Try our pen drive courses
Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar’s statue unveiled in Haridwar

In the premises of Mela Bhawan in Haridwar.

His contribution to Tamil literature is the *Thirukkural*, a work on ethics. It is one of the most revered ancient works in the Tamil language.
The Tamil Nadu government on 2 May 2017 conferred the 2017 Avvaiyar Award to Padma Venkataraman, a social worker and daughter for former Indian President, the late R Venkataraman.

Padma was honoured with the award for her efforts in the field of women’s welfare and the rehabilitation of leprosy-affected people since the past 30 years by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami.
Kazakhstan opens consulate in Chennai

Kazakhstan's Ambassador to India Bulat Sarsenbayev noted the symbolism of the event in the year of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and his country.

Israel – 25 years
High Jumper

Paralympian Mariyappan Thangavelu received Padma Shri from Then President Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhawan in Delhi.

Paralympian Mariyappan Thangavelu clinched gold in the 2016 Summer Paralympics.
Legislate to eradicate seemai karuvelam: High Court

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Monday directed the State government to enact a special legislation with prohibitory and penal clauses for eradicating *seemai karuvelam (prosopis juliflora)* —

an invasive species of tree considered harmful to the environment — from public and private lands alike.

Seemai Karuvelam tree species are native to West Africa. It was brought to Tamil Nadu in 1960s as fuelwood.

It disrupted the local ecosystem
Renowned journalist Cho S Ramaswamy passed away

He was founder and editor of Thuglak, a Tamil political magazine known for its withering satire and fearless criticism of political figures.
330-acre Medipark to come up in Chengalpattu, Kanchipuram

Will be built by HLL Lifecare Ltd, a mini-ratna, for setting up a medical devices manufacturing park (Medipark).

The land was originally leased to the firm by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Medipark, which will be India’s first medical technology manufacturing cluster, aims to produce low-cost diagnostic devices and ensure delivery of affordable healthcare.

The government of Tamil Nadu would have an equity participation of up to 10 per cent.
Mauritius Prez inaugurates World’s first salt tolerant plant garden in TN

Mauritius President Ameenah Gurib Fakim inaugurated a genetic garden of naturally occurring salt-tolerant plants called halophytes at the coastal town of Vedaranyam in Tamil Nadu.

Nagapattinam district
Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu chosen for Krishi Karman Awards 2015-16

Tripura is selected for the Krishi Karman Award 2015-16 in small category (less than 1 million tonnes). It is honoured for a commendable increase in food grain production in small category states.

Himachal Pradesh is chosen for the award in medium category (1 to 10 million tonnes).
Tamil Nadu has been chosen for the prestigious award in large category (production more than 10 million tonnes).

The state produced 130 lakh tonnes of food grains in 2015-16, which is the highest in the last five years. In terms of yield in food grains, the state managed to get a yield of 3.38 tonnes per hectare as against the all-India average of 2.028 tonnes per hectare, which is 67% more than the national average. Tamil Nadu will also be given a sum of Rs 5 crore.

The state had already bagged the award thrice in 2011-12 for highest food grains production, in 2013-14 for highest pulses production and in 2014-15 for highest coarse cereals production.
The Times Higher Education (THE) released its Asia University Rankings 2017.

The top rank in the Asia University Rankings was attained by the National University of Singapore (NUS) for the second consecutive year.

Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru has been ranked best Indian University and has been placed at 27th position among the universities in Asia.
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay was another Indian university among top 50 placed at 42 position followed by Chennai-based private institute Veltech University at 43.

Asia’s Top 5 Universities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
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<tr>
<td>1) National University of Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>2) Peking University</td>
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<td>3) Tsinghua University</td>
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<td>4) Nanyang Technological University</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>5) University of Hong Kong</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
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Japan to Help in Developing Chennai, Ahmedabad and Varanasi Smart Cities.

The decision was announced by the Japan’s Ambassador to India Kenji Hiramatsu.

The terminal station for Mumbai-Ahmedabad HSR is planned to be developed through Japan’s cooperation. In addition, Japan is supporting the construction of Ahmedabad Metro.

Germany to develop Bhubaneswar, Kochi, Coimbatore as Smart Cities.
Tamil Nadu Budget 2017-18: Jayakumar presents tax-free budget

Tamil Nadu finance minister D Jayakumar presented a tax-free budget for 2017-18, despite a falling tax revenue and increasing expenditure due to higher subsidies.

The state's fiscal deficit for 2016-17 overshot the 3% GSDP, the percentage permitted under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act.

The breach in FRBM Act is due to takeover of Tangedco debt of Rs 14,000 crore under the Uday scheme.

The government, however, is hopeful of bringing down the fiscal deficit within 3% in the 2017-18. "As the takeover of the Tangedco debt is only temporary, the fiscal deficit will be lowered and will be below 3%
Despite not reaching the revenue target, the government has set a tax revenue target of Rs 99,590.14 crore which is around 9.8% increase. Compared to this in the current year, the government's revenue has fallen short by 3% than the budget estimates of 2016-17

"The low economic growth, demonetisation and the ban on sale of property in unapproved layouts have dented the receipts from stamp duty and registration charges severely.
Considering these factors, receipts from stamp duty and registration charges are expected to be Rs 8,220 crore during 2017-18, as against Rs 7,985 crore

Despite the poor financial situation, the government has refused to slacken its welfare measures and subsidies. The total subsidy and grants is expected to be Rs 72,615.76 crore against Rs 68,211.05 crore estimated last year.
School education has received the maximum allocation as in each with Rs 26,932 crore for 2017-18. The next higher allocation is for the electricity sector.

The government has allocated Rs 16,998 crore and out of this Rs 8,538 crore will as subsidy to Tangedco for providing 100 units free power to domestic consumers and free power to farmers.

To prevent fragmentation of land holdings, the government has proposed a new scheme called farmer producer groups which will be federated into farmer producer organisations to promote collective farming for credit mobilisation, better adoption of technology and to facilitate effective forward and backward linkages.

In 2017-18, as a pilot project, 2,000 such farmer producer groups will be promoted, each comprising not less than 100 farmers.
Smart canes to be given to 10,000 blind people.

Disability pension raised from Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000.

Rs 61 crore set aside for the sanitary napkin provision scheme.

Modern residential school with hostel facilities for teachers will be set up in Javvadu hills for the benefit of tribal communities at a cost of Rs 24 crore.
Rs 758 crore allotted for the free laptop scheme.

Rs 200 crore allotted to help 1 lakh women to purchase scooters at a subsidised rate.

Number of PG medical seats raised from 1,188 to 1,362.
Old tenements constructed by the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board will be reconstructed.

30 new Primary Health Centres to come up at a cost of Rs 43.76 crore.

**Green housing project** gets Rs 420 crore to build 20,000 houses.

Urban Swachh Bharat Mission gets Rs 600 crore allocation.
Chennai Mega City development mission gets Rs 400 crore to finish infra projects undertaken by Greater Chennai Corporation.

Medical Park to come up in Kanchipuram at a cost of Rs 130 crore.

Rs 1 lakh per temple will be spent to renovate 1,000 rural area temples.

Anna Daanam scheme started by Jayalalithaa will be continued in 265 temples in Tamil Nadu
Rs 300 crore allotted for **Tamirabarani-Nambiyaaru river linking project**.

Rs 3,042 crore loan from World Bank will be used for conservation of various water bodies.

Rs 300 crore allotted for the **Kudi Maramathu project**.

Environmental projects, like conservation of Pallikaranai marshland, to be undertaken from the Green Climate Fund.
Rs 7,000 crore will be disbursed as crop loan through cooperative banks.

Food allowance for hostel dwelling college students raised to Rs 1000 from Rs 875.

Mookaiyur in Ramanathapuram district will get new fishing harbour
Fishing ban compensation raised to Rs 5,000.

Animal husbandry department gets Rs 1,161 crore allocation.

Madurai will get new Aavin milk production unit at cost of Rs 40 crore. The Madurai milk production unit will be exclusively for the production of flavoured milk under brand Aavin.

Sugarcane cultivation will be encouraged under the drip irrigation scheme.
Refugee welfare fund (Sri Lankan refugees) gets Rs 116 crore.

3.5 lakh plots of land will be given to economically weaker sections. Labour welfare department gets Rs 1,010 crore.

Rs 450 crore allotted for 3,000 more housing projects for Tamil Nadu police staffs
Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged-off Western Railways' Humsafar Express between Ahmedabad and Chennai.

Launched at a function held in Udvada town in Valsad district of Gujarat.

The first Humsafar Express was introduced on December, 16 2016 between Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) and Anand Vihar terminal in Delhi.

Humsafar Express are completely 3-tier AC sleeper trains designed by Indian Railways. This services include long haul routes.
The government has announced the expansion of rotavirus vaccine in five additional states under its Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).

Assam, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu

The announcement came after 38 lakh children were vaccinated in four states - Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, AP and Odisha when the vaccine was first introduced.

Diarrhoea is one of the biggest killers in children and rotavirus is one of the most common causes of severe Diarrhoea in children less than 2 years of age.
The Centre for Media Studies (CMS) released its 11th round of the annual corruption study ‘CMS India Corruption Study 2017.

According to survey based on 20 states **karnataka is the most corrupt state** in the country.

According to the survey, "77% of respondents" in Karnataka experienced corruption in accessing public services. This is followed by Andhra Pradesh (74%), **Tamil Nadu** (68%), Maharashtra (57%), Jammu and Kashmir (44%) and Punjab (42%).
Gujarat has maximum of 12 cities among the top 50 cleanest, followed by Madhya Pradesh with 11 and Andhra Pradesh with eight.
### Swacch Sarveskshan 2017

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<tr>
<th>National Rank</th>
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<td>434</td>
<td>Gonda</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
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![Logo](https://example.com/logo.png)
SWADESH DARSHAN, 100% funding will be done by the central government for strengthening infrastructure, capacity building of staff and locals, finding new avenues to connect people with tourism activities - Ministry of Tourism

Ministry of Tourism – PRASAD - Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive

Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)scheme - Urban Development Ministry
Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, thirteen thematic circuits have been identified, for development namely:

Under Ramayana Circuit, 11 destinations spread across 6 states have been proposed. The destinations covered are: Ayodhya, Nandigram, Shringhverpur & Chitrakoot (Uttar Pradesh); Sitamarhi, Buxar & Darbhanga (Bihar); Jagdalpur (Chattisgarh); Bhadrachalam (Telangana); Hampi (Karnataka); and Rameshwaram (Tamil Nadu). Expert committee suggested to include Chitrakoot (Madhya Pradesh), Nashik & Nagpur (Maharashtra) and Mahendragiri (Odisha) in the proposed circuit.

Under Krishna circuit, 12 destinations spread across 5 states have been proposed. The destinations covered are: Dwarka (Gujarat); Nathdwara, Jaipur & Sikar (Rajasthan); Kurukshetra (Haryana), Mathura, Vrindavan, Gokul, Barsana, Nandgaon & Govardhan (Uttar Pradesh); Puri (Odisha).
PRASAD Scheme was launched in 2014-15 with 12 identified sites namely Ajmer (Rajasthan), Amritsar (Punjab), Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh), Dwarka (Gujarat), Gaya (Bihar), Kedarnath (Uttarakhand), Kamakhya (Assam), Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu), Mathura (Uttar Pradesh), Puri (Odisha), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and Vellankani (Tamil Nadu).

During 2015-16, Patna (Bihar) and in 2016-17, 12 more sites were added in the scheme for development namely Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh), Badrinath (Uttarakhand), Belur (West Bengal), Deoghar (Jharkhand), Guruvayur (Kerala), Hazratbal and Katra (Jammu & Kashmir), Omkareshwar (Madhya Pradesh), Somnath (Gujarat), Srisailam and Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Trimbakeshwar (Maharashtra).
HRIDAY SCHEME

Deadline
November, 2018

Outlay of INR 500 Crores
the Scheme is being implemented in 12 identified Cities namely, Ajmer, Amaravati, Amritsar, Badami, Dwarka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi, Velankanni and Warangal.
Kāñchipuram காஞ்சிபுரம்

72 km from Chennai
Located on the banks of the Vegavathy river

historical monuments include the Kailasanathar Temple and the Vaikunta Perumal Temple.
In Vaishnavism Hindu theology, Kanchipuram is one of the seven Tirtha (pilgrimage) sites, for spiritual release.

The city houses Varadharaja Perumal Temple, Ekambareswarar Temple, Kamakshi Amman Temple, and Kumarakottam Temple
Of the 108 holy temples of the Hindu god Vishnu, 14 are located in Kanchipuram.

The town is well known for its hand woven silk sarees and most of the town's workforce is involved in the weaving industry.
Velankanni வேலாங்கண்ணி

*Velāṅkaṇṇi*, is a special grade panchayat town in Nagapattinam district in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

It lies on the Coromandel Coast of the Bay of Bengal, 350 km south of Chennai (Madras) and 12 km south of Nagapattinam.

The Vellayar, a minor branch of the Cauvery River, runs south of the town and discharges into the sea.

The town is home to one of the most visited Roman Catholic Latin Rite shrines called the Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health.
Edappadi Palaniswami sworn in as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

13th Chief Minister
Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje inaugurated a medical project Rajasthan Heart Attack Treatment programme (RAHAT).

It was launched by Eternal Heart Care Center Hospital in Jaipur. Rajasthan state became the second state in the country after Tamil Nadu to launch health program against Heart Diseases.

RAHAT ambulance fitted with equipment and trained paramedical staff.

The programme involves creation and management of a telemedicine’s platform to treat ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI), a very serious type of heart attack.
Tamil Nadu reports first case of Zika virus

The first case of Zika in Tamil Nadu was reported from Krishnagiri district.

Blood samples of a 28-year-old tailor, a resident of Natranpalayam Panchayat who reported to the Anchetty primary health center with complaints of fever, redness in the eye, photophobia, skin rashes and joint pain, was confirmed to be positive for Zika virus by labs, including National Institute of Virology in Pune.
Although the viral disease is known to have existed in India since 1952, Zika attracted global attention in late 2015 when a surge in the number of babies born with **microcephaly** — brain damage caused by abnormally small heads — was reported in northeastern Brazil months after an epidemic,

**ICMR director general Dr Soumya Swaminathan**

The patient from **Tamil Nadu** is the fourth known Zika case in the country making Tamil Nadu the second state to report the case after **Gujarat**

Like dengue and chikungunya, Zika is viral disease transmitted by **Aedes mosquito**.
Tamil Nadu Plan To Expand Internet Connectivity

Tamil Nadu government's ambitious proposal to expand internet service connectivity has evoked a good response with over 300 applications being received and 170 companies getting the green signal to go ahead.

Under the "Internet to every HouseHold" scheme launched by late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa in 2011, the government floated a Special Purpose Vehicle 'Tamil Nadu FiberNet Corporation' to implement it.

Telecom major Vodafone was selected by the Arasu Cable TV Corporation under the open tender process.

Currently, 2,577 subscribers use the leased line internet connectivity.
About 24,750 households are expected to be provided with the internet service under this initiative.

For providing Internet Protocol Television service, a detailed project report was under preparation for the roll out of the service.

On initiatives taken under cable TV digitisation, it said a global tender was floated in May this year for procuring 60 lakh standard and 10 lakh high definition Set Top Boxes.

Tamil Nadu became the first State in the country to receive the Digital Addressable System (DAS) licence by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.
Tamil Nadu doubles MLAs' salaries to over Rs 1 lakh per month

Giving a nearly 100 per cent hike, Tamil Nadu today hiked the salaries of state MLAs from Rs 55,000 per month to Rs 105,000 per month.

State government also announced an increase in MLAs Local Area Development Fund from Rs 2 crore to 2.5 crore.
Described by Tamil Nadu teen, India launches world's lightest satellite

India once again broke a global space record by launching the world's lightest satellite weighing on 22\textsuperscript{nd} June, a mere 64g, India called Kalamsat.

Designed and developed not by professional space scientists and engineers, but an 18-year-old student, Rifath Sharook, and his team from Pallapatti in Karur from Tamil Nadu.

The tiny satellite, named in honour of Abdul Kalam, was flown by a Nasa sounding rocket and the lift-off was from the space agency's Wallop Island facility.
NLC biggest winner in 1,500-MW Tamil Nadu solar auction

India’s latest solar auction, one of the biggest in the country, drew a surprisingly enthusiastic response with a big chunk of the 1,500 MW of projects on offer won by a state-owned mining company

The biggest winner was public sector mining giant NLC India (formerly Neyveli Lignite), which had bid for the entire 1500 MW, but was awarded 449 MW. The company mines lignite, which is also called brown coal, and generates power.
In Tamil Nadu, registration of pregnancies to become compulsory

Tamil Nadu has made it mandatory for all pregnant women to register themselves with the health department to ensure that the pregnancy and child birth happen safely.

Those who don't register pregnancy will not get to register the child birth, and hence not get a birth certificate for the child.

Women will also be allowed to register by calling a dedicated non-emergency medical number, 102, or through any private hospital.

It's an ambitious project that attempts to bring down maternal and infant mortality rates by keeping a tab on every pregnant woman in the state.
The registration will help the health department track the expectant mothers' medical records, send reminders for doctor's visits, and warn them about anaemia, diabetes and hypertension.

For the past one year, a special platform called Pregnancy Infant Cohort Monitoring and Evaluations (PICME), is being tested in three districts of Tamil Nadu.

Although more than 60% of deliveries in Tamil Nadu happen in government hospitals, women delivering at private hospitals and homes remain out of the government's information net.

In rural areas women who have more than two children do not report on time to government hospitals because they are not eligible for welfare schemes like the Muthulakshmi Reddy scheme that draw them to government hospitals
Muthulakshmi Reddy scheme

Tamil Nadu government back in 1987 launched this scheme for pregnant women.

Initially an amount Rs 3000 was provided by the government during the pregnancy. After few years the amount is raised by 200 rupees.

In 2006 state government again increased the amount of financial assistance due to hike in the market. In 2006 the revised amount was 6000 rupees which was given in the installment of Rs1000 for six months. Three months in the pre-maternity period and three in the post-maternity period.

In 2011 state government raised the amount by 6000 rupees and the revised amount reached to Rs12000 per woman up to 2 deliveries. This amount was provided in three instalments of 4000 rupees. Sri Lankan refugees were made eligible for the scheme too.
This amount was provided till today in every part of the state. CM of Tamil Nadu Mr. K. Palaniswami increased the amount by 6000 rupees.

**New revised amount under Dr. Muthulakshi Reddy maternity Benefit scheme reached to Rs 18000.**

**Eligibility for Dr. Muthulakshi Reddy maternity Benefit scheme:**

- Age of the pregnant woman should be 19 years or more.
- Beneficiary should belong to the BPL category.
Tamil Nadu’s share of FDI dwindles to 2.9%

Tamil Nadu accounted for a mere 2.9% of the total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of $44 billion into India during the 2016 calendar year — the lowest in three years — according to a report by Kotak Institutional Equities.

Sourcing data from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for FDI inflows into India and the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce, the report analysed the trend of FDI inflows to the country, including the trend in key States.
India attracted investments to the tune of $44 billion in 2016, of which Tamil Nadu’s share was just $1.3 billion (2.9%).

Tamil Nadu’s manufacturing growth was a mere 1.65% in 2016-17, according to the economic data on States released by the Reserve Bank of India recently.
The Kotak report noted that with a share of 7.3%, Gujarat leapfrogged Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to become the third largest recipient of foreign direct investment in 2016. Karnataka accounted for 5.1% of the inflows.

Over the past decade, Maharashtra (the largest FDI recipient) and Delhi together have accounted for 50% of the total FDI equity flows to India. In CY2016, their combined share improved further to 60%, while Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh accounted for another 20%, Kotak said.
Coimbatore-based Ganga Hospital to offer air ambulance service

Coimbatore-based Ganga Hospital says it is set to revolutionise emergency healthcare by emerging as, what it claims to be, the first hospital in the country to have a “hospital-based full-time air-ambulance service”.

Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa formally launched the service.

it is also the first DGCA-approved (Director General of Civil Aviation) private hospital helipad (at Ganga Nursing College, Vattamalaipalayam
Tamil Nadu Assembly passes jallikattu Bill

Amid continuing protests over jallikattu across the State, Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously passed an amendment bill for conducting the bull-taming sport without any hindrance.

Replacing an ordinance promulgated two days ago to allow jallikattu, the Bill to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

The “Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment), Act, 2017”.
Tamil Nadu became the 21st state to join the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) scheme.

The THEN Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Shri Piyush Goyal presided over the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) under the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) Scheme with the Government of Tamil Nadu and its Discom TANGEDCO, for operational and financial turnaround of the DISCOM.

Tamil Nadu would derive an overall net benefit of approximately Rs. 11,000 crores through UDAY, by way of savings in interest cost, reduction in AT&C and transmission losses, interventions in energy efficiency, coal reforms etc.
A new mobile app for tourists

For the benefit of both domestic and international tourists, Tamil Nadu Tourism Department has launched a mobile app ‘pinakin’ with information on tourism in Tamil Nadu with audio facilities.

The app, in two languages — Tamil and English — covers world heritage tourist sites like Mahabalipuram, Thanjavur Big Temple, Gangaikonda Cholapuram and Darasuram.

The app can be downloaded free of cost from iStore or Playstore.

The app would provide information on other major tourist destinations in Tamil Nadu in a phased manner.
Government Allows Tamil Nadu to Raise Number of Workdays under MGNREGA

Central government has granted permission to raise the number of workdays under the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee scheme in Tamil Nadu from the existing **100 days to 150 days.**

The Rural Development Ministry oversees the implementation of the MGNREGA

The increase in workdays aims to help rural laborers who are facing job loss as a result of the severe drought affecting the state. The cost of providing work to rural households for 50 more days will be borne by the central government and the state will not have to bear the financial burden

The scheme is being implemented in **12,524 villages of Tamil Nadu.**
Vetiver Network launched

India Vetiver Network (INVN) has been launched at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

INVN is a not-for-profit scientific network to promote vetiver in India. Vetiver has worldwide application to tackle many environmental issues like soil erosion, mitigation of soil and water pollution.

The mission of INVN is environmental protection using vetiver. Promotion of research in vetiver — identification of varieties, improved production technologies and distillation techniques.

What is Vetiver?

Chrysopogon zizanioides, commonly known as vetiver is a perennial bunchgrass of the Poaceae family, native to India. Vetiver grass is grown for many different purposes. The plant helps to stabilise soil and protects it against erosion, but it can also protect fields against pests and weeds.
Panneerselvam inaugurates 'Amma Kalviyagam'

Former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister O Panneerselvam launched a portal which will be a “hub of learning, interaction, opportunity, and connection.”

The “ammakalviyagam.in”, named after late chief minister Jayalalithaa, was launched by Panneerselvam as part of her 69th birth anniversary celebrations.

Jayalalithaa is fondly addressed as “Amma” (Mother) by her supporters.

It is a platform for learners, experts, academic and industry professionals, and recruiters to meet, gain and provide skills, and discover and hone talent.

The portal, which will help students get assistance from reputed teachers free of cost, was an initiative in line with Jayalalithaa’s Vision TN 2023, where she had set goals for development in various sectors, including education.
The Vision TN 2023 targets at transforming the State into an innovation hub and knowledge capital of India by the year 2023 by providing quality education and lays due emphasis on skill development amongst others.

The initiative was based on **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC)** model.
AIADMK launched the women safety app Ammavin Aran.

The AIADMK IT Wing has launched the first-of-its-kind women safety application in Tamil Nadu.

The app is called 'Ammavin Aran' meaning 'mother's fortress'.

The app will give the user details about the nearest police station and hospital along with map details and phone number.

There is an in-built whistle, which can manipulate the phone speaker to create a loud noise when pressed by anyone in distress.
GRAPES-3 Telescope upgraded to detect solar storms.

The GRAPES-3 experiment at TIFR’s (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research) Cosmic Ray Laboratory in Ootacamund in Tamil Nadu is getting upgraded to detect solar storms.

GRAPES-3 (Gamma Ray Astronomy PeV EnergieS phase-3) experiment had detected the effect of a solar storm that hit the earth in June 2015.

Key Facts

GRAPES-3 has an important role in understanding the propagation of storms from the L1 point (Lagrange point 1) to its impact on the Earth.

The upgraded detector will have an increased coverage and improved capacity to determine the direction of incident cosmic rays.
It will play a major role in getting precise information about the propagation of storms in the last million miles (from the L-1 point) of their journey from the Sun to the Earth.

**Background**

The Sun is at a distance of **150 million kilometres from the Earth**. Satellites are placed at a distance of nearly **1.5 million kilometres**, at the so-called **L1 point (between Earth and Sun)**, where they orbit the Sun along with the Earth.

The satellites act as an early warning system as the charged particles from a solar storm first impact the satellites before hitting the Earth.
The GRAPES-3 experiment is located at Ooty in India. It was started as a collaboration of the TIFR and the Japanese Osaka City University, and now also includes the Japanese Nagoya Women’s University.

It is specially designed to study cosmic rays with an array of air shower detectors and a large area muon detector. It aims to probe acceleration of cosmic rays in the four astrophysical settings.

Muon: an unstable subatomic particle of the same class as an electron (a lepton), but with a mass around 200 times greater. Muons make up much of the cosmic radiation reaching the earth's surface.

Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, ADC Chief of the Naval Staff, inaugurated the first ever ‘Integrated Automatic Aviation Meteorological System (IAAMS)’ at INS Rajali.

The IAAMS is an ambitious project of the Indian Navy to modernise the meteorological infrastructure of the nine Naval Air Stations (NAS).

NS Rajali at Arakkonam was identified for setting up this sophisticated system on a ‘Test Bed’ site, where the complete integrated system has been tested for its reliability, performance and functioning.

The IAAMS project will give a major fillip to aviation safety, through automation of weather monitoring process.
INS Rajali at Arakkonam was identified for setting up this sophisticated system on a ‘Test Bed’ site, where the complete integrated system has been tested for its reliability, performance and functioning.

The IAAMS project will give a major fillip to aviation safety, through automation of weather monitoring process.

Equipped with the state of the art Meteorological Sensors viz., Radar Vertical Wind Profiler, Transmissometer, Ceilometer and Automatic Weather Observation System, IAAMS undertakes automatic and continuous recording of relevant weather parameters that are vital for accurate weather forecasting.
TU142M aircraft has been de-inducted from the Indian Navy after 29 years of service.

A special farewell ceremony was organised on 29th March 2017, at INS Rajali, the premiere Naval Air Station located in Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu.

TU142M is being replaced by a fleet of P-8I maritime surveillance aircraft.

P-8I has been developed by Boeing Company and is popularly referred to as Boeing P-8 Poseidon by the United States Navy.

The TU142M Long Range Maritime Patrol aircraft was inducted into Indian Navy at Dabolim Goa from erstwhile USSR in 1988.
Green nod for Neutrino project suspended

The Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal suspended the Environmental Clearance (EC) granted to the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) that was to come up in Theni and asked the project proponent to make a fresh application.

During the arguments, the Tribunal was informed that the Madhikettan Shola National Park in Idukki district of Kerala was just about 4.9 km from the proposed project site and the Tamil Nadu-Kerala border was just a kilometre away, making it a Category ‘A’ project.
Tamil Nadu won the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2017 by defeating Bengal by 37 runs.

The finals took place at the Feroz Shah Kotla, Delhi.

They become the only team to win the tournament five times out of which one was shared with Uttar Pradesh in 2004-05.

Tamil Nadu’s Wicket keeper Dinesh Karthik was Man of the Match.
Former Agriculture Minister of Puducherry M Chandrakasu passed away in Chennai.

He was 67 years old.

Chandrakasu was first elected as Congress legislator from Neduncadu reserved constituency in Karaikal in 1980.

He became Speaker of the Assembly in 1985.

He was Minister in the Congress ministry led by V Vaithilingam between 1991 and 1996.

He was Agriculture Minister in the AINRC government formed by Rangasamy in 2011.
National Car Racer Ashwin Sundar and his wife Niveditha Died in Car Accident

The accident took place at the Pattinapakkam area, on the Santhome High Road in Tamil Nadu.

Ashwin, 27, was the national champion in LGB Formula 4 category in 2012 and 2013.

He had also won the MRF Formula 1600 International Challenge competition on two occasions.
Eminent Tamil litterateur and Sahitya Akademi winner Thiagarajan passed away in Chennai.

He was 85 years old.

He is known by his pen name, Asokamitran.

18-vadhu Atchakkodu which is translated into English as "The Eighteenth Parallel", is one of his highly acclaimed novels.

He won Sahitya Akademi Award in 1996 for his work Appavin Snegithargal.

He was given the Tiru Vi Ka Award in 2014 for his contribution to Tamil literature by late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa.
Russian firm hands over Kudankulam unit 1 to India

The responsibility to operate Unit 1 of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant, India’s largest nuclear power generation unit has been entrusted fully to it, the Russian firm that built the joint venture plant.

The Moscow-based ASE Group of Companies, a subsidiary of ROSATOM State Atomic Energy Corporation said the entrusting of the responsibility to India follows signing of a joint statement by it and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India, confirming the fulfillment of all warranty terms and obligations of the overseas contractor.

The warranty period run showed reliable and safe operation of the Unit 1. Thus, the Indian side confirms that ASE Group of Companies, which is general contractor, has fulfilled all its tasks in full and accurately
The onward operations of Unit 1 is totally within the responsibility of the Indian side.

The commercial operation and the warranty period of **Unit 1 of KNPP** started in December 2014.

The second unit of KNPP began its commercial operation on March 31 this year with **a warranty period of one year**

**KNPP units I and II**, both with a **capacity of 1000 MW**, have been built with Russian collaboration. **Units III and IV are under construction.**

The first two units are the largest nuclear power generation units in the country.

**The fifth and the sixth unit of** India’s largest nuclear power plant in Tamil Nadu will cost **about Rs 50,000 crore to** build with half of it being funded by Russia as loan
The project will take seven years to start generating electricity, Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) Chairman and Managing Director S K Sharma said.

The first unit will be commissioned in 66 months and the second six months thereafter.

The project will be funded in **70:30 debt-equity ratio** (70 per cent debt, 30 per cent equity).

The Russian government will lend India **USD 4.2 billion** to help cover the construction cost.
Naval ship dedicated to Chennai city

Indian Navy's indigenously designed P15A Guided Missile Destroyer - INS Chennai was formally dedicated to the city by Tamil Nadu chief minister K Palaniswami.

Named after the city, INS Chennai is commanded by captain C R Praveen Nair and has 45 officers.

The ship, commissioned by then Defence Minister Manohar Parikkar last year, is one of the most potent warships to have been constructed in India.
Renowned actor-director of Tamil Films Vinu Chakravarthy passed away at the age of 71.

Vinu debuted with Gopurangal Saivathillai in 1982.

He is known for his villainous roles in the 80s and 90s, followed by character roles later.

Muni starring Raghava Lawrence, Kovai Sarala among others marked this actor’s 1000th film.
Country's 1st ornamental fish park in Chennai

India's first Aquatic Rainbow Technology Park (ARTP) will be set up in Chennai at a cost of Rs 61.89 crore.

The park, an ultra-modern exclusive facility for ornamental fish equipped with multi-species hatchery and live feed culture units, will fulfil a major requirement of the industry for mass production of high value aquarium fish.

Fisheries College and Research Institute, Ponneri, will develop the facility.

Tamil Nadu is the second largest exporter of ornamental fish after West Bengal. After completion, it will be handed over to ornamental fish breeders and farmers on lease for three years.
‘Adiyogi bust’ declared world’s largest by Guinness Book of World Records.

The 112 feet tall bust of ‘Adiyogi’ Lord Shiva at the Isha Yoga Foundation has been declared the world’s largest bust by the Guinness Book of World Records. It is 112.4 feet high, 24.99 metres wide and 147 feet long.

The bust at the Isha Yoga Foundation on the outskirts of Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 24 this year.

The face of Adiyogi, set up by the Isha Foundation led by spiritual guru Jaggi Vasudev, attracts thousands of people every day. The bust refers to source of Yoga and symbolises the 112 methods of self-transformation that the first Yogi or Adiyogi (originator of yoga) offered.
Now a portal to regularise unapproved plots, layouts

The government of Tamil Nadu has launched a website for regularisation of unapproved plots and layouts.

Owners and applicants can regularise the plots online through www.tnlayoutreg.in.

The application is available for plots falling under the control of Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) and the Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP).

According to the portal, the last date for submission of applications is November 3, 2017
State rolls out ₹800-crore plan for dry land farmers.

Billed as the first of its kind in Tamil Nadu, a comprehensive scheme of over ₹800 crore, benefitting at least 12 lakh farmers engaged in dry land agriculture and targeting coverage of around 18 lakh hectares, has been launched in 25 districts.

The scheme envisages mobilisation of agriculturists through farmers’ clubs, formation of 1,000 clusters; execution of land development activities and establishment of water harvesting structures; adoption of appropriate cropping system including the provision of quality seeds at 50% subsidy; crop insurance and enabling better marketability of the produce.
Taking the help of primary agricultural cooperative societies (PACS), machinery required for processing the produce such as dhal and millet will be set up.

To be implemented over three years, the scheme will ensure the formation of 200 clusters initially, followed by 400 clusters annually for the subsequent two years.

Officials of the Agriculture Department say the scheme marks a “paradigm shift” in the approach of the government vis-à-vis dry land farmers.

Ordinarily, Cauvery delta farmers are given special packages of assistance for the short-term Kuruvai and the long term Samba crops, whereas dry land farmers have remained largely out of sight of the authorities.
Promotion for pulses

the government has issued another order, approving a special package of ₹50 crore for the cultivation of pulses over 24,000 hectares in 17 districts.

This has been done to provide the scope for income to farmers the pulses, especially black gram (urad dhal) and green gram (moong dhal); fetch generally ₹40,000 to ₹50,000 per acre.

Moreover, these two grams are of short duration which goes on for 60 days. Apart from providing ₹2,000 per acre, the authorities will distribute portable sprinklers and rain guns.

While 19 per cent of farmers in each block should be from Scheduled Castes and one per cent from Scheduled Tribes, at least 33 per cent of the overall number of beneficiaries should belong to small and marginal farmers and 30 per cent to women.
Collective farming’ to fight land fragmentation

Concerned over the growing fragmentation of farmland and leveraging the concept of women’s self-help groups, the TN government has come out with a scheme for land-owning agriculturists, especially marginal and small farmers.

Called “collective farming,” the latest initiative envisages the creation of farmers’ bodies at three levels — farmers interest groups (FIG), farmers producer groups (FPG), and farmers producers organisation (FPO).

Each FIG will have 20 members, located in broadly contiguous areas and cultivating the same crop in a season.
Without changing the ownership of land, small and marginal farmers of FIGs can consolidate their holdings through agreements.

Resources such as cattle and machinery can be combined to start collective cultivation for realising the benefit of large-scale farming.

**Financial support**

Initially, 10,000 FIGs will be formed. Five FIGs will constitute one FPG. Each FPG will include 100 small and marginal farmers. The plan is to establish 2,000 FPGs this year with two lakh farmers.

Each FPG will get a sum of Rs. 5 lakh. Ten FPGs, belonging to a contiguous area, will form one farmer-producer organisation (FPO). A sum of Rs. 100 crore has been set apart for the current year. If everything goes well, the government wants to cover 40 lakh farmers in five years.
Apart from motivating the farmers to share knowledge on better practices and cost-effective agricultural technologies, the objective of the scheme is to enable improvement in the livelihood of farmers.

The financial assistance can be used for different purposes including the purchase of farm implements. The scheme will seek to remove hurdles faced by farmers in accessing credit and markets. The provision of fertilizers will not be covered under this measure, a senior official in the Agriculture department explains.
Kudimaramathu scheme launched

A total of 44 tanks would be taken up under ‘Kudimaramathu’ scheme in the district, said Minister for Forests C. Srinivasan.

Kudimaramath — the ancient water resource management system — involving the general public across the State with a Rs. 100 crore from the World Bank inaugurated by Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami at Manimangalam in the city’s southern suburbs.

And the district’s share was Rs. 1.29 crore.

The farmers would contribute 10% of the project cost in their respective areas.
The *Manimangalam lake*, one of the largest in Sriperumbudur taluk, is spread over 3.42 sq. km. with an irrigation command area of nearly 800 hectare.

The lake brimmed with water after 10 years due to the heavy downpour in December 2015.

A total of 1,519 works are to be undertaken in 30 districts across the State under the scheme in which channels, reservoirs and other waterbodies would be desilted and their banks strengthened.
These projects would be carried out using funds from NABARD.

This single-day exercise would be a people’s movement and would be carried out in all districts at a cost of Rs. 300 crore in the next financial year.

66 other tanks would be restored under Minor Irrigation Scheme and Tamil Nadu Village Habitations Improvement Scheme. Supply channels of these tanks would also be restored under MGNREGS.
5559 acres of temple land retrieved in last 6 years

Thousands of acres of land belonging to temples across Tamil Nadu continues to be in the name of private persons.

The state government has recovered 5559 acres of such lands owned by 789 temples in the last six years.

This vast acreage is 1/10th the size of Coimbatore city. It has been restored and registered in the name of temples now.

The land is worth several hundred crore rupees.

Documents tabled in the assembly show that vast areas of temple land were transferred to private persons as pattas were wrongly transferred during the implementation of the Updating Registry Scheme (UDR).
Tamil Nadu to build 2.66 lakh homes for slum dwellers with private realty developers

Tamil Nadu plans to build 2.66 lakh affordable homes for slum dwellers by partnering with private agencies.

It is learnt that 22,384 housing units got approval during the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee meet held recently.

12,000 units more for slum dwellers are likely to be proposed this year based on land availability, Under the Affordable Housing in Partnership scheme, the Union government will provide a grant of Rs 1.6 lakh for slum dwellers while the State government will provide Rs 5 lakh.
Tamil Nadu seeks Central government approval for various schemes.

The Tamil Nadu government has sought the Centre’s approval for various schemes, including a sea water desalination plant for this city.

State Finance Minister D Jayakumar submitted a memorandum with Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, seeking approval for various initiatives.

The estimated Rs 5,300 crore desalination project will address the increasing drinking water needs of Chennai, Presently, two sea water desalination plants of 100 mld (Million liters a day) each are located at Minjur and Nemmeli.
Now, pay your EB bills via mobile phone app

Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) consumers now have one more easy option of paying electricity bills.

Tangedco, which has a vibrant online payment mechanism, has launched a mobile app for payment of bills.

Electricity Minister P. Thangamani launched the app at the Tangedco’s headquarters, total of 2.7 crore low-tension (LT) consumers will be benefited.

Already Tangedco has made provisions for paying electricity bills at bank counters, post offices and e-seva centres in addition to online facility maintained by the Electricity Department.
Download TNSAND App for Mobile Online Sand Booking in Tamilnadu.

The Tamilnadu government has launched **TNSAND mobile app** and web portal **www.tnsand.in** for online sand booking in state.

The TNSAND Mobile app has been launched by the government to bring transparency.

The people can make their log in and the lorry registration on official website.

The mobile app can be downloaded from google play store.

It is also available at official website **www.tnsand.in**.
24,000 houses to be built in Tamil Nadu under central scheme.

Giving a boost to the affordable housing sector in Tamil Nadu, the Centre has sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) 24,576 houses for the state, the second highest number of affordable houses in the latest allocation after Madhya Pradesh with 57,131 houses.

The housing and urban poverty alleviation (HUPA) ministry has now approved construction of 18.75 lakh houses for economically weaker sections (EWS) in 2,151 cities and towns since 2015.

Tamil Nadu is in second position in the overall list of states with more than 2.52 lakh houses with a total project cost of 9,112 crore.
the ruling AIADMK Tamil Nadu announced in the state assembly that its animal husbandry department will set aside Rs 6 crore towards preventing sale of two lakh cows that are sterile.

Farmers with such cows usually sell them for slaughter. Animal husbandry minister P Balakrishna Reddy said this scheme was aimed at preventing farmers from selling cows for slaughter.

Under the plan for dry-land cattle, sterile cow breeds will be provided medication and mineral mixture after finding out reasons for their infertility.

This would prevent sale of cow breeds with high yield capacity and when such cattle begin giving milk yield, it will help farmers economically,
Tamil Nadu top tourist state for 3rd consecutive year.

Tamil Nadu is the country's top destination for domestic tourists for the third consecutive year.

More than 344 million tourists from within the country visited the state in 2016, followed by Uttar Pradesh with 229 million, data released by the Union tourist ministry.

Domestic tourist arrivals in Tamil Nadu in 2016 registered a 3% increase over the previous year.
While Tamil Nadu's world class healthcare facilities continue to be a big draw, travel agents and state tourism department say the state's fabled temples are a big attraction.

Several pilgrims who visit Varanasi end their tour after visiting Rameswaram.

En route the temple town of Rameswaram, site of one of the 12 Jyotirlingas, many also visit places like Madurai and Trichy.

Uttar Pradesh secured 2nd rank while Madhya Pradesh is in third rank above Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra, while West Bengal has pushed Telangana to eighth, followed by Gujarat and Rajasthan.
Tamil Nadu tops list of states with most foreign tourist arrivals in 2016: Union Ministry

According to a new survey report released by the Then Union Tourism Minister Mahesh Sharma, Tamil Nadu topped the list of states with most number of foreign visitor arrivals for 2016.

Tamil Nadu has emerged the winner with an approximate 4.72 million visitors.

Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have secured the second, third and fourth place with 4.62, 3.16 and 2.52 million visitors, respectively.
The fifth place has been occupied by West Bengal with 1.53 million visitors.

The 'Land of Palaces', Rajasthan finished a close sixth with 1.51 million tourists.

Kerala, whose tourism has taken a hit, finished seventh on the list, with an approximate 1.04 million visitors.

Goa, a popular tourist hub took the ninth place with 0.68 million visitors, below Bihar, who finished eighth with 1.01 million tourists.

The 10th place was taken by Punjab, who finished with 0.66 million visitors.
Plan to develop Nallambal tank as tourist hub.

The Public Works Department has taken up plans to develop the Nallambal Eri, a sprawling tank in the heart of the town, with a view to attracting tourists visiting Karaikal.

The first phase of the tourism attraction project was completed in October 2014 when 31.42 hectares was developed at an estimated Rs. 4.98 crore.

The PWD has planned to further improve the tourism infrastructure. A motel will be constructed as a first step towards catering to the needs of visitors.

Around 2.5 acres at the tank will have infrastructure for entertainment. There will also be a children’s amusement park.
Tamil Nadu government to promote Chithirai as tourism festival.

The Chithirai festival or Chithirai Thiruvizha, touted as one of the longest celebrations in the world stretching for nearly 20 days, will be officially promoted as a tourist attraction by the state government.

This was announced by cooperatives minister Sellur K Raja on Saturday after inaugurating the first Chithirai Tourism cultural festival.
Celebrated in the Madurai temple located about 500 kilometers from Chennai, Chithirai Festival, Madurai is a popular festival in southern India. Madurai is popularly known as the City of Festivals.

Chithirai Festival, Madurai includes a procession of Lord Vishnu, locally known as Lord Kallazhagar. The brother of Goddess Meenakshi, Lord Vishnu travels from his abode in Azhagarmalai to get his sister married to Lord Sundareshwarar.

This journey from his abode to his sister’s wedding, on a golden chariot, is the legend behind celebrating the Chithirai Festival, Madurai.
Kovai-Ooty chopper service, cable car in Nilgiris on cards.

The Tamil Nadu Tourism minister Mr Vellamandi N. Natarajan helicopter service between Ooty and Coimbatore and a cable car facility in the Nilgiris to boost tourism.

He said the focus will be on promoting heritage tourism and eco-tourism.

Mr. Natarajan, inaugurated the 'Annual Vegetable Show' as well as the summer festival at Nehru Park in Kotagiri.
Saral Thiruvizha 2017’ begins at Courtallam

The eight-day-long ‘Saral Thiruvizha 2017’ celebrations commenced at Courtallam.

‘Hortshow 2017’ at Eco Park near the Five Falls where Department of Horticulture has made arrangements for flower show and vegetable carvings
welfare schemes announced by CM

closure of 500 state-run Tasmac liquor outlets.

Amma two-wheeler scheme under which working women will get a 50% subsidy, with an upper ceiling of Rs 20,000, to purchase a moped or scooter.

According to the order, this scheme will implemented from fiscal year 2017-18, at a cost of Rs 200 crore, to benefit one lakh working woman.
Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme, under which assistance will be increased from Rs 12,000 to 18,000.

Special housing scheme for the benefit of 5,000 fishermen, under which 5,000 houses would be constructed at a cost of Rs 1.70 lakh each, with a total outlay of Rs 85 crore.

According to the order, the houses will be built as part of the centrally-sponsored Indira Awaas Yojana, under which the state government will contribute Rs 1.1 lakh with Central contribution of Rs 60,000.

The rural development department will select the beneficiaries for the same
Raising of monthly assistance to unemployed youth in TN, from Rs 150 to Rs 300 (Class 10 completed), from Rs 200 to Rs 400 (Class 12) and from Rs 300 to Rs 600 (for graduates).
Chief Minister Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme in Tamil Nadu is a lofty insurance scheme launched by the state government in association with the United India Insurance Company.

The scheme now covers 1.57 crore families including migrant workers and undocumented orphans.

Chief Minster’s Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme has broadened its coverage and also included 321 more medical procedures.
The scheme will have more than **1,100 treatment** procedures including the coverage of congenital anomalies.

The government renewed the contract for four-year terms with an annual premium payment of **Rs. 1,069 crores**.

As per the information from Public Health and Preventive Medicine department, the government is paying **Rs. 699** on per family basis while earlier, the amount was **Rs. 497**.
Treatment Procedures Covered under CM Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme.

It includes heart and lung transplants, cochlear implant, bone marrow transport, radiation therapy, surgical oncology.

For the first time in India, it is the first scheme to cover the cover bariatric surgery for the morbidly obese.

The coverage amount under the scheme has been increased from Rs. 1.5 lacs to Rs. 2.0 lacs for surgical procedures.

And for critical illness, if the surgery or treatment procedure exceeds the insured limit, the government have set up a corpus fund to pay for the entire treatment.
It is the first attempt of Tamil Nadu state government towards providing a health insurance cover to migrant workers and orphans.

People with annual income of less than Rs. 72,000 are eligible for the scheme.

**Eligibility**

The Eligibility to avail Chief Minister’s Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, is as indicated for the resident of Tamilnadu by the presence of his/her name in the Family card and whose annual income is less than Rs.72,000/ per annum.
Smart Ration Card in Tamil Nadu to Replace Ration Card

As an initiative towards digitization, Tamil Nadu government is launching Smart Family Card Scheme to make the ration cards in Tamil Nadu digital.

Under the scheme, about 1.89 crore ration cards in TN will be replaced by smart cards at the cost of Rs. 330 crore

The scheme will not interrupt the consumer, they can use the old ration card to buy commodities at PDS outlets until they receive the smart card.

After receiving an SMS on their registered mobile number, the card holder can obtain their smart card from their respective PDS outlets.

The SMS for a smart card would be sent by the authorities to the card holder’s mobile number.
The government is creating a new database of ration card holders by collecting their Aadhaar card details.

Of 6.90 crore members of ration cards, the government has collected the Aadhar details of about 5.85 crore. These Smart Cards are being produced on the basis of Card holder’s Aadhar information and the expenditure on the distribution of these cards will be borne by the state government.
Smart card scheme was announced by former CM late Jayalalithaa in 2012 with the plan to make the PDS computerized.

An amount of Rs. 5,500 crore is being allocated annually for the Food department as a subsidy.
Amma Master Health Checkup Scheme in Tamilnadu to be Extended.

Amma Master Health Checkup Scheme, launched by the Tamil Nadu Government on 01 March 2016 will now be extended to all the districts in the state.

Until now, the health checkup facility under the Amma Master Health Checkup scheme was available only at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH).

But now, the facility would be made available at several health institutions across the state.
Under the **Amma Master Health Checkup scheme**, tests including those for blood, urine, sugar, thyroid, screening for cholesterol, liver function, besides diagnostic investigations like ECG, and USG abdomen would be done at a very nominal fee.

Since the launch of Amma Master Health Checkup scheme in March 2016, over 16,500 people have been benefited from the scheme.

The health checkups are done on the first come first serve basis under the scheme.

The interested people can also book an appointment under the Amma Master Health Checkup scheme at the official website at www.mmcmhc.in
There are three health checkup packages under the Amma Master Health Checkup scheme as following

– Amma Gold – Rs. 1000
– Amma Diamond – Rs. 2000
– Amma Platinum – Rs. 3000
Tamil Nadu govt. is set to introduce Samadhan scheme to resolve the long-pending arrears of commercial taxes related issues.

This scheme would be introduced by The commercial taxes and Registration department. This scheme will improve the efficiency of state govt.

The introduction of GST from July 1 necessitated the Samadhan scheme to collect the long pending cases. The issues calculated are around 1000 crore as per the official sources.
The Tamil Nadu assembly has unanimously passed two Bills to exempt students from taking the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET). Several states have been protesting the NEET since its inception.

The Bill was tabled by C Vijaya Baskar, state health minister, in an effort to annul the common entrance test -- NEET for admissions into MBBS and BDS and allow students to secure admission in medical courses based upon the marks secured by the students in Class 12 standard.

Another Bill was also passed to admit aspirants in the post graduate programme not through any entrance examination but based upon the marks secured by the aspirants in the qualifying examinations.
A non-governmental organisation, the Environmentalist Foundation of India (EFI) has initiated the process of reviving an ancient water body that is located in the front of the Sri Ramanujar Sannadhi at Sevilimedu in Kancheepuram district of Tamil Nadu.

The revival work coincides with the 1,000th birth anniversary of Sri Ramanuja.