

State Profile: Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu literally (*The Land of Tamils* or *Tamil Country*) is one of the 29 states of India. Its capital is Chennai (formerly known as Madras), the largest city. Tamil Nadu lies in the southernmost part of the Indian Peninsula and is bordered by the union territory of Puducherry and the states of Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.

It is bounded by the Eastern Ghats on the north, by the Nilgiri, the Anamalai Hills, and Kerala on the west, by the Bay of Bengal in the east, by the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait on the southeast, and by the Indian Ocean on the south.

Snapshot of Tamil Nadu: Its competitive strengths:

- Tamil Nadu's GSDP in 2012-13: US \$ 145 billion (7.8% of India's GDP). On PPP basis, GSDP:US \$ 371 billion.
- It is the second largest economy and one of the fastest growing states in India.
- On Global scale, Tamil Nadu will be ranked 35th largest economy on PPP basis). – bigger than *Romania, Ukraine, Vietnam, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Sri Lanka, Bulgaria, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, etc.*
- One of the fastest growing State economies with an average growth rate of 9.75% in the last 9 years
- One of Top Three FDI destinations among Indian states
- First in number of factories – 40,354
- First in number of workers employed in factories sector – 2.23 million
- First in annual turn-out of Engineering graduates and technicians
- One of Top Three FDI destinations in India – More than 3000 Foreign companies in Tamil Nadu - 523 Japanese companies in Tamil Nadu
- Some of Fortune 500 companies in Chennai are: Ford, Delphi, Visteon, Hyundai,
- Daimler, Nokia, DELL, Flextronics, Nissan, Toshiba, Yamaha, Mitsubishi, Komatsu
- Sriperumpudur - India's largest Electronics cluster
- Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 target to place Tamil Nadu in the league of Upper Middle Income countries

Tamil Nadu is the eleventh largest state in India by area and the sixth most populous state in India. The state was ranked sixth among states in India according to the Human Development Index in 2011. The state has the highest number (10.56 per cent) of business enterprises and stands second in total employment (9.97 per cent) in India, compared to the population share of about 6 per cent. The region has been the home of the Tamil people since at least 1500 BC. Its official language is Tamil, which holds a status of being a classical language. Tamil has been in use in inscriptions and literature for over 2500 years.

Tamil Nadu is home to many natural resources, classical arts, classical music, classical literature, Hindu temples of Dravidian architecture, hill stations, beach resorts, multi-religious pilgrimage sites, and eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites.