



UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Tamil Nadu Assembly Election 2026 — Historic 85.15% Turnout, Three-Cornered Contest

26 April 2026 · POLITY

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotesFree UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**bharatnotes.com →

ADVERTISE

Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

epicbharat@gmail.com

Tamil Nadu Assembly Election 2026 — Historic 85.15% Turnout, Three-Cornered Contest

26 April 2026 · 3 min read

2 tags

WHY IN NEWS

Tamil Nadu held its **2026 State Legislative Assembly elections** on April 23, 2026, across all **234 constituencies**. The state recorded a **historic voter turnout of 85.15%** — the highest ever in a Tamil Nadu assembly election — with 4.85 crore voters participating. Counting of votes is scheduled for **May 4, 2026**. The election is a three-way contest: the ruling **DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA)**, the opposition **AIADMK-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA)**, and the emerging **TVK (Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam)** of actor-turned-politician Vijay.

ELECTORAL CONTEST — THREE ALLIANCES

ALLIANCE	KEY PARTY	LEADER	STATUS
Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA)	DMK	M.K. Stalin (CM, contesting from Kolathur)	Incumbent; seeks second term
National Democratic Alliance (NDA)	AIADMK	Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS, contesting from Edappadi)	Principal opposition; aims to return after 5 years
Independent	TVK (Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam)	Vijay (Tamil film actor)	Third force; contesting all 234 seats; no formal alliance

Key candidates:

- **M.K. Stalin** — Chief Minister; contesting from Kolathur, Chennai
- **Udhayanidhi Stalin** — Deputy CM (MK Stalin's son); contesting from Chepauk-Thiruvallikeni
- **Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS)** — AIADMK General Secretary and Leader of Opposition; contesting from Edappadi, Salem
- **Vijay** — TVK founder; contesting from Virugambakkam, Chennai

HISTORIC VOTER TURNOUT — WHY IT MATTERS

ELECTION	YEAR	TURNOUT
Tamil Nadu Assembly 2016	2016	74.28%
Tamil Nadu Assembly 2021	2021	74.30%
Tamil Nadu Assembly 2026	2026	85.15% (historic)

The 85.15% turnout — up more than 10 percentage points from the 2021 election — signals exceptional voter engagement. Karur district led with 92.63%; Chennai recorded 83.74%. Higher turnout historically benefits the incumbent in Tamil Nadu — but also reflects anti-incumbency mobilisation in opposition pockets.

TVK — THE NEW POLITICAL FORCE

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) — Tamil actor Vijay’s party — is contesting all 234 seats independently, without any formal alliance. TVK is:

- Positioned ideologically as a **social justice and welfare-oriented** platform
- Drawing heavily from **youth voters** (first-time electorate in 2026 is significant)
- Building on Vijay’s mass appeal across all districts
- Not allied with either DMK or AIADMK — presenting itself as a clean alternative

TVK’s electoral impact: even if it wins few seats, **vote-splitting** could affect close contests in DMK-held constituencies. Whether TVK emerges as Tamil Nadu’s third political pillar or a one-election experiment will be known on May 4.

TAMIL NADU — KEY CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

- Tamil Nadu uses the **First Past the Post (FPTP)** system; 234 constituencies → 235 seats (including 1 Anglo-Indian nominated member till the 104th Amendment abolished it — now 234)
- **Reservation in TN Assembly:** 44 seats for SC; 2 for ST (under Article 332)
- TN is a **strong Dravidian politics** state — national parties (BJP, Congress) have historically been junior coalition partners; dominant contest between DMK and AIADMK since 1967
- **Dravidian ideology** — social justice, anti-Brahminism, Tamil identity; both DMK (founded 1949) and AIADMK (1972) claim this heritage

UPSC RELEVANCE

PAPER	ANGLE
GS2 — Polity	State elections; FPTP; coalition politics; reservation in state legislatures
GS1 — Indian Society	Dravidian politics; social justice movements; regional parties
GS2 — Governance	Voter turnout trends; Electoral Commission

Mains Keywords: Tamil Nadu elections 2026, DMK, AIADMK, TVK, Vijay, voter turnout, Dravidian politics, FPTP, three-cornered contest

Facts Corner

ITEM	FACT
Polling date	April 23, 2026
Counting date	May 4, 2026
Voter turnout	85.15% (historic high)
Total constituencies	234
Total voters participated	~4.85 crore
Highest turnout district	Karur — 92.63%
CM candidate (DMK)	M.K. Stalin — Kolathur, Chennai
EPS constituency	Edappadi, Salem
TVK — seats contested	234 (all)
Previous high turnout	~74.3% (2016 and 2021)

← **NEWER ARTICLE**

Gujarat Local Body Elections 2026 — 9,262 Seats Across 393...

OLDER ARTICLE →

Census 2027 — India's First Fully Digital Census;...

RELATED EDITORIALS

THE HINDU

[Fire and Sound — On Thrissur Pooram and the Cost of Sacrificing Safety at the Altar of Faith](#)

25 Apr

INDIAN EXPRESS

[Burning Rubbish, Leaking Climate — India's Landfill Methane Crisis and the Waste Governance Vacuum](#)

25 Apr

INDIAN EXPRESS

[Decriminalising the State — Jan Vishwas Act 2026 and the Long Road to Trust-Based Governance](#)

25 Apr

INDIAN EXPRESS

[Levelling Up — OGAI and the Challenge of Governing India's Online Gaming Ecosystem](#)

25 Apr

RELATED KEY TERMS

KEY TERM

[42nd Amendment Freeze on Delimitation](#)

The constitutional freeze that locked Lok Sabha seat allocation to the...

KEY TERM

[Advance Directive \(Living Will\)](#)

A legal document in which a competent adult specifies their medical...

KEY TERM

[AFSPA \(Armed Forces Special Powers Act\)](#)

A central legislation granting special powers to armed forces...

KEY TERM

[Anti-Conversion Laws](#)

State laws prohibiting religious conversions achieved through...



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujyari →](#)<https://ujyari.com/daily/2026/04/26/tamil-nadu-assembly-election-2026/>

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing → bharatnotes.com](http://bharatnotes.com)

📌 OPPORTUNITY

Advertise with Ujyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

Ideal for: Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · ujyari.com · bharatnotes.com