

March - 08

TNPSC BITS

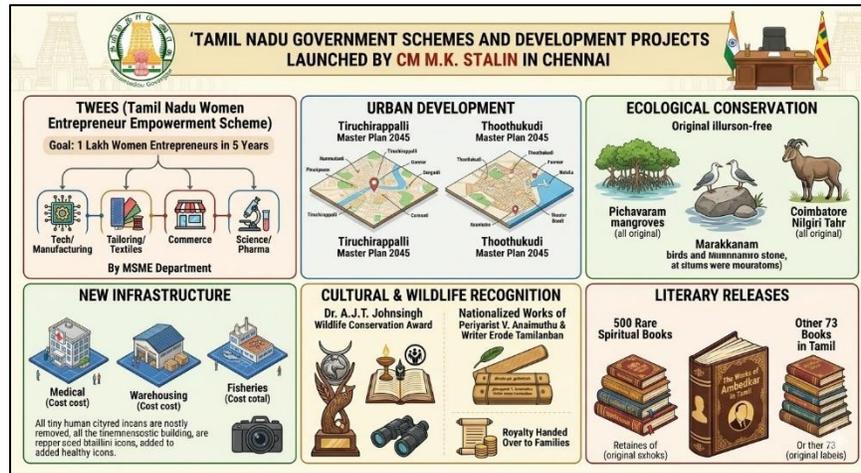
- ❖ Iran has launched Operation True Promise 4, a missile attack targeting Israel and nearby regional military sites, in retaliation for coordinated strikes by the United States (US) and Israel.
- ❖ Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari was sworn in as the 55th Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.
- ❖ Assam's GI-tagged Karbi Anglong Ginger was exported to London for the first time, with a trial consignment of 1.2 metric tonnes.
 - Karbi Anglong Ginger is grown in the Singhasan Hills of Karbi Anglong district in Assam using Jhum and Tila cultivation methods.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India held a national roundtable conference with State Election Commissioners at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi after a gap of 27 years.
 - The last conference was held in 1999.
- ❖ The World Day of Fight Against Sexual Exploitation is observed every year on 4 March to raise awareness about human trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- ❖ The International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness is observed every year on 5 March to raise awareness about reducing weapons and preventing the spread of dangerous arms.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "It is time to invest in the architecture of peace, not the tools of war".

TAMIL NADU NEWS

New Schemes and Development Projects

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M.K. Stalin has launched new government schemes and inaugurated several development projects in Chennai.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Women Entrepreneur Empowerment Scheme (TWEES) was launched by the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Department to encourage 1 lakh women to become entrepreneurs in five years.
- ❖ The government has also released the Tiruchirappalli Master Plan 2045 and the Thoothukudi Master Plan 2045 for urban development.
- ❖ Foundation stones were laid for a Mangrove Conservation Centre at Pichavaram, an International Migratory Bird Centre at Marakkanam, and a Nilgiri Tahr Conservation Centre in Coimbatore.

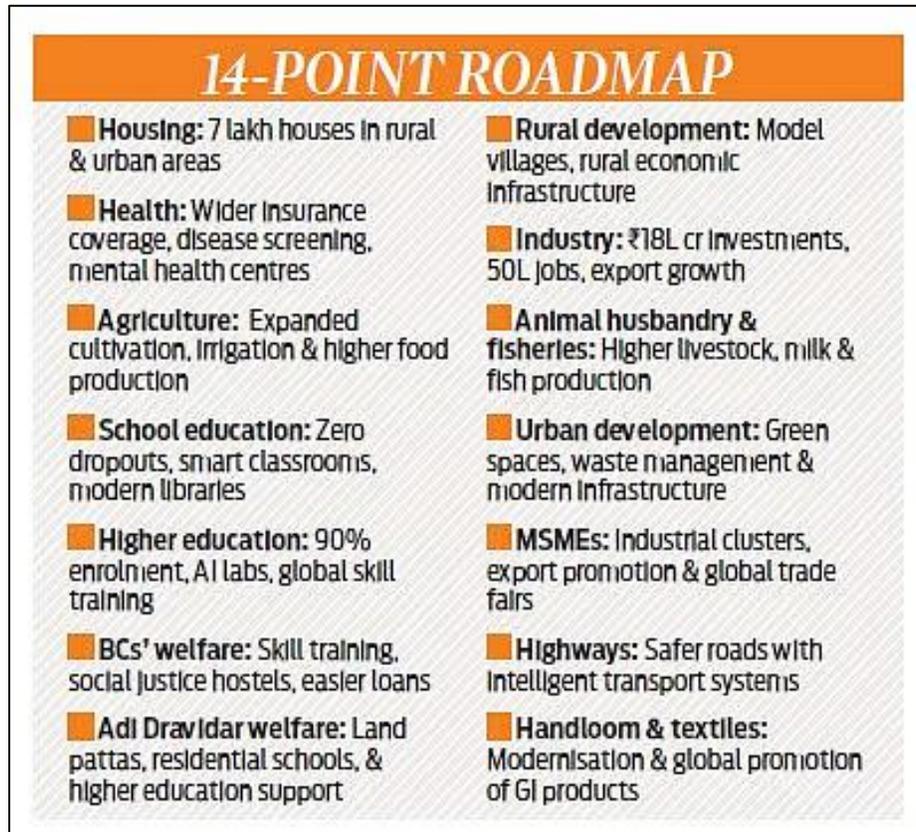
- ❖ New infrastructure projects were launched, including medical facilities (₹167 crore), warehousing units with 60,000 metric tonnes capacity (₹78 crore), and fisheries infrastructure (₹100 crore).
- ❖ The Dr. A.J.T. Johnsingh Wildlife Conservation Award was presented to the son of the late veterinarian Vaidyanathan Krishnamurthy.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government nationalised the works of Periyarist V. Anaimuthu and writer Erode Tamilanban, and the royalty was handed over to their family members.
- ❖ The Chief Minister also released 500 rare spiritual books and Tamil translations of 73 works of B.R. Ambedkar.



Tamil Nadu 2030: 14-Point Development Blueprint

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin unveiled a 14-point sector-wise blueprint, “Tamil Nadu 2030”, in Chennai.
- ❖ The plan is based on feedback from 1.81 crore families through the “Unga Kanava Sollunga” (Share Your Dreams) household survey.
- ❖ The “Uttamar Gandhi Model Villages Project”, inspired by former President A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, aims to develop villages as centres of economic growth.
- ❖ The project will provide urban amenities in rural areas, beginning with 10 village panchayats.
- ❖ Under the Kalaignar Kanavu Illam Scheme, 5 lakh houses in rural areas and 2 lakh houses in urban areas will be constructed.
- ❖ Medical insurance for all will be ensured, and special camps for early detection of cancer, diabetes and hypertension will be organised.

- ❖ The State aims to achieve the top rank in India in reducing Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), and mental health counselling centres will be set up in every district.
- ❖ In agriculture, the net sown area will increase to 50 lakh hectares, and soil health cards will be distributed to 43 lakh farmers.
- ❖ Natural farming will expand to 17,000 hectares, organic farming to 1 lakh hectares, and micro-irrigation facilities to 21 lakh hectares.



- ❖ Rainwater harvesting structures will be constructed in the Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats, and food production will increase to 125 lakh metric tonnes.
- ❖ In education, dropouts will be eliminated, and 100% smart classrooms will be introduced in all government and aided schools.
- ❖ Under Library 5.0, more than 300 libraries will be established, and 1,000 model schools will be developed.
- ❖ Naan Mudhalvan 2.0 will provide advanced skill training to students for global competitiveness.
- ❖ The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education will be increased to 90%, with research laboratories, Centres of Excellence, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) labs in educational institutions.

- ❖ A flexible curriculum with academic credits for sportspersons will be introduced, and house pattas will be given to every landless Adi Dravidar and tribal family in phases.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu aims to attract ₹18 lakh crore investment, create employment for 50 lakh youth, increase exports to \$120 billion, establish industrial parks in every district under the “Make in Tamil Nadu” initiative, and develop cities with pedestrian-friendly roads, 20% green spaces, wastewater recycling facilities, and modern cultural centres.

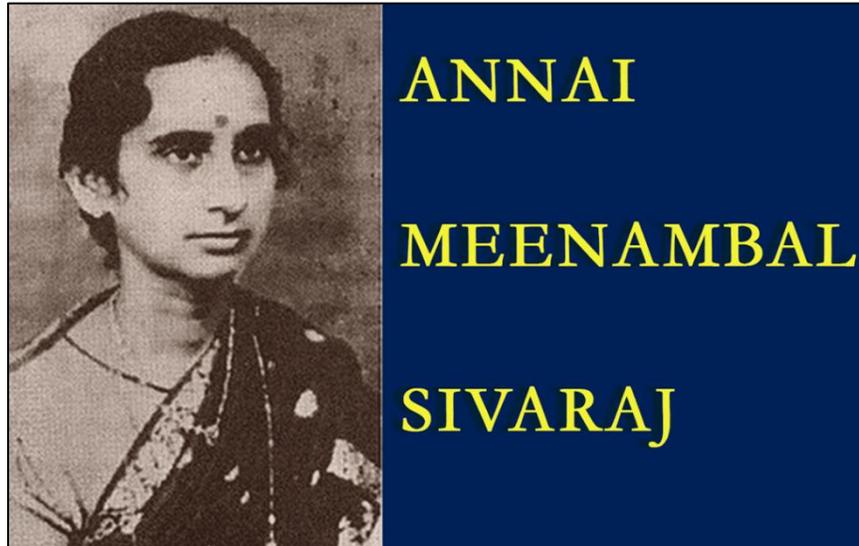
CCTNS 2.0 Portal



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Police launched a new website integrated with CCTNS 2.0 (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems) to provide digital police services.
- ❖ The new portal does not allow third parties or the general public to view or download First Information Reports (FIRs).
- ❖ Only the accused, victim, or complainant in a case can access and download the FIR through the website.
- ❖ The portal is integrated with the Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) for better coordination among agencies.
- ❖ The integration enables real-time data sharing with courts, forensic science laboratories, prisons, and prosecution departments.
- ❖ e-Sakshya and e-Summon applications have been implemented to improve digital evidence management and electronic delivery of summons.
- ❖ To use services under CCTNS 2.0, users must register personal details such as mobile number and email ID and create login credentials.

Meenambal Sivaraj

- ❖ Meenambal Sivaraj was a pioneering figure in the fight for the rights of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and women's empowerment.
- ❖ Meenambal Sivaraj was born on December 12, 1904, in Rangoon, Burma to V.G. Vasudeva Pillai and Minakshi.
- ❖ Her father was a prominent SC leader and businessman in Burma.
- ❖ He became the first SC member of the Madras Legislative Council.
- ❖ In 1918, Meenambal married Sivaraj, a law graduate from Madras and a vocal advocate for SC rights.
- ❖ In 1928, when the Simon Commission arrived in India, Meenambal supported it.
- ❖ Over the time, Meenambal became closely connected to leaders such as B.R. Ambedkar, Periyar E.V. Ramasamy, and Jawaharlal Nehru.
- ❖ One of Meenambal's most significant contributions was her work with the All India Scheduled Castes Federation (AISCF), founded by Dr. Ambedkar.
- ❖ She became the first Dalit woman to join the AISCF, and the first woman president of the South India Scheduled Castes Federation.
- ❖ Her association with national movements like the Indian National Congress also brought her into the fold of those working for India's Independence.
- ❖ She served as a magistrate for Madras Province, and a member of several important boards and committees, such as the Film Censor Board and the Madras State Advisory Committee.
- ❖ She no longer wished to be addressed by her given name, Meenambal Sivaraj, which she believed had "Aryan origins".
- ❖ Instead, she chose to be called Angiarkanni Siva Arasu.
- ❖ In 1933, at the YMCA in Madras, Meenambal Sivaraj rose to speak about untouchability, unemployment, and the future of India's "backward communities".
- ❖ She was a key figure in the National Women's Conference of Dalits, where she worked closely with Dr. Ambedkar.
- ❖ In 1946, she was appointed a member of the Senate of the University of Madras.
- ❖ Three years later, she was elected to the Madras City Council by the members of the Senate.
- ❖ Some accounts suggest that she is the first SC woman to be part of the City Council.
- ❖ She contested the elections in 1952 and 1967 but was defeated.
- ❖ Meenambal died on November 30, 1992, at the age of 88.



NATIONAL NEWS

Lok Sabha Committee of Privileges 2026



- ❖ Om Birla, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, nominated 15 members to the Committee of Privileges in 2026.
- ❖ The committee will be chaired by Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- ❖ The Committee of Privileges examines cases related to breaches of parliamentary privileges of Members of Parliament (MPs).
- ❖ This parliamentary committee investigates complaints of violation of privileges of the House or its members.

- ❖ The Lok Sabha Committee of Privileges consists of 15 members, nominated by the Speaker.
- ❖ The committee performs semi-judicial functions and recommends action to the House.
- ❖ Parliamentary privileges are defined under Articles 105 and 122 of the Constitution of India.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue



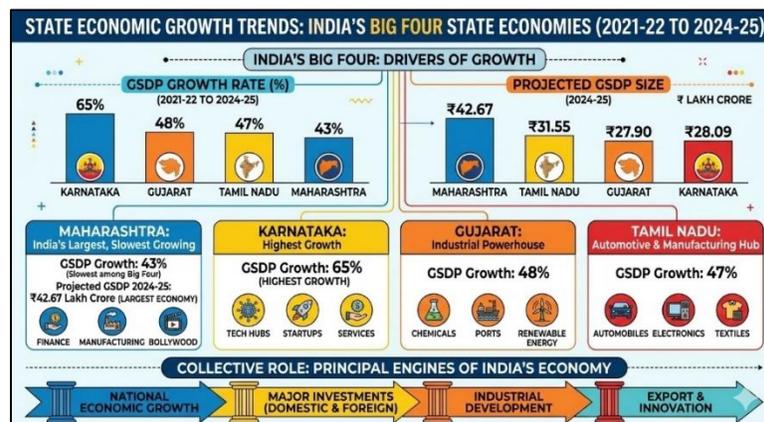
- ❖ A United States submarine torpedoed the Iranian frigate IRIS Dena in the Indian Ocean near Sri Lanka.
- ❖ Sri Lanka rescued the sailors under the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR), 1979.
- ❖ The SAR (Search and Rescue) Convention, 1979, is an international agreement adopted under the International Maritime Organization to ensure the rescue of people in distress at sea.
- ❖ It divides the world's oceans into Search and Rescue regions, where coastal states coordinate rescue operations.
- ❖ The convention requires ships and coastal states to assist people in distress at sea, regardless of nationality.
- ❖ In India, search and rescue operations are coordinated by the Indian Coast Guard.

- ❖ India ratified the SAR Convention in 2001 and manages rescue operations in the Indian Search and Rescue Region (ISRR).

ECONOMY NEWS

State Economic Growth Trends

- ❖ Maharashtra has recorded the slowest growth in GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) among India's four largest state economies.
- ❖ The big four states are Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Gujarat.
- ❖ Maharashtra's GSDP grew by about 43% between 2021–22 and 2024–25.
- ❖ Karnataka recorded the highest growth at about 65%, followed by Gujarat (48%) and Tamil Nadu (47%).
- ❖ Despite slower growth, Maharashtra remains India's largest state economy with a projected GSDP of ₹42.67 lakh crore in 2024–25.
- ❖ These four states together play a major role in India's economic growth, investments, and industrial development.



REPORTS AND INDICES

UN Women Report 2026

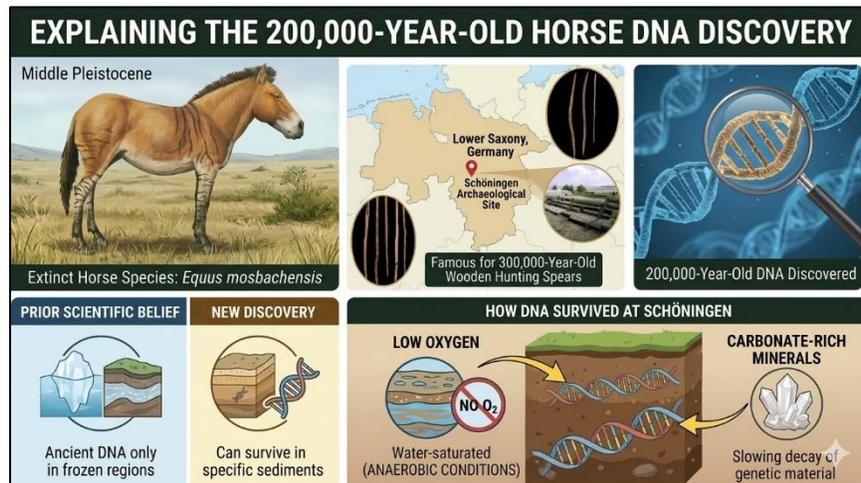
- ❖ UN Women has released the report titled “Ensuring and Strengthening Access to Justice for All Women and Girls.”
- ❖ The report states that women globally hold only 64% of the legal rights of men.
- ❖ It also says no country in the world has achieved full legal equality for women and girls.
- ❖ In 54% of countries, rape is not legally defined based on consent.

- ❖ Nearly three-fourths of countries still allow child marriage under certain conditions.
- ❖ In 44% of countries, there is no legal requirement for equal pay for equal work.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

200,000-Year-Old Horse DNA Discovered



- ❖ Scientists discovered 200,000-year-old horse DNA at the Schöningen archaeological site in Lower Saxony, Germany.
- ❖ The DNA was identified as belonging to *Equus mosbachensis*, an extinct horse species from the Middle Pleistocene epoch.
- ❖ The Schöningen site is also famous for 300,000-year-old wooden hunting spears, some of the oldest known hunting weapons.

- ❖ Scientists earlier believed such ancient DNA could survive only in permafrost or frozen regions.
- ❖ The DNA survived because the sediments had low oxygen (anaerobic conditions) and carbonate-rich minerals, which slowed the decay of genetic material.

