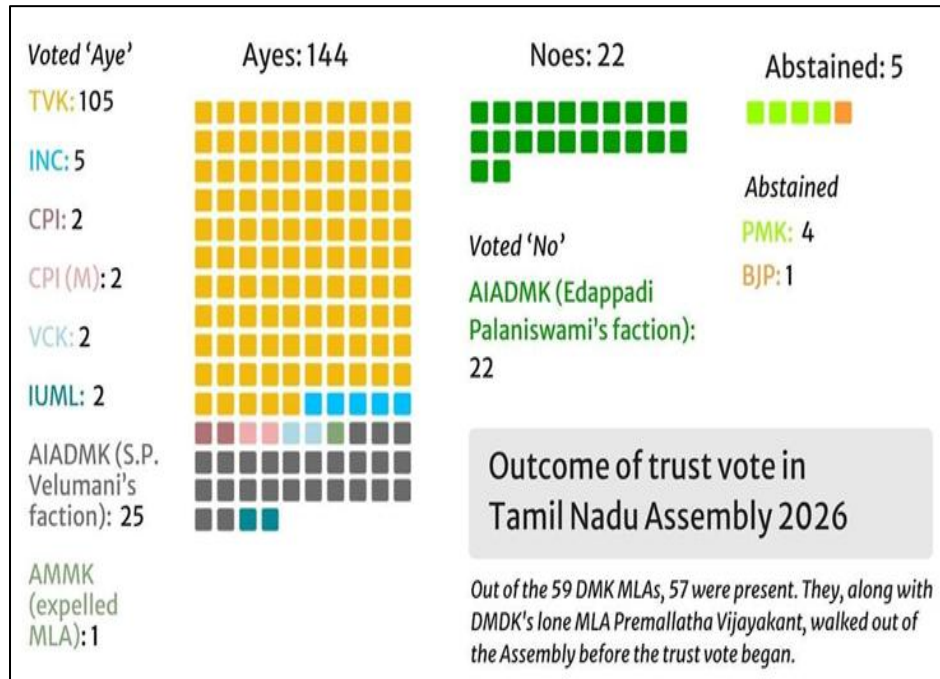


May - 15

TAMIL NADU NEWS

TN Assembly Floor Test 2026



- ❖ C. Joseph Vijay won the confidence motion in the Tamil Nadu Assembly with 144 votes during the 2026 floor test.
- ❖ Out of 171 MLAs present, 25 MLAs led by S. P. Velumani voted in favour, while 22 MLAs led by Edappadi K. Palaniswami voted against the motion, showing a split in the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam legislature party.
- ❖ Four Pattali Makkal Katchi MLAs and the lone Bharatiya Janata Party MLA abstained or voted neutral, while Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam MLAs and Premalatha Vijayakant of the Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam walked out before voting.
- ❖ Speaker J. C. D. Prabhakar conducted a division vote, clearly showing the split among the 47 AIADMK MLAs.
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India stayed the High Court order and allowed TVK (Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam) MLA R. Sreenivasa Sethupathi to participate in the trust vote, stating that the matter should be decided through an election petition and not under Article 226 of the Constitution.
- ❖ After the trust vote, the Assembly was adjourned sine die (without fixing the next meeting date), and for the first time, the full proceedings of a Tamil Nadu Assembly confidence vote were telecast live.



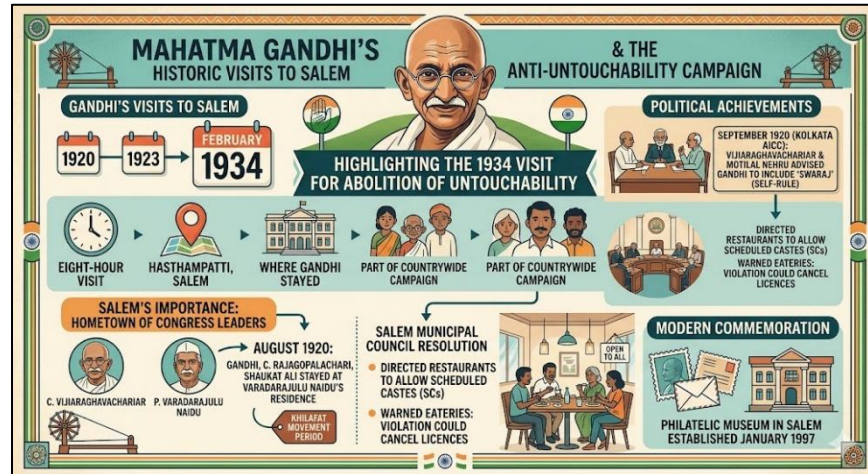
Preferential Reservation for SC(A) Candidates

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Arunthathiyars, a community within Scheduled Castes, are ordinarily identified as conservancy workers and leather goods makers 	<p>community accounts for about 15% of the SC population in the State</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted black;"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Barring Adi-Andhra, the remaining six castes falling under the category of 'Arunthathiyars' have lower literacy rate than the SCs' tally of 73.3% <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted black;"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3% exclusive reservation in education and employment was provided within the existing 18% quota for SCs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The term, as defined by rules of the Tamil Nadu Arunthathiyars Act of 2009, covers seven castes - Arunthathiyar, Chakkiliyan, Madari, Madiga, Pagadi, Thoti 	

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government issued fresh instructions on implementing reservation for Arunthathiyars under the Tamil Nadu Arunthathiyars (Special Reservation) Act, 2009.
- ❖ The directions were issued to all government-run, State-aided, and private educational institutions after a judgment of the Madras High Court.
- ❖ Institutions were instructed to fill all open, general, and unreserved seats first purely on merit. Arunthathiyar candidates are also eligible to compete in these categories.
- ❖ While filling the 18% Scheduled Caste (SC) quota, institutions must strictly follow the horizontal rotation system prescribed in April 2009 through G.O. (Government Order) No. 50.
- ❖ Under this rotation system, points 2, 32, and 66 are first offered to SC(A) Arunthathiyar candidates.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Arunthathiyars (Special Reservation of seats in Educational Institutions, including Private Educational Institutions and of appointments or posts in the services under the State within the Reservation for the Scheduled Castes) Act, 2009 provides 16% preferential reservation for Arunthathiyars within the overall 18% SC reservation.
- ❖ The reservation applies to admissions in educational institutions and appointments or posts under the State government.
- ❖ In the remaining SC general seats, all Scheduled Caste candidates, including Arunthathiyars, must compete based on inter-se merit.
- ❖ Selection of meritorious Arunthathiyar candidates in SC general seats should not reduce or affect the 16% SC(A) preferential sub-quota under any circumstance.

- ❖ The State government also clarified through Government Orders that if SC(A) preferential seats remain vacant, they may later be filled by other Scheduled Caste candidates on merit.

MK Gandhi's Salem Visit



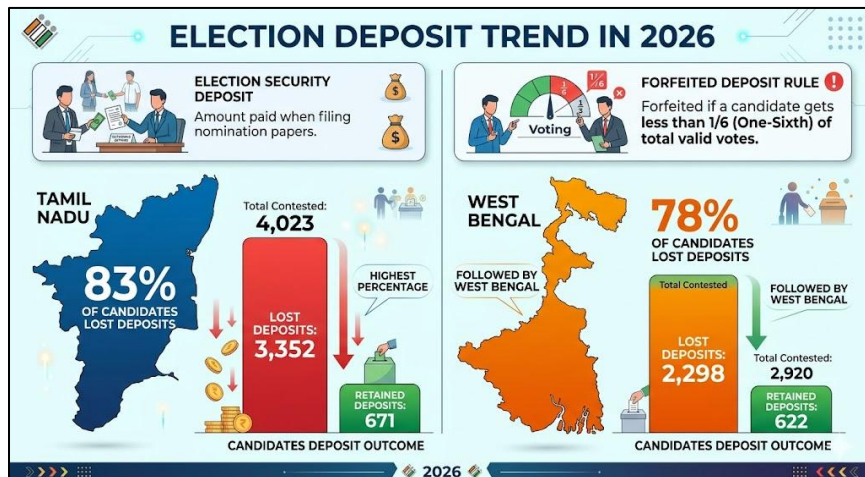
- ❖ MK Gandhi's historic visits to Salem and his anti-untouchability campaign of 1934 were recalled.
- ❖ Gandhi stayed at Hasthampatti in Salem during his eight-hour visit in February 1934 as part of his countrywide campaign for the abolition of untouchability.
- ❖ Among his visits to the Madras State between 1896 and 1946, Gandhi visited Salem in 1920, 1923, and 1934.
- ❖ The 1934 visit became especially important because Gandhi travelled across India at that time to campaign against untouchability.
- ❖ Salem held special importance for Gandhi as it was the hometown of Congress leaders C. Vijiaraghavachariar and P. Varadarajulu Naidu.
- ❖ In August 1920, Gandhi, C. Rajagopalachari, and Shaukat Ali stayed at Varadarajulu Naidu's residence before leaving for Bengaluru during the Khilafat movement period.
- ❖ At the special session of the All-India Congress Committee in Kolkata in September 1920, Vijiaraghavachariar and Motilal Nehru advised Gandhi to include the demand for "Swaraj" (self-rule) in his proposed resolution.
- ❖ The Salem Municipal Council later passed a resolution directing restaurants within its limits to allow Scheduled Castes (SCs) and warned that licences of eateries violating the rule could be cancelled.
- ❖ A philatelic museum connected to this history was established in Salem in January 1997.

Advocate General - Vijay Narayan

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government, led by Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, appointed Vijay Narayan as the Advocate General of the State.
- ❖ With this appointment, Vijay Narayan became one of the few legal professionals to serve as Advocate General twice under two different governments.
- ❖ He had earlier served as the top law officer of Tamil Nadu during the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam government from August 2017 to May 2021.
- ❖ After his resignation in May 2021, the post was held by senior counsels R. Shunmugasundaram and P. S. Raman.
- ❖ P. S. Raman resigned from the post of Advocate General on May 12, 2026.



Election Deposit Trend in 2026



- ❖ Around 83% of candidates in Tamil Nadu lost their election security deposit in the 2026 Assembly elections.

- ❖ An election security deposit is the amount paid to the Returning Officer while filing nomination papers for an election.
- ❖ The deposit is forfeited if a candidate gets less than one-sixth (1/6) of the total valid votes polled in the constituency.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded the highest percentage of candidates losing deposits, followed by West Bengal, where 78% of candidates lost their deposits.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, 3,352 candidates lost their deposits out of 4,023 candidates who contested the Assembly elections.
- ❖ In West Bengal, 2,298 candidates forfeited their deposits out of 2,920 candidates in the election fray.

NATIONAL NEWS

Mission for Cotton Productivity



Mission for Cotton Productivity

- ▶ Cabinet approves Mission for Cotton Productivity with an outlay of **Rs. 5659.22 crore**
- ▶ It will lead to **Self-Sufficiency in Cotton and Competitiveness in Global Textile Markets by 2030-31**
- ▶ Mission aligns with the **5F vision** (Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign) of Government
- ▶ Mission envisages achieving production of **498 lakh bales** of cotton by 2031

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the “Mission for Cotton Productivity” with an outlay of ₹5,659 crore for 2026–27 to 2030–31.
- ❖ The mission aims to improve cotton yield, quality, farmer income, and India’s textile value chain through climate-smart and pest-resistant cotton varieties.
- ❖ The programme will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and the Ministry of Textiles with support from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research institutes.

- ❖ The mission will initially cover 140 districts in 14 major cotton-growing States and promote modern farming methods, mechanisation, and biotechnology tools.
- ❖ The government aims to increase cotton productivity from 440 kilograms per hectare to 755 kilograms per hectare and raise production to 498 lakh bales by 2031.
- ❖ India is the world's second-largest cotton producer after China, but faces challenges such as Pink Bollworm, Whitefly attacks, climate stress, low productivity, and dependence on imports of Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Project Freedom – US

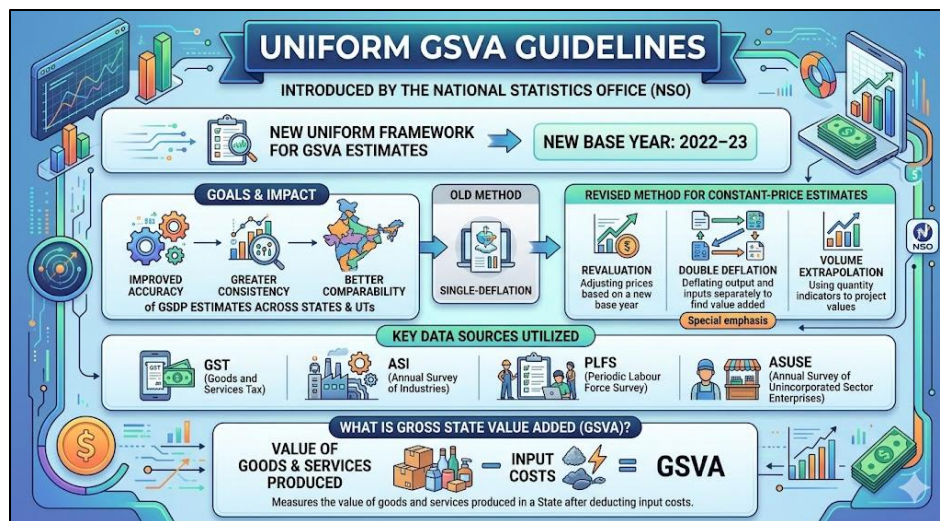


- ❖ The United States launched “Project Freedom”, in the Strait of Hormuz.
- ❖ The project was started to escort commercial ships and restore freedom of navigation in the region.
- ❖ The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea and is an important global oil trade route.
- ❖ The operation involves United States Central Command assets, including guided-missile destroyers, aircraft, unmanned systems, and 15,000 service members.
- ❖ Iran blocked the Strait on February 28, 2026, after US and Israeli airstrikes, while the US imposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports on April 13, 2026.
- ❖ The Maritime Freedom Construct is a new United States initiative for maritime security coordination involving the Department of State and the Department of War.

ECONOMY NEWS

Uniform GSVA Guidelines

- ❖ The National Statistics Office (NSO) introduced uniform guidelines for compiling Gross State Value Added (GSVA) estimates with 2022–23 as the new base year.
- ❖ The new framework aims to improve the accuracy, consistency, and comparability of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) estimates across all States and Union Territories (UTs).
- ❖ The revised method replaces single-deflation with revaluation, double deflation, and volume extrapolation methods for constant-price estimates.
- ❖ The framework uses data sources such as Goods and Services Tax (GST), Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), and Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE).
- ❖ Gross State Value Added (GSVA) measures the value of goods and services produced in a State after deducting input costs.



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Technology Day 2026 - May 11

- ❖ India observed the day to celebrate the country's scientific and technological achievements.
- ❖ The day marks the success of Pokhran-II nuclear tests conducted in Rajasthan on 11 May 1998 under Operation Shakti.
- ❖ It also recognises India's achievements in science, innovation, engineering, and technology development.

- ❖ The Government of India declared 11 May as National Technology Day in 1999.
- ❖ The day highlights the role of scientists, engineers, researchers, and innovators in national development.



International Argania Day 2026 – May 10



- ❖ The day aims to highlight the importance of the argan tree in sustainable development and biodiversity conservation.
- ❖ The argan tree (*Argania spinosa*) is native to southwestern Morocco and grows in arid and semi-arid regions.
- ❖ Argan oil, known as “liquid gold,” is widely used in food, medicine, and cosmetic industries.

- ❖ The argan ecosystem supports local livelihoods, especially rural women, through cooperatives and traditional oil production.
- ❖ In 2021, the United Nations General Assembly officially proclaimed the day.
- ❖ UNESCO recognised the Arganeraie Biosphere Reserve in 1998 and listed argan-related traditional knowledge as Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2014.

