

March - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The construction of an outer harbour container terminal at VO Chidambaranar port in Thoothukudi, conceived a decade ago, finally takes off with laying the foundation stone.
- ❖ TN's CM has unveiled the foundation stone for the construction of the Kalaingar Centenary Park, to be spread over 6.09 acres, in Chennai.
- ❖ The foundation stone for Sikkim's first Indian Railways station was laid in Rangpo.
- ❖ India and Bangladesh collaborated under the Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Program (ITHCP) for Transboundary Tiger Conservation in Sunderbans.
- ❖ Prime Minister announced that India will have its own space station by 2035 and also become a commercial hub of the sector.
- ❖ The Prime Minister of India inaugurated three significant space infrastructure projects: SLV Integration Facility (PIF) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Semi-cryogenics Integrated Engine and Stage Test (SIEST) facility at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri (Tirunelveli District) and Trisonic Wind Tunnel at Vikram Sarabhai Space Center, Thiruvananthapuram.

TAMIL NADU

SC verdict on Sterlite 2024

- ❖ The Supreme Court, on February 29, dismissed the special leave petition filed by Vedanta to reopen Thoothukudi Sterlite copper plant.
- ❖ The apex court upholds the Madras High Court judgment of August 2020 confirming the State government and TNPCB decision to permanently shut down plant for causing environmental violations.
- ❖ There had been repeated breaches on the part of the plant, including the indiscriminate dumping of copper slag in 11 sites, including private lands adjoining the Thamirabarani river.
- ❖ There was failure to obtain authorisation for dumping of hazardous waste on the part of the plant.

- ❖ The court has however agreed with the High Court that the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) had shown a “lack of alacrity in discharging its duties”.

JULY 1997: More than 90 people get hospitalised after a sulphur dioxide gas leak in the plant

MARCH 2013: Former TN CM J Jayalalithaa government orders the closure of the unit

MAY 2013: The National Green Tribunal overturns the order

FEBRUARY 2018: Protests resurface after Sterlite announced plans to double the plant's annual capacity

MAY 22, 2018: Police firing kills 13 people and left 102 people injured during a protest

MAY 24, 2018: The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board ordered the unit's closure

JUNE 20, 2022: Vedanta comes out with an expression of interest (Eoi) in selling the Sterlite unit



Vedanta constructed the Sri Peraathu Selvi Ammal Thirukovil a few months ago

APRIL 10, 2023: A Supreme Court bench allowed Sterlite Copper to perform maintenance works at its Thoothukudi plant

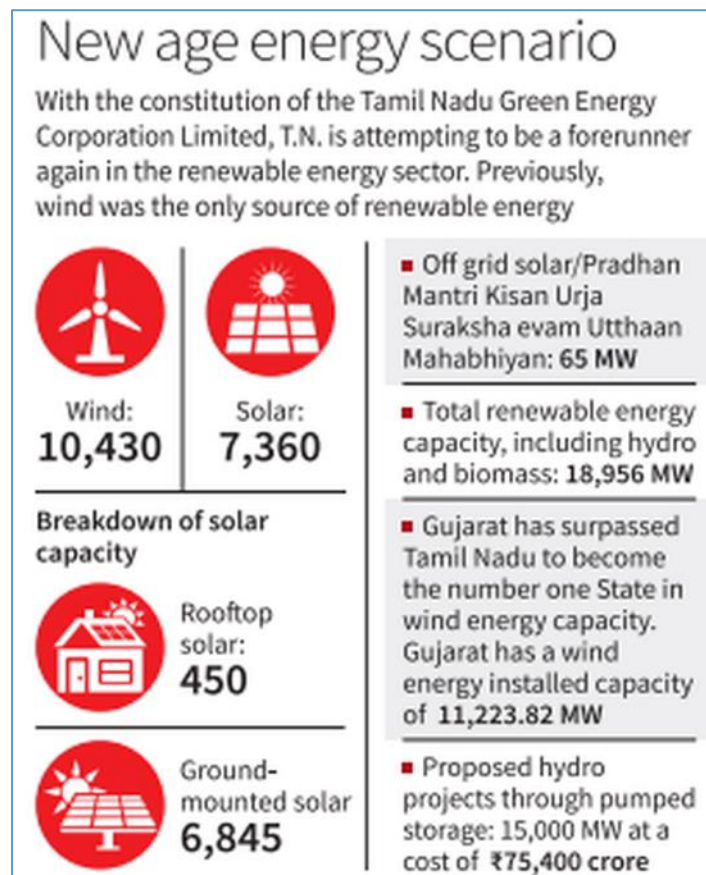
JUNE 12, 2023: Sterlite comes out with an advertisement inviting Eoi to carry out 'restart activities'

AUGUST 22, 2023: Final hearing to begin in the Supreme Court

T.N.'s installed power capacity 2026-27

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's total installed power capacity is likely to increase by about 31.8% to 47,048 MW by 2026-27 from 35,690 MW in 2021-22.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu saw a maximum all-time high demand of 19,387 MW on April 20 last year.
- ❖ It has the highest power demand among Southern States.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's peak electricity demand is expected to be 21,736 MW by 2026-27 when compared to actual demand of 16,891 MW in 2021-22.
- ❖ The total energy requirement is expected to be 1,44,0,86 units by 2026-27.
- ❖ The State's coal capacity is projected to increase to 18,128 MW by 2026-27 from 13,685 MW at the end of March, 2022.
- ❖ The nuclear capacity is expected to increase to 5,940 MW from 2,440 MW, while the gas and hydro capacity are expected to remain stagnant.

- ❖ Among renewable energy sources, the installed wind capacity in Tamil Nadu, is expected to increase to 12,556 MW by 2026-27 from 9,871 MW at the end of March 2022.
- ❖ Solar capacity is expected to increase to 5,316 MW by 2026-27 from 5,112 MW at the end of March 2022.
- ❖ Among the emerging green energy sources, the report expects an installed capacity of 900 MW of pumped storage projects in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Overall, the installed electricity generation capacity in India at the end of March 2027, would be about 609.6 GW.
- ❖ The overall peak electricity demand is likely to be 2,77,201 MW.



Cancelation of Civil Judges recruitment 2024 result

- ❖ The Madras High Court has directed the TNPSC to cancel the provisional selection list it published for the recruitment of 245 Civil Judges.
- ❖ The court held that the TNPSC had not properly followed the rule of reservation while drawing the provisional list.

- ❖ The 92 “carried forward” vacancies should be filled by following Section 27 of the Tamil Nadu Government Servants (Conditions of Service) Act, 2016.
- ❖ The rest of 153 regular vacancies has to be filled by following the general rule of reservation.



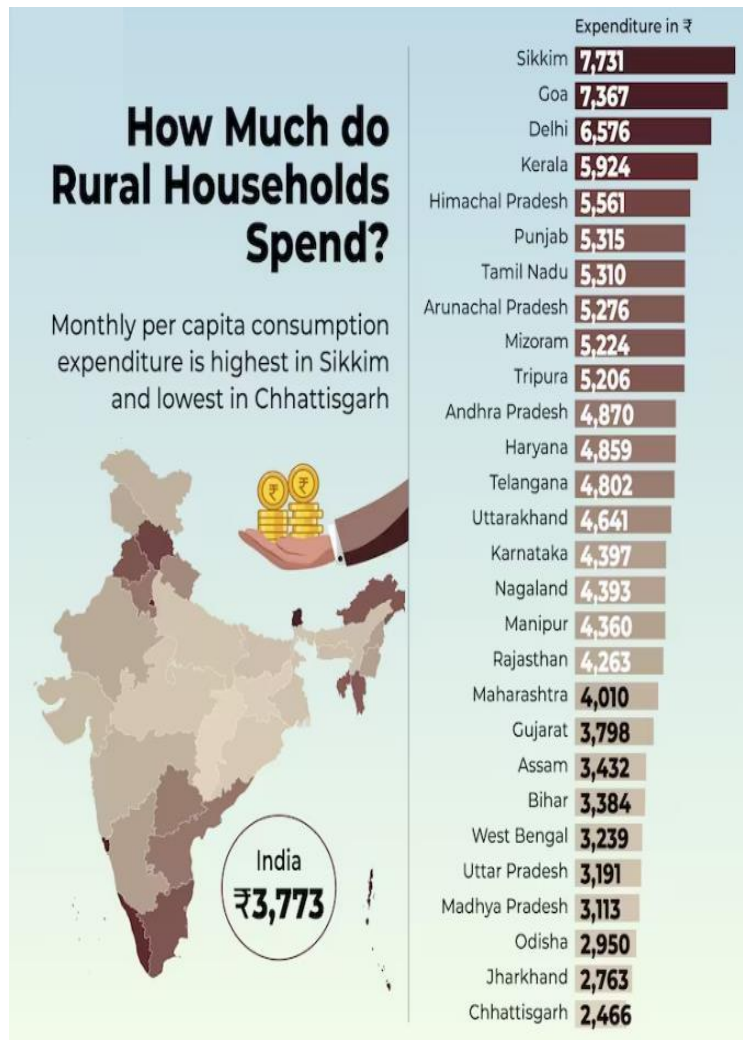
தமிழ்நாடு அரசுப் பணியாளர் தேர்வாணையம்

NATIONAL

Household Consumption Survey – states rank

- ❖ The Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) 2022-23 was released recently.
- ❖ Sikkim spends the most across rural and urban households, while Chhattisgarh ranks the lowest on both metrics.
- ❖ Sikkim tops with an average MPCE of Rs 7,731 in rural areas and Rs 12,105 in urban areas.
- ❖ Jharkhand came in above Chhattisgarh with an average MPCE of Rs 2,763, preceded by Odisha at Rs 2,950.
- ❖ For urban consumption, Bihar at Rs 4,768 took up the second spot, and Manipur was third at Rs 4,880.
- ❖ Among states, in rural and urban consumption, Goa, with an average MPCE of Rs 7,367 and Rs 8,734, respectively, came in second.
- ❖ Kerala was in third place at Rs 5,924 for expenditure by rural households, and Arunachal Pradesh took the third spot for urban.
- ❖ The rural-urban difference in average MPCE among the states was found to be the highest in Meghalaya (83 percent) followed by Chhattisgarh (82 percent).

- ❖ Among the Union Territories, MPCE was the highest in Chandigarh (rural at Rs 7,467 and urban at Rs 12,575), and the lowest in Ladakh (Rs 4,035) and Lakshadweep (Rs 5,475) for rural and urban areas, respectively.
- ❖ 21 states and Union Territories had an average MPCE that was higher than the national average at Rs 6,459 in 2022-23.
- ❖ Jammu & Kashmir, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh, had a lower consumption level compared to the all-India figure.

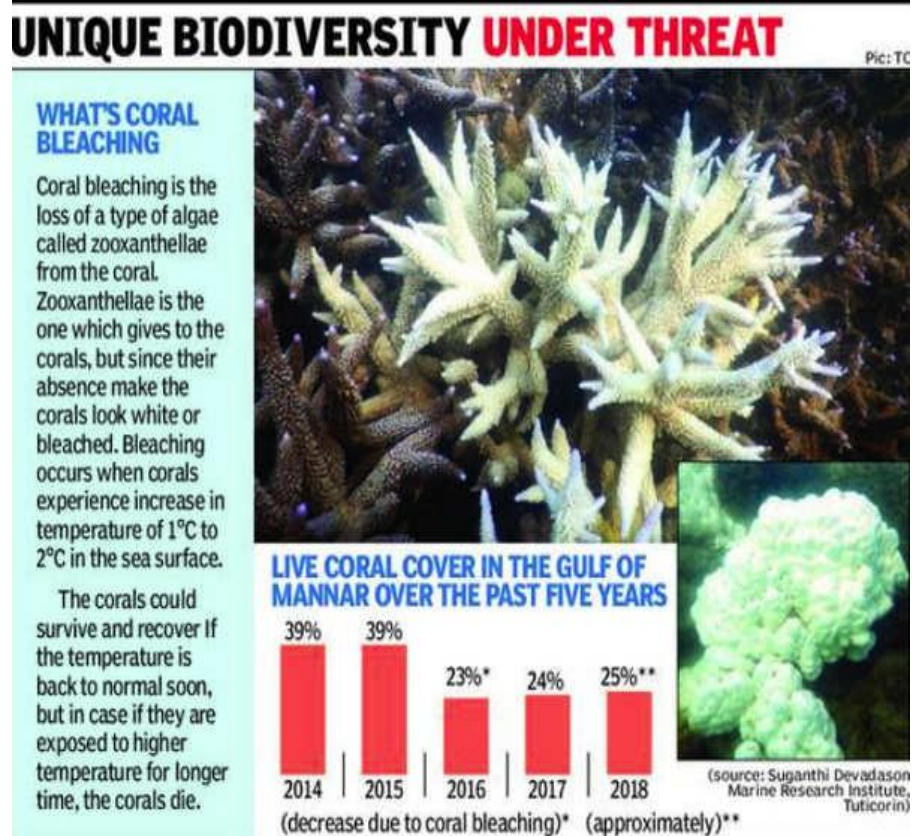


ENVIRONMENT

Share of live corals in Gulf of Mannar

- ❖ The report titled ‘Coral Reefs of the Gulf of Mannar: Decadal Changes in Status and Management Paradigms’, was released at the Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 2.0 in Chennai.

- ❖ The average live coral cover in Gulf of Mannar, one of the major coral reef areas in India, dropped from 37% in 2005 to 27.3% in 2021.
- ❖ The share of live corals hit an all-time high of 42.9% in 2009.
- ❖ It dropped after widespread coral mortalities due to the second (2010) and third (2016) global bleaching events.
- ❖ The more severe impact occurred in the Mandapam region than in the Keelakarai and Tuticorin regions.
- ❖ The baseline survey in 2005 recorded 117 coral species and more were added by the subsequent surveys till 2021 with updated nomenclature increasing the number to 132.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Intellectual Property Index 2024

- ❖ The US Chamber of Commerce released the 12th edition of its International IP (intellectual property) Index. I
- ❖ India was ranked at 42 out of the 55 countries in the index with an overall score of 38.64 per cent.

- ❖ The United States emerged at the top of the list followed by the United Kingdom and France.



STATES

Public and Private Property Damage Recovery Bill



- ❖ Uttarakhand govt will table a bill that makes rioters accountable for damages to govt and private property.

- ❖ The bill is named as Uttarakhand Public and Private Property Damage Recovery Bill.
- ❖ Those guilty of causing riots and other disturbances will be liable to pay compensation under this Bill.
- ❖ The UP govt passed a similar bill in 2020.
- ❖ Haryana also followed suit and Uttarakhand will be the third state to enact such a law.

