



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-MARCH 21, 2023

TAMIL NADU BUDGET SPECIAL

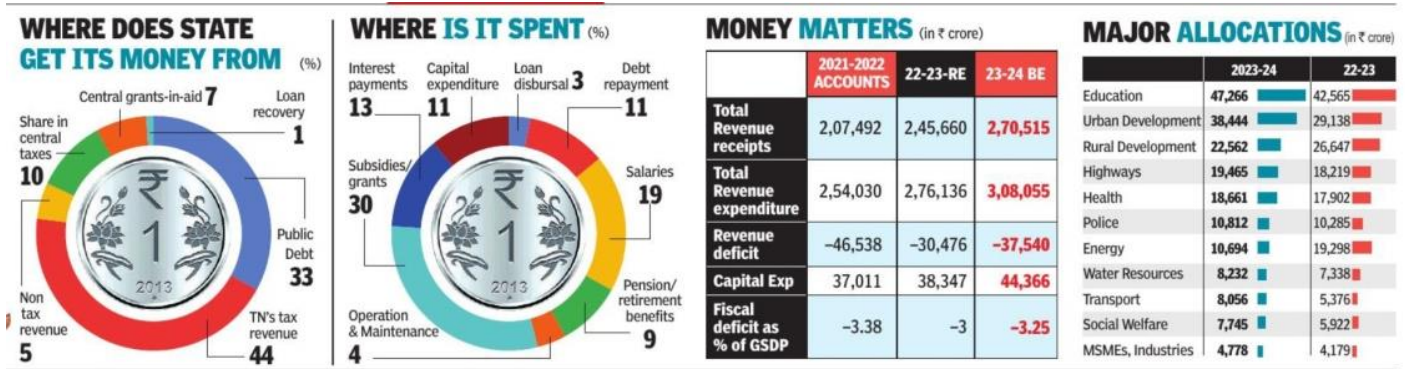
- Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan - presented the Budget for the financial year 2023-24 in the State Legislative Assembly in Chennai on March 20, 2023
- ✓ This budget is the DMK government's third Budget since it came to power in May 2021.



New Schemes

- ✓ The government announces Rs 1,000 per month for "eligible" women homemakers, including the elderly, disabled, widows, deserted/destitute and unmarried women, under 'Magalir Urimai Thogai' scheme.
 - ✓ Rs 7,000 crore will be allotted this year for the scheme.
 - ✓ The scheme will be rolled out on September 15, the birth anniversary of DMK founder and former chief minister C N Annadurai.
 - ✓ The proposed scheme is one of the biggest cash transfer schemes implemented by any State government in the history of this country.
 - ✓ The government is taking steps to prepare a detailed database on the basis of necessary economic and social conditions to select eligible women homemakers for the scheme.

- ✓ The government announces a new scheme named "Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme" with an allocation of Rs 100 crore.
 - ✓ The scheme aims at promoting entrepreneurship among people belonging to Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribe communities.
 - ✓ Under the scheme, the Tamil Nadu government will offer a 35% capital subsidy and a 6% interest subsidy for loans to procure machines and equipment.
- ✓ The state has allocated Rs 1000 crore for a new scheme called "Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme"
 - ✓ This scheme aims to ensure basic amenities in Adi Dravidar habitations in both urban and rural areas for a comprehensive socio-economic development over a period of five years



Registration

- ✓ The State government has decided to revise the guideline value to the rates prevailing till 8.6.2017 and to reduce the registration fee to 2% from 4%.
 - ✓ On June 8, 2017, the then government had cut the guideline value of properties by one-third across the board, but increased the registration charges by about 2%.
- ✓ Henceforth, for deeds of sale, gift, exchange, 5% stamp duty, 2% transfer duty and 2% registration fee will be applicable, while for non-family settlements, 7% stamp duty and 2% registration fee will be applicable.

Culture/Tamil Development

- ✓ Chola Museum will be set up in Thanjavur.

- ✓ Rs 5 crore financial allocation to translate BR Ambedkar's works into Tamil.
- ✓ The government announced plans to establish a memorial for Tamil martyrs.
- ✓ Kalaignar memorial library in Madurai will be inaugurated in June 2023.
- ✓ The government announced to extend the free bus pass scheme to 591 more elderly Tamil scholars.
- ✓ An "International Conference on Tamil Computing" to be held with the participation of renowned experts from across the world to encourage the development of software in Tamil.
- ✓ In a bid to popularize 'Chennai Sangamam' and make it more inclusive, the state government announced that the festival to promote culture and folk arts, held only in Chennai, would now be organised in eight more cities

Women development

- ✓ Government targets bank loans to the tune of Rs 30,000 crore for Women SHG in FY24.
 - ✓ In the current fiscal (FY23), women SHG have been provided with bank loans amounting Rs 24,712 crore.
- ✓ Two more factories to manufacture non-leather footwear coming at Ranipet and Kallakurichi providing employment for 32,000 women.
- ✓ A sum of Rs 1,000 per month is being given to girl students studying in classes 6 to 12 in government schools through 'Pudhumai Penn Scheme', through which enrollment has increased by 23%.

Development of differently-abled persons

- ✓ Monthly financial assistance for severely affected differently-abled persons increased from Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,000.
- ✓ An allocation of Rs 320 crore to provide bicycles to disabled persons.
- ✓ A total of 39 Integrated Service Centers to be set up for Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act.
- ✓ Loan assistance will be provided for career development of disabled persons

Waiver of Loans

- ✓ Budget has allocated Rs 2,393 crore for the waiver of agricultural loans, Rs 1,000 crore for waiver of jewel loans and Rs 600 crore for waiver of self-help group loans, totalling Rs 3,993 crore.

Budget statistics

- ✓ State's revenue deficit reduced by Rs 30,000 crore from Rs 62,000 crore in the last one year.
- ✓ State's own tax revenue expected to increase to more than Rs 1.5 lakh crore in FY24 as against over Rs 1.4 lakh crore in the current fiscal.

(Figures in ₹ crore)		
Classification	2022-2023 Revised Estimates	2023-2024 Budget Estimates
Total revenue receipts	2,45,660	2,70,515
Total revenue expenditure	2,76,136	3,08,055
Revenue deficit	30,476	37,540
Fiscal deficit (%age of GSDP)	3%	3.25%
Fiscal deficit	74,524.6	92,074.9
Capital expenditure	38,347	44,366

Grant of **₹5 cr** to translate Ambedkar's works in Tamil

Promotion of sea cruises to link places of significance in Tamil culture

With assistance from World Bank, govt to implement '**coastal restoration mission**'

Guideline value to be revised to rates prevailing till June 8, 2017; **registration fee to be cut to 2%**; for deeds of sale, gift, exchange 5% stamp duty, **2% transfer duty and 2% registration fee to be applicable**

- ✓ The state's fiscal deficit is also set to decline - by 4.61% to 3.80%.
- ✓ The revenue deficit of the State has been contained at 1.32% of the GSDP much below the levels of 2017-18.
- ✓ In Budget Estimates for 2023-24, the revenue deficit is estimated at Rs.37,540.45 crore and the fiscal deficit is estimated at Rs.92,074.91 crore.
- ✓ The government has increased the capital expenditure in the State by providing an allocation of Rs 44,365.59 crore.
- ✓ The revenue expenditure is estimated at Rs 3,08,055.68 crore.

School education department

- ✓ Allocation of Rs 40,229 crore in budget.
- ✓ A sum of Rs 1,500 crore will be allotted for improving infrastructure in government schools such as constructing new buildings.
- ✓ Ennum ezhuthum scheme to be extended to classes 4 to 5.
 - ✓ The programme was launched last year, aimed at achieving universal foundational literacy and numeracy for all students from classes I to III by 2025.
 - ✓ Allocation of Rs.110 crore in the budget
- ✓ All the schools under Adi Dravidar and Tribal welfare department will be brought under school education department.
- ✓ A sum of Rs 500 crore allotted for breakfast scheme for school students.
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government will expand the morning breakfast scheme covering more than 18 lakh students in all 30,122 government primary schools from next academic year.
 - ✓ The free breakfast scheme was launched to improve nutrition among school students and after its implementation, 1,319 schools have shown increase in attendance.
- ✓ Rs 305 crore earmarked for bicycles for school students.
- ✓ Sirmarabinar Hindu Charitable Schools to be brought under School Education Department

Higher education department

- ✓ Allocation of Rs 6,967 crore in the budget.
- ✓ Govt colleges and polytechnic to get new classrooms and labs at 26 polytechnic and 50 arts and science colleges at the cost of Rs 200 crore.

- ✓ Provisions to upgrade 54 government polytechnics as "Centres of Excellence" at a total cost of Rs.2,783 crore.
- ✓ The government plans to extend the Naan Mudhalvan scheme to arts and science colleges from next academic year

Health and family welfare department

- ✓ A sum of Rs 18,661 crore allotted for health and family welfare department.
- ✓ A new 1000-bed Kalaignar memorial multi speciality hospital, which is under construction in the premises of the King Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research Centre, Guindy, will be inaugurated this financial year.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu to open new hospital building in Kilpauk, Coimbatore and Madurai this year.
- ✓ New Multi specialty facility will be built in Stanley Medical College Hospital along with a nursing College and hostel.
- ✓ Besides, the infrastructure of the Government Siddha Medical College and Hospital in Palayamkottai would be improved at a cost of Rs.40 crore
- ✓ Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam Scheme will be expanded with focus on preventing non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and kidney diseases among industrial workers.
- ✓ Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam scheme will be expanded to 711 factories, covering 8.35 lakh workers in the first phase,
- ✓ The government will also establish the Tamil Nadu Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (TNIMHANS) by upgrading the Institute of Mental Health in Chennai.
 - ✓ A provision of Rs.40 crore has been made for the first phase of this project
- ✓ Under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, insurance coverage of Rs 5 lakh will be given to each family every year.
 - ✓ During the current year, so far, 11.82 lakh patients have availed of treatment worth Rs 993 crore, which is the highest since the inception of the scheme.

Development of Armed Forces/Defence personnel

- ✓ The solatium for defence personnel who sacrifice their lives during duty will be doubled from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 40 lakh.
- ✓ Award for Valorous Deeds Award to Defense Force personnel from Greater Tamil Nadu to be quadrupled

Assistance to Old Age/Elderly persons

- ✓ Rs 5,346 crore allotted for old age pension scheme, under which 35.8 lakh beneficiaries will receive the pension.

Civil Supplies and Public Distribution System

- ✓ The Government will frame a comprehensive long-term plan to carry out structural reforms in the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation to improve efficiency in operations and fiscal sustainability.
- ✓ An amount of Rs 10,500 crore has been provided towards Food Subsidy in the Public Distribution System.
- ✓ An allocation of Rs 16,262 crore has been made to the Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection Department

Development of Fishermen

- ✓ A sum of Rs 389 crore allocated to benefit 4.3 lakh fishermen in the form of short-term special relief for fishing, fishing suspension relief and fishermen's savings and relief schemes

Skill Development

- ✓ Skill development centre would be setup at SIPCOT Hosur in Chulagiri in Krishnagiri district at a cost of Rs 80 crore.
- ✓ A total of 12.7 lakh graduate students are getting skill development training under Naan Muthalvan scheme in association with industries and corporate.
- ✓ The state plans to develop skill development centres through the 'Factory Skill Schools' programme by allocating Rs.25 crore.
- ✓ The government plans to establish a Rs.120 crore Tamil Nadu World Innovation Skill and Training Hub (TN-WISH) at Ambattur.
 - ✓ Training in mechatronics, IoT, advanced automobile technology and advanced welding would be offered in the institute.

Sports Development

- ✓ A sum of Rs 25 crore earmarked to refurbish facilities in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai.
- ✓ CMDA will set up a hi- tech Sports City, for which a DPR will be prepared by experts.
- ✓ Sports facilities to be created by the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board at resettlement colonies in Chennai's Kannagi Nagar, Perumbakkam, Navalur and Athipattu at a cost of Rs. 20 crore

Welfare Boards

- ✓ A sum of Rs 10 crore earmarked for Pudhirai Vannar welfare board.
- ✓ Allocation of Rs 10 crore for animal welfare board to strengthen the ABC programme and to control stray dog population

Energy Development

MORE POWER TO TAMIL NADU

Double the capacity in 7 years |

The state aims at doubling the installed capacity by 2030, by adding 33,000 MW

➤ The current installed capacity is 33,877 MW including conventional and renewable energy sources.

Green shoots | The state wants to increase the green energy mix in the generation more than 100% in the next seven years. Currently, green energy constitutes 20.88% of total energy contribution and the state aims at 50%

To make more of solar and wind | The government will create a special purpose vehicle to transform TN into a green power house to harness entire potential of solar (20GW), onshore wind (70GW) and offshore wind (30GW)

Repowering wind energy

generators (WEG) | TN to evolve a new policy over repowering windmills. Windmills that are functioning beyond their life period (20 to 25 years) will be replaced with new ones with more capacity. Already, there are litigations about the repowering of windmills, as WEG owners have sought clarity

Thermal plants in progress |

The ongoing thermal power projects with a total capacity of 4,100 MW will be completed expeditiously

LOSS REDUCED: Tangedco's losses have come down to ₹7,825 MW from ₹11,955 crore last year

SUBSIDY INCREASED: ₹14,063 crore has been allocated towards subsidies for electricity consumers. The sum has increased from ₹9,000 crore after the electricity tariffs were revised in September, 2022

- ✓ A sum of Rs 14,000 crore allocated towards subsidy for TANGEDCO.
- ✓ The existing meters, digital or otherwise, will be replaced by smart electricity meters with prepaid facilities under the RDSS scheme.
- ✓ A sum of Rs 77,000 crore allotted for setting up 15 new pumped storage facilities to generate 14,500 MW of power by 2030.
 - ✓ Currently, Tamil Nadu has just one pumped storage facility, of 400MW capacity, at Kadamparai in Anaimalai Hills set up during 1974-89.
 - ✓ Pumped storage, a renewable energy source, can help generate energy to meet the temporary peak in demand as thermal plants cannot jumpstart generation
- ✓ The government will implement a special agency to transform Tamil Nadu into a green state with a contribution of more than 50% renewable energy in total power generation by 2030.

Industries

- ✓ A sum of Rs 3,268 crore allocated for industries department during financial year 2023-24.
- ✓ A sum of Rs 100 crore allotted for conducting global investors meet (GIM) in Chennai, which is scheduled to be held on January 10 and 11, 2024.
 - ✓ A total of 221 MoUs to attract investments to the tune of more than Rs 2.7 lakh crore has been signed since May, 2021.
- ✓ 10 small handloom parks to be developed at a cost of Rs 20 crore

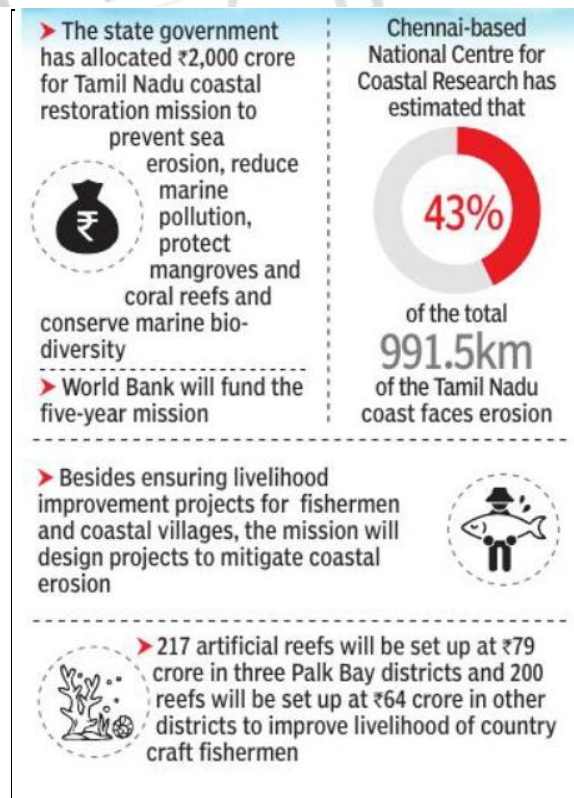
- ✓ New industrial parks will be developed in Virudhunagar, Vellore, Kallakurichi and Coimbatore at an estimated cost of Rs.410 crore for providing employment opportunities to nearly 22,000 persons
- ✓ A new textile park will be established at Salem at an investment of Rs.880 crore.
- ✓ Works for the 1,052 acres mega textile park at a financial outlay of Rs.1,800 crore, which has a potential to generate employment for two lakh persons, will commence shortly

Science/Technology

- ✓ TN Tech City would be setup in Chennai, Coimbatore and Hosur to address the growing demand for infrastructure requirements and position Tamil Nadu in the global information technology map.
- ✓ Setting up of a "Unified Digital Infrastructure" that would create high speed optical fibre network at a cost of Rs.400 crore.
- ✓ Promotion of the State as a global hub for IT/ITeS and to meet the increasing demand for quality
- ✓ A sum of Rs.38.25 crore has been allocated to install CCTV cameras in all police stations across the state

Environment, Climate Change and Forests

- ✓ Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department has been allotted Rs.1,248 crore.



- ✓ The Government will notify a new wildlife sanctuary Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, with an extent of 80,567 hectares in the forest areas of Anthiyur and Gobichettipalayam taluks in Erode district
 - ✓ The proposed sanctuary will link the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve with the Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary.
 - ✓ This will be the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the State.
 - ✓ It will be home to 21 species of mammals ranging from the rare honey badger to carnivores such as tigers and leopards and herbivores such as elephants, 136 species of birds and 118 species of butterflies
- ✓ An allocation of Rs 2,000 crore announced for 'Neithal meetpu project' for restoration of sea, beaches, to arrest sea erosion in coastal areas, increase coastal biodiversity, protect coastal environment and reduce pollution with World Bank assistance in the next five years.
- ✓ An International birds centre would be established at Marakkanam at a financial outlay of Rs 25 crore to protect and conserve migratory birds and to encourage research in ornithology.
- ✓ An allocation of Rs 43 crore for constructing Semmozhi Park in Coimbatore

Infrastructure/Mobility projects

- ✓ The Budget Estimate has allocated Rs 19,465 crore to the Highways and Minor Ports Department.
- ✓ Rural roads covering more than 5,140 km would be laid at cost of Rs 2,000 crore in FY24.
- ✓ Rs 645 crore towards the Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project-II.
- ✓ Integrated projects for planned development to be launched for Coimbatore and Madurai titled 'Ezhilmigu Coimbatore and Madurai'.
- ✓ The government to launch 'North Chennai Development' initiative for uniform development across the city at a cost of Rs 1,000 crore in the next three years.
- ✓ Chennai Corporation has privatised maintenance for toilets in two zones at a cost of Rs 430 crore.
 - ✓ Public-private-partnership model to maintain public toilets will be expanded to other parts of Tamil Nadu based on the success of the model in Chennai Corporation.
- ✓ A sum of Rs 500 crore allocated for procurement of 1,000 new buses and refurbishing another 500 buses.
- ✓ Bus depots in Tambaram, Tiruvottiyur and Saidapet will be improved at a cost of Rs 1,347 crore.
- ✓ A sum of Rs 10,000 crore allocated for CMRL in FY24.
- ✓ Government has decided to launch metro rail services in Coimbatore at an estimated cost of Rs 9,000 crore and in Madurai at a cost of Rs 8,500 crore.
- ✓ Neo-tidel parks to be expanded in 3 more locations at Tirunelveli, Chengalpet and Erode in an area of 1 lakh sq ft.

- ✓ 7000 new houses will be built in the resettlement camps to fulfill the demand for Indian citizenship for Sri Lankan Tamils living in India.
- ✓ In a bid to augment the capacity of water bodies in water-deficient Tamil Nadu, the government announced its ambitious programme to restore 10,000 water bodies in rural areas.
 - ✓ The rural development and panchayat raj department is the nodal agency to restore the beauty of the water bodies spread across the state's rural belt.
 - ✓ The state had taken up restoration of 6,618 water bodies in the rural areas in the last two years at an estimated cost of Rs.638 crore.
 - ✓ The state has already taken up several projects under the Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation Project.
 - ✓ It has sanctioned rehabilitation work in 341 tanks, 67 anicuts and 11 canals at a cost of Rs.462 crore
- ✓ Announcement of Phase II of Hogenakkal combined drinking water scheme at a cost of Rs.7,145 crore to address water shortage in the backward Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts.
 - ✓ The Rs.1,928 crore project was named Hogenakkal drinking water and fluorosis mitigation project and was funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
 - ✓ It benefitted over 30 lakh people in three municipalities, 17 town panchayats and over 6, 000 hamlets in Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri districts.
 - ✓ The foundation stone for the first phase of the scheme was laid by late chief minister M Karunanidhi on February 26, 2008 and inaugurated by his successor J Jayalalithaa on May 29, 2013

Projects for Chennai

- ✓ An allocation of Rs 320 crore for Chennai flood mitigation programme in Chennai.
- ✓ A facility of 30 acres of nature-quality city public square and open-air theater will be set up in Chennai Island grounds.
- ✓ Rs. 50 crore allocated for development of Chennai Island grounds.
- ✓ To realise the goal of Singara Chennai, the Government is committed to cleaning and restoring waterways, including Adyar and Cooum.
 - ✓ In the first phase of these initiatives, the restoration of Adyar river for a length of 44 km will be taken up.
 - ✓ This project will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs 1,500 crore through the PPP mode.
- ✓ A four-lane elevated flyover on Anna Salai from Teynampet to Saidapet will be taken up for construction at an estimated cost of Rs 621 crore in the coming year.
- ✓ Allocations of Rs 1,847 crore towards the Chennai Peripheral Ring Road Project and Rs 1,500 crore for the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor Project

Assistance to Civil Service Aspirants

- ✓ Every year, 1000 civil service aspirants will be shortlisted based on a screening test and provided a monthly assistance of Rs 7,500 for 10 months to prepare preliminary exams.
- ✓ Those who clear preliminary exams will get Rs 25,000.
- ✓ The government has allotted Rs.10 crore for the new initiative.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) will implement the scheme

Measures for Government employees

- ✓ The advance payment given to government employees for house construction will be increased from Rs 40 lakh to Rs 50 lakh.
- ✓ Additional provision of Rs 25 crore as special fund for pensioners' family welfare

Tourism

- ✓ The tourism department gets Rs.355 crore as against the allocation of Rs.246 crore last year
- ✓ A sum of Rs 55 crore allocated to develop tourism in Pichavaram, Hogenakkal and Poompuhar
- ✓ Under the 'Tourism Destination Development Scheme', Rs.75 crore has been sanctioned in the current year towards infrastructure development at various tourist locations

Start-ups

- ✓ To support business incubators who propose to specialise in areas like climate tech, rural tech, agri tech and marine tech, StartupTN will assist them in raising funds from various sources to set up centres of excellence and will also bear up to 40% of the cost of such upgradation

Hindu religious and charitable endowments (HR and CE) department

- ✓ Implementation of master plans in three major temples, including the Murugan temple in Palani and Thiruthani and the Mariamman Temple in Samayapuram at a total cost of Rs.485 crore.
- ✓ In the coming financial year, the HR & CE department would conduct a consecration ceremony in 400 temples while last year, the consecration ceremony was conducted in 574 temples.
- ✓ The HR & CE department, under the current regime, has retrieved 4,491 acres of encroached temple land worth Rs.4,236 crore