

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 17, 2025

ECONOMY

➤ **Fifth Exclusive Agriculture Budget**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government unveiled its fifth exclusive agriculture budget on Saturday increasing the total allocation for agriculture and allied sectors by 8 per cent for 2025-26 compared to the revised estimates for 2024-25.
- ✓ The state allocated ₹45,661 crore up from ₹42,282 crore in the previous year.
- ✓ The Agriculture Budget 2025-26 focuses on boosting farmers' income while expanding into crop diversification, organic farming, mechanization, and nutrition initiatives. Special priority is given to schemes benefiting SC/ST communities.



➤ **Key Highlights:**

- ✓ Rs. 42 crore allocated for setting up 1000 Chief Minister's Farmers' Welfare Service Centres.
- ✓ Hill Farmer Development Scheme: 63 thousand hill farmers will be provided with a subsidy of Rs. 22.80 lakh. An allocation of Rs. 22 crore has been made for this scheme.
- ✓ Financial assistance provided under the Chief Minister's Farmers' Protection Scheme will be increased.

- ✓ Chief Minister's Mannur Kappom Scheme will be implemented this year for Rs. 146 crore.
- ✓ The Kalaignar All Village Integrated Development Scheme will be implemented in 2,335 panchayats for Rs. 269 crore. This scheme has already been implemented in 10,157 villages.
- ✓ The scheme for organic farming will be implemented in 37 districts for Rs. 12 crore.
- ✓ Rs. 52 crore allocated to implement the small grains movement. Additional subsidy for Adi Dravidian and tribal farmers in schemes including integrated farming. The existing 40% subsidy will be increased to 60%.
- ✓ The Nammalvar Award scheme will be implemented this year too.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Agroforestry Policy to be released soon—Farmers will be encouraged to establish agroforestry.
- ✓ 100 pioneer farmers will be taken to countries including Japan and China. This project will be implemented to learn about the agricultural technology implemented there.
- ✓ A new project called Nutritious Agriculture Movement will be launched at Rs. 125 crores.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu ranks 2nd in cashew exports in India. To promote this, a Cashew Board will be set up for Rs. 10 crore to develop farmers.
- ✓ Steps have been taken to obtain a geographical indication for 35 agricultural products in 4 years.
- ✓ 5 products, including Vedaranyam mullai, natham tamarind, and kapalpatti moringa, will be obtained.
- ✓ The award in the name of agricultural scientist M. S. Swaminathan to promote innovations in agriculture.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ **Chandrayaan-5 Mission**

- ✓ The Indian government has officially approved the Chandrayaan-5 mission, aimed at conducting an advanced lunar surface study.



- ✓ Announced by ISRO Chairman V Narayanan on March 16, 2025, this mission will be executed in collaboration with Japan's space agency, JAXA.
- ✓ This mission will be executed in collaboration with Japan and aims to conduct an advanced study of the Moon's surface.

➤ **IIT Madras Hyperloop Testing Facility**

- ✓ Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw visited the Hyperloop testing facility at IIT Madras on Saturday, where he announced that the 410-meter-long Hyperloop tube would soon become the world's longest high-speed tube.



- ✓ The Indian Railways Ministry is actively supporting the project with funding and technical assistance, while Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Chennai is developing the electronic technology required for the Hyperloop system.

