

March - 05

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Google has launched Nano Banana 2, also called Gemini 3.1 Flash Image, a new AI model for generating high-quality images.
- ❖ India's Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has successfully conducted three flight trials of the VSHORADS (Very Short-Range Air Defence System) missile from Chandipur, Odisha.
- ❖ The first phase of development works at Silver Beach in Cuddalore has been completed, and it has been developed as a Blue Flag beach under a pilot project of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- ❖ The union Health minister launched the indigenously manufactured Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (Td) vaccine at the Central Research Institute in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The Bureau of Energy Efficiency celebrated its 25th Foundation Day on March 3, 2026 in New Delhi, and it functions under the Ministry of Power.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Naagam App

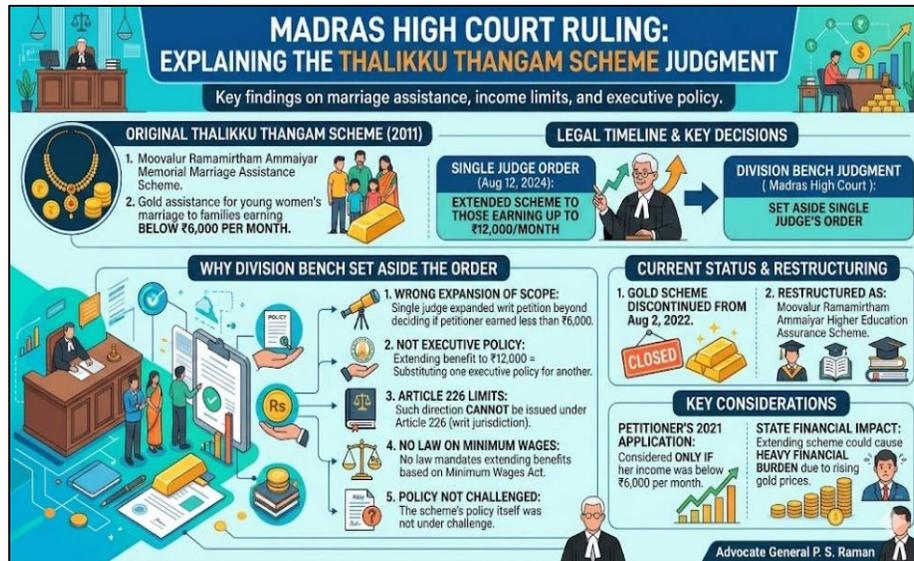
TN Launches NAAGAM Snake Rescue App

On World Snake Day, Tamil Nadu Forest Department unveiled "NAAGAM" – India's first official app for ethical snake rescues. Built by Leopard Labs with legal support from Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, the app connects users to certified rescuers instantly. It logs rescue details, locates antivenom stocks nearby, and spreads awareness post-rescue. Forest Secretary Supriya Sahu called it a scientific tool for conservation. A special training workshop for rescuers across Tamil Nadu also marked the app's launch.

- ❖ The Naagam app will onboard 100 trained snake rescuers in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Naagam is a new mobile platform designed to streamline snake rescue operations and strengthen scientific data collection.
- ❖ It was unveiled in July 2025 by Forest Department to promote technology-driven wildlife rescue efforts in the State.

- ❖ The application is modelled after SARPA, Kerala's snake rescue platform.
- ❖ It is expected to improve response time and help study snake distribution patterns.
- ❖ The app is likely to be fully operational in four months, before the onset of the monsoon season, when snake rescue calls usually increase.

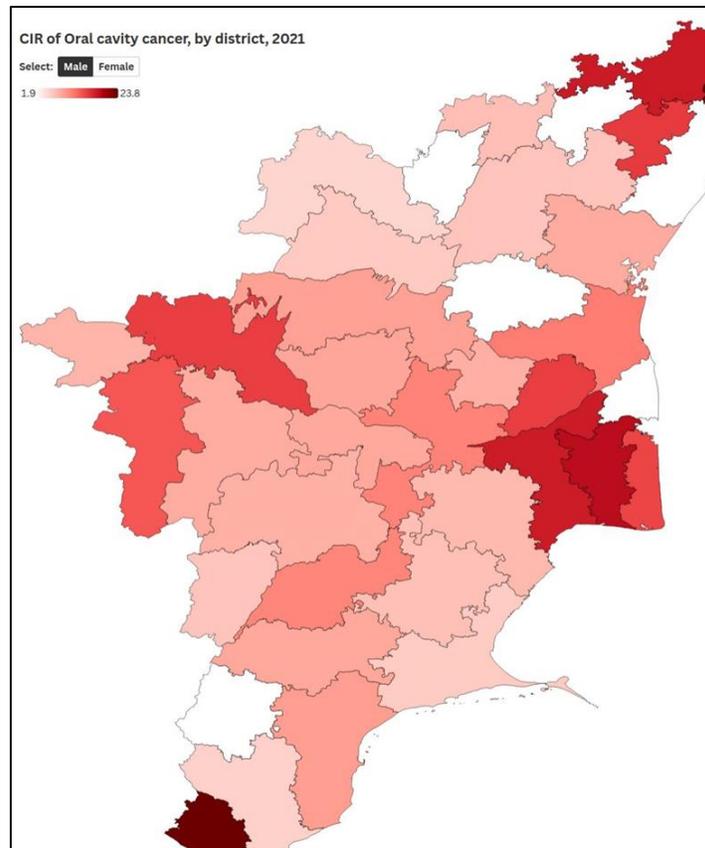
Thalikku Thangam Scheme



- ❖ The Division Bench of the Madras High Court set aside a single judge's August 12, 2024, order.
- ❖ The order had extended the Thalikku Thangam scheme to those earning up to ₹12,000 per month.
- ❖ The case relates to the 2011 Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Memorial Marriage Assistance Scheme.
- ❖ It is popularly known as the Thalikku Thangam scheme and provides gold assistance for young women's marriage to families earning below ₹6,000 per month.
- ❖ It held that the single judge wrongly expanded the scope of the writ petition beyond deciding whether the petitioner earned less than ₹6,000 per month.
- ❖ The Court said extending the benefit up to ₹12,000 income amounts to substituting one executive policy for another.
- ❖ It ruled that such a direction cannot be issued under Article 226 (writ jurisdiction of High Courts) of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ The Bench observed that there is no law mandating the extension of benefits based on the Minimum Wages Act.

- ❖ It also noted that the policy itself was not under challenge before the court.
- ❖ The judges stated that the gold assistance scheme was discontinued from August 2, 2022.
- ❖ It has been restructured as the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme.
- ❖ The petitioner's 2021 application can be considered only if her income was below ₹6,000 per month.
- ❖ The Court also noted that extending the scheme could cause a heavy financial burden on the State due to rising gold prices.

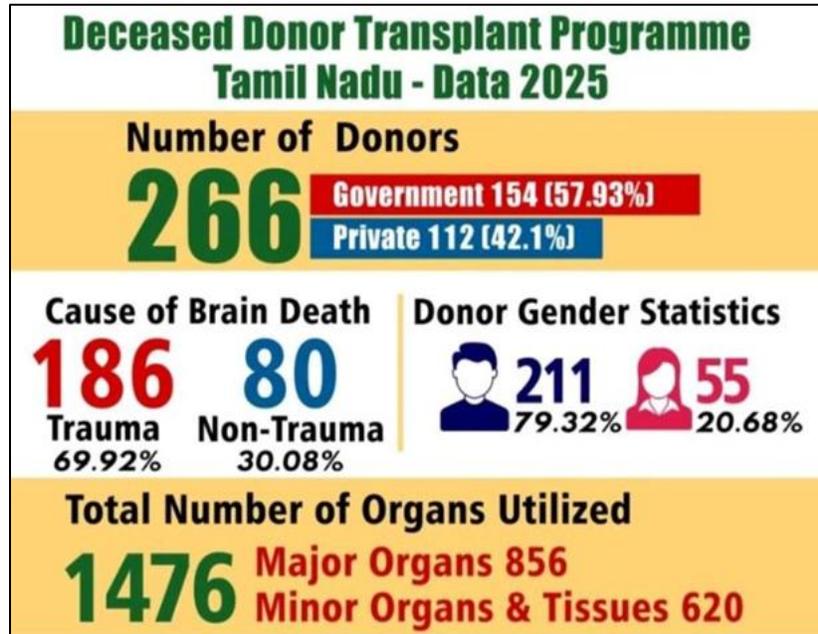
Oral Cancer Rise in Tamil Nadu 2026



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has reported around 8,000 new oral cancer cases in 2025, raising concerns over late detection and increasing smokeless tobacco use.
- ❖ As per the Tamil Nadu Cancer Registry Programme, incidence is higher in men (11.6 per 1,00,000) than in women (5.4 per 1,00,000).
- ❖ India accounts for nearly one-third of global oral cavity cancer cases, with tobacco chewing, gutka, khaini, zarda, areca nut, and beedi smoking as major causes.

- ❖ Nearly 70–80% of cases in India are diagnosed at advanced stages, leading to a five-year survival rate of around 50%.

Organ Donation 2026 - Tamil Nadu



- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded 57 deceased organ donors in the first two months of 2026, reaffirming its position as the leading state in India.
- ❖ The organ donation programme is managed by the Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (Transtan), established in 2008.
- ❖ The state uses a centralised digital system and the Vidiyal mobile and web application for transparent organ allocation.
- ❖ “Green corridors” are created with police support to transport organs quickly between hospitals.

NATIONAL NEWS

Women's Welfare Schemes

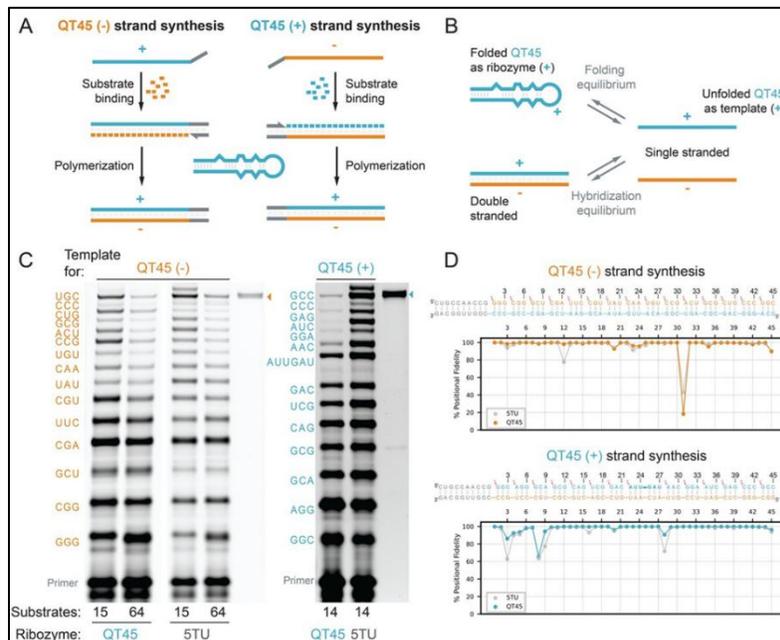
- ❖ The president of India, has launched four women's welfare schemes of the Delhi Government in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Pink National Common Mobility Card was launched to improve safe and cashless public transport access for women.
- ❖ Two free Liquefied Petroleum Gas cylinders will be given every year to ration card holding families during Holi and Diwali.

- ❖ The Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana will provide ₹56,000 in instalments for a girl child, which can grow to more than ₹1 lakh by the age of 21.
- ❖ The Meri Punji Mera Adhikaar scheme aims to clear pending financial dues and ensure the financial rights of citizens.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Self-Replicating RNA – QT45



- ❖ Scientists have reported that RNA may have been Earth's first genetic material after discovering a self-replicating RNA molecule called QT45.
- ❖ QT45 is a small RNA molecule of 45 nucleotides that can copy itself under special conditions.
- ❖ This supports the RNA World hypothesis, which suggests early life depended only on RNA before DNA and proteins evolved.
- ❖ The Miller–Urey experiment in 1953 showed that amino acids could form under early Earth conditions, but it did not produce DNA or RNA.
- ❖ QT45 copies itself using three-nucleotide building blocks, but the process is very slow compared to modern cells.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Nilgiris Wood Pigeon



- ❖ A recent study states that climate change may drastically shrink the suitable habitat of the Nilgiris Wood Pigeon in the Western Ghats by the end of this century.
- ❖ The Nilgiris Wood Pigeon (*Columba elphinstonii*) is endemic to the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot.
- ❖ The findings show that habitat may slightly increase between 2021 and 2040, but may sharply decline between 2081 and 2100.
- ❖ The species lives in high-elevation evergreen forests known as “sky islands” in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

- ❖ The IUCN lists it as Least Concern, but long-term climate change may affect its survival.

STATE NEWS

Kerala Nativity Card Bill



- ❖ The Kerala Nativity Card Bill has been referred to the Subject Committee on Land Revenue and Devaswom by the Kerala Assembly.
- ❖ The Bill aims to provide legal backing to the nativity card initiative, which serves as an authoritative identity proof for Keralites.
- ❖ The card will replace the current nativity certificate and include a photograph for permanent identification.
- ❖ It can be issued to people born in Kerala or those with Kerala-born ancestors who have not accepted foreign citizenship.

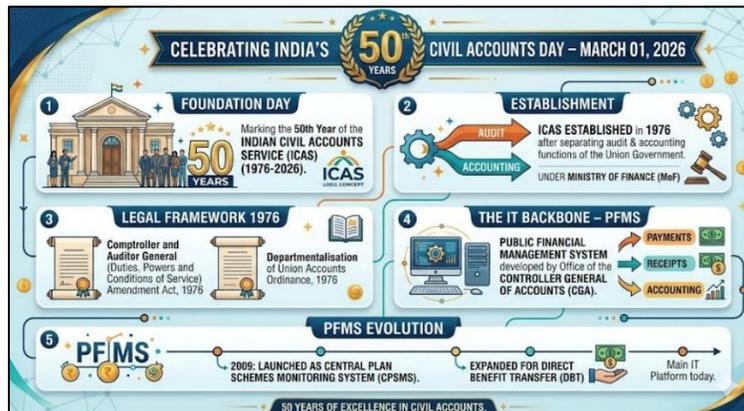
Yadava-Era Stone Pillar



- ❖ Remains of a 12th-century Yadava-era temple-style stone pillar were found near the Vena River banks at Hinganghat in Maharashtra.
- ❖ The fragments were discovered in Hinganghat town of Wardha district, about 70 km from Nagpur.
- ❖ Researchers identified the pillar as belonging to the Seuna or Yadava dynasty of the 12th to 13th centuries.
- ❖ The carvings, including a lotus motif, are made from black basalt and reflect the Hemadpanti architectural style.
- ❖ Hemadpanti style is known for using large interlocking stone blocks without lime mortar.
- ❖ The pillar may have been part of a temple sabhamandap or near the garbhagriha, indicating the presence of a major medieval temple complex in the region.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Civil Accounts Day 2026 – March 01

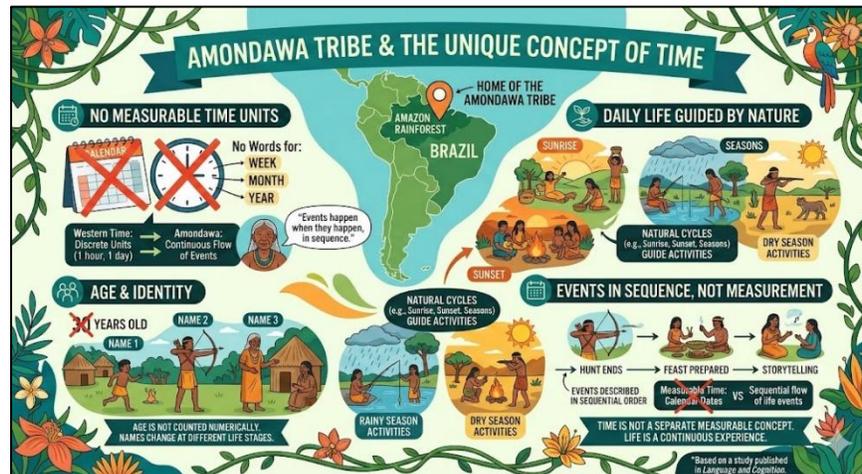


- ❖ India has celebrated the 50th Civil Accounts Day on 1 March 2026 to mark the Foundation Day of the Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS).
- ❖ The ICAS was established in 1976 under the Ministry of Finance (MoF) after separating the audit and accounting functions of the Union Government.
- ❖ The reform was implemented through the Comptroller and Auditor General (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 1976 and the Departmentalisation of Union Accounts Ordinance, 1976.
- ❖ The Public Financial Management System (PFMS), developed by the Office of the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), is the main Information Technology (IT) platform for government payments, receipts and accounting.

- ❖ PFMS was launched in 2009 as the Central Plan Schemes Monitoring System (CPSMS) and later expanded for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Amondawa Tribe and Concept of Time



- ❖ A study published in the journal Language and Cognition reported that the Amondawa tribe does not use measurable units of time.
- ❖ The Amondawa tribe lives in the Amazon rainforest of Brazil.
- ❖ Their language has no words for time units such as week, month, or year.
- ❖ They describe events in sequence but do not treat time as a separate measurable concept.
- ❖ Age is not counted numerically, and individuals change names at different life stages.
- ❖ Daily activities are guided by natural cycles like sunrise, sunset, and seasons.

