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1. Tamil Nadu's Total Debt Liability Reaches ₹13.18 Lakh Crore

Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Maria Wilson released a White Paper on the state's financial management, stating that Tamil Nadu's total debt liability stands at ₹13.18 lakh crore.

(i) While the previous DMK Government had reported the state's direct outstanding debt at ₹10 lakh crore, the Finance Minister stated that when the debts of major public sector undertakings such as transport and electricity corporations (₹3.18 lakh crore) are included, the total debt burden rises to ₹13.18 lakh crore.

(ii) He further noted that ₹4.87 lakh crore of debt was added during the last five years, which is more than double the debt accumulated during the first 60 years after Independence.

(iii) After assuming office as Chief Minister on May 10, Joseph Vijay alleged that the previous DMK Government had emptied the state treasury and announced that a White Paper on the state's finances would be released.

(iv) Accordingly, Finance Minister Maria Wilson and Finance Secretary M.A. Siddique released the White Paper at the Secretariat in Chennai. The report covers Government revenues and expenditures, financial status, and the performance of the previous Government from 2021 to 2026.

Key findings include:

- Despite having an opportunity to restore fiscal stability after the COVID-19 pandemic, the previous Government failed to do so.
- The state's debt increased from ₹5.13 lakh crore on April 1, 2021, to ₹13.18 lakh crore currently.
- The Government provided guaranteed loans to public sector undertakings without fully compensating them for losses incurred due to welfare schemes.
- 64.4% of the state's total revenue is spent on salaries, pensions, and interest payments.
- One-third of the state's own revenue is spent on interest payments.
- The state's own tax revenue as a percentage of GSDP has fallen to 5.45%.
- Despite abundant mineral resources, corruption in the mining sector has resulted in significant revenue losses.
- Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth has declined from 10% in 2021-22 to 8.32%.
- The proportion of elderly people in Tamil Nadu is projected to increase from 10.6% currently to 18.2% in 2031 and 32.7% in 2036.
- A growing elderly population will increase healthcare and social security expenditures, while a shrinking working-age population will reduce the tax base.

Solution Proposed:

The Government plans to address the debt burden through:

- Reforms in public sector undertakings,
- Better debt management,
- Transparent and corruption-free administration,

without increasing taxes. Existing welfare schemes will continue.

(v) Borrowing for Day-to-Day Expenses

- Revenue deficit is projected to increase from ₹46,538 crore in 2021 to a record ₹78,324 crore in 2025-26.
- The report states that the Government is currently borrowing not for investments but to meet routine expenditure.

(vi) Limited Scope for New Schemes

- The Centre has approved an annual borrowing limit of ₹1.52 lakh crore.
- Even this may not be sufficient to meet financial obligations, leaving little room for launching new projects.

(vii) Per Capita Debt Liability Reaches ₹1,28,934

- Tamil Nadu's per capita debt has risen from ₹67,087 in 2020-21 to ₹1,28,934.
- Comparative figures:
    - Gujarat: ₹70,798
    - Maharashtra: ₹77,569
    - Karnataka: ₹1,11,375

The report notes that regardless of which party governs the state, Tamil Nadu will continue to bear the burden of repaying existing debt and interest obligations for the next 20 years.

(viii) ₹145 Spent for Every ₹100 Earned

Finance Secretary Siddique stated that for every ₹100 earned, the state spends ₹145.

Breakup:

- ₹27 on welfare schemes
- ₹10 on capital expenditure

He remarked that while the state's financial condition was previously poor, it has now become even worse.

(ix) Losses in Power and Transport Sectors

- The power sector has debt of ₹2.47 lakh crore.
- The Electricity Board has accumulated losses of ₹1.82 lakh crore.
- State transport corporations have incurred losses of ₹72,667 crore.
- The operating cost per kilometre of a bus is ₹78.81, while revenue is only ₹25.97 per kilometre.
- Reduced central fund sharing and significant revenue leakage in property registration have also contributed to fiscal stress.

2. G7 Summit Session Attended by Zelenskyy

The G7 Summit began on Monday in Évian, France, and continues until Wednesday (June 17).

During a session held on Tuesday morning, French President Emmanuel Macron, who is chairing the summit, was joined by:

- U.S. President Donald Trump
- UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer
- German Chancellor Friedrich Merz

- Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi
- Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni
- Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney
- European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

The session was also attended by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

3. Smriti Mandhana Named Among TIME's 100 Most Influential Sports Personalities

Indian women's cricket team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana is the only Indian to be included in TIME Magazine's list of the 100 most influential sports personalities of 2026.

4. El Niño May Severely Impact Tamil Nadu and 11 Other States

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan warned that El Niño could severely affect Tamil Nadu and 11 other states.

(i) El Niño refers to the abnormal warming of the surface waters of the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast below-normal southwest monsoon rainfall this year, increasing the risk of heatwaves and drought.

During a weekly review meeting on Kharif season preparedness, the minister stated:

- El Niño could severely affect 326 districts across:
    - Tamil Nadu
    - Andhra Pradesh
    - Telangana
    - Karnataka
    - Odisha
    - Gujarat
    - Rajasthan
    - Bihar
    - Madhya Pradesh
    - Maharashtra
    - Jharkhand
    - Uttar Pradesh
- District administrations, agricultural departments, and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) should coordinate preparedness efforts.
- Drought-prone districts should be identified and preventive measures implemented.
- The cultivation area under cotton and pulses should be expanded.
- Water conservation, moisture management, and alternative cropping methods should be prioritized in drought-prone areas.
- Scientific solutions should be recommended to farmers without creating panic.
- Adequate fertilizer stocks are available with the Central Government and will be distributed as required.
- Continuous consultations, field inspections, and reviews should be conducted to ensure a successful Kharif season.

5. Thirteen States Recorded Revenue Surplus in FY 2025

According to a report released by Comptroller and Auditor General K. Sanjay Murthy, 13 states achieved revenue surplus in FY 2025, while 15 states recorded revenue deficits.

(i) For FY 2024-25:

- 18 states targeted revenue surplus.
- 3 states targeted revenue deficit.
- 7 states targeted zero revenue deficit.

(ii) Of the 18 states targeting revenue surplus, only 9 achieved it. The following states instead recorded revenue deficits:

- Assam
- Bihar
- Chhattisgarh
- Haryana
- Himachal Pradesh
- Karnataka
- Maharashtra
- Mizoram
- Telangana

(iii) Among the seven states targeting zero revenue deficit:

- Goa
- Jharkhand
- Uttar Pradesh
- Tripura achieved revenue surplus.
- Tamil Nadu
- Punjab
- Rajasthan recorded revenue deficits.

Overall:

- 13 states recorded revenue surplus.
- 15 states recorded revenue deficits.

The combined revenue deficit of the 15 deficit states stood at ₹3,46,385 crore, equivalent to 1.5% of their combined GSDP.

After adjusting for the surplus generated by the 13 surplus states, the net revenue deficit was ₹2,19,041 crore, representing 0.68% of the combined GSDP of all 28 states.

(iv) Among the 15 deficit states, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Punjab, and West Bengal received revenue-deficit grants from the Finance Commission.

(v) Expenditure Increased by 131% Over Ten Years

- State Governments' total expenditure rose by 131% between 2015-16 and 2024-25.
- Expenditure increased from ₹22.18 lakh crore to ₹51.20 lakh crore.
- More than 53.31% of revenue expenditure went toward mandatory spending and subsidies.
- Subsidies, salaries, pensions, interest payments, grants, and major public works accounted for 78.46% of total expenditure.
- This represented approximately 12.38% of the combined GSDP of all states.

6. Prime Minister Modi Participates in G7 Summit

The annual G7 Summit has been underway in Évian since June 15.

The grouping consists of the world's leading advanced economies:

- Canada
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Japan
- United Kingdom
- United States
- European Union

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is attending the summit as a special invitee and is holding bilateral meetings with leaders of several participating countries.

7. Escalating global and national heatwave crisis, its psychological impacts, and the devastating consequences for agriculture and the economy.

(i) The Phenomenon of Rising Nighttime Temperatures

- Although the southwest monsoon has begun in Kerala, summer heat has not subsided, and weather experts warn that this trend is likely to intensify.
- Traditionally, daytime heat would subside at night; however, nighttime temperatures are now significantly higher than normal.
- This rise in nighttime heat reduces sleep duration and quality, which is critical for physical and mental recovery.

(ii) Psychological and Productivity Impacts

- The ideal temperature for restful sleep and bodily function is 18°C to 22°C. When temperatures exceed this, the body produces stress hormones like adrenaline and cortisol.
- Increased heat leads to irritability, anxiety, and heightened aggression, resulting in more frequent verbal arguments and street brawls.
- Psychologists warn that extreme heat can cause a 30% to 60% drop in productivity.

(iii) Global Impact on Agriculture and Livelihoods

- A UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report titled "Increased Heat and Management" states that heatwaves affect the livelihoods of 123 crore people globally.
- Heat places more stress on crops, livestock, poultry, and aquatic life than on humans.
- Agricultural workers are 35 times more vulnerable to heat-related impacts than workers in other sectors.
- International Examples:
  - Brazil: Soybean production fell by 10%.
  - Morocco: Grain production dropped by 43%.
  - Chile: Salmon production saw a loss of 40,000 tons due to rising sea temperatures.

(iv) The Crisis in India

- In 2022, heatwaves reduced wheat production by 34% and vegetable production by 15% in India.
- "Heat Stress" now affects 4.4 crore people in India, leading to an economic activity loss valued at $3.41 billion.

- Unprecedented 2026 Stats:
  - Out of the top 50 hottest cities globally, most are in India.
  - Since March 2026, approximately 27,000 people have suffered heatstroke.
  - In May alone, 19,000 people were affected, with 56 official deaths (though actual numbers are likely higher).

(v) Conclusion: Environmental Imbalance

- A routine pattern of extreme heatwaves followed by unpredictable, heavy cloudbursts that flood major cities like Mumbai, Chennai, and Bengaluru.
- Humans must stop provoking nature and instead prepare for its fury by living in harmony with the environment, or risk a catastrophic "Pralayam" (deluge).

8. Significant return of Chola-era copper plates from the Netherlands to India and their immense value to Tamil history.

(i) Overview of the Return

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that 24 Chola-era copper plates (21 large and 3 small) are being returned from the Netherlands to India.
- These plates, specifically known as the "Anaimangalam Copper Plates," are regarded as some of the most important documents regarding Chola history.
- The return of these artifacts is considered a landmark moment for the preservation of Tamil heritage.

(ii) Historical Journey and Dislocation

- The copper plates were taken from India approximately 300 years ago during the Dutch colonial period.
- They had been preserved at the Leiden University Museum in the Netherlands since 1862.
- Due to their long-term storage at the university, they are also famously known among scholars as the "Leiden Copper Plates".

(iii) Contents and Linguistic Composition

- The collection consists of two sets: the first 21 plates were issued by Rajendra Chola I, and the second set of 3 plates was issued by his grandson, Kulothunga Chola I.
- The 21 plates from Rajendra Chola's reign are linked by a massive ring featuring his official seal.
- Linguistically, 5 plates are written in Sanskrit, detailing the Chola royal genealogy, while 16 plates are in Tamil, documenting the specific achievements of Rajaraja Chola's administration.

(iv) Cultural and Religious Significance

- The plates record a grant made between 985 and 1012 CE, where the entire revenue of Anaimangalam village was donated to the "Chudamani Vihara," a Buddhist monastery in Nagapattinam.
- This grant is a primary evidence of the religious harmony practiced by the Cholas, showing that although Rajaraja Chola was a devout Shaivite, he actively supported Buddhist institutions.
- The inscriptions provide meticulous details on the education, social structure, architecture, and economy of the period.

(v) Importance for Chola History

- These plates are one of the five essential copper plate sets (along with those from Tiruvalangadu, Karandai, Tirukkalar, and Esalam) that allow historians to chronologically reconstruct the full history of the Chola Empire.
- Unlike fragile palm-leaf manuscripts, copper plates served as permanent royal decrees that could not be destroyed by natural elements.
- The return of these plates is seen as a major victory for Indian historical research, as it restores a "stolen" piece of heritage that was dislocated during colonial conflicts.