Chennai Port sets rice export record: 2.03 lakh tonnes

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News

From 1 April to 18 November 2026, 2.03 lakh tonnes of rice were exported through Chennai Port to African countries – the highest in the port's history, the Chennai Port Authority said, as reported by the news agency UNI on 19 November 2026. On 18 November rice was loaded on three vessels at once – MV HTP Lucky at South Quay, MV Imperial Varalakshmi at JD 1 and MV Akson Sandra at JD V. The record came from a new cargo stream diverted to Chennai from neighbouring ports, UNI reported.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Volume	2.03 lakh tonnes of rice – port's all-time high
Period	1 April – 18 November 2026
Destination	African countries
Vessels	HTP Lucky, Imperial Varalakshmi, Akson Sandra
Reason	Cargo diverted from nearby ports (UNI)
Port Chairperson	Sachin Kurve, IAS
Governance	Chennai Port Authority – Major Port Authorities Act, 2021

Background

- Chennai Port is one of the oldest major ports on the east coast and is an artificial harbour. Tamil Nadu has three major ports – Chennai, Kamarajar (Ennore) and V.O. Chidambaranar (Thoothukudi) – under the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- India is the world's largest rice exporter. Exports of rice, including basmati, are promoted by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), set up under the APEDA Act, 1985 under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Bans on non-basmati white rice and broken rice exports imposed in 2022–2023 to control domestic prices were lifted in 2024 and 2025 respectively.
- Paddy is a kharif crop needing temperatures above 25°C, over 100 cm of rainfall and water-retaining clayey alluvial soil. In flooded fields, microbes in oxygen-free conditions release methane. The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) – less water, young seedlings and wide spacing – was developed in Madagascar in the 1980s; it cuts both water use and methane emissions.

Tamil Nadu link: The Cauvery delta is Tamil Nadu's main rice-growing region. TNAU's Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute (TRRI) is at Aduthurai in Thanjavur district; the 'ADT' series of rice varieties comes from there. Tamil Nadu has promoted SRI as 'Semmai Nel Sagupadi'.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Volume: 2.03 lakh tonnes of rice – port's all-time high; Period: 1 April – 18 November 2026; Destination: African countries; Vessels: HTP Lucky, Imperial Varalakshmi, Akson Sandra.

What is the background to this news?

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) – less water, young seedlings, wide spacing – was first developed in:

A) Philippines

B) Madagascar

C) Japan

D) Vietnam

Answer: B – Explanation: Madagascar – developed by Fr Henri de Laulanié in the 1980s. Tamil Nadu promoted it as 'Semmai Nel Sagupadi'.

2. APEDA, which promotes exports of rice including basmati, works under which Union ministry?

A) Agriculture

B) Food Processing

C) Consumer Affairs

D) Commerce & Industry

Answer: D – Explanation: Commerce and Industry Ministry – set up under the APEDA Act, 1985; headquartered in New Delhi.

3. Which greenhouse gas is released in large amounts from flooded paddy fields?

A) Methane

B) Nitrous oxide

C) Ozone

D) Sulphur dioxide

Answer: A – Explanation: Methane – made by microbes in oxygen-free flooded soil; alternate wetting and drying reduces it.

4. Where is TNAU's Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute (TRRI) located?

A) Coimbatore

B) Madurai

C) Aduthurai

D) Tiruchirappalli

Answer: C – Explanation: Aduthurai, Thanjavur district – in the Cauvery delta; it has released the 'ADT' series of rice varieties.

5. Which type of soil is best suited for paddy cultivation?

A) Clayey alluvial soil

B) Sandy soil

C) Laterite soil

D) Desert soil

Answer: A – Explanation: Water-retaining clayey alluvial soil. Rice is a kharif crop needing over 25°C and over 100 cm of rain.

Sources: UNI – uniindia.com (19 Nov 2026); Chennai Port Authority – chennaiport.gov.in; TNAU – tnau.ac.in; APEDA – apeda.gov.in. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.