Kolathur TVK MLA V.S. Babu (75) passes away

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News

V.S. Babu (75), the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) MLA of Kolathur in Chennai, died at MGM Healthcare, Chennai, at 2.24 pm on Thursday, 19 November 2026. In intensive care since 9 September with a prolonged respiratory illness, he suffered a cardiac arrest after his condition worsened, the hospital said. In the May 2026 Assembly election he defeated DMK president and then Chief Minister M.K. Stalin – who had won the seat in 2011, 2016 and 2021 – by 8,795 votes (82,997 to 74,202). Known as 'Purasai Babu', he had been the DMK MLA for Purasawalkam in 2006–2011 and the DMK's North Chennai district secretary; he joined the AIADMK in 2016 and the TVK in February 2026. The Governor, Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay and other leaders reportedly condoled his death. His death leaves a vacancy in the 234-member Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, and a by-election to Kolathur must be held under the Representation of the People Act.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Died	19 November 2026, 2.24 pm – MGM Healthcare, Chennai
Age / cause	75; respiratory illness, cardiac arrest
Constituency	Kolathur (No. 13) – Chennai North Lok Sabha seat
2026 win	Beat M.K. Stalin by 8,795 votes

Point	Details
Earlier	Purasawalkam MLA (DMK), 2006–2011
Party path	DMK → AIADMK (2016) → TVK (Feb 2026)
By-election	RP Act 1951, Section 151A – within 6 months
Assembly	234 elected members; unicameral

Background

- Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (inserted in 1996) requires a casual vacancy in Parliament or a State legislature to be filled by a by-election within six months. Exceptions apply if the remaining term is less than a year, or if the Election Commission of India, in consultation with the Centre, certifies that it is difficult to hold the poll in that period. As the present Assembly was constituted in May 2026, Kolathur must have a by-election.
- Article 190 of the Constitution deals with vacation of seats through dual membership, disqualification, resignation or absence without permission for 60 days. Article 191 lists grounds for disqualification, and under Article 192 the Governor decides such questions finally, acting on the Election Commission's opinion. Under Article 188 a member takes the seat only after making an oath, in the Third Schedule form, before the Governor or a person appointed by him.
- The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has 234 elected members (the nominated Anglo-Indian seat ended in 2020 under the 104th Amendment). With no Legislative Council since 1 November 1986, Tamil Nadu has a unicameral legislature. The Assembly meets at Fort St. George, Chennai – the first English fortress in India, built by the English East India Company in the 1640s.
- Kolathur Assembly constituency (No. 13) is in Chennai district and is one of the six Assembly segments of the Chennai North Lok Sabha constituency. Contested since the 2011 election, it was M.K. Stalin's seat until 2026.

Tamil Nadu link: A wholly Tamil Nadu story: this vacancy in the 17th Assembly, arising after the TVK government (Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay) took office, will lead to a by-election in Tamil Nadu.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

V.S. Babu (75), the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) MLA of Kolathur in Chennai, died at MGM Healthcare, Chennai, at 2.24 pm on Thursday, 19 November 2026. In intensive care since 9 September with a prolonged respiratory illness, he suffered a cardiac arrest after his condition worsened, the hospital said.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Died: 19 November 2026, 2.24 pm – MGM Healthcare, Chennai; Age / cause: 75; respiratory illness, cardiac arrest; Constituency: Kolathur (No. 13) – Chennai North Lok Sabha seat; 2026 win: Beat M.K. Stalin by 8,795 votes.

What is the background to this news?

Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (inserted in 1996) requires a casual vacancy in Parliament or a State legislature to be filled by a by-election within six months.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Under Section 151A of the RP Act, 1951, a casual vacancy in a State Assembly must normally be filled within:

A) 60 days

B) 3 months

C) 6 months

D) One year

Answer: C – Explanation: Six months – unless the remaining term is under a year, or the ECI, consulting the Centre, certifies a poll is difficult.

2. Under Article 192, who finally decides whether an MLA is disqualified (other than for defection)?

A) Speaker

B) High Court

C) Governor

D) Chief Minister

Answer: C – Explanation: The Governor – who must obtain and act on the Election Commission's opinion. Defection cases are decided by the Speaker.

3. Under Article 188, before whom must an MLA make the oath before taking the seat?

A) HC Chief Justice

B) Governor or appointee

C) Chief Minister

D) Chief Electoral Officer

Answer: B – Explanation: The Governor or a person appointed by him – Third Schedule form; in practice the pro-tem Speaker administers it.

4. Kolathur Assembly constituency is a part of which Lok Sabha constituency?

A) Chennai North

B) Chennai Central

C) Chennai South

D) Tiruvallur

Answer: A – Explanation: Chennai North – one of its six Assembly segments; Kolathur is constituency No. 13.

5. Where does the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly normally meet?

A) Rajaji Hall

B) Ripon Building

C) Raj Bhavan

D) Fort St. George

Answer: D – Explanation: Fort St. George – built by the East India Company in the 1640s. Ripon Building houses the Greater Chennai Corporation.

Sources: ThePrint – theprint.in (19 Nov 2026); The News Minute – thenewsminute.com (19 Nov 2026); DT Next – dtnext.in (19 Nov 2026); RP Act, 1951 – indiacode.nic.in; Constitution of India – legislative.gov.in. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.