



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

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1. Governor's Address at the First Session of the 17th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly

The first session of the 17th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly commenced at 10 a.m. Governor R. V. Arlekar was welcomed by Chief Minister Joseph Vijay before delivering his address.

Key Highlights of the Governor's Address

(i) The Tamil Nadu Government is committed to eradicating corruption and ensuring transparent Governance. Procurement and tendering processes across all Departments will be made transparent, and the role of middlemen will be completely eliminated.

(ii) Chief Minister Joseph Vijay recently met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and requested the establishment of an aerospace systems center in Hosur, along with financial assistance and support for various development projects. The State Government expects positive support from the Union Government.

(iii) Archaeological excavations and research will be undertaken at Keeladi, Adichanallur, Kodumanal, Mayiladumparai, Sivakalai, Alagankulam, Arikamedu, Saluvankuppam, and Poompuhar. Efforts will also be made to secure UNESCO World Heritage recognition for Keeladi and Adichanallur.

(iv) The Tamil Nadu Government will continue urging the Union Government to find a permanent solution to the issue of Tamil Nadu fishermen being arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy.

(v) Measures will be taken to strengthen the livelihoods of fishermen.

(vi) The State Government will urge the Union Government to permit Tamil as a language of litigation in the Madras High Court and establish a bench of the Supreme Court in Chennai.

(vii) A comprehensive sustainable tourism policy will be formulated to protect natural resources and maintain ecological balance.

(viii) Tamil Nadu aims to become India's model state for urban excellence by 2031.

(ix) Clean drinking water supply and digital governance initiatives will be implemented across Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, and Town Panchayats over the next five years.

(x) The welfare of Government employees and pensioners will continue to be protected.

2. Employment Incentive Scheme under Viksit Bharat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute ₹2,400 crore through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) under the Employment Incentive Scheme for first-time employees and employers.

(i) Live events have been organized by the Ministry of Labour and Employment at 200 locations across India, including Chennai.

(ii) The incentive is expected to support employment generation for more than 1.5 million people.

(iii) In Tamil Nadu, events will be held in Chennai, Coimbatore, Vellore, Tiruvallur, Tiruppur, Salem, Krishnagiri, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Dindigul, Tirunelveli, Nagercoil, and Puducherry. About 60,000 beneficiaries will receive employment incentives worth approximately ₹36 crore, while nearly 4,000 employers will receive incentives worth around ₹125 crore.

3. U.S. Federal Reserve Keeps Interest Rates Unchanged

The U.S. Federal Reserve has announced that its interest rates will remain unchanged at 3.50% to 3.75%.

(i) Inflation in the United States has risen to 4.2% due to disruptions in global supply chains caused by conflicts in the Middle East. The first two-day meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) under the leadership of new Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh concluded with a decision to maintain interest rates at their current level to ensure economic stability.

4. Iran–United States Peace Agreement

A peace agreement aimed at ending the conflict between Iran and the United States was signed electronically by both parties.

(i) U.S. President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed the agreement, while Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif signed as a guarantor.

(ii) The agreement, known as the “Islamabad Agreement,” is scheduled to be formally implemented at a ceremony in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 19. Leaders of the United States, Iran, Pakistan, and Qatar are expected to attend.

(iii) Electronic Signing

- President Trump signed the agreement electronically while attending the G7 Summit in France and announced the development publicly.
- Following the signing, Iran will immediately reopen the strategic Strait of Hormuz shipping route.
- The United States will withdraw warships currently deployed around Iranian ports.

(iv) Pakistan’s Guarantee

- Pakistan has signed the agreement as a guarantor nation.

5. Technology Must Be Democratized: Prime Minister Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that technology can contribute to development only when it is democratized.

(i) He made these remarks after the United States recently restricted foreign access to Anthropic AI models, Fable 5 and Mythos 5.

(ii) Modi attended the VivaTech 2026 Technology Conference, one of Europe’s largest technology and innovation events, held in Paris, alongside French President Emmanuel Macron.

6. Chinese Foreign Minister to Attend BRICS NSA Meeting in New Delhi

China announced that Foreign Minister Wang Yi will participate in the BRICS National Security Advisers (NSA) Meeting to be held in New Delhi on June 22 and 23.

(i) India currently holds the BRICS Presidency for the year. Speaking about the meeting, Chinese Foreign

Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian stated:

- Wang Yi will attend the BRICS NSA Meeting at India's invitation.
- Despite numerous global challenges, BRICS continues to serve as the voice of the Global South, promoting peace, security cooperation, equitable governance, and multilateralism.
- During his visit, Wang Yi, who also serves as China's Special Representative on the India–China boundary issue, is expected to meet India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval to discuss bilateral relations.

7. River-Linking Projects and Water Management Initiatives

The Governor's address stated that steps will first be taken to interlink rivers within Tamil Nadu. Subsequently, the Union Government will be urged to support the interlinking of rivers across southern Indian states.

(i) It was noted that although the Supreme Court has directed the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu, Karnataka currently releases only surplus water. This has adversely affected farmers' livelihoods. Legal measures will be pursued to address the issue. Check dams will also be constructed across Tamil Nadu to prevent freshwater from flowing into the sea.

(ii) Mullaperiyar Dam

- The Supreme Court has permitted the water level of the Mullaperiyar Dam, a lifeline for southern districts of Tamil Nadu, to be raised from 142 feet to 152 feet.
- The State Government has pledged to oppose efforts by the Kerala Government to construct a new dam and to take firm steps toward increasing the water level as permitted.

8. Significant decline in terrorism and the rapid pace of developmental and infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

(i) Significant Decline in Terrorism

- A major milestone was reached in May 2026, with reports indicating zero deaths due to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir during that month.
- Historically, terror attacks tended to increase in May as winter subsided; however, proactive government measures have successfully reduced terror recruitment and attacks.
- Data from the South Asia Terrorism Portal shows a dramatic drop in fatalities during the month of May over the years—from 300 deaths in 2001 and 288 in 2000, to 14 in 2025, and finally zero in 2026.

(ii) Return and Integration of the Pandit Community

- Various events were held in Srinagar from June 6 to 14, 2026, marking the engagement of the Pandit community who had fled in the 1990s.
- Officials, including Nasir Aslam Wani (advisor to the Chief Minister), emphasized that Kashmir's identity remains incomplete until the Pandits return and resettle in their homeland.
- Pandit organizations from across India and the USA facilitated visits to traditional heritage sites, such as the Martand Sun Temple and the Kheer Bhawani Temple.
- A retired Brigadier noted the stark contrast in the security environment, expressing amazement at visiting formerly tense areas like Sopore without needing weapons or heavy security.

(iii) Shift Toward Development and Infrastructure

- Since 2014, following the removal of Article 370, the Government has prioritized large-scale

developmental work alongside counter-terrorism efforts.

- In the last decade, medical colleges have been established in Rajouri, Baramulla, and Anantnag, along with an IIM in Jammu.
- Approximately ₹15,760 crore is being invested in highway projects. Notable achievements include the world's highest bridge over the Chenab River (1,178 ft) and the Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla rail link.
- Two pairs of Vande Bharat trains between Jammu Tawi and Srinagar have been operational since April 30, 2026.

(iv) Strategic Milestone: The Zojila Tunnel

- Work on the Zojila Tunnel is nearing completion. At an altitude of 11,578 ft and spanning 13.14 km, it is the highest tunnel of its length in the world.
- Built at a cost of ₹6,800 crore, the tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity, ensuring that Ladakh and the Kashmir Valley are not cut off for 4–5 months during winter.
- This project is viewed as a "blessing" for both the livelihoods of the local people and the security of the nation.

(v) Conclusion: A New Era of Peace

- Reduction in terror activities proves that the local population is now embracing growth and development.
- Both the people of Kashmir and the rest of India are looking forward to a future of permanent peace and stability in the region.