

March - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ IIT-Madras's startup TuTr Hyperloop has partnered with several international and national stakeholders to commercialise high-speed mobility in India.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State government has decided to continue with the special public distribution system, under which “tur dhal” and palmolein oil are provided to ration cardholders every month.
- ❖ Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio - have signed a deal with Starlink to launch mass satellite broadband services in India.
- ❖ AAHAR 2025 - The International Food & Hospitality Fair - is a flagship B2B event organized by India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The third “International Symposium on Health Technology Assessment (ISHTA 2025)” was recently held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The 4th edition of Bilateral Exercise between Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy, BONGOSAGAR-23, and the 6th edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) by the two navies was conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ Warships from Russia, Iran, and China participated in the Maritime Security Belt 2025 naval exercise in the Gulf of Oman.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

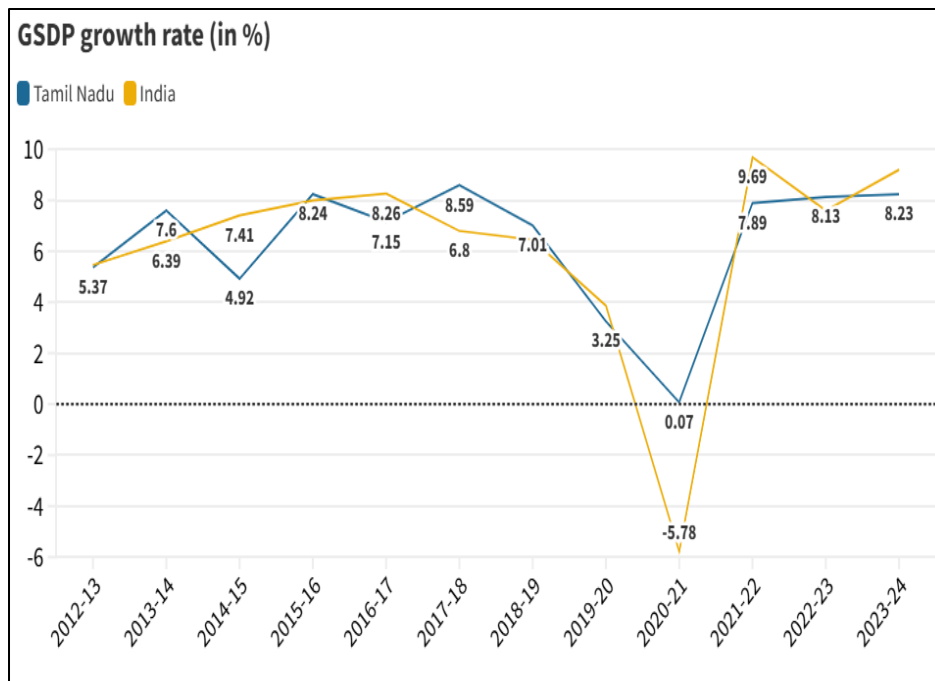
6th meeting of TNPSC



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has chaired a 6th meeting of the State Planning Commission (SPC).
- ❖ During the meeting, the CM released three reports.

- The impact of the Chief Minister’s Breakfast Scheme on the government primary schools,
- Study on the examinations being held for Class 10 and 12.
- Report on livelihood of migrant workers in Chennai and neighbouring areas.
- ❖ Udhayanidhi Stalin is the SPC’s ex-officio vice-chairperson.
- ❖ Its Executive vice-chairperson is J. Jeyaranjan.
- ❖ The Other members of the SPC are Rama. Srinivasan, Sulthan Ahmed Ismail, K. Deenabandu, N. Ezhilan, Mallika Srinivasan, J. Amalorpavanathan, G. Siva Raman and Narthaki Nataraj.

Tamil Nadu Economic Survey 2024-25



- ❖ Tamil Nadu’s first Economic Survey 2024-25 is prepared by the State Planning Commission in collaboration with the finance department.
- ❖ The state, with 4% of the country’s land area and 6% of the population, had contributed 9.21% to the nation’s GDP.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has also become the fourth largest state in per capita income.
- ❖ It is registering a per capita income of Rs 2.78 lakh per annum in 2022-23, as against the national average of Rs 1.69 lakh.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu’s GSDP (gross state domestic product) reached Rs 27.22 lakh crore in 2023-24.

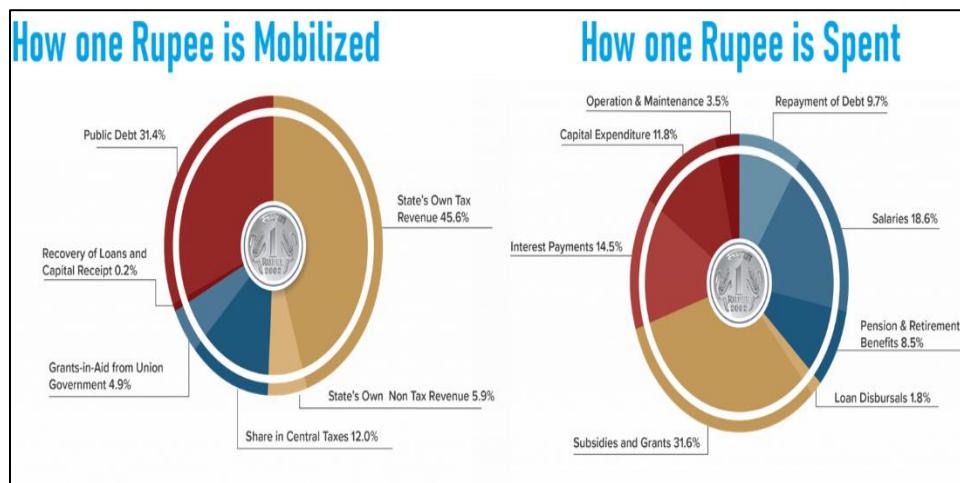


- ❖ The nominal growth is 13.71% and a real growth rate is 8.33%.
- ❖ The services sector (tertiary) contributed the maximum to the state's economy at 53.63% of GSV (gross state value added).
- ❖ It is followed by the manufacturing sector (secondary) at 33.37% and agriculture (primary) at 13%.
- ❖ In the industrial sector, the state has also contributed 11.9% to the country's manufacturing GDP.

Tamil Nadu Budget 2025 highlights

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government presented its Budget for 2025-26 in the Legislative Assembly March 14.
- ❖ The State government also presented the Agriculture Budget for 2025-26 on March 15.
- ❖ The budget logo carried the slogan, 'Ellarkum Ellam', (everything for everyone) conveying the idea of inclusiveness.
- ❖ The budget has a total disbursement outlay of ₹4,39,293 crores, excluding public debt, with total receipts being ₹3,32,330 crores.
- ❖ For 2025-26, Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is estimated to be ₹35,67,818 crores.
- ❖ The GSDP is estimated to grow 14.5% in 2025-26.
- ❖ It is marginally up from the 14.49% growth rate registered in the revised estimates of 2024-25.
- ❖ Fiscal deficit is estimated at ₹1,06,963 crores for 2025-26, highest since 2021-22.
- ❖ However, fiscal deficit as a percentage of GSDP is expected to fall to 3% in 2025-26, from 3.26% in 2024-25.
- ❖ Fiscal deficit is the difference between total receipts and total expenditures laid out in the budget.
- ❖ Revenue expenditure for 2025-26 was estimated to be ₹3,31,568 crores, and revenue expenditure ₹3,73,203 crores.
- ❖ This puts the revenue deficit at ₹41,635 crores, or 1.17% of the Gross State Domestic Product.
- ❖ Revenue expenditure is money spent on salaries, operation and maintenance, subsidies and grants, pensions and retirement benefits and interest payments.
- ❖ Revenue receipts is the money the State gets from taxes and non-tax revenue sources, grants-in-aid from the Centre and its share in Central taxes.

- ❖ Capital expenditure for 2025-26 was estimated to be ₹57,231 crores.
- ❖ Capital expenditure refers to expenses incurred in the creation of fixed assets like civic infrastructure, buildings, and investments made in Public Sector Undertakings.
- ❖ Among major sectoral allocations, ₹55,261 crores were allocated to the education, followed by Urban Development and Rural Development.
- ❖ The Government plans to borrow a total amount of ₹1,62,096.76 crore during 2025-26 and make repayment of ₹55,844.53 crore.
- ❖ The Outstanding Debt as a percentage of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) will be 26.07.



Tamil Nadu Budget Key Announcements

- ❖ 20 lakh college students will be provided with a tablet or laptop, based on their preference, over the next two years.
- ❖ From April 1, 2025, 1% less stamp duty if property and other assets is registered in the name of women for properties worth up to Rs.10 lakh.
- ❖ ₹2,000 stipend provided for children who lost both parents to continue their education.
- ❖ The Archaeological excavations in 8 locations are including Keeladi (Sivagangai), Telunganur (Salem), Adhichanur (Kallakurichi) and Nagappatinam.
- ❖ Under Kalaingar's house scheme, 1 lakh houses will be constructed at a cost of ₹3,500 crore.
- ❖ A new city of over 2000 acres near Chennai to be developed.
- ❖ ₹1,000 crore allocated for improving government schools' infrastructure.
- ❖ New airport in Ramanathapuram, Rameswaram given the rising tourist inflow.

- ❖ Group insurance scheme to be introduced for 1.50 lakh workers in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ ‘Anbucholai’ old age homes at a cost of ₹10 crore in Madurai, Coimbatore, Trichy, Salem, Tiruppur, Erode, Thoothukudi, Vellore, Thanjavur, and Dindigul.
- ❖ The Raptors Research Foundation’ will be established with Rs.1 crore from the Endangered Species Conservation Fund.
- ❖ Thirukkural has also been translated into 28 Indian languages and 35 world languages so far.
- ❖ To make Thirukkural available in all 193 UN-recognized official languages within three years, Rs 133 crore has been allocated.
- ❖ Two new museums will be established: the ‘Noyyal Museum’ in Erode - focus on the Kodumanal excavations, and ‘Naavaai Museum’ in Ramanathapuram.
- ❖ The 'World Tamil Olympiad' will be held annually as a computer-based exam for students worldwide, with Rs 1 crore set aside for those who secure top positions.
- ❖ ‘Agaram – Museum of Languages’ will be established at Madurai World Tamil Sangam to showcase Tamil’s antiquity.

| TN Budget 2025 Highlights | TN Budget 2025 Highlights |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One lakh new houses under the Kalaingar Kanavu Illam housing scheme. • Rs 3,600 crore subsidy for the 'Vidiyal' bus travel scheme for women. • Rs 2,200 crore for the Chief Minister's Rural Roads Development Scheme and Rs 88 crore for 'sponge parks' in Chennai. • 10 more 'Thozhi' working women's hostels at a cost of Rs 77 crore. • Rs 20,000 grant for 2,000 gig workers to purchase two-wheelers. • Rs 120 crore for upgrading Anna Cancer Hospital in Kancheepuram. • Rs 13,807 crore for the Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rs 10 crores allotted for translating Tamil books. • Rs 7 crores allocated for archeological excavation. • Rs 2,423 crores drinking water pipeline scheme for Chennai. • Rs. 3,600 crore for the 'Vidiyal Payanam' scheme. • Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai scheme will be extended to more women. • Smart class rooms in 2,676 government schools. • 'Agaram – Museum of Languages' will be established at the Madurai World Tamil Sangam campus. • Kalaingar Urban Development scheme gets Rs.2,000 crore. |

Rupee symbol in Budget logo

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government replaced the Rupee symbol "₹" with the Tamil script "₹" in the logo for the state's 2025-26 budget.
- ❖ The Tamil word ‘Rupaai’ itself has deep roots in the Sanskrit word ‘Rupya,’ meaning ‘wrought silver’ or ‘a worked silver coin.’
- ❖ The rupee symbol was designed by D Udaya Kumar from Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ The symbol was approved in 2010.



NATIONAL NEWS

2nd advance estimates of rabi and kharif crops

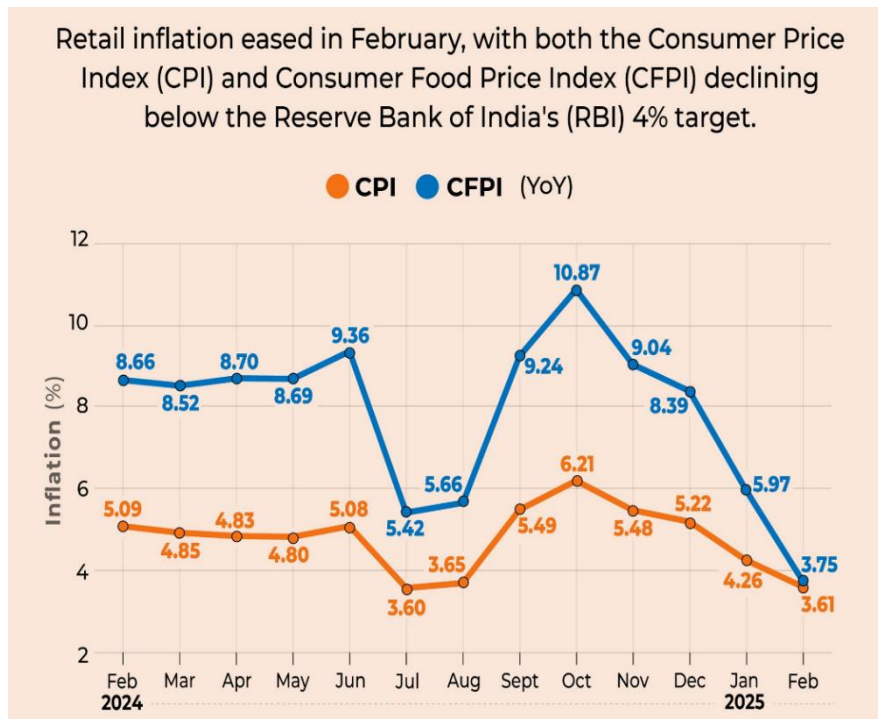


- ❖ The Second Advance Estimates of Production of major agricultural crops (Kharif & Rabi) for 2024-25 released by Union Ministry of Agriculture.
- ❖ The Kharif foodgrain production in the country is estimated at 1,663.91 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) and Rabi foodgrain production is estimated at 1,645.27 LMT.

- ❖ The production of rice production during the Kharif is estimated at 1,206.79 LMT as compared to 1,132.59 LMT in 2023-24.
- ❖ During the Rabi season, rice production is estimated at 1,57.58 LMT.
- ❖ Production of wheat is estimated at 1,154.30 LMT, which is higher by 21.38 LMT as compared to previous year production of 1,132.92 LMT.

ECONOMY NEWS

India's Retail Inflation – 2025 February



- ❖ India's retail inflation eased to a seven-month low of 3.61 per cent in February 2025, down from 4.31 per cent in January.
- ❖ This brings the inflation below the RBI's medium-term target of 4 per cent for the first time since August 2024.
- ❖ The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation remained well within the RBI's tolerance band of 2-6 per cent.
- ❖ Rural food inflation stood at 4.06 per cent, while urban food inflation was 3.20 per cent.
- ❖ Overall rural inflation dropped to 3.79 per cent in February from 4.59 per cent in January.
- ❖ Urban inflation also saw a decline from 3.87 per cent to 3.32 per cent.

- ❖ India's industrial output growth picked up to 5 per cent year-on-year in January 2025, compared to 3.2 per cent in December 2024.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

New eel species in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Researchers of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), have discovered a new species of Congrid eel and named it after Tamil.
- ❖ The species, belonging to the genus *Ariosoma*, was found off the Thoothukudi coast.
- ❖ It was named *tamilicum*, "with reference to the world's oldest language, Tamil.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Geet Gawai welcome

- ❖ Indian Prime Minister received a traditional Bihari welcome in Mauritius by the Indian diaspora.
- ❖ Women welcomed him with a Bihari cultural performance known as Geet Gawai.
- ❖ Geet Gawain is a traditional Bhojpuri musical ensemble that embodies the rich cultural heritage brought to Mauritius by women from the Bhojpuri belt of India.
- ❖ It was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in December 2016.



- ❖ During this 2-day visit, the PM received Mauritius' highest honour, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean.

