

February - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The foundation stone for the Rs 261-crore Global Sports City was laid by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Chennai.
- ❖ Bengaluru-based Sarvam AI has unveiled two Artificial Intelligence (AI) language models at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi
 - One model was referred to as “Vikram” during a demonstration, but its official name is yet to be announced.
- ❖ VoicERA, an open-source Voice Artificial Intelligence (AI) stack, was launched at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 on the BHASHINI National Language Infrastructure.
 - VoicERA is an end-to-end Voice AI execution system that supports multilingual speech recognition and conversational services.
- ❖ Larsen & Toubro (L&T) partnered with NVIDIA to build India’s first sovereign gigawatt-scale Artificial Intelligence (AI) factory infrastructure.
- ❖ International Asperger Syndrome Day was observed on 18 February to create awareness about Asperger’s Syndrome, which is part of autism spectrum disorder (ASD – autism spectrum disorder).
 - Asperger’s Syndrome is a neurodevelopmental condition where people have normal or high intelligence but face social interaction difficulties.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

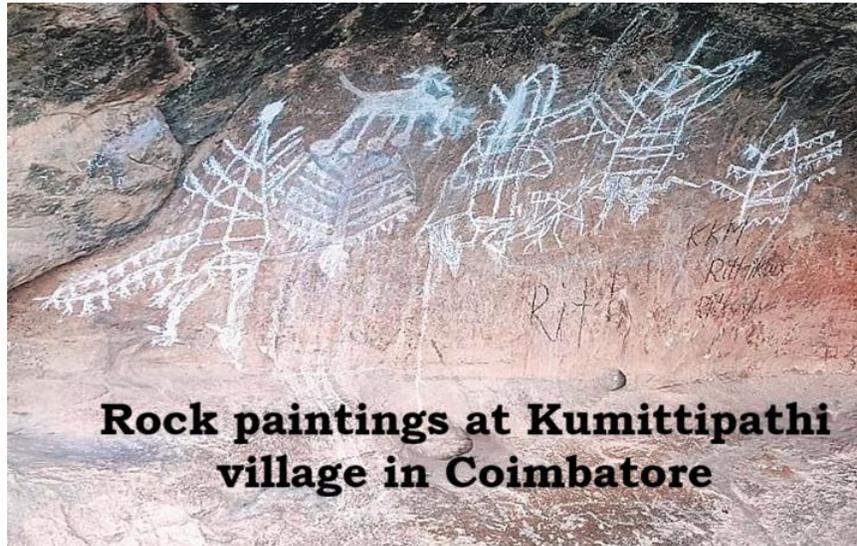
New Industrial Investments in Tamil Nadu



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹5,980 crore to promote semiconductor and aerospace manufacturing.

- ❖ MinebeaMitsumi will invest ₹1,980 crore to establish a manufacturing and research and development (R&D) centre in Tiruvallur district.
- ❖ The facility at Mahindra Origins Industrial Park will manufacture Insulated-Gate Bipolar Transistors (IGBT), Integrated Circuits (IC), motors, and sensors.
- ❖ Another MoU was signed with Aequs Group to support aerospace manufacturing in the State.

Kumittipathi Rock Art

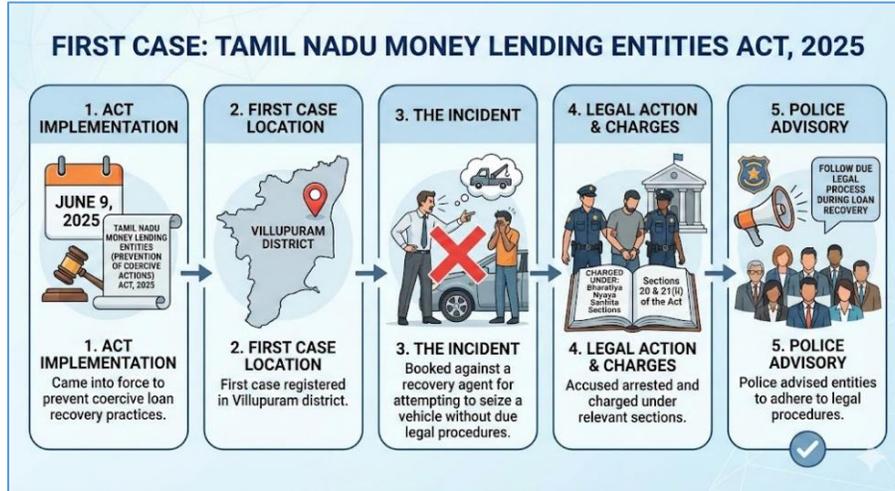


- ❖ The 2,300-year-old rock paintings at Kumittipathi village in Coimbatore district remain without protection despite being declared a protected monument in 2025.
- ❖ The paintings are located inside two caves on Pathimalai hill near Madukkarai, close to the Kerala border.
- ❖ The artwork, drawn in white pigment, shows an elephant, a chariot, and human-like figures.
- ❖ In 2025, the site was notified as a protected monument under Section 3(1) of the Tamil Nadu Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1966.

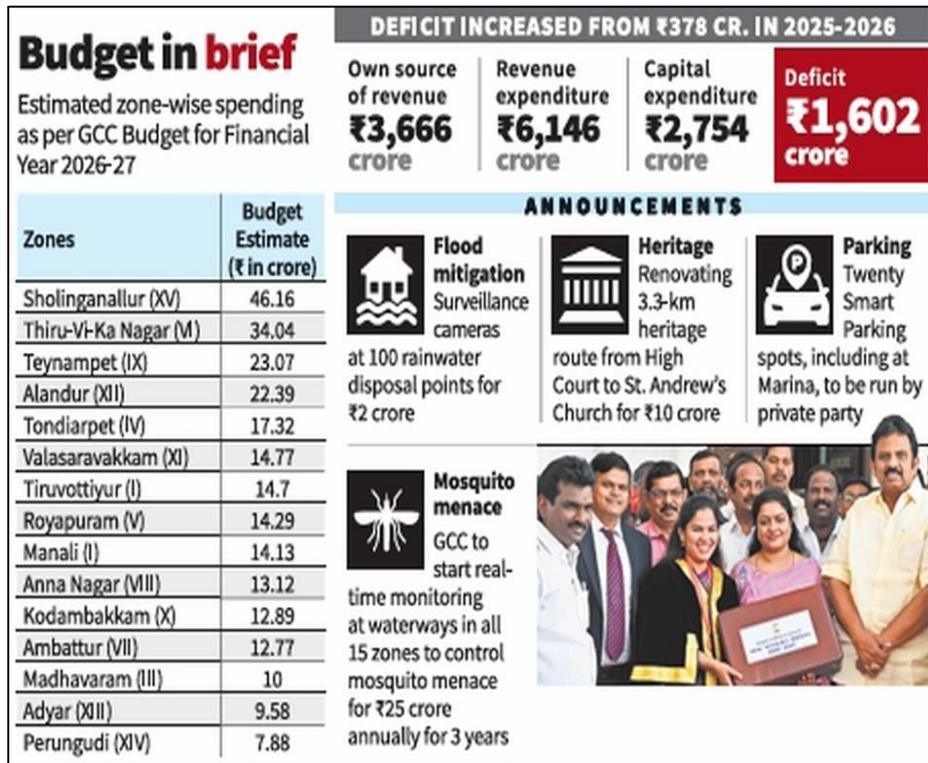
Tamil Nadu Money Lending Entities Act, 2025 – First Case

- ❖ The first case under the Tamil Nadu Money Lending Entities (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Act, 2025, was registered in Villupuram district.
- ❖ The Act came into force on 9 June 2025 to prevent coercive loan recovery practices.

- ❖ The case was booked against a recovery agent for attempting to seize a vehicle without following legal procedures.
- ❖ The accused was arrested and charged under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Sections 20 and 21(ii) of the Act.



Greater Chennai Corporation Budget 2026–2027



- ❖ The Greater Chennai Corporation presented its ₹9,319 crore Budget for 2026–2027.

- ❖ The capital expenditure has reduced to ₹2,754 crore from ₹3,191 crore in 2025–2026 due to the completion of major flood mitigation projects.
- ❖ The revenue expenditure is estimated at ₹6,146 crore, and loan repayment is estimated at ₹111 crore for 2026–2027.
- ❖ The deficit has increased from ₹378 crore in 2025–2026 to ₹1,602 crore in 2026–2027.
- ❖ Funds are sourced from agencies such as ADB (Asian Development Bank) and KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau – German Development Bank).

Justice Kurian Joseph Committee



- ❖ Justice Kurian Joseph, High-Level Committee on Union-State Relations – Part I of the report was presented in the Tamil Nadu Assembly.
- ❖ The committee was chaired by Justice Kurian Joseph, a former judge of the Supreme Court of India.
- ❖ The other members of the committee were K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty and Dr. M. Naganathan.
- ❖ The report recommended that the Governors of States should be divested of their role as Chancellors of State universities.
- ❖ It suggested that education be shifted back entirely to the State List from the Concurrent List.
- ❖ The report clarified that the objective is not to diminish the Union’s role but to “right-size” it.
- ❖ It stated that federalism is the foundation of India’s pluralistic character.

- ❖ The report emphasized that amendments strengthening federalism “will not weaken the Union of India.”
- ❖ Earlier, the Justice Rajamannar Committee was appointed in 1969 by former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi.
- ❖ The Justice Rajamannar Committee members included A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar and P. Chandra Shetty.
- ❖ The Supreme Court’s judgment in the S.R. Bommai case (1994) held that federalism is part of the basic structure of the Constitution.

Tamil Nadu Prisons (Release on Furlough) Rules, 2026

- ❖ The State government has notified new rules governing the release of convicts on furlough.
- ❖ Under the new rules, prisoners convicted for sedition/acts endangering the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India are ineligible for furlough.
- ❖ Prisoners convicted of rape and convicted foreign prisoners are ineligible for release on furlough.
- ❖ Prisoners convicted under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, are not eligible for furlough.
- ❖ Prisoners convicted under Sections 19, 20(ii)(c), 21(c), 22(c), 23(c), 24, and 27A of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 are not eligible for furlough.
- ❖ Prisoners involved in prison offences such as assault, outbreak, riot, mutiny, and escape during the past five years are ineligible for furlough.
- ❖ The rules state that no convict prisoner shall claim furlough as a matter of right.
- ❖ A convict prisoner becomes eligible for furlough only after completing 10 years of imprisonment with satisfactory conduct.
- ❖ Eligibility for furlough will be assessed individually based on the nature of the offence, past criminal record, behaviour in prison, and compliance during earlier temporary release.
- ❖ The Director General of Prisons may grant furlough for a period not exceeding 60 days in a year.
- ❖ The State government may sanction an additional 60 days of furlough in a year for rehabilitation reasons, to be recorded in writing.
- ❖ The period spent on furlough shall be counted towards the sentence of the convict prisoner.
- ❖ The furlough period shall be reckoned for remission of sentence, premature release, and other statutory benefits wherever applicable.

- ❖ The convict prisoner shall remain under the supervision of police or probation officers during the furlough period.
- ❖ Furlough may be revoked at any time by the Director General or the government.
- ❖ In case of overstay or breach of conditions, the prisoner may be arrested without warrant and denied furlough in the future.
- ❖ The government may exempt any person from the provisions of these rules in cases of medical ailments, old age, or other recorded reasons.

TAMIL NADU PRISONS (RELEASE ON FURLOUGH) RULES, 2026: EXPLANATORY OVERVIEW		
INELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (NOT ELIGIBLE) SEDITION / ACTS ENDANGERING SOVEREIGNTY  Convicts for sedition or acts against India's unity.	ELIGIBILITY & GRANTING PROCESS NOT A MATTER OF RIGHT  No convict prisoner can claim furlough as a right.	CONDITIONS, BENEFITS & EXCEPTIONS COUNTS TOWARDS SENTENCE  Period on furlough is counted as part of the sentence.
RAPE / FOREIGN PRISONERS  Convicts of rape; convicted foreign prisoners.	ELIGIBILITY THRESHOLD  After 10 years imprisonment with satisfactory conduct.	STATUTORY BENEFITS  Reckoned for remission, premature release, etc.
POCSO ACT, 2012  Convicts under the POCSO Act.	INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT  Based on offence nature, past record, prison behavior, past compliance.	SUPERVISION & REVOCATION  Under police/probation supervision; may be revoked anytime.
NDPS ACT, 1985 (Specific Sections)  Convicts under Sections 19, 20(ii)(c), 21(c), 22(c), 23(c), 24, 27A.	DURATION (DIRECTOR GENERAL)  DG of Prisons may grant up to 60 days in a year.	BREACH CONSEQUENCES  Arrest without warrant for overstay/breach; future furlough denied.
PRISON OFFENCES (PAST 5 YEARS)  Involved in assault, riot, mutiny, escape, etc.	DURATION (GOVT ADDITIONAL)  Govt may sanction addl. 60 days for rehabilitation (in writing).	GOVERNMENT EXCEPTIONS  Exemptions possible for medical ailments, old age, or recorded reasons.

NATIONAL NEWS

Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2026 – Judicial Diversity

- ❖ The Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament P. Wilson introduced a private member's Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2026, to provide reservation in judicial appointments.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to ensure representation for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), religious minorities, and women in the Supreme Court and High Courts.
- ❖ It proposes that appointments should reflect their population proportion and sets a 90-day time limit for the Central Government to notify collegium recommendations.
- ❖ The Bill also proposes regional benches of the Supreme Court at New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, and Chennai to improve access to justice.

- ❖ At present, judges are appointed through the collegium system, which was created by the Supreme Court through the Second Judges Case (1993).

Thiru. P. Wilson
Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha (DMK)
& Senior Advocate, Supreme Court

Thiru. P. Wilson introduced a Constitutional Amendment Bill in the Parliament to advance social justice by:

- ✓ Ensure social diversity in the appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts in proportion to the population of SCs, STs, and OBCs.
- ✓ Bring transparency in appointments to the higher judiciary.
- ✓ Establish permanent Regional Benches of the Supreme Court at Chennai, New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.
- ✓ Enhance the retirement age of High Court Judges from 62 years to 75 years.
- ✓ Increase the quantum of reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) in proportion to their population, as determined through a caste census.
- ✓ Provide reservation in promotions with consequential seniority for Backward Classes.
- ✓ Empower State Governments to undertake caste census.

MANAV Vision on Artificial Intelligence



- ❖ The Prime Minister presented the M.A.N.A.V. framework at the India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi.

- ❖ M.A.N.A.V. stands for Moral and Ethical Systems, Accountable Governance, National Sovereignty, Accessible and Inclusive Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Valid and Legitimate Systems.
- ❖ It provides a five-pillar framework for the development and use of Artificial Intelligence in India.
- ❖ It focuses on fairness, transparency, accountability, data security, and public access to AI systems.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

India's Sovereign AI Models

- ❖ The Artificial Intelligence (AI) models were highlighted at the India AI Impact Summit 2026.
- ❖ SarvamAI, a Bengaluru-based startup, unveiled two AI language models designed for multilingual and voice-based use across 22 Indian languages.
- ❖ Gnani.ai has launched Vachana Text-to-Speech (TTS) and Speech-to-Text (STT) models, which are trained on more than one million hours of Indian voice data.
- ❖ BharatGen unveiled PARAM 2 17B, a 17-billion-parameter multilingual Mixture-of-Experts (MoE) foundational model.

INDIA'S SOVEREIGN AI PUSH

3 big launches at India AI Impact Summit

Sarvam AI

- Rolled out 30B and 105B LLMs, trained fully in India
- 105B model claims an edge over DeepSeek R1 and Gemini Flash
- Built for advanced reasoning, coding, and agentic AI

Gnani.ai

- Launched Vachana TTS voice AI
- Clones voices in 12 Indian languages using under 10 seconds of audio
- Built, trained, and deployed entirely within India

BharatGen

- Unveiled Param2 17B multilingual foundational model
- Tuned for Indic languages and sovereign use cases
- Targets governance, education, healthcare, and agriculture

Why it matters

- Clear push for India-first, sovereign AI
- Emphasis on local data, scale, and control
- Shift from AI apps to core AI infrastructure

AI Infrastructure Project

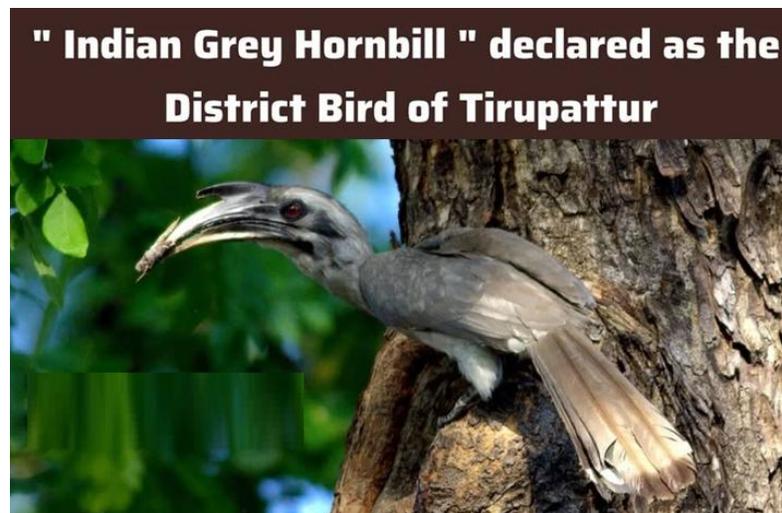
- ❖ Google has unveiled the America-India Connect project to strengthen digital and Artificial Intelligence (AI) infrastructure between the United States and India.

- ❖ The project is anchored by Google's five-year 15 billion US dollar investment in AI infrastructure in India.
- ❖ It includes a new international subsea cable gateway in Visakhapatnam and new subsea cable routes connecting India to Singapore, South Africa, and Australia.
- ❖ Four new fiber-optic routes will improve network connectivity between the United States, India, and countries in the Southern Hemisphere.
- ❖ The project will make Visakhapatnam a major global subsea hub and improve the resilience and reliability of India's digital network.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Indian Grey Hornbill – Bird of Tirupattur

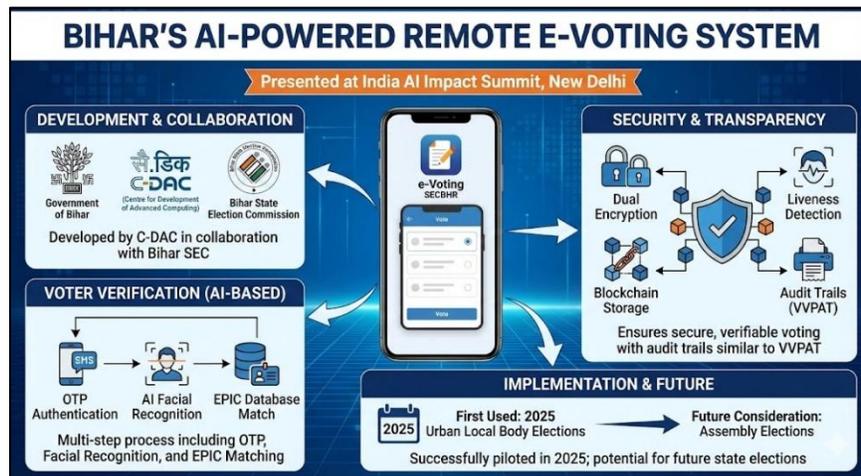


- ❖ The Indian Grey Hornbill was voted as the 'Bird of Tirupattur' district in a public poll conducted by the Forest Department.

- ❖ The initiative aimed to create awareness about biodiversity conservation and forest protection among students and youth.
- ❖ A sizable population of Indian Grey Hornbill is found in Ambur and Singarapettai forest ranges and Yelagiri Hills in Tirupattur district.
- ❖ The Indian Grey Hornbill (*Ocyrceros birostris*) is classified as Least Concern (LC) on the IUCN Red List.

STATE NEWS

AI-Powered Remote E-Voting System



- ❖ Bihar presented an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered remote e-voting system at the India AI Impact Summit held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The system was developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in collaboration with the Bihar State Election Commission.
- ❖ The mobile application “e-Voting SECBHR” enables remote voting through Android smartphones.
- ❖ Voter verification includes One-Time Password (OTP) authentication, Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based facial recognition, and matching with the Elector’s Photo Identity Card (EPIC) database.
- ❖ Security features include dual encryption, liveness detection, blockchain-based storage, and audit trails similar to Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT).
- ❖ The system was first used in the 2025 urban local body elections and may be considered for future Assembly elections.

