1 Nov – Tamil Nadu Day: Madras State reorganised on linguistic lines in 1956; CM Vijay had announced both 18 July and 1 Nov will be celebrated

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News

On 1 November 1956, when the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 came into force, 'Madras State' was reorganised as a State of Tamil-speaking areas – Malabar went to Kerala and the Kanyakumari areas were added. On 18 July 2026 CM C. Joseph Vijay announced that the government would celebrate both 18 July (the day in 1967 when Anna's Assembly resolution for the name 'Tamil Nadu' was passed) and 1 November (the day the State was formed). Accordingly, on 1 Nov 2026 the Tamil Development Department held the 'Tamil Nadu Day' function at the Government Museum, Egmore, Chennai, attended by ministers including Rajmohan.

Key facts

1 Nov 1956	States Reorganisation Act 1956 in force – linguistic Madras State
18 July 1967	Assembly unanimously passes CM C.N. Annadurai's resolution for the name 'Tamil Nadu'
14 Jan 1969	Madras State (Alteration of Name) Act, 1968 – name 'Tamil Nadu' takes effect

Earlier decisions	2019: 1 Nov as 'Tamil Nadu Day' (Edappadi K. Palaniswami govt); 2021: 18 July (M.K. Stalin govt)
2026 decision	Both 18 July and 1 Nov celebrated (CM Vijay, 18 July 2026)
2026 function	1 Nov – Government Museum, Egmore, Chennai (Tamil Development Dept)

Background

- History: Madras Province in 1947; 'Madras State' from 26 Jan 1950. After Potti Sriramulu died fasting (Dec 1952), Andhra State was separated on 1 Oct 1953 – the first State formed on a linguistic basis.
- Linguistic reorganisation: in 1948 the Dhar Commission (S.K. Dhar) and the JVP Committee (Nehru, Patel, Pattabhi Sitaramayya) did not favour immediate linguistic States. The States Reorganisation Commission set up in Dec 1953 (chairman Fazl Ali; members K.M. Panikkar, H.N. Kunzru) reported on 30 Sept 1955.
- Constitution: the States Reorganisation Act 1956 and the 7th Amendment created 14 States and 6 Union Territories. Forming new States or changing boundaries/names – Articles 3 and 4 (law of Parliament).
- Renaming struggle: Virudhunagar's Sankaralinganar fasted from 27 July 1956 for 12 demands including the name 'Tamil Nadu' and died in Madurai on 13 Oct 1956 after a fast begun on 27 July 1956.

Tamil Nadu link: in the 1956 border struggle led by Marshal A. Nesamony, Travancore's Agastheeswaram, Thovalai, Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks (Kanyakumari district) and part of Shencottah taluk joined Tamil Nadu; Tiruttani joined in 1960 after the northern border struggle (Ma.Po.Si.).

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