

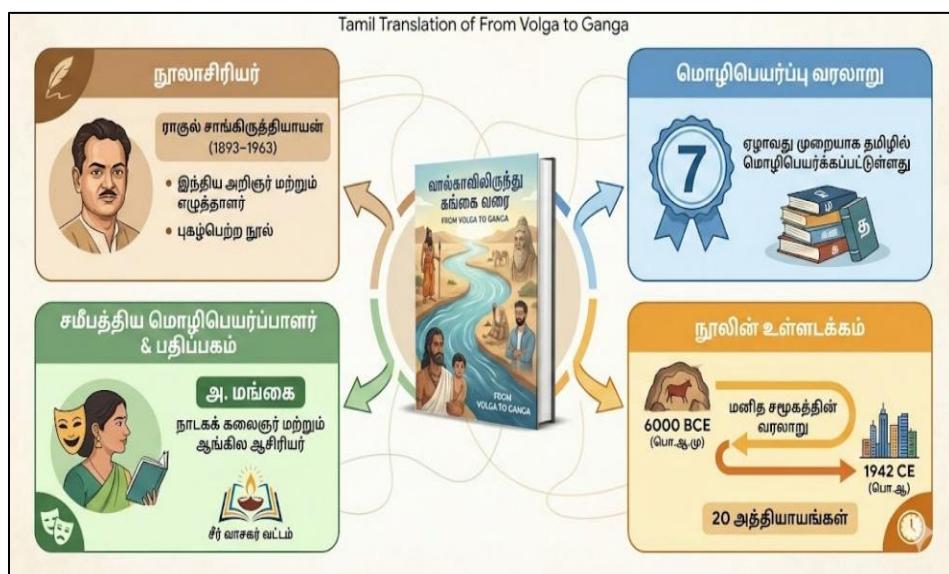
January - 04

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Kaamya Karthikeyan from Mumbai, an 18-year-old Indian mountaineer, reached the South Pole, becoming the youngest Indian and the second-youngest woman in the world to ski to the South Pole.
- ❖ The Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Centre (IKDRC), Ahmedabad, in Gujarat completed 500 kidney transplants in 2025, becoming the only public sector hospital in India to achieve this milestone in a single year.
- ❖ Indian Railways successfully completed the final high-speed trial of the Vande Bharat Sleeper Train on the Kota–Nagda section, where the train achieved a maximum speed of 180 kmph.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

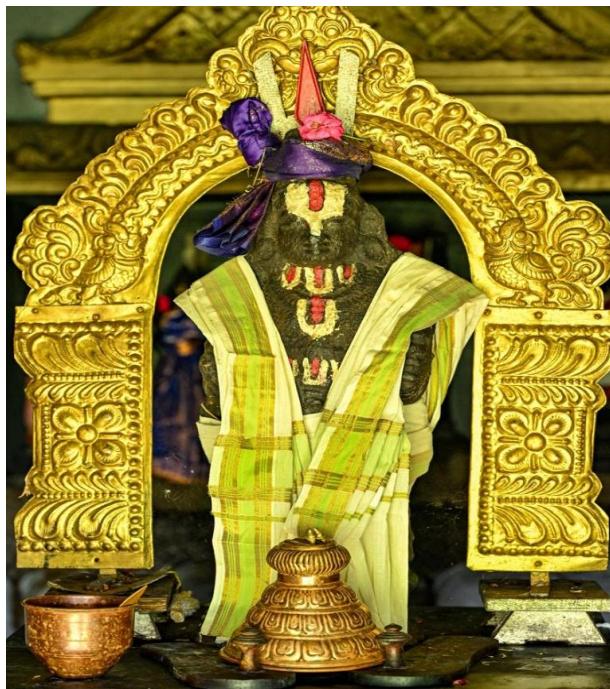
Tamil Translation of From Volga to Ganga



- ❖ From Volga to Ganga is a famous book written by Rahul Sankrityayan (1893–1963), an Indian scholar and writer.
- ❖ The book has been translated into Tamil for the seventh time.
- ❖ The latest Tamil translation is done by A. Mangai, a theatre practitioner and English teacher, with the Tamil edition published by Seer Vasagar Vattam.
- ❖ The book narrates the history of human society from 6000 Before Common Era to 1942 Common Era in 20 chapters.

Ancient Vaishnavite Memorial

- ❖ An idol of Nathamunigal, the first Acharya of Sri Vaishnavism, was found near Gangaikonda Cholapuram around the year 2000.
- ❖ The discovery site is at Sorgapallam (also called Sembodai) in Ariyalur district.
- ❖ Earlier, an idol of Srinivasa Perumal with Sridevi and Bhoodevi was found half-buried under a tree at the same location.
- ❖ Two temples were later constructed at the site to house the idols of Srinivasa Perumal and Nathamunigal.
- ❖ The site is identified as the Thiruvarasu (memorial) of Nathamunigal, confirming his presence there during his final days.
- ❖ Nathamunigal lived in the 9th Century Common Era (CE).
- ❖ He is credited with compiling the 4,000 hymns of the Nalayira Divya Prabandham (Dravida Veda).

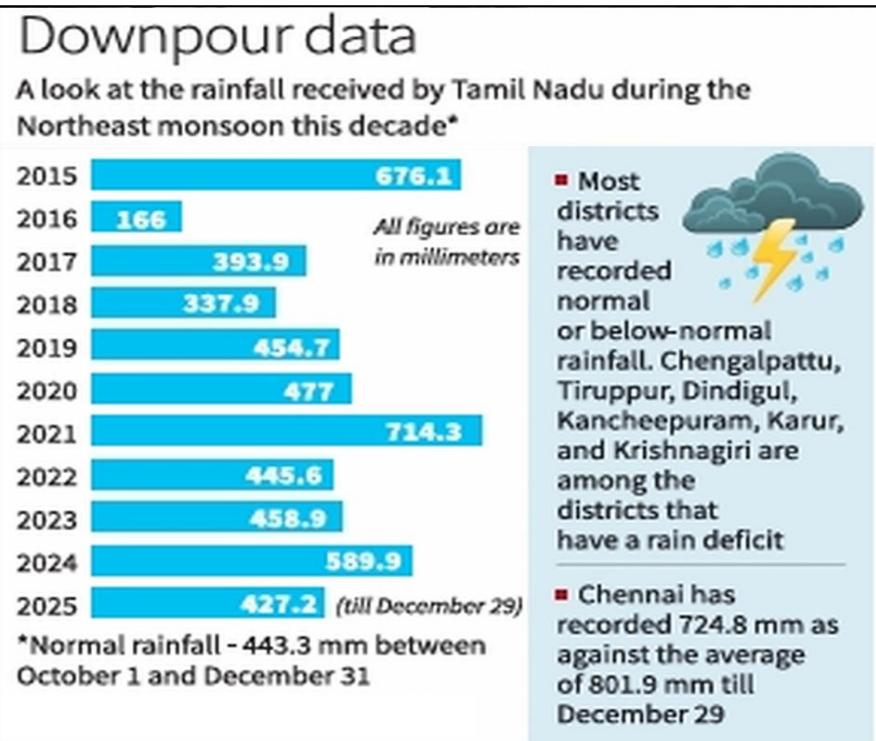


Northeast monsoon 2025

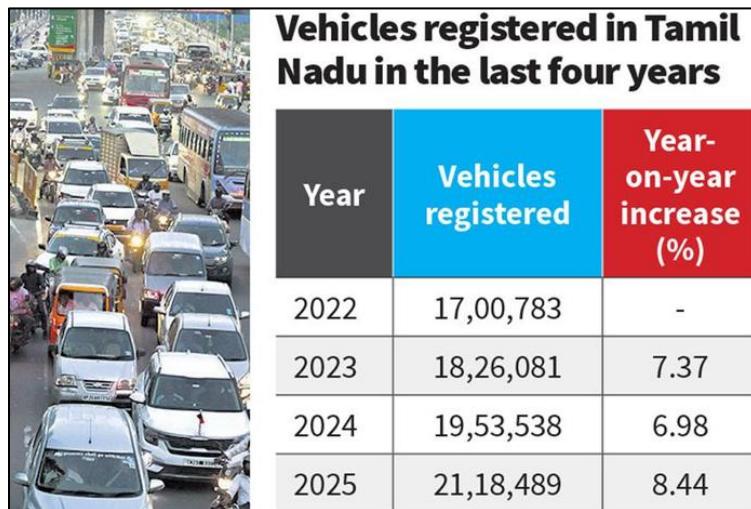
- ❖ Tamil Nadu experienced a normal northeast monsoon (October-December) in 2025, as against the forecast of above normal rainfall.
- ❖ It has almost touched the paddy coverage target during the long-term Samba-Thaladi-Pishanam cultivation season.

- ❖ Against the overall target of 33.9 lakh acres, the coverage was 33.8 lakh acres, of which around 13 lakh acres were in the Cauvery delta and the rest in the other parts of the State.
- ❖ The five-year-long average for coverage is 34.8 lakh acres.
- ❖ One of the reasons was the continuous water availability, as the State had received 58 cm of rain during March-September.
- ❖ In fact, in 2025, the summer rainfall was quite heavy: the State recorded 25 cm in March and April, almost double the normal amount.
- ❖ During the southwest monsoon, the rainfall was 33 cm, the expected amount.
- ❖ Though the northeast monsoon yielded only 43 cm against the anticipated 44 cm, and four districts alone (Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Virudhunagar, and Ranipet) received excess rain, the fairly comfortable groundwater position in general and one more year of Cauvery water surplus in the delta in particular ensured that the major cultivation season went off without hassle.
- ❖ This season, around 14.8 lakh tonnes of paddy were procured against the normal 5 lakh tonnes.
- ❖ In the coming eight months, including the lean season, about 38 lakh tonnes more is expected to be procured.
- ❖ During 2024-25, the total quantity of food grains procured was about 48 lakh tonnes.
- ❖ Northeast monsoon is likely to end with slightly below-normal rain in T.N. after a six-year surplus trend.
- ❖ After maintaining a six-year streak of normal or surplus rainfall since 2019, Tamil Nadu is likely to record slightly below-normal rainfall during the Northeast monsoon this year.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has so far recorded 42.7 cm, which is 3% lower than the seasonal average of 43.8 cm.
- ❖ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) considers deficit or surplus rainfall up to 19% as normal.
- ❖ According to the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), a trough in the Easterlies running over the southeast Bay of Bengal would influence mild rainfall, particularly over south Tamil Nadu and districts along the Western Ghats.
- ❖ IMD considers December 31 as the official end of the NE monsoon.
- ❖ The monsoon rainfall has spilt over into January in previous years.
- ❖ The absence of a Madden-Julian Oscillation, a large-scale eastward-moving band that plays a crucial part in enhancing cloud formation and rainfall, over the Indian Ocean during November and December, was the major reason behind the prolonged dry spell.

- ❖ Though an Equatorial Rossby wave, an atmospheric wave pattern that influences tropical weather patterns, aided rainfall through Cyclone Ditwah during early December, it was insufficient to revive widespread rainfall across the state.
- ❖ Chennai's five-year streak of surplus rainfall since 2020 has come to an end this year.



Vehicle Registrations in 2025



- ❖ Vehicle registrations in Tamil Nadu increased by 8.4% in 2025 compared to the previous year.
- ❖ A total of about 21.18 lakh vehicles were registered across 147 Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) and Unit Offices (UOs) in the State.
- ❖ More than 40% of registrations were concentrated in Chennai, Chengalpattu, Tiruvallur, Coimbatore, Madurai and Salem districts.
- ❖ Two-wheelers formed the largest share, with around 16.4 lakh registrations in 2025.
- ❖ Petrol vehicles dominated registrations, accounting for nearly 75% of the total vehicles registered.
- ❖ Electric vehicle registrations increased from 1.35 lakh in 2024 to 1.74 lakh in 2025, mainly driven by two-wheelers.

PE-VC Investments in 2025

Fund inflow
Private Equity (PE) and Venture Capital (VC) investments in Tamil Nadu based companies



Quarter	Number of deals	Amount (\$M)
Q4 2025	14	421
Q3 2025	14	1,461
Q2 2025	17	91
Q1 2025	16	1,540
Q4 2024	14	105
Q3 2024	13	776
Q2 2024	21	1,993
Q1 2024	9	53
Q4 2023	17	349
Q3 2023	14	352
Q2 2023	22	500
Q1 2023	25	460
Q4 2022	17	569
Q3 2022	17	125
Q2 2022	23	704
Q1 2022	26	1,359

- ❖ Private Equity and Venture Capital (PE-VC) firms invested \$3,513 million across 61 deals in Tamil Nadu-based companies during 2025.
- ❖ This represented a 20% increase in total investment value compared to the year 2024, as per Venture Intelligence data.
- ❖ In the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2025, PE-VC investments declined sharply to \$421 million across 14 deals.
- ❖ The Q4 investment level was nearly 71% lower than the third quarter (Q3) investment of \$1,461 million.
- ❖ Angel investments in Tamil Nadu remained unchanged, with 46 deals recorded in both 2024 and 2025.

- ❖ At the national level, PE-VC firms invested about \$33 billion across 1,164 deals in Indian companies in 2025.

NATIONAL NEWS

ECMS – Phase III

ELECTRONICS COMPONENT MANUFACTURING SCHEME

Aims to develop a robust component ecosystem by:

- Attracting large investments** (global/domestic) in electronics component manufacturing ecosystem
- Increasing DVA*** by developing capacity & capabilities
- Integrating Indian companies with GVCs#**



- ❖ The Union Government has approved the third phase of the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS).
- ❖ The scheme has been approved with a total financial outlay of ₹41,863 crore.
- ❖ ECMS aims to strengthen domestic electronics component manufacturing in India.
- ❖ Major companies such as Tata Electronics, Samsung Display, Dixon Electronics and BPL have received approvals under the scheme.
- ❖ The scheme seeks to reduce India's dependence on imported electronic components.
- ❖ It is expected to boost investment, employment generation and export capacity in the electronics sector.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

New Crypto Law - Turkmenistan

- ❖ Turkmenistan formally legalised cryptocurrency mining and exchange operations.

- ❖ The law classifies cryptocurrencies as virtual assets governed under civil law.
- ❖ Digital currencies are not recognised as legal tender, currency, or securities in the country.
- ❖ Cryptocurrency exchanges will require licenses and operate under the supervision of Turkmenistan's central bank.
- ❖ The legislation aims to regulate crypto activities while maintaining strict state control over the economy.



ECONOMY NEWS

Market Access Support Intervention

**MARKET ACCESS
SUPPORT (MAS)**
UNDER EXPORT
PROMOTION MISSION

Features Coming Soon

- ✓ Support for Product Demonstrations and Proof of concepts to potential Foreign buyers

- ❖ The Government of India has launched the Market Access Support (MAS) Intervention to help Indian exporters enter global markets.
- ❖ The scheme is implemented under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM).
- ❖ It mainly supports Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and first-time exporters.
- ❖ MAS provides financial and institutional support for trade fairs, exhibitions and Buyer-Seller Meets (BSMs).
- ❖ The programme is implemented under the NIRYAT DISHA sub-scheme.
- ❖ It aims to promote export diversification and improve the global competitiveness of Indian exports.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Legal Protection for Amazon Bees



- ❖ Amazonian stingless bees became the first insects in the world to receive legal rights.

- ❖ Peruvian municipalities passed a landmark ordinance recognising their right to exist and flourish.
- ❖ The law recognises their right to exist and flourish in nature.
- ❖ Stingless bees are important pollinators in tropical forests, especially the Amazon rainforest.
- ❖ Peru is home to more than 170 species of stingless bees.
- ❖ The decision aims to protect biodiversity (the variety of living organisms) and forest ecosystems.

Tiger Mortality 2025



- ❖ India recorded the deaths of 166 tigers in 2025, according to the latest data released by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- ❖ This number is 40 higher than the 126 tiger deaths reported in 2024.
- ❖ It represents the highest annual tiger mortality since the launch of Project Tiger in 1973.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh reported the highest number of tiger deaths in the country, with 55 fatalities recorded during the year.
- ❖ Other States that reported significant tiger deaths include Maharashtra with 38 deaths, Kerala with 13 deaths, and Assam with 12 deaths.
- ❖ Among the total tiger deaths in 2025, 31 were cubs, highlighting the increased vulnerability of young tigers.
- ❖ Experts have identified territorial conflicts arising from space constraints as a major reason for the rising number of tiger deaths.
- ❖ Despite the losses, India continues to host nearly 75% of the world's tiger population, which increased from 2,967 in 2018 to 3,682 in 2022.

STATES' NEWS

8th State Pay Commission



- ❖ Assam has become the first state in India to constitute the 8th State Pay Commission on 1 January 2026.
- ❖ Subhas Das, former Chief Secretary of Assam, was appointed as the Chairman of the commission.
- ❖ The 8th State Pay Commission is formed ahead of the expiry of the 7th Pay Commission on 1 January 2026.
- ❖ The commission will revise the salaries, allowances, and pensions of state government employees.
- ❖ Pay Commission recommendations require approval of the state government before implementation.

India's First Slum-Free City

- ❖ Surat is set to become India's first fully slum-free city through planned urban development and housing programmes.
- ❖ The Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) has focused on in-situ redevelopment by replacing slums with permanent residential buildings.

- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) has played a major role in providing affordable houses to eligible families.
- ❖ Thousands of families from economically weaker sections have been shifted to permanent homes with basic civic facilities.
- ❖ Surat is a major textile and diamond-processing hub in Gujarat and attracts a large migrant population every year.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

UN International Year 2026



- ❖ The United Nations (UN) has declared 2026 the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness and advocate for the value of healthy rangelands and sustainable pastoralism.
- ❖ 2026 also declared as the International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF 2026).
- ❖ It will raise awareness and promote actions to close the gender gaps and improve women's livelihoods worldwide.
- ❖ UN also declared 2026 as the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY), to promote and recognize volunteerism as a significant force for sustainable development.

