

February - 03

TNPSC BITS

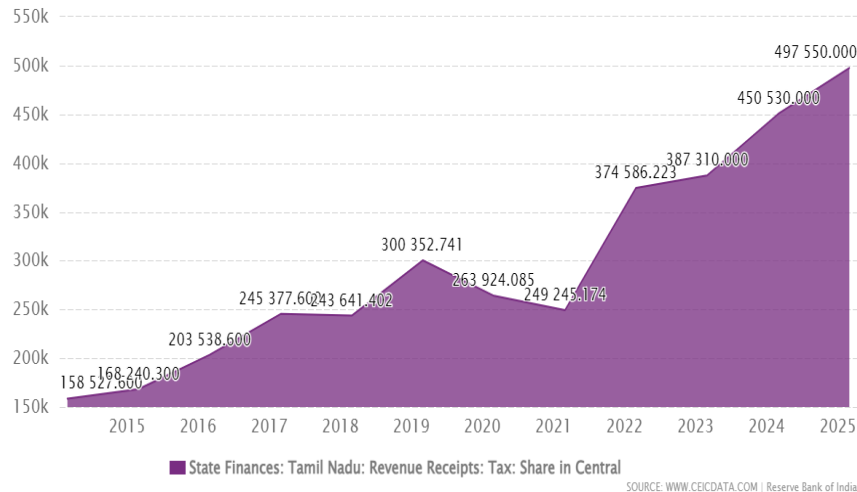
- ❖ The Madras High Court dismissed a writ appeal filed by Nityananda against Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) department's decision to appoint executive officers to administer the properties of four mutts.
- ❖ The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) passed a resolution to make pet animal microchipping mandatory for pet parents of the region.
- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have begun erecting refurbished "Save Our Souls" (SOS) boxes which used to make emergency calls on Chennai-Bengaluru Highway.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has ruled that tanneries in Vellore district have caused "irreversible damage to the waterbodies, groundwater and agricultural lands" by discharging the untreated or partially treated effluents into the Palar River and directed the state government to pay compensation.
- ❖ Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH) has introduced an India's First Campus Blockchain Currency- 'BIMCOIN'.
- ❖ The 32.78-hectare area of Guneri village in the Kutch district, a natural inland mangrove site, has been declared as the first Biodiversity Heritage Site of Gujarat.
- ❖ The first Independent International AI Safety Report, published before the AI Action Summit in France, sets a new global standard for AI safety assessment.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has ordered a complete ban on manual scavenging and sewer cleaning in six major metropolitan cities - Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad.

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu's share of Central taxes 2025

- ❖ Tamil Nadu would receive a higher amount as its share of Central taxes as per the Union Budget for 2025-2026.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's share of Central taxes is 4.079%, as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission.
- ❖ The amount is to be received by the State as the share of the Central taxes has been increased to ₹52,491.88 crore in the revised Union Budget estimates for 2024-25 from ₹50,873.76 crore in the initial estimates.
- ❖ For 2025-2026, the Union Budget has estimated Tamil Nadu's share of Central taxes at ₹58,021.50 crore.

- ❖ States were allowed a Fiscal Deficit (the difference between total receipts and total expenditure) of 3% from 2023-24 onwards.
- ❖ An additional borrowing of 0.5% of GSDP was allowed for a period of four years from 2021-22 to 2024-25 on fulfilment of Power Sector Reforms.



Paddy procurement - Tamilnadu

Purchase trend

The participation of players in paddy procurement in Tamil Nadu (in tonnes)

Agency	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22*	2022-23**
NCCF	559 (DPC:4)	27,195	18,446 (DPC: 7)	89,850	1,49,198 (DPC:7)	71 (DPC:4)	34,479 (DPC:91)
TNCS & others	2,11,116 (DPC:655)	14,66,175 (DPC:1,447)	18,92,219 (DPC:1,759)	31,51,140 (DPC:2,135)	43,41,024 (DPC:2,724)	43,28,185 (DPC:2,928)	3,00,870 (DPC:811)
TOTAL	2,11,675 (DPC:659)	14,93,370 (DPC:1,447)	19,10,665 (DPC:1,766)	32,40,990 (DPC:2,135)	44,90,222 (DPC:2,731)	43,28,256 (DPC:2,932)	3,35,349 (DPC:902)

NCCF: National Cooperative Consumers' Federation, TNCS: Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, DPC: Direct Purchase Centres | Figures given in brackets refer to the number of Direct Purchase Centres opened in the years concerned

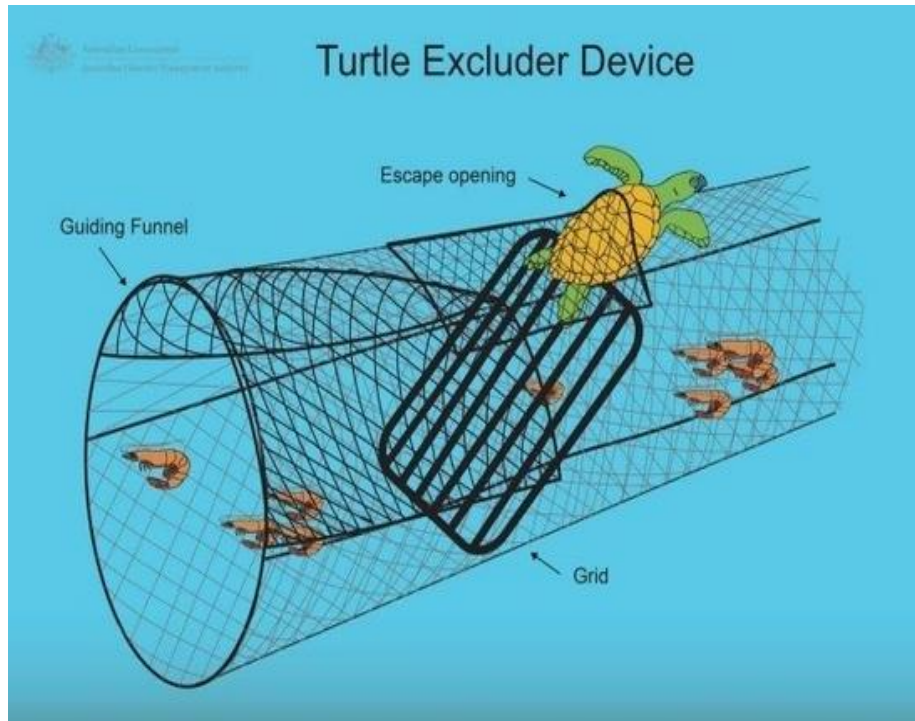
*Up to August 31, 2022 | ** As on October 1, 2022

■ The National Cooperative Consumers' Federation has been making a gradual progress in paddy procurement in the State

- ❖ Nearly eight lakh tonnes of paddy have been procured from Tamil Nadu farmers by the civil supply's authorities.
- ❖ The major chunk of the paddy procured — around 6.2 lakh tonnes — has been provided by the Cauvery delta districts.
- ❖ Thanjavur leads the pack with about two lakh tonnes.

- ❖ Tiruvarur is placed next to Thanjavur, accounting for approximately 1.6 lakh tonnes; Mayiladuthurai, 85,400 tonnes; and Cuddalore, 70,500 tonnes.
- ❖ As regards the non-Cauvery delta districts, Chengalpattu leads the group with around 36,000 tonnes; Erode, 31,000 tonnes; and Tiruvallur, 23,300 tonnes.
- ❖ The group of districts has supplied 1.67 lakh tonnes.

NGT - Turtle Excluder Devices

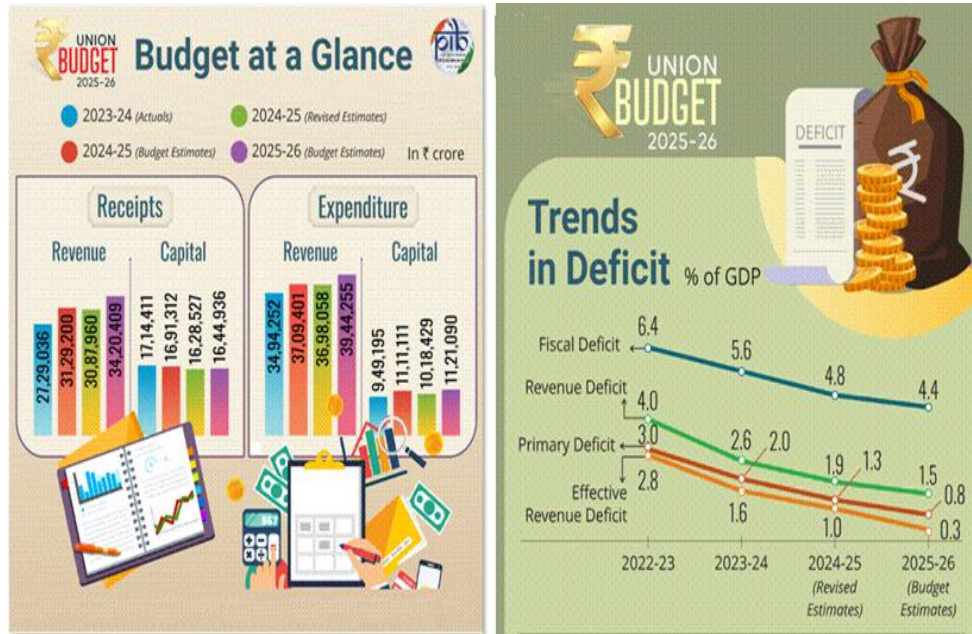


- ❖ The Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) took Suo motu case following the high mortality of the Olive Ridley turtles along the Chennai and Chengalpattu coasts.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Fisheries Department has informed the bench as enforcing the use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in fishing nets was not currently feasible owing to their unavailability.
- ❖ It had also been speculated that the turtle carcasses may have drifted from the Andhra Pradesh coast.
- ❖ To clarify, the Bench has directed the Fisheries Department and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Andhra Pradesh to submit their report.
- ❖ A 2015 Government Order has mandated that all trawl nets be fitted with TEDs during the nesting season of turtles from November to April.

- ❖ Additionally, a 2016 G.O. barred mechanised fishing vessels and motorised boats from fishing within five nautical miles of sea turtle nesting sites during the breeding season in Tamil Nadu.

NATIONAL

Budget 2025 highlights



- ❖ The Budget has initiated reforms in six domains — taxation, urban development, mining, financial sector, power and regulatory reforms.
- ❖ The Union Budget 2025-26 envisaged an expenditure of Rs 50,65,345 crore, an increase of 7.4% over the current fiscal.
- ❖ The 2024-25 expenditure (Revised Estimates) is Rs 47.16 lakh crore.
- ❖ The Revised Estimate 2024-25 of fiscal deficit is 4.8 per cent of GDP.
- ❖ The Budget Estimates 2025-26 is estimated to be 4.4 per cent of GDP.
- ❖ No income tax up to ₹12 lakh under new regime.
- ❖ Effectively, under the new tax regime with standard deduction of ₹75,000, income of up to ₹12.75 would have no income tax liability.
- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana for the developing agri-districts was announced in the Budget.
- ❖ The investment limit classification will be enhanced 2.5 times for MSMEs.
- ❖ A new Makhana Board, National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management were announced for Bihar.

- ❖ A new scheme will be launched for 5 lakh women Scheduled Caste and Schedule Tribe first-time entrepreneurs.
- ❖ The gig workers will be provided healthcare under PM Jan Arogya Yojana.
- ❖ Jal Jeevan Mission, which aims to provide the tap water connection to all rural households, has been extended till 2028.
- ❖ As many as 36 lifesaving drugs will now be fully exempted from customs duty.
- ❖ 50,000 Atal Tinkering labs will be set up in government schools in the next five years.
- ❖ A Deep Tech Fund of Funds will also be explored to catalyse the next generation startups as a part of this initiative.
- ❖ A Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme will be announced to provide digital-form Indian language books for school and higher education.

SC on Ad hoc Judges



- ❖ The Supreme Court relaxed its earlier condition to appoint ad hoc judges in High Courts to clear the backlog of pending criminal cases.
- ❖ The SC bench ordered that “each High Court may appoint ad hoc judges by taking recourse to Article 224A for appointment of ad hoc judges between two to five in number but not exceeding 10 per cent of the sanctioned strength.”

- ❖ Article 224A deals with the appointment of the retired Judges at sittings of High Courts.
- ❖ The Chief Justice of a High Court for any State, may with the previous consent of the President, request any person who has held the office of a Judge of that Court or of any other High Court to sit and act as a Judge of the High Court for that State.
- ❖ Every such person so requested shall, while so sitting and acting, be entitled to such allowances as the President may by order determine.
- ❖ He also will have all the jurisdiction, powers, and the privileges of, but shall not otherwise be deemed to be, a Judge of that High Court.

Occupational shortage index



- ❖ The ministry of labour and employment has launched the Occupational Shortage Index (OSI).
- ❖ The OSI will provide data-driven insights into occupations facing shortages, helping align job seekers' skills with industry demands.
- ❖ Additionally, the ministry launched the multilingual e-Shram microsite facility.
- ❖ E-Shram microsites are the state-specific digital platforms integrated with the national e-Shram database.

- ❖ They provide a one-stop solution for access to the central and state welfare programmes for unorganised workers, along with employment opportunities and skilling programmes.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Shubhanshu Shukla



- ❖ Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla is set to become the first Indian astronaut to travel to the International Space Station (ISS).
- ❖ He has been picked to pilot the upcoming Axiom Mission 4 of NASA- Axiom Space.
- ❖ The mission involves taking four astronauts — Shukla, Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski from Poland, Tibor Kapu from Hungary, Peggy Whitson from the US — to the ISS.
- ❖ The astronauts will stay at the station for 14 days.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Wetlands Day 2025 – February 02

- ❖ This day marks the anniversary of the Convention on Wetlands, which was adopted as an international treaty in 1971.
- ❖ Though wetlands cover only around 6% of the Earth's land surface, 40% of all plant and animal species live or breed in wetlands.

- ❖ Nearly 90% of the world's wetlands have been degraded since the 1700s, and we are losing wetlands three times faster than forests.
- ❖ "Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future" is the theme for 2025.



MISCELLANEOUS

National Road Safety Month 2025



- ❖ National Road Safety Month 2025 is being observed from January 01 to 31 to propagate the cause of safer roads for all.
- ❖ The initiative aims to unite all stakeholders, citizens, and youths through various events and activities.
- ❖ India accounted for 11% of global road accidents and 10% of global fatalities.
- ❖ States like Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra recorded the highest number of road accidents and fatalities.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is Sadak Suraksha - Jeevan Raksha.

Discovery of 30 Inscriptions – Karnataka

- ❖ The discovery of 30 inscriptions has put the spotlight on Abbana Bettu Basadi of Karkala taluk, Udupi district.
- ❖ Of them, 29 are in Kannada script and one is in Nagari, bearing only the name of a Tirthankara.

- ❖ This 16-line inscription records that Lakshmamana devi, wife of Saluva Bhaira Rasa, commissioned a list of 24 Tirthankaras and granted it to the basadi.
- ❖ The earliest inscription, dated March 25, 1586 CE, belongs to the era of Saluva Bhairarasa (Bhairarasa II).
- ❖ He was a ruler of Kalasa-Karkala Jain dynasty in late 16th century.

