

February - 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister inaugurated the first Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) in Northeast India at Moran Bypass in Dibrugarh, Assam.
- ❖ The Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026, organised by the Ministry of Education in New Delhi, focused on using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve school education, including literacy, teaching, governance, and multilingual learning.
- ❖ India's first National Cow Culture Museum will be established in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly introduced an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based digital attendance system for Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in 2026.
- ❖ Aalin Sherin Abraham, a 10-month-old baby, became Kerala's youngest organ donor after she died in accident.
 - Her funeral was held with State honours in recognition of her parents decision to donate her organs and save lives.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

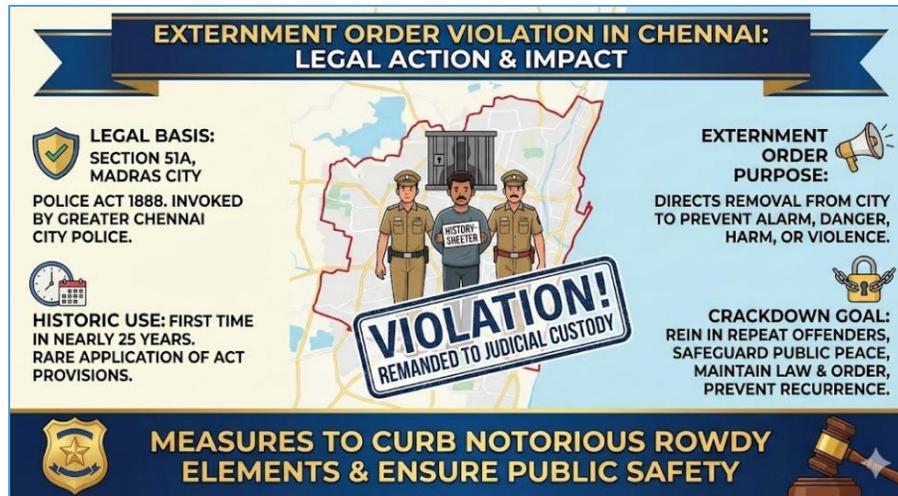
Palayamkottai Tower Clock



- ❖ The historic tower clock at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Palayamkottai is being restored and is set to chime again.
- ❖ The clock was manufactured in 1854 and installed in 1855, which is earlier than Big Ben in London, which was installed in 1859.

- ❖ The year 1854 is engraved on the clock, and it was made by John Moore & Sons, a London-based clockmaking company.
- ❖ The cathedral was built in 1826 by Reverend Charles Theophilus Ewald Rhenius and recently celebrated its bicentenary.
- ❖ The clock is believed to be one of the oldest tower clocks in India.

Externment Order Violation in Chennai

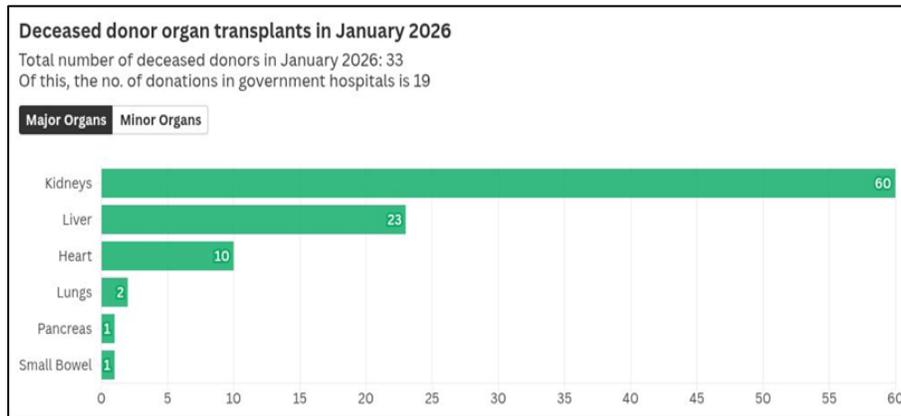


- ❖ A history-sheeter was remanded in judicial custody for violating an externment order issued by the Greater Chennai City Police.
- ❖ The police invoked Section 51A of the Madras City Police Act 1888 to take action against the offender.
- ❖ This is the first time in nearly 25 years that provisions of the City Police Act have been used to jail a person for breaching an externment order.
- ❖ An externment order allows the Police Commissioner to direct the removal of individuals from the city if their activities may cause alarm, danger, harm to persons or property, or involve force or violence.
- ❖ The orders were issued as part of a crackdown on notorious rowdy elements entering Chennai and threatening public peace.
- ❖ The measure aims to rein in repeat offenders, safeguard public peace, maintain law and order, and prevent the recurrence of serious criminal activities.

Organ Donations in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded its highest-ever monthly deceased organ donations with 33 donors in January 2026.

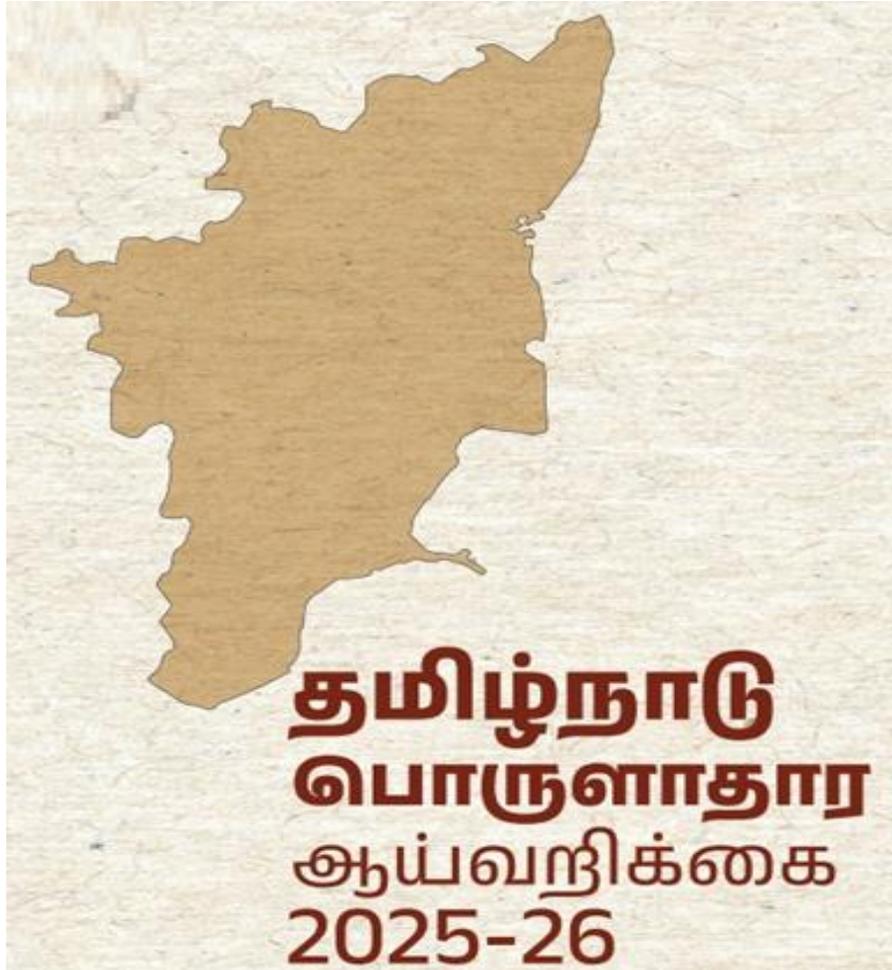
- ❖ Government Dharmapuri Medical College Hospital recorded the highest number of donors (5) and functions as a Non-Transplant Organ Retrieval Centre (NTORC).
- ❖ Government Rajaji Hospital of Madurai recorded 4 donors, while Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital in Chennai and Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital in Chennai recorded 2 donors each.
- ❖ Other hospitals in Coimbatore, Salem, Dindigul, Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram, and Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital recorded one donor each.
- ❖ In 2025, Tamil Nadu recorded 266 brain-dead organ donors, and 42 donations were recorded in the first 43 days of 2026.
- ❖ The deceased donor organ transplantation programme is coordinated by the Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu, and Government Order (GO) 331 issued in 2023 honours brain-dead donors with State respect.



Economic Survey 2025–26

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Economic Survey 2025–26 was prepared by the State Planning Commission.
- ❖ The Survey states that Tamil Nadu can achieve a one-trillion-dollar economy by 2031 if the State sustains a 16% nominal growth rate recorded in 2024–25.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) reached ₹31.19 lakh crore in 2024–25, with real growth of 11.2%, the highest among major States.
- ❖ Per capita income in 2024–25 was ₹3.62 lakh, which is 1.77 times higher than the national average of ₹2.05 lakh.
- ❖ The State contributed 9.4% to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) despite having 4% of the land area and 6% of the population.
- ❖ The manufacturing sector grew by 14.74% in 2024–25, while the services sector grew by 11.3%, showing strong sectoral performance.

- ❖ Merchandise exports increased from \$26.15 billion in 2020–21 to \$52.07 billion in 2024–25, with Tamil Nadu ranking first in electronics, textiles, and leather exports.
- ❖ Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows into Tamil Nadu increased to \$3,681 million in 2024–25.
- ❖ The Survey notes that textile exports face challenges due to United States (U.S.) tariff increases, though trade agreements may provide relief.
- ❖ It highlights that several areas of the agriculture sector require immediate attention to sustain growth.
- ❖ The Survey also notes that consanguineous marriages remain prevalent in Tamil Nadu.



Union–State Relations Report

- ❖ Part I of the report by the Justice Kurian Joseph Committee on Union–State Relations was submitted to the Government of Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ The committee was constituted in 2025 and is chaired by Kurian Joseph, a retired Supreme Court of India judge.
- ❖ The report discusses decentralisation, State autonomy, amendment of the Constitution, territorial integrity of States, the role of the Governor, and delimitation.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen cooperative federalism within the constitutional framework and restore balance between the Union and the States.
- ❖ Two more parts of the report, each containing ten chapters, are under preparation.
- ❖ This committee is the fourth major national-level review of Union–State relations after the Rajamannar Committee, Sarkaria Commission, and Punchhi Commission.



Tamil Nadu Budget 2026

- ❖ The State's interim Budget for the financial year 2026-2027 was presented in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly by Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu ahead of the Assembly elections due this year.
- ❖ Also, the interim Agriculture Budget was presented by the portfolio minister M.R.K. Panneerselvam.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu can achieve its trillion-dollar economy milestone by 2031 if it sustains the 2024-25 nominal growth rate of 16%.
- ❖ The finance minister will also present in the House the demand for advance grants for the year 2026-2027 and additional expenditure for 2025-2026 for its approval.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded 11.3% economic growth in 2024–25.

- ❖ Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) reached ₹31.19 lakh crore, retaining its position as India's second-largest State economy.
- ❖ School Education was allocated ₹48,534 crore.
- ❖ Works of Periyar E.V. Ramasamy translated into 27 languages, including English, French, Arabic, Hindi, and Gujarati.



- ❖ In the Revised Estimates 2025-26, the outstanding debt of the State is estimated to be ₹9.52 lakh crore as against ₹9.29 lakh crore in the Budget Estimates 2025-26.
- ❖ The outstanding debt has been estimated to be ₹9.42 lakh crore in the Revised Estimates and ₹10.62 crore in the Interim Budget Estimates 2026-27.
- ❖ The State plans to borrow ₹1.79 lakh crore during 2026-27 and make repayment of ₹60,413.42 crore.
- ❖ The debt-to-GSDP ratio is estimated to be 26.12.
- ❖ According to the Interim Budget Estimates, the Revenue Deficit for 2026-27 is estimated at ₹48,696.32 crore.
- ❖ It was ₹69,219 crore in the Revised Estimates 2025-26 as against ₹41,635 crore in the Budget Estimates 2025-26.
- ❖ The Fiscal Deficit in the Interim Budget Estimates 2026-27 is estimated to be ₹1.21 lakh crore.
- ❖ It was ₹1.24 lakh crore, as per the Revised Estimates 2025-26.

- ❖ The Fiscal Deficit as a percentage of GSDP is estimated to reduce from 3.48% in the Revised Estimates 2025-26 to 3% in the Interim Budget Estimates 2026-27.
- ❖ 130 Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care Centres (CEmONC) are functioning across the State to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranks first in the country in terms of the number of safe deliveries conducted in Government hospitals.
- ❖ Tamilnadu's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has dropped to 35 per lakh live births, and the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) stands at 12 per thousand live births.
- ❖ Both are significantly lower than the national average.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu remains India's second-largest state economy.

Tamil Nadu Second Economic Survey Highlights



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Economic Survey was published for the first time in our state last year.
- ❖ The global economy grew at 3.3% in 2025.
- ❖ India's economy recorded 6.49% in 2024-25, but increased its growth performance to 7.4% in 2025-26.
- ❖ The State's textile exports account for a major share of Tamil Nadu's export.
- ❖ It is facing headwinds due to the recent 50% hike in the United States' tariffs.



- ❖ Nearly 30% of the State's textile exports are directed to the U.S. market.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's per capita income growth has consistently outpaced the national average.
- ❖ In 2024-25, per capita income reached ₹3.62 lakh.
- ❖ It is 1.77 times higher than the national average of ₹2.05 lakh.
- ❖ It is making Tamil Nadu the third-largest State in terms of per capita income.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has consistently increased its expenditure on the social sector, rising from ₹1,13,268 crore in 2021-22 to ₹1,57,864 crore in 2025-26 (RE).
- ❖ Total capital expenditure between 2020-21 and 2025-26 amounts to ₹2.54 lakh crore, reflecting a decisive emphasis on asset creation.
- ❖ Its Gross State Domestic Product at current prices reached ₹31.19 lakh crore in 2024-25, reflecting a nominal growth rate of 16% and a real growth rate of 11.2% – the highest among major States.
- ❖ According to the Survey, urban inflation in Tamil Nadu declined from 5.2% in 2023-24 to 2.5 % in 2025-26, while rural inflation fell from 5.8% to 2.1%.
- ❖ Urban inflation remains the primary driver of overall inflation in the State.
- ❖ Among major categories, food inflation declined sharply to -0.003 % in 2025-26, while inflation in clothing and footwear moderated to 1.3%.
- ❖ The manufacturing sector recorded a real growth rate of 14.74% in 2024-25, more than three times the all-India average of 4.5%.
- ❖ Over the four-year period from 2021-22 to 2024-25, Tamil Nadu led the nation with an average manufacturing growth rate of 9.38%.
- ❖ The Economic Survey of India 2025-26 recognises Tamil Nadu as the foremost contributor to India's manufacturing employment, accounting for 15% of the nation's total factory workforce.
- ❖ In 2024-25, the primary sector contributed 13.4%.to the State's Gross State Value Added, the secondary sector 33.1% and the services sector contributed 53.6%.
- ❖ The services sector also registered strong performance, achieving a double-digit real growth rate of 11.3% in 2024-25.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu continues to rank among the top Indian States in attracting foreign direct investment.
- ❖ While India's overall FDI equity inflows declined from \$46.03 billion in 2022-23 to \$44.42 billion in 2023-24 amid global uncertainty and tighter financial conditions, Tamil Nadu defied the trend.
- ❖ The State's FDI inflows increased steadily from \$2,169 million in 2022-23 to \$2,436 million in 2023-24, and further to \$3,681 million in 2024-25.

- ❖ Besides, the State consistently ranks first in exports of electronics, textiles, and leather products, and second in engineering exports.

NATIONAL NEWS

Indigenous Dogs in the Armed Forces

- ❖ The Assam Rifles plans to induct indigenous Tangkhul Hui and Kombai dog breeds into its dog squad and phase out foreign breeds by 2050.
- ❖ The Assam Rifles, established in 1835, is India's oldest paramilitary force and functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs (administrative control) and the Ministry of Defence (operational control).
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs issued a 2025 directive to promote Indian dog breeds in armed forces dog squads.
- ❖ The Tangkhul Hui breed is native to the Ukhrul district of Manipur and is known for disease resistance and hunting ability.
- ❖ The Kombai breed is native to Tamil Nadu and has been identified as suitable for guard and tracking duties.
- ❖ The force currently has 253 dogs, mainly Belgian Malinois, German Shepherd and Labrador, against a sanctioned strength of 344.



India's First Leadership of CTF-154

- ❖ The Indian Navy has assumed the command of Combined Task Force-154 (CTF-154) for the first time.

- ❖ CTF-154 is a multinational training task force under the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).
- ❖ The change-of-command ceremony was held at CMF headquarters in Manama, Bahrain.
- ❖ CTF-154 was established in May 2023 to strengthen maritime security through training and capacity-building programmes.
- ❖ CMF is a 47-nation naval partnership working for security in the Indian Ocean Region and nearby waters.
- ❖ The task force conducts Maritime Security Enhancement Training and exercises such as Compass Rose and Readiness exercises.



White Revolution 2.0

- ❖ The Government of India has launched White Revolution 2.0 to increase milk procurement by 50 % over the next five years.
- ❖ The initiative was announced by the Ministry of Cooperation.
- ❖ The target is to raise daily milk procurement to 1,007 lakh kilograms by 2028–29.

- ❖ Around 75,000 new Dairy Cooperative Societies will be formed, and 46,422 existing DCS will be strengthened.
- ❖ The programme is funded under the National Dairy Development Programme 2.0 of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- ❖ Women make up nearly 70% of India's dairy workforce, and the scheme focuses on bringing more women dairy farmers into cooperative systems.
- ❖ The programme aims to improve farmer income, rural employment, nutrition, and women's economic empowerment.



**White Revolution 2.0
led by Cooperatives**

OBJECTIVE

To Increase Milk Procurement of **Dairy Cooperatives by 50% from Present Level Over Next Five Years** by Providing Market Access to Dairy Farmers in Uncovered Areas and Increasing the Share of Dairy Cooperatives in Organised Sector.

The infographic features a blue and white color scheme. On the right, a circular inset shows a person pouring milk from a metal can into another can, with cows in the background. The text is presented in a clean, sans-serif font, with key terms like 'OBJECTIVE' and '50%' highlighted in blue and yellow.

Urban Challenge Fund

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the launch of the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) with ₹1 lakh crore central assistance.
- ❖ The fund was first announced in the Union Budget 2025–26 and aims to mobilise a total investment of ₹4 lakh crore over five years.
- ❖ It will operate from Financial Year (FY) 2025–26 to FY 2030–31, with possible extension up to FY 2033–34.
- ❖ The scheme will cover cities with a population above 10 lakh, all State capitals, and major industrial cities with a population of over 1 lakh.



- ❖ It focuses on cities as growth hubs, creative redevelopment, and water and sanitation infrastructure.
- ❖ The Centre will provide 25% of the project cost, at least 50% must be raised from market sources, and the remaining 25% will be contributed by States or Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

Urban makeover

The Urban Challenge Fund seeks to leverage private participation for a total investment of **₹4 lakh crore** in the next five years

- The fund will be operational from 2025-26 to 2030-31, with an extendable implementation period up to 2033-34
- A dedicated **₹5,000 crore** corpus to enhance the creditworthiness of **4,223** cities
- All urban local bodies in hilly States and in northeastern States, and those with a population below **1 lakh** will be eligible for support under the Credit Repayment Guarantee Scheme

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India–France Year of Innovation

FRANCE IN INDIA: ECONOMIC REPORT

A landmark survey for the 'Indo-French Year of Innovation' capturing the impact and presence of French Businesses in India

As part of the prestigious **Indo-French Year of Innovation**, Team France in India is conducting a key survey to be featured in the France in India: Economic Report, to be released during the highly anticipated inaugural session of the Year of Innovation 2026 in the presence of high-level State officials.

- ❖ India and France launched the India-France Year of Innovation to promote cooperation in technology and research.
- ❖ The leaders discussed Artificial Intelligence (AI), defence cooperation, and digital technology partnerships.

- ❖ The programme encourages collaboration between start-ups, scientists, and technology companies of both countries.
- ❖ Defence cooperation includes the purchase of Rafale fighter jets made by Dassault Aviation.
- ❖ The India-France Strategic Partnership, started in 1998, continues to strengthen cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ Both countries support safe, ethical, and human-centric Artificial Intelligence (AI) development.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Pangolin Trade Ban



- ❖ The Sangtam tribal body in Nagaland passed a resolution to protect pangolins and stop illegal hunting and trade.
- ❖ The initiative covers Kiphire and Tuensang districts near the India–Myanmar border (about 1,643 km), a known wildlife-trafficking route.
- ❖ Pangolins are the most trafficked mammals in the world, hunted for their scales and meat.
- ❖ The Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) are found in Northeast India.
- ❖ The Indian pangolin is listed as Endangered, while the Chinese pangolin is Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ All eight pangolin species are listed under CITES Appendix I, which bans international commercial trade.

- ❖ The effort supports the Countering Pangolin Trafficking Project led by the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) with support from the Pangolin Crisis Fund.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Iron Age Temple – Denmark



- ❖ Archaeologists discovered a 2,000-year-old Iron Age temple complex at Hedegaard in Denmark.
- ❖ The site is located near Ejstrupholm in the Jutland peninsula of northern Europe.
- ❖ The temple dates to around 0 AD (Anno Domini) during the Iron Age period.
- ❖ Excavations by Museum Midtjylland revealed a fortified settlement with religious, political, and economic structures.
- ❖ The Iron Age in northern Europe lasted roughly from 500 BC to 800 AD.

