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Tamil Nadu Launches 'Singappenn' All-Women Police Task Force

9 June 2026

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

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Tamil Nadu Launches 'Singappenn' All-Women Police Task Force

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HOW

WHY IN NEWS

The Tamil Nadu government launched ‘**Singappenn**’ (Tamil for “Lioness”), an **all-women police Special Task Force** for the safety of women and children, on **June 9, 2026** in Chennai. Placed under the Chief Minister’s direct supervision and headed by a senior **IPS officer of Inspector General rank**, the force focuses on preventive surveillance at vulnerable public spaces such as bus stands, colleges and transit hubs.

ABOUT THE FORCE

ATTRIBUTE	DETAIL
Name	Singappenn (“Lioness”) Special Task Force
Purpose	Safety of women and children
Headed by	A senior IPS officer (Inspector General rank)
Sanctioned strength	36 posts (including SP, DySPs, Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and other ranks)
Focus	Preventive surveillance of vulnerable public spaces
Launch	June 9, 2026, Chennai

WHY A DEDICATED WOMEN’S FORCE

Specialised, all-women policing units are intended to:

- **Improve reporting:** women and children may be more willing to report harassment and crimes to women officers.
- **Enable preventive policing:** focused surveillance of high-risk locations deters crime before it occurs.

- **Build trust:** a visible, dedicated unit signals state commitment to women’s safety.

THE GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTIONAL FRAME

ASPECT	DETAIL
Police as a subject	“Police” and “Public Order” are in the State List (Seventh Schedule), so states lead on policing
National frameworks	The Nirbhaya Fund (2013) supports women-safety projects; One Stop Centres , women help desks, and the emergency number 112
Constitutional basis	Article 15(3) allows special provisions for women and children; Article 21 (right to life with dignity)

Because policing is a State subject, states can design their own units like Singappenn, complementing national women-safety schemes.

THE DEBATE: SPECIALISED UNITS VERSUS MAINSTREAMING

A balanced assessment notes a genuine tension:

- **For specialised units:** they provide focus, expertise and a clear point of contact for women and children.
- **The caution:** safety cannot be siloed into one unit; the **entire police force** needs gender sensitisation, or specialised units risk becoming tokenistic. The goal is both a dedicated capability and a gender-sensitive force overall.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Prelims

- **Singappenn** (“Lioness”): Tamil Nadu’s all-women Special Task Force for women and child safety; launched June 9, 2026
- Headed by a senior **IPS officer (IG rank)**; **36 sanctioned posts**
- **Police and Public Order** are in the **State List** (Seventh Schedule)
- National support: the **Nirbhaya Fund** (2013), One Stop Centres, emergency number 112
- Constitutional basis: **Article 15(3)** (special provisions for women and children)

Mains Angles

- 1 **GS1 Women in Society:** Examine the role of dedicated women’s police units in improving women’s safety, and the risk of siloing.
- 2 **GS2 Governance:** Discuss policing as a State subject and how states complement national women-safety frameworks.
- 3 **GS1/GS2 Gender:** Analyse the balance between specialised units and mainstreaming gender sensitivity across the police.

FACTS CORNER

FACT	DETAIL
Force	Singappenn (“Lioness”) Special Task Force
State	Tamil Nadu
Purpose	Safety of women and children
Headed by	Senior IPS officer (IG rank)
Sanctioned posts	36
Launch	June 9, 2026, Chennai
Police as subject	State List (Seventh Schedule)
National scheme	Nirbhaya Fund (2013)
Constitutional basis	Article 15(3)

Sources: *The Hindu*, *Tamil Nadu Police*, *PIB*

Source: Tamil Nadu Launches 'Singappenn' All-Women Police Task Force — Ujivari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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