



July - 29

## TNPSC BITS

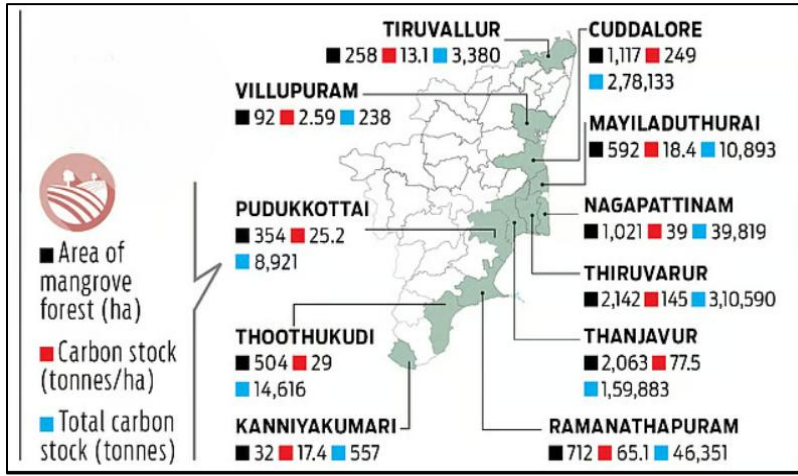
- ❖ The Indian Railways successfully tested the first hydrogen-powered coach in the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai.
- ❖ A community-based ecological restoration initiative by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, by roping in the local community, has restored an unused stretch of intertidal barren land with degraded creek edges along the Uppanar River near Cuddalore.
- ❖ DRDO has successfully conducted flight trials of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3 in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ India resumes tourist visas for Chinese citizens after five years.
- ❖ World IVF Day, or World Embryologist Day, is observed on the 25th of July to commemorate the birth of Louise Brown, the world's first baby born through In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF).
- ❖ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of Madhya Pradesh, and Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU) signed an MoU to establish a Centre of Excellence on the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) in Bhopal.
  - The centre at IGNTU, Amarkantak, will support tribal self-governance through research, training, local planning, and policy guidance for sustainable development.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### 3,000 hectares of mangroves

- ❖ Since 2022, Tamil Nadu has planted and restored over 2,900 hectares of mangroves across nine coastal districts.
- ❖ At the same time, 200 hectares of degraded mangroves were restored, particularly in Thiruvarur.
- ❖ In the following year, 720 hectares of new plantations were added, along with the restoration of 732 hectares.
- ❖ In 2024–25, an additional 275 hectares were planted, with more expected by the end of the year.
- ❖ The State's 1,076-kilometre coastline spans 14 districts.
- ❖ In February 2023, the Department launched a three-year mangrove restoration scheme with an allocation of ₹25 crore.

- ❖ Special focus has been given to reintroducing rare species like *Sonneratia apetala*, *Xylocarpus granatum*, and *Kandelia candel*, which had largely disappeared from the region.
- ❖ Alongside mangroves, bio-shield plantations using trees such as casuarina, palmyrah, and cashew have been introduced to protect against wind and wave action.
- ❖ The mangrove plantation efforts were undertaken as part of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGPCCR), the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), the Chennai River Restoration Trust (CRRT), and other centrally sponsored schemes.



## TN Spark initiative

சென்னை ஜவகர்லால் நேரு உள்விளையாட்டு அரங்கம்

ஆசிரியர் தேர்வு வாரியம் வாயிலாக தேர்வு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ள 2457 இடைநிலை ஆசிரியர்களுக்குப் பணி நியமன ஆணை வழங்கும் விழா

தலைமை: மாண்புமிகு அறிவு மற்றும் துணை முதலமைச்சர்

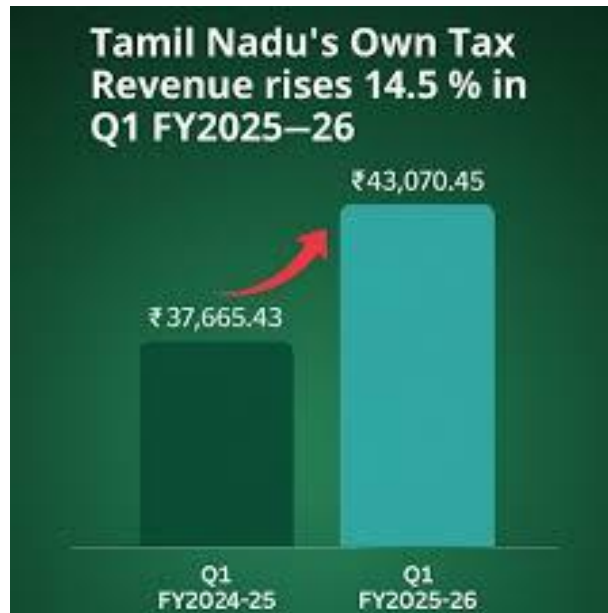
**TN SPARK புதிய பாடத்திட்ட பாடநூல்கள் வெளியீடு**

மாண்புமிகு தமிழ்நாடு துணை முதலமைச்சர்  
**திரு. உதயநிதி ஸ்டாலின் அவர்கள்**

பள்ளிக் கல்வித்துறையின் சார்பில் நடைபெற்ற விழாவில், 6 ஆம் வகுப்பு முதல் 9 ஆம் வகுப்பு வரை உள்ள மாணவர்களுக்குக் கணினிசார் அடிப்படை அறிவியலையும், செயற்கை நுண்ணறிவுத் திறன் மற்றும் அதனைப் பயன்படுத்தும் நுட்ப அறிவியலையும் கற்பிக்கும் வகையில் உருவாக்கப்பட்டுள்ள TN SPARK என்ற புதிய பாடத்திட்ட பாடநூல்களை வெளியிட்டார்.

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government launched textbooks under the TN Spark initiative recently.
- ❖ TN Spark stands for Tamil Nadu School Programme for Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Knowledge of Online Tools.
- ❖ It introduces students in classes 6 to 9 to the fundamentals of computer science, online tools, AI and coding.

### **Tamil Nadu's Own Tax Revenue in FY2025-2026**



- ❖ Tamil Nadu's own tax revenue increased about 14.5% to ₹43,070.45 crore in the first quarter of 2025-2026.
- ❖ It rises to ₹43,070.45 crore from ₹37,605.43 crore in the same period last year.
- ❖ States' Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) constitutes 75.3% of Tamil Nadu's total revenue receipts.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's total revenue receipts include SOTR, share of Union taxes, non-tax revenue, and grants-in-aid contribution.
- ❖ It was according to provisional figures from the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG).
- ❖ Among the SOTR components, the State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) collection increased nearly 21%.
- ❖ Revenue from other taxes and duties increased by about 23.9%.
- ❖ The revenue from stamps and registration fees rose 19.3%.

- ❖ The State Excise Duties (which reflect liquor revenue) increased to ₹2,904.47 crore.
- ❖ Revenue collection from the component taxes on sales and trade, etc. (including VAT on petrol and diesel and liquor) grew 7.8%.
- ❖ Land revenue declined steeply to ₹51.83 crore in the first quarter of 2025-2026.
- ❖ In the budget estimates for 2025-2026, the State government has projected SOTR to increase to ₹2,20,894.58 crore.
- ❖ It was up 14.6% from the revised estimates of ₹1,92,752.43 crore for 2024-2025.
- ❖ The State's share of Union taxes stood at ₹13,296.29 crore in the first quarter of 2025-2026.
- ❖ The revenue deficit indicates that expenditure is exceeding receipts.
- ❖ The fiscal deficit is the difference between total receipts and total expenditure.

### **Four copper plate inscriptions**



**The 4 copper plate inscriptions gives detail of reign, deeds of King Rajendra Chola**

- ❖ Among the most valuable records from Rajendra Chola's time are four sets of copper plate inscriptions discovered at different locations.
- ❖ The Tiruvalangadu Copper Plates, the Karanthai Copper Plates, the Tirukkalar Copper Plates, and the Esalam Copper Plates highlight the Chola lineage, temple endowments, and military expeditions.
- ❖ Rajendra Chola I, the son of Raja Raja Chola I, expanded the frontiers of the Chola empire beyond the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ Not only military conquests across South and Southeast Asia, but also generous land grants and temple patronage marked his reign (1012-1044 CE).



- ❖ These inscriptions shed light on Chola lineage, temple endowments, and military expeditions.
- ❖ The books, *Sozhar Ceppedugal* by Ve. Mahadevan and Ka. Sankaranarayanan (Tamil University, Thanjavur) and *Sozhar Kaala Ceppedugal* by former IAS officer M. Rajendran (Akani Publishers), provide insights into copper plate inscriptions of various Chola kings, especially Rajendra Chola.

### ***Tiruvallangadu Plates***

- ❖ The Tiruvallangadu Copper Plates were first mentioned in the Annual Report of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for 1903-04.
- ❖ The plates were later published in Volume III of South Indian Inscriptions by epigraphist Rao Bahadur H. Krishna Sastri.
- ❖ This set comprised 31 copper plates, with the first 10 inscribed in Sanskrit and the remaining 21 in Tamil.
- ❖ The inscription was divided into three parts: the Sanskrit section, the first Tamil section, and the second Tamil section.
- ❖ According to epigraphist V. Venkayya, the Tamil parts were considered earlier, with the Sanskrit section possibly added later.
- ❖ The second Tamil section referred to the sixth regnal year of Rajendra Chola I, placing it around 1018 CE.
- ❖ The plates were linked together by a circular copper seal with royal emblems.
- ❖ It includes two fly-whisks on either side of a royal parasol, a tiger (the Chola emblem), two fishes (the Pandya emblem), a bow (the Chera emblem), a boar (the Chalukya emblem), a Swastik, and two lamps.
- ❖ These plates recorded the royal order of Rajendra Chola gifting Palaiyanur village to the Tiruvallangadu Shiva temple (in Tiruvallur district).

### ***Karanthai Plates***

- ❖ The Karanthai Copper Plates were discovered in a field at Puthur village near Ammapettai in Papanasam taluk of Thanjavur district.
- ❖ Initially referred to as the Puthur Copper Plates, they were renamed after being preserved by the Karanthai Tamil Sangam at Karunthattankudi, near Thanjavur, in the late 1940s.
- ❖ They had reportedly been discovered six decades earlier on land belonging to Sevu Pandiyan.
- ❖ The set comprised 57 copper plates, weighing 111.73 kilograms, linked by two large copper rings, one of which was broken.





- ❖ The remaining ring bore the royal seal featuring the emblems of the Cholas, the Pandyas, the Cheras, and the Chalukyas, along with lamps, the royal parasol, and fly-whisks.
- ❖ Several of the 54 Tamil plates bore the word 'Thiribu'.
- ❖ It was referencing the gifted village — Thiribhuvana Mahadevi Chaturvedi Mangalam — named in honour of Rajendra Chola's mother.

#### ***Tirukkalar Plates***

- ❖ The Tirukkalar Copper Plates were discovered at the Parijathavaneswarar Temple at Tirukkalar.
- ❖ It is a village nearly 20 kilometres southeast of Mannargudi, in the Tiruvarur district.
- ❖ The temple yielded a set of five copper plates inscribed in Tamil and 23 stone inscriptions, all from the Chola period.
- ❖ The earliest among them was dated to around 1030 CE (the 18th regnal year of Rajendra Chola).
- ❖ These plates detail a land grant made to the Mahadevar Temple at Tirukkalar.
- ❖ It was part of the 'Purangkaranbai Nadu' in the 'Arulmozhi Deva Valanadu'.

#### ***Esalam Plates***

- ❖ The Esalam Copper Plates were discovered at Esalam near Tindivanam on July 11, 1987, during the renovation of a Shiva temple.
- ❖ Esalam was the first site where all three types of historical artefacts were unearthed together.
- ❖ A similar triad was later found at Tiruindalur (in Mayiladuthurai district) in 2010.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology studied the plates and confirmed that they belonged to the reign of Rajendra Chola.
- ❖ They were dated to 1036 CE (his 24th regnal year).
- ❖ Among the bronze icons was a statue of Sarva Siva Pandithar, believed to be Rajendra Chola's guru.
- ❖ These plates, engraved on both sides, were bound by a copper ring with a seal bearing the emblems of the Cholas, the Pandyas, the Cheras, and the Chalukyas, along with lamps, the royal parasol, and fly-whisks.
- ❖ The inscriptions opened with Rajendra Chola's genealogy in Sanskrit.
- ❖ The Tamil portion detailed his land grants to the temple built by Sarva Siva Pandithar and listed the regions conquered during his reign.

- ❖ His 'meikeerthi' (royal eulogy) said the famous Vidyadhara Torana was brought from Kadaram (Kedah in Malaysia).

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Draft of National Telecom Policy 2025**

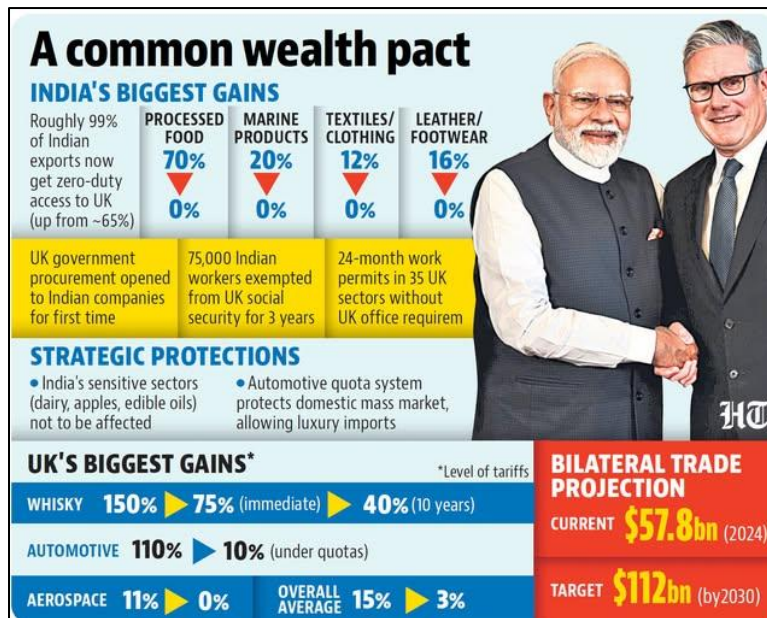


- ❖ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has released the draft National Telecom Policy 2025.
- ❖ It aims to promote secure, innovative, and sustainable telecom growth.
- ❖ It targets 90% 5G and 100% 4G population coverage by 2030, along with setting up 1 million public Wi-Fi hotspots.
- ❖ The targets are to create 10 lakh (1 million) new jobs and upskill another 10 lakh existing telecom workers.
- ❖ Domestic manufacturing is planned to grow by 150%, supported by a dedicated Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ).
- ❖ A 30% reduction in the carbon footprint and adoption of recycling practices in telecom equipment are key sustainability goals.
- ❖ The policy encourages Indian participation in global 6G standardisation and promotes satellite internet in remote areas.

### **India and UK - Vision 2035**

- ❖ Prime Ministers of the UK and India launched the India–United Kingdom (UK) Vision 2035 in London.
- ❖ The plan is a 10-year roadmap to strengthen cooperation in trade, technology, defence, education, and climate.

- ❖ This announcement came right after signing the India–UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA), called the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).
- ❖ The FTA aims to increase trade between the two countries from US\$56 billion to over US\$100 billion by 2030.
- ❖ Vision 2035 sets clear timelines and regular reviews to monitor progress.
- ❖ India and the UK will boost cooperation in renewable energy, health, financial services, defence manufacturing, and creative industries.
- ❖ They will create platforms to encourage business talks and support the infrastructure investments, including the UK–India Financial Partnership.
- ❖ Innovation is a key focus, with plans to establish a UK–India Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre.
- ❖ Both countries will work together on quantum computing, cybersecurity, biotechnology, semiconductors, and space research.
- ❖ These efforts will be guided by the Science and Innovation Council.
- ❖ The two nations will collaborate on clean energy projects like hydrogen, battery tech, carbon capture, offshore wind, and small modular nuclear reactors.
- ❖ These initiatives are part of the Net Zero Innovation Partnership.



- ❖ India and the UK will work on reforming global trade rules at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- ❖ They also plan to improve air travel links and increase tax transparency between the countries.
- ❖ India did not get an exemption from the UK's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).



- ❖ Starting January 2027, CBAM will tax imports with high carbon emissions, such as steel and Aluminium.
- ❖ This could impact Indian exports worth about US\$775 million.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Longest Serving PM



• **Becomes India's 2nd Longest-Serving Prime Minister**  
• Officially surpassed **Indira Gandhi** in terms of uninterrupted tenure as Prime Minister

**Top 3 Longest-Serving Elected PMs**  
(Consecutive Terms):

Prime Minister	Days in Office
Jawaharlal Nehru	4,425 days
Narendra Modi	4,078 days (and counting)
Indira Gandhi	4,077 days

**Next Milestone:**  
On 11 July 2026, he is set to surpass Jawaharlal Nehru, becoming India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister ever

**Historic Feat:**  
The only Prime Minister in Indian history to win three consecutive Lok Sabha elections.

**Overall Leadership Record:**  
With over 7,000 days in power (as Gujarat CM + PM), PM Modi is India's longest-serving head of an elected government.

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi completed 4,078 consecutive days in office on July 25, 2025.
- ❖ He has surpassed the record of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who served 4,077 consecutive days from January 24, 1966, to March 24, 1977.
- ❖ Modi is now the second-longest consecutively serving Prime Minister in India's history, after Jawaharlal Nehru.
- ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru served uninterrupted as Prime Minister from August 15, 1947, to May 27, 1964.
- ❖ Narendra Modi is the first and only Prime Minister born after Independence (August 15, 1947).
- ❖ He is the longest-serving non-Indian National Congress (INC) Prime Minister.
- ❖ He is also the longest-serving Prime Minister from a non-Hindi-speaking state.
- ❖ Modi is the only non-INC leader to complete two full terms and to be re-elected twice with a clear majority in the Lok Sabha.

- ❖ Modi is the only Prime Minister, apart from Jawaharlal Nehru, to win three consecutive general elections as the leader of a political party.
- ❖ He is the only Indian leader, among all Prime Ministers and Chief Ministers, to win six consecutive elections as party leader — Gujarat Assembly elections in 2002, 2007, and 2012, and Lok Sabha elections in 2014, 2019, and 2024.
- ❖ Modi served as Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014 before leading the BJP to a national victory in 2014.

## **National Cooperative Policy 2025**



- ❖ Union Home Ministry launched the National Cooperative Policy 2025.
- ❖ The new policy replaces the previous cooperative policy formulated 23 years ago during the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government under Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ❖ The policy aims to guide India's cooperative sector from 2025 to 2045, with the vision of 'Sahkar Se Samridhi' (Prosperity through Cooperation).
- ❖ The policy is structured around the six pillars: strengthening the foundation, promoting vibrancy, preparing cooperatives for the future, enhancing inclusivity, expanding into new sectors, and engaging the youth in cooperative development.
- ❖ The Ministry of Cooperation was formed on July 7, 2021, and was separated from the Ministry of Agriculture after operating under it since 1979.
- ❖ The ministry, known as Sahkarita Mantralaya, operates under the slogan 'Sahkar Se Samridhi' and has undertaken major reforms since its inception.

## Palna scheme expansion



- ❖ The Ministry of Women and Child Development is expanding the Palna Scheme to strengthen child care support for working mothers across India.
- ❖ The scheme was launched on April 1, 2022.
- ❖ Palna functions under the Samarthya vertical of the Umbrella Mission Shakti.
- ❖ The scheme aims to provide safe, accessible, and holistic day-care services for children aged 6 months to 6 years, enabling mothers to participate in the workforce without childcare constraints.
- ❖ The scheme offers services such as day-long care, nutrition, immunisation, cognitive development, and regular health monitoring in a secure environment.
- ❖ Palna is inclusive and open to all mothers, irrespective of employment status.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Global policy summaries to tackle air pollution

- ❖ The WHO has released a new set of Science and Policy Summaries (SPS) aimed at reducing the health impacts of air pollution globally.
- ❖ The announcement follows the Second WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health, held in March 2025 in Cartagena, Colombia.
- ❖ These SPS documents are designed to provide the sector-specific policy guidance, particularly for low- and middle-income countries that face a disproportionate burden from air pollution.
- ❖ The SPS series translates the latest scientific evidence into actionable policy recommendations for governments and decision-makers.

- ❖ WHO aims to drive coordinated efforts across sectors such as transport, energy, waste management, and agriculture, all of which significantly contribute to air quality.



### **Leader in the Green Energy Sector**



- ❖ China installed more wind turbines and solar panels in 2024 than every other nation combined.
- ❖ China's renewable energy revolution is the result of decades of strategic state planning and massive investments in innovation.
- ❖ China's green revolution was a mounting crisis of extremely high levels of air pollution, coupled with concerns about energy insecurity.
- ❖ Also, increasing dependence on foreign oil triggered concerns over energy security.
- ❖ China's oil imports are largely dependent on West Asia and shipping lanes through the Strait of Hormuz and the South China Sea.



- ❖ Starting with modest pilot projects in the early 2000s, China is now leading in solar panel and battery production.
- ❖ In 2024 alone, China allocated a remarkable \$940 billion into the renewable energy sector.
- ❖ It was from an initial investment of \$10.7 billion in 2006.
- ❖ In comparison, India's renewable energy sector received a combined total investment of \$3.4 billion in 2024-25.
- ❖ It is highlighting the stark gap between the two countries.
- ❖ It was as per the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### TRACERS Mission



- ❖ NASA's Tandem Reconnection and Cusp Reconnaissance Satellites (TRACERS) mission launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- ❖ TRACERS consists of twin spacecraft that will study magnetic reconnection.
- ❖ Magnetic reconnection is a key process where the solar wind interacts with the Earth's magnetic field at the magnetopause boundary.
- ❖ The mission aims to understand how magnetic fields snap and reconnect, driving space weather effects that impact satellites, power grids, and GPS systems.
- ❖ TRACERS launches alongside other small satellites, including:



- Athena Economical Payload Integration Cost (EPIC) for studying Earth's thermal emissions and climate.
- Polylingual Experimental Terminal (PexT) is testing a new space communication network switching.
- Relativistic Electron Atmospheric Loss (REAL) analyses the harmful "killer electrons" around Earth.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Mangrove Day 2025 - July 26



- ❖ It was established by UNESCO in 2015.
- ❖ This Day raises awareness of the mangroves' importance and promotes their sustainable conservation.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is "Protecting Wetlands for Our Future."

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### Thailand-Cambodia border clash

- ❖ Clashes had erupted along the Thailand-Cambodia border due to the claim on the Ta Muen Thom temple.



- ❖ The conflict centres on the 11th-century Hindu temple Preah Vihear, a UNESCO World Heritage site claimed by both nations.
- ❖ The International Court of Justice (ICJ) decided in 1962 and reaffirmed in 2011 that the temple belongs to Cambodia, but Thailand raise disputes over the surrounding land.
- ❖ Built by the Khmer Empire, the temple remains a symbol of cultural pride and a hotspot for nationalist tensions.

