

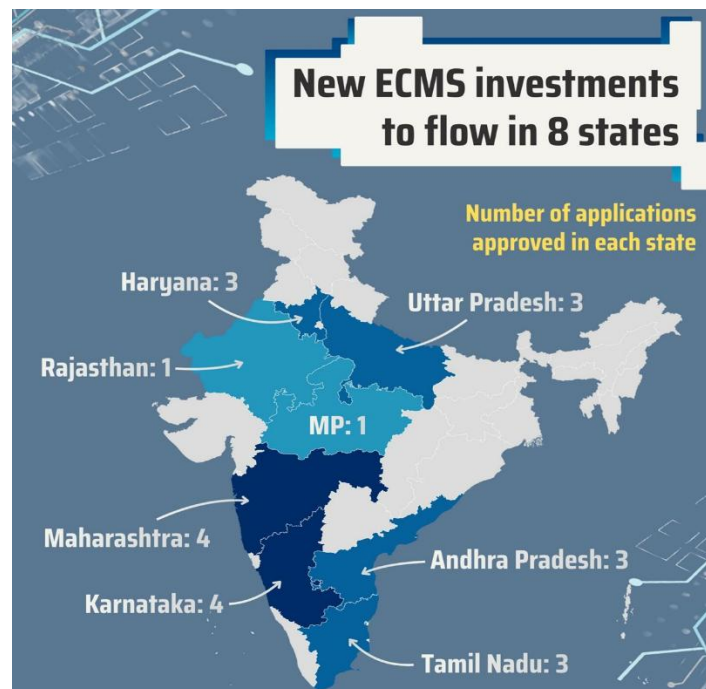
January - 05

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ In November 2025, India's broadband subscriber base crossed 100 crore (1 billion) users, marking the first time the country reached this milestone and representing a more than six-fold increase since November 2015.
- ❖ Warren Buffett officially retired as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Berkshire Hathaway, and succeeded by Greg Abel, but Buffett continues as Chairman.
- ❖ The 44th Junior National Kho Kho Championship began in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ Global Family Day, is observed every year on January 1 to promote peace and unity worldwide and emphasizes that all people are interconnected, regardless of nationality, borders, or ethnicity.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

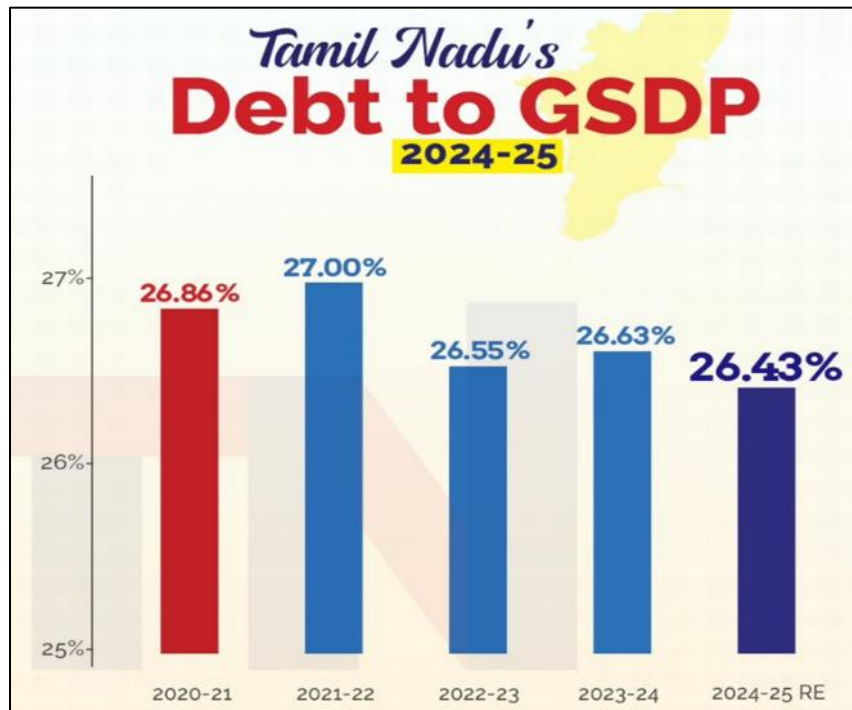
### ECMS Jobs and Investment



- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) approved 22 new projects under the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) in the third tranche.

- ❖ These 22 projects are expected to create a total of 34,061 job opportunities across India.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu alone accounts for 23,451 jobs from three projects by Tata Electronics, Motherson, and Foxconn.
- ❖ Foxconn's Yuzhan Technology project in Tamil Nadu received the single largest approval under this tranche of ECMS.
- ❖ The total investment approved in the third tranche is ₹41,863 crore.
- ❖ Of this, ₹27,166 crore worth of enclosures investment comes only from Tamil Nadu.

### Tamil Nadu's debt in 2025



- ❖ In 2010, Uttar Pradesh had more than double the debt of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Today, Tamil Nadu's outstanding debt is higher than Uttar Pradesh's.
- ❖ As of 2025-26, Tamil Nadu's outstanding debt is estimated at 26.1% of gross state domestic product (GSDP), down from 26.4% in 2024-25 and 26.6% in 2023-24.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's debt ratio has been on a gradual downward path since its COVID-19 peak, though it remains above pre-Covid levels.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, by contrast, is estimated to end 2025-26 with outstanding liabilities of 29.4% of GSDP, also declining from 30.8% in 2024-25.



- ❖ U.P. remains more indebted than Tamil Nadu relative to the size of its economy, even though Tamil Nadu's absolute debt stock is now higher.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's economy, at ₹35.7 lakh crore GSDP in 2025-26, is significantly larger per capita than Uttar Pradesh's ₹30.8 lakh crore economy, despite U.P. having nearly three times the population.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu does spend a high share of its revenue receipts on interest payments, about 21% in 2025-26.
- ❖ That places it among the higher-interest-burden States.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's fiscal deficit is projected at 3% of GSDP in 2025-26, lower than the 3.3% revised estimate for 2024-25, and fully within the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) framework.
- ❖ Over the ten-year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22, Tamil Nadu's average real GDP growth has exceeded its average real effective interest rate by about 2.1 percentage points.
- ❖ while even in the more recent five-year window, which includes the Covid pandemic shock, the growth-interest differential remains positive at 1.3 percentage points
- ❖ when growth persistently exceeds the effective cost of borrowing, debt ratios stabilise or decline unless primary deficits are very large
- ❖ In this, Tamil Nadu's case have been below 2% of GSDP.
- ❖ Notably between 2020-21 and 2023-24, Tamil Nadu maintained real GSDP growth averaging above 7%, with services and manufacturing consistently expanding.
- ❖ The economy did not stagnate under debt rather it expanded through it.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's per capita GSDP in 2023-24 stood at ₹3.53 lakh, more than three times Uttar Pradesh's ₹1.07 lakh.
- ❖ This reflects decades of higher productivity, industrialisation, and human capital formation.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is far more urbanised, which matters because it correlates with higher tax capacity, better service delivery, and more diversified employment.
- ❖ Human development indicators reinforce this picture.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu consistently outperforms most States on literacy, health access, and demographic transition.
- ❖ These outcomes reduce long-term fiscal pressures by lowering dependency ratios and improving labour productivity.
- ❖ Where Tamil Nadu's story becomes most forward-looking is in investment and economic composition.

- ❖ In 2025-26, Tamil Nadu planned a 22% increase in capital outlays.
- ❖ Debt that finances future productivity is not the same as debt that merely fills revenue gaps. The composition of expenditure matters, and Tamil Nadu's capital-heavy budget tilt suggests an economy still investing its way forward.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu raises 75% of its revenue receipts from its own resources.
- ❖ 25% comes from its share in central taxes and via grants.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, by contrast, depends on the Centre for over half of its revenue receipts.
- ❖ This reflects stronger tax bases, higher compliance, and denser economic activity in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ States that industrialised early, invested in human development, and controlled population growth, now face tighter borrowing constraints and lower transfers, even as they continue to contribute disproportionately to national growth and tax collections.
- ❖ It is about what States did with their borrowing, what economies they built, and what futures they are financing.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### New Excise Duty and Cess



- ❖ The Government of India has notified new excise duty and cess on tobacco and pan masala, effective from February 1, 2026.
- ❖ The earlier Compensation Cess on tobacco and pan masala has been withdrawn.

- ❖ An Additional Excise Duty will be levied on tobacco and tobacco products.
- ❖ A Health and National Security Cess will be imposed on pan masala.
- ❖ Cigarettes, tobacco, and pan masala will be taxed at 40 per cent under the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- ❖ Bidis will continue to attract a lower GST rate of 18 per cent.

### **Nationwide VoWiFi Service**

- ❖ Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) launched a nationwide Voice over Wi-Fi (VoWiFi) service.
- ❖ VoWiFi allows users to make voice calls and send messages using a Wi-Fi network instead of mobile towers.
- ❖ The service works with the user's existing mobile number and phone dialler, without any extra application.
- ❖ It is based on IMS (IP Multimedia Subsystem) technology and supports smooth switching between Wi-Fi and mobile networks.
- ❖ VoWiFi helps people in rural areas and inside buildings where mobile signals are weak.
- ❖ The service is free of cost and is supported on most modern smartphones across all telecom circles in India.



### **New Logo and Mascot “Sankhyiki”**




- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched a new logo and mascot.



- ❖ The new logo is based on the theme “Data for Development”.
- ❖ The logo includes the Ashoka Chakra, Rupee (₹) symbol, and growth bars showing the role of statistics in development.
- ❖ MoSPI also introduced its mascot named “Sankhyiki” (meaning Statistics).
- ❖ The mascot will be used in surveys, awareness campaigns, and public programmes.
- ❖ This initiative is linked with the National Statistical Office (NSO) to improve public participation and trust in data.



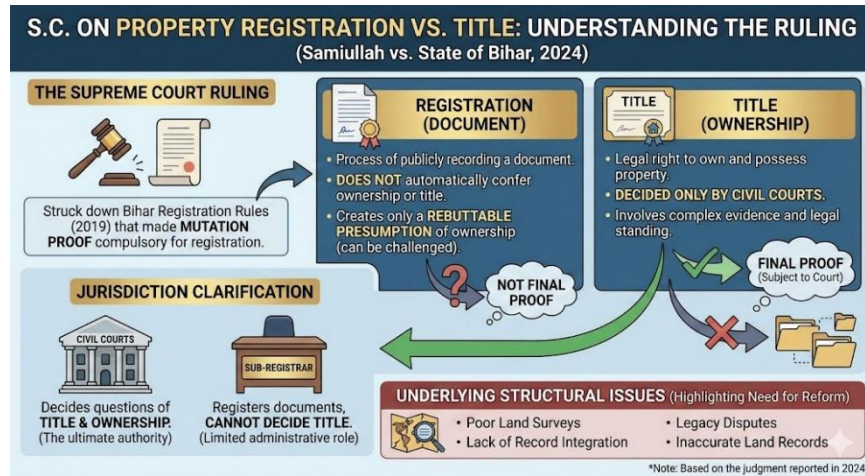
**Introducing the MoSPI Mascot “सांख्यिकी”**  
**The mascot represents:**

-  **Trust & Accuracy:** Upholding the credibility, reliability, and integrity of official statistics.
-  **Citizen Connect:** Making complex statistical concepts easy to understand
-  **Public Engagement:** Encouraging active participation in national surveys and public awareness initiatives.

### **Samiullah vs State of Bihar case**

- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled in Samiullah vs State of Bihar on property registration and mutation rules.
- ❖ The Court struck down the Bihar Registration Rules (2019) that made mutation proof compulsory for property registration.
- ❖ It held that the registration of a document is different from ownership or title of property.
- ❖ Questions of title and ownership can be decided only by civil courts, not by Sub-Registrars.

- ❖ Registration creates only a rebuttable presumption of ownership, not final proof.
- ❖ The judgment highlighted structural problems in land records due to poor surveys and a lack of record integration.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Annual Nuclear List Exchange 2026



- ❖ India and Pakistan exchanged lists of their nuclear installations on January 1, 2026.



- ❖ The exchange was carried out under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities.
- ❖ The agreement was signed on December 31, 1988, and came into force on January 27, 1991.
- ❖ Both countries exchange these lists every year on January 1 as a confidence-building measure.
- ❖ The exchange was conducted through diplomatic channels in New Delhi and Islamabad.
- ❖ India and Pakistan also exchanged lists of prisoners under the Consular Access Agreement of 2008.

### **21st Member of the Eurozone - Bulgaria**

**Bulgaria becomes 21st eurozone member**

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**The country officially adopted the euro on January 1, 2026, exactly 19 years after joining the EU,** reports the Bulgarian News Agency (BTA). A one-month transition period will see both the lev and euro used as legal tender.

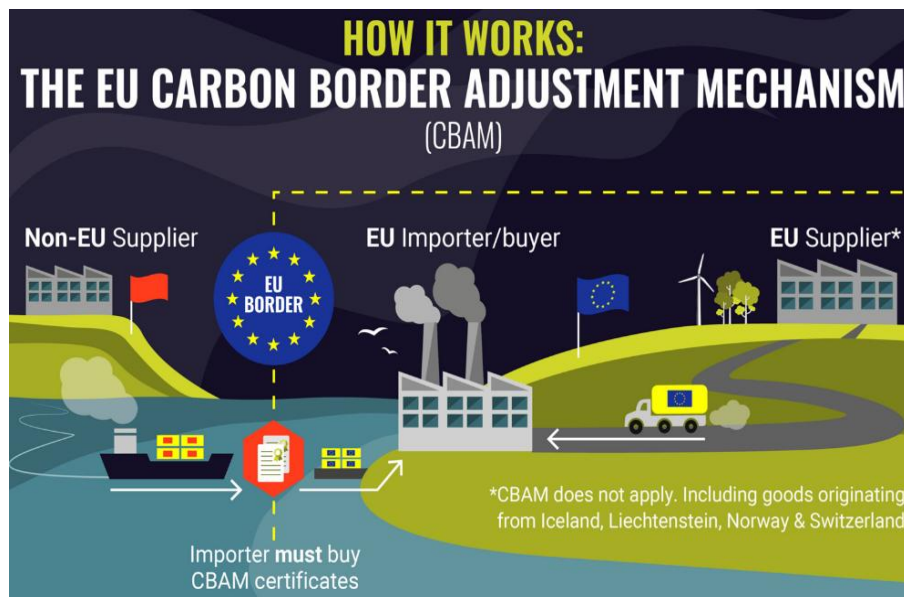
- ❖ Bulgaria officially adopted the euro, becoming the 21st member of the Eurozone.
- ❖ Bulgaria replaced its national currency, the lev, which had been in use since the late 19th century.
- ❖ The move comes nearly 20 years after Bulgaria joined the European Union (EU).
- ❖ Euro adoption aims to boost trade, improve price transparency, and attract foreign investment.
- ❖ The Eurozone is the group of EU countries that use the euro (€) as their common currency.
- ❖ With Bulgaria's entry, the euro is now used by more than 350 million people across Europe.

### **EU's Climate Trade Measure**

- ❖ The European Union (EU) has started the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).



- ❖ CBAM imposes a carbon tax on imports of steel, aluminium, cement, chemicals, paper, glass, fertilisers, and power-sector goods.
- ❖ Indian exports of steel, iron, and aluminium are affected due to high carbon emissions in production.
- ❖ Most Indian steel is made by the Blast Furnace–Basic Oxygen Furnace (BF–BOF) route, which produces high emissions.
- ❖ Cleaner steel production uses the Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) route, which recycles steel scrap.
- ❖ CBAM may increase costs for Indian exporters and affect Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) the most.

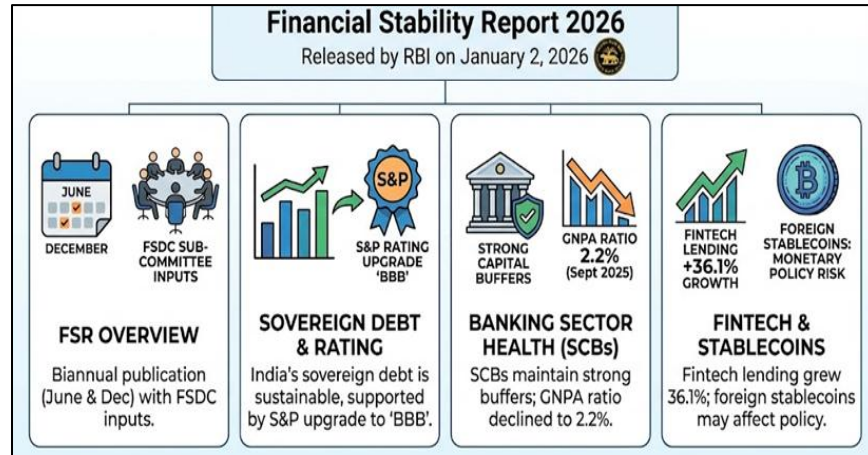


## ECONOMY NEWS

### Financial Stability Report 2026

- ❖ The RBI released its Financial Stability Report (FSR) on January 2, 2026.
- ❖ FSR is a biannual publication issued in June and December, with inputs from the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) sub-committee.
- ❖ The report noted that India's sovereign debt is sustainable, supported by an S&P rating upgrade to 'BBB'.
- ❖ Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) maintain strong capital buffers, and the Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio declined to 2.2% by September 2025.
- ❖ Lending in the fintech sector grew by 36.1%, while foreign-currency stablecoins could affect India's monetary policy.

- ❖ The report highlighted depreciation of the Indian rupee against the US dollar due to trade and capital flow factors.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Oreshnik Missiles

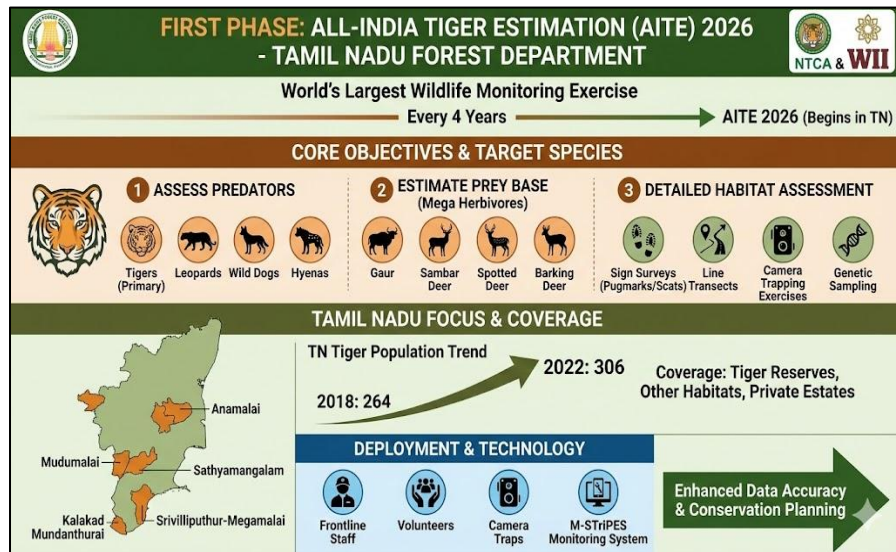


- ❖ Russia deployed the nuclear-capable Oreshnik missile system in Belarus.
- ❖ The Oreshnik is an intermediate-range ballistic missile with a range of 500–5,500 km.
- ❖ The missile can reach speeds of up to Mach 10.

- ❖ This deployment comes during ongoing Russia–Ukraine peace talks facilitated by the United States.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### First phase of the nation-wide tiger estimation exercise



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has announced that the first phase of the All-India Tiger Estimation (AITE) 2026 will begin.
- ❖ It is part of the world's largest wildlife monitoring exercise.
- ❖ AITE is conducted once every four years by the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Wildlife Institute of India.
- ❖ It aims to assess tigers, co-predators such as leopards, wild dogs and hyenas.
- ❖ It also aims to estimate the mega herbivore prey base, including gaur, sambar deer, spotted deer, and barking deer.
- ❖ It also includes detailed habitat assessment through sign surveys, line transects, camera trapping exercises and genetic sampling.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is home to five tiger reserves — Kalakad Mundanthurai, Anamalai, Mudumalai, Sathyamangalam, and Srivilliputhur-Megamalai.
- ❖ The State's tiger population has increased from 264 in 2018 to 306 in 2022.
- ❖ The exercise would cover all tiger reserves, other tiger habitats, and private estates with significant carnivore presence.
- ❖ Frontline staff, volunteers, and technology such as camera traps and the M-STrIPES monitoring system would be deployed.

## STATES' NEWS

### ISO Cyber Security Certification



- ❖ Tripura State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC) has received ISO/IEC 27001:2022 certification.
- ❖ It is the first Load Dispatch Centre in Northeast India to receive this cybersecurity certification.
- ❖ The centre functions under Tripura State Electricity Corporation Limited (TSECL).
- ❖ ISO/IEC 27001:2022 is an international standard for Information Security Management Systems (ISMS).
- ❖ The certification strengthens cyber cybersecurity of power grid control systems and data networks.
- ❖ It improves the protection of critical electricity infrastructure and national grid stability.

### Proton Therapy

- ❖ Assam will procure a proton therapy machine for cancer treatment.
- ❖ Assam will become the first state in India to offer proton therapy in the public health system.
- ❖ The estimated cost of the proton therapy machine is ₹500 crore.



- ❖ Proton therapy is an advanced form of radiotherapy that uses proton beams instead of X-rays.
- ❖ Currently, proton therapy facilities in India are available only in private hospitals.
- ❖ The initiative aims to improve advanced cancer care and reduce patient travel outside the Northeast region.



### **Sunrise Festival 2026**



- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh hosted its first-ever New Year Sunrise Festival at Dong village in Anjaw district in 2026.
- ❖ The festival is based on the theme "First to Rise, First to Celebrate", marking India's earliest sunrise.
- ❖ Dong village is India's easternmost village and the first place in the country to witness sunrise every year.

- ❖ A key event was “Alo Prabhat – Dance of the Dawn”, performed by the Meyor and Mishmi tribes.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Zohran Mamdani - New York



- ❖ Incoming Mayor Zohran Mamdani will take his oath of office on a centuries-old Quran.
- ❖ It will mark the first time a Mayor of New York City has used Islam’s holy text to be sworn in.
- ❖ He is a 34-year-old and from the Democratic party and also the city’s youngest mayor in generations.
- ❖ He'll be the first Muslim, first South Asian and first African-born person to hold that position.
- ❖ Most of his predecessors were sworn in on a Bible.
- ❖ Although the oath to uphold the federal, state and city constitutions does not require the use of any religious text.
- ❖ Mamdani was born in Kampala, Uganda, the son of filmmaker Mira Nair and Mahmood Mamdani, an academic and author.
- ❖ He became an American citizen in 2018.

