI (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council–Research, Development and Innovation) Fund.
- ❖ The ₹2,000 crore fund is part of the ₹1 lakh crore RDI initiative approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2025 and launched in November 2025.

- ❖ It is implemented under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation and anchored by the Department of Science and Technology.



## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Hair-Crested Drongo



- ❖ A Hair-crested Drongo was sighted for the first time at the foothills of Manjamalai near Palamedu in Madurai.
- ❖ The scientific name is *Dicrurus hottentottus*, and it belongs to the Dicruridae family.
- ❖ It lives in evergreen forests, moist deciduous forests, forest edges, scrublands and plantations.

- ❖ Its conservation status is Least Concern in the IUCN Red List, and it is listed under Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

### **Lion-Tailed Macaque Conservation**

- ❖ A recent study reported a rise in lion-tailed macaque populations in human-dominated landscapes of the Anamalai Hills in the Western Ghats.
- ❖ The lion-tailed macaque is an endemic primate species found only in the Western Ghats rainforest ecosystem.
- ❖ A 40-year study observed 37 groups of macaques across protected forests and human-dominated areas such as plantations and settlements.
- ❖ It is listed as Endangered in the IUCN Red List and included in Appendix I of the CITES.
- ❖ It is also protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.



#### **LION-TAILED MACAQUE**

*Macaca silenus*

##### **CONSERVATION STATUS: ENDANGERED**

- Also known as *wanderoos*
- Found exclusively in the Western Ghats mountains of southwestern India in the upper canopy of tropical evergreen and monsoon forests
- One of the smaller macaque species, they are named *not* for their striking silver mane, but rather for their lion-like tail tufts
- Threatened by habitat fragmentation, hunting, and the pet trade
- Populations are declining

## **REPORTS AND INDICES**

### **Trade Watch Quarterly Report**

- ❖ NITI Aayog released the sixth edition of “Trade Watch Quarterly” for Quarter 2 of FY 2025–26 (July–September 2025) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The report shows India’s total exports grew by about 8.5% during the quarter.

- ❖ Electronics became the second-largest item in India's export basket, with exports reaching USD 42.1 billion by 2024.
- ❖ The Union Budget allocated ₹40,000 crore under the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme to support domestic electronics production.
- ❖ E-commerce exports are projected to contribute 20–30% of India's merchandise exports by 2030.



## STATE NEWS

### Uttar Pradesh Budget 2026–27



- ❖ The government of Uttar Pradesh presented a Budget of ₹9.12 lakh crore for the financial year 2026–27 in the State Assembly.

- ❖ The Budget is about 12.9% higher than the previous year.
- ❖ Capital expenditure is set at 19.5% of the total Budget, with major spending on education, agriculture, healthcare, and infrastructure.
- ❖ The fiscal deficit has been kept at 3% of Gross State Domestic Product, following Finance Commission guidelines.
- ❖ The government increased funding for healthcare, medical colleges, police infrastructure, and technology missions such as Artificial Intelligence training programmes.

