CURRENT AFFAIRS - TEST 1 - SOURCE MATERIAL-2023

PAPER - I

UNIT – I – Modern History of India and Indian culture

1. **The Channar Lahala or Channar revolt**

   Context: The bicentenary celebration of one of the earliest recorded anti-caste assertions in Southern India was held on Monday, March 6, in Nagercoil with Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin.

   Introduction:

   - The Channar Lahala or Channar revolt, also called Maru Marakkal Samaram, refers to the fight from 1813 to 1859 of Nadar climber women in Travancore kingdom of India for the right to wear upper-body clothes covering their breasts.

   - **Personality and Place:** Ayyankali in Travancore in Kerala, Vaikuntha swamy in Kanyakumari, Muthukutty swamy tirunelveli in Tamilnadu (known as tholseelai porattam in Tamil nadu)

     Same Causes:

   - In 19th century Travancore, baring one's chest to higher status people was considered a sign of respect by both males and females.

   - Thus, those of the lower status castes, such as the Nadar climbers and Ezhavas, had to bare their chest in the presence of members of the higher-ranked Nair caste, who in turn had to do so in the presence of still higher ranked Nambudiri Brahmins.

   Course:

- In 1813, Colonel John Munro, British dewan in the Travancore court, issued an order granting permission to women converted to Christianity to wear upper cloth.

- The order was withdrawn when pindakars, members of the Raja's council, Nadar women were forbidden to wear the Nair sharf, and instead were allowed to wear the kuppayam, a type of jacket worn by Syrian Christians, Shonagas, and Mappilas

- The women were not satisfied, continuing to fight for the right to wear upper cloth. This led to increasing violence in the 1820s against Nadar women, and also the burning of schools and churches.

- In 1829, the Travancore queen issued yet another proclamation, which denied the right of Nadar women to wear upper cloths

    Result :

- **1859 proclamation:** On 26 July 1859, under pressure from Charles Trevelyan, the Madras Governor, the king of Travancore issued a proclamation proclaiming the right for all Nadar women to cover their breasts,

- Yet they were still not allowed to cover their breasts in the style of the higher-class Nair women. Nadar women continued to ignore the restrictions, developing an upper-wear style that resembled the style of the higher class Hindu women.

- The code was still discriminatory until 1915–1916, and the challenge was supported by Ayyankali

    Vaikom satyagraha

- The Vaikom Satyagraha was held from 30 March 1924 to 23 November 1925, was a nonviolent agitation for access to the prohibited public environs of the Vaikom Temple in the Kingdom of Travancore

- Unlike the Channar Revolt, the Vaikom Satyagraha saw the participation of Hindu upper castes in large numbers.

    Personalities: Congress leaders T. K. Madhavan, K. Kelappan and K. P. Kesava Menon.E. V. Ramasamy "Periyar", also participated in the satyagraha and was imprisoned twice

    Cause: Most of the great temples in the princely state of Travancore had for years forbidden lower castes (untouchables) not just from entering, but also from walking on the surrounding roads. It demanded the right of the Ezhavas and 'untouchables' to use roads around the Vaikom Temple.

    Course:

- The agitation was conceived by the Ezhava Congress leader and a follower of Sri Narayana Guru, T. K. Madhavan.

- This procession of savarnas was led by Mannath Padmanabhan Nair

- A resolution to allow Ezhavas to use roads near the temple was defeated by one vote in the Travancore Legislative Council (opposed by all official members, introduced in October 1924

- **Mahatma Gandhi** himself visited Vaikom in March, 1925.

- The Vaikom Satyagraha settled with a compromise which allowed the entry of lower caste Hindus to (the newly constructed) roads on three sides of the Vaikom Temple. The other side and the temple remained closed to the lower castes (November, 1925). The new roads also kept the lower castes adequately away from the near environs of the Vaikom Temple.

    Result: The Temple Entry Proclamation was issued by Maharaja Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma on November 12, 1936. The Proclamation abolished the ban on the so-called 'low caste people' or avarnas from entering Hindu temples in the Princely State of Travancore.

2. **200th Birth Anniversary of Vallalar**
   Introduction:

   Praising Arutprakasa Vallalar (Ramalinga Adigal) on his birth anniversary, Chief Minister announced that hereafter, the anniversary would be observed as 'Thanipperunkarunai Day' (Supreme Mercy Day).

   Vallalar, who is known to have been born on October 5, 1823 at Marudhur in present-day Cuddalore district, had coined the famous spiritual slogan — "Arutperunjothi Arutperunjothi Thaniperunkarunai Arutperunjothi! (Supreme Grace Splendor, Supreme Unique Mercy) — which is now used by his followers.

   14 Member Committee:

   The State government formed a 14 member committee to celebrate the bicentenary birth anniversary of saint Vallalar. A GO was issued by the HR & CE department to give effect to the formation of the committee.

   According to the order, P K Krishnaraj Vanavarayar will be heading the committee with members from various fields, including government officials from Cuddalore district and the family members of Vallalar. The committee will undertake works to celebrate the bicentenary birth anniversary of Vallalar for 52 weeks, from October, this year, to October. next year.

   Apart from the bicentenary birth anniversary, the 156th year of commencement of 'Dharma Salai' and 152nd year of commencement of 'Jothi' worship will also be celebrated.

Vallalar biodiverse shelter

- The State government launched "Vallalar biodiverse shelter **(Vallalar Palluyir Kaapagam)**" scheme for the **protection of stray and deserted animals.**

- The scheme is launched **to commemorate the 200th birth anniversary of Vallalar.**

Features:

- **Financial assistance** for providing food and medicine to stray, deserted and injured animals

- For undertaking **animal birth control/rabies vaccine programmes** for stray dogs

- To provide **emergency medical care** for sick animals and **procurement of ambulances** for animals.

3. **200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati**

Introduction:

On 12 February 2023, Prime Minister inaugurated the year-long celebrations to commemorate the 200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Delhi.

Dayanand Saraswati

- Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati was in India philosopher, social leader and founder of the Arya Samaj, a reform movement of Vedic dharma.
- He was the first to give the call for Swaraj as "India for Indian" in 1876.
- **Swami Dayanand Saraswati was born on February 12th, 1824 in Tankara, Gujarat in a Brahmin family. His parents, Lalji Tiwari and Yashodhabai were orthodox Brahmin.**
- The **first Arya Samaj unit was formally set up by him at Mumbai** in 1875 and later the headquarters of the Samaj were established at Lahore.
- Swami Dayanand Saraswati was more than a religious leader; he was a reformer who left a deep impression on India.
- He introduced a complete overhaul of the education system and is often considered as one of the visionaries of modern India.
- **The DAV (Dayanand Anglo Vedic) schools came into existence in 1886 to realize the vision of Swami Dayanand Saraswati.**
- The first DAV School was established at Lahore with Mahatma Hansarj as the headmaster.

Unit – II : Social Issues in India and Tamil Nadu

1. **Terrorism in Punjab**
   Background: Amritpal Singh is a follower of the slain Sikh militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, and took the reins of the '**Waris Punjab De**' organisation following the death of its founder (Deep Sidhu).

Khalistan movement:

- It is **a Sikh separatist movement** seeking to create a homeland for Sikhs by establishing a sovereign state, called Khalistan ('Land of the Khalsa'), in the Punjab region.
- Its origins have been traced back to **India's independence and subsequent Partition along religious lines**.

- o **The Punjab province**, which was divided between India and Pakistan, witnessed communal violence and generated millions of refugees.
  - o The historic Sikh Empire's capital, **Lahore**, as well as sacred Sikh sites like Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of Guru Nanak, went to Pakistan.
- While most Sikhs found themselves in India, they were a small minority (2% of the population) in the country.
- The political struggle for greater autonomy began with the **Punjabi Suba Movement** for the creation of a Punjabi-speaking state.
- **The States Reorganisation Commission report (1955)** rejected this demand, but the state of Punjab was reorganised (**trifurcated** into the Hindi-Hindu-majority HP and Haryana, and Punjabi-Sikh-majority Punjab) in **1966**.
- The Punjabi Suba movement had galvanised the Akali Dal, which concluded the **Anandpur Sahib Resolution** (1973) demanding autonomy (not secession from India) for the state of Punjab.
- This demand had gone global by **1971** – when an advertisement in The New York Times proclaimed the **birth of Khalistan.**
- By the 1980s, the appeal of **Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale** had started creating trouble for the government.
- He and his followers (mostly from the lower rungs of the social ladder) were getting increasingly violent.
- In 1982, with support from the Akali Dal's leadership, he launched a civil disobedience movement called the **Dharam Yudh Morcha** and took up residence inside the Golden Temple, directing demonstrations and clashes with the police.

Operation Blue Star:

- The Khalistan movement was crushed in India following **Operation Blue Star** (by the Indian Army to flush out militants from the Golden Temple and neutralise Bhindranwale in **1984**) and **Operation Black Thunder** (1986 and 1988).
- While the operations were ostensibly successful in their aims, they **gravely wounded** (by the desecration of the Golden Temple) the Sikh community around the world and also **galvanised the demand for Khalistan**.

Aftermath of the Operation Blue Star:

- PM **Indira Gandhi** was assassinated (on October 31, 1984), triggering the worst communal violence since Partition.
- Punjab became the hub of a **long drawn-out insurgency** (allegedly supported by Pakistan) that lasted till 1995.
- The movement **continues to evoke sympathy and support** among sections of the Sikh population, especially in the Sikh diaspora.
- Today, the movement is fuelled by **vote bank politics, social issues** (unemployment, drug menace in Punjab), dissatisfaction among the Sikh diaspora and support from non-state actors.

Conclusion: In order to curb the Khalistan movement and ideology, the Indian government needs to address the above-mentioned issues.

2. Nan Mudhalvan Thittam

Introduction:

Numerous programmes for children's skill development are run by both the federal government and state governments. These strategies are put into action to carry out various skill-development projects. Through participation in these programmes, young people can develop their skills. The state government of Tamil Nadu has implemented the Naan Mudhalvan Scheme. Through this initiative, the government would yearly develop the abilities of 10 lakh young people.

About the scheme:

- The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu recently launched the 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme.

- The scheme aims to **provide skills to the 10-lakh youth across the state.**

- The youths will be able to recognize their talents and interests through this scheme.

- A **portal to register for the scheme and get related information about the scheme was also launched.**

- The career and academic guidance to the students will be granted under the scheme. They will be given proper learnings and training sessions.

- The spoken English lessons will also be granted in order to improve vocab skills among students. The sessions on software coding, robotics will also be taken.

- Naan Mudhalvan provides free employment linked skill development trainings to the Youth in the **age group of 18-35 years** across the state under the various state and centrally sponsored schemes.

- These nationally certified trainings are provided through empanelled training partners at centres in urban and rural areas across the state in over **20 different sectors like Healthcare, Media & Entertainment, Green jobs, Retail, Beauty, Construction, Electronics and Hardware, Food Processing, Health Care, IT ITES, Leather, Logistics etc.**

About the Platform:

- Naan Mudhalvan platform aims to provide dynamic information for college students on courses and relevant information about industry specific skill offerings.
- This will enable the students of Tamil Nādu to get training in their chosen field of interest that will help them in achieving their career goals.
- The objective of this scheme is **to identify potential training providers, to impart various skill trainings based on current industry gaps**.
- Through this flagship program the students will be able to get trained and ensure they get jobs according to their skill sets.
- Naan Mudhalvan showcases 2000+ institutes and consequent 300+ career pathways.

3. Pudhumai Penn Thittam

Introduction:

This initiative also prioritizes the education of female residents. Mr. Stalin established the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammayar memorial 'Puthumai Penn' (Modern Woman) Scheme, which stipulated that female students who attended government schools from grades 6 to 12 and were interested in pursuing higher education were eligible to receive a monthly stipend of 1,000 rupees.

Pudhumai Penn Scheme Included 1,099 Girls Attending Government Colleges

The state government has included up to 1,099 girls who are attending government colleges in the district as part of the Pudhumai Penn scheme. Following completion of their studies from Class VI through Class XII in government schools, girl students who are pursuing further education in government institutions will be provided with a monthly aid of 1,000 rupees under the program.

Tamil Nadu Puthumai Penn Scheme Objectives

The initiative includes focusing on girl students who need financial help in learning. This program, known as the Pudhumai Penn plan, is intended to be of assistance to economically disadvantaged families who, because of financial restraints, are unable to send their daughters to college.

Pudhumai Penn Scheme Benefits

The following is a list of the advantages of the Pudhumai Penn Scheme:

- The Pudhumai Penn Scheme is different from other schemes since it focuses on providing financial assistance, encouraging female students to continue their education, and discouraging parents and guardians from allowing their daughters to be married at a young age.

- A monetary award of Rs 1,000 per month will be provided to female students who are pursuing an education till they have either graduated or earned a certificate or diploma, irrespective of the field.

- Because it is common knowledge that female students in our country are discouraged from pursuing an education, this program offers a boost to the confidence of young women.

- The scheme aims to help 6 lakh females per year and has been budgeted at Rs 698 crore.

- Under Pudhumai Penn, money would be immediately paid to student bank accounts to assure their education.

- The plan discourages child marriages and empowers women.

- Debit cards were given out to a total of 613 students during the initial phase of the plan.

- Talking about the initial stage of the scheme, this will be beneficial to around 6,500 students in the Tiruchi district who are now enrolled in institutions of the arts, sciences, and engineering.

Paper – II

Unit I – Indian Polity and emerging trends across the world affecting India

1. Collegium

Context:

The Supreme Court Collegium led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud published its resolution recommending the transfer of seven High Court judges.

Recently, the Union Minister of Law and Justice criticised the collegium system under which appointments of judges to the High Courts (HC) and the Supreme Court (SC) are made, as opaque.

Background:

- The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) was a proposed body which would have been responsible for the recruitment, appointment and transfer of judges to the HCs and SC.
- It was established by **amending the Constitution of India** through the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act-2014.
- The NJAC would have replaced the collegium system for the appointment of judges, but in 2015 it was struck down by the SC on the grounds of **endangering judicial independence**.

About the Collegium system:

- The collegium system is the way by which judges of the SC and HCs are **appointed and transferred**.
- It is **a five-member body**, which is headed by the incumbent Chief Justice of India (CJI) and comprises the four other senior most judges of the court at that time.
  - A High Court collegium is led by the incumbent Chief Justice and two other senior most judges of that court.
- Judges of the higher judiciary are **appointed only through the collegium system** and the government has a role only after names have been decided by the collegium.
  - Names recommended for appointment by a High Court collegium reach the government only after approval by the CJI and the SC collegium.
  - The role of the government in this entire process is **limited to getting an inquiry conducted** by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) if a lawyer is to be elevated as a judge in a HC or the SC.
  - The government may also object to and seek clarification on the collegium's choices, but if the collegium reiterates the same names, **the government is bound to appoint them.**
- The collegium system is **not rooted in the Constitution** or a specific law promulgated by Parliament, rather it has **evolved through judgments of the SC**.

The evolution of the Collegium system – Three Judges Cases:

- **P. Gupta & Others v. Union of India, 1981:** The opinion of the CJI had no primacy over the opinion of the Chief Justice of the HC, thus, both have **equal importance** in the consultation process.

- **Advocate on Record Association v. UoI, 1993:** The court overruled the above case and held that in the matters of appointment and transfer of Judges the view of CJI has the greatest significance.

- **In re Presidential Reference case (1998):** The recommendation made by the CJI **without following the consultation process** for appointment of SC and HC Judges is **not binding** on the government.

Criticism of the Collegium system:

- According to the critics, the system is **non-transparent**, since it is seen as a **closed-door affair** with no prescribed norms regarding eligibility criteria, selection procedure.
- The system is **opaque and not accountable**. Judges do not appoint judges all over the world, but in India, they do.

Way ahead: The **Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) –** an agreement between the judiciary and the government (came into existence after NJAC was struck down) that outlines the criteria for appointing judges to the SC and HCs, must be followed in letter and spirit.

2. Election Commission - Recent Issues
Introduction:

A five-judge bench of the Supreme Court Thursday **unanimously ruled** that a high-power committee consisting of the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, and the Chief Justice of India must pick the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs).

Why did the SC debate the issue?

In 2015, a public interest litigation was filed by Anoop Baranwal challenging the constitutional validity of the practice of the Centre appointing members of the Election Commission. In October 2018, a two-judge bench of the SC referred the case to a larger bench since it would require a close examination of Article 324 of the Constitution, which deals with the mandate of the Chief Election Commissioner. The SC had not debated this issue earlier. In September last year, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice KM Joseph began hearing the case and almost a month later, the verdict was reserved.

What is the challenge?
Article 324(2) reads: "The Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and such number of other Election Commissioners, if any, as the President may from time-to-time fix and the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners shall, subject to the provisions of any law made in that behalf by Parliament, be made by the President."

What did the court decide?

Justice Joseph authored the majority opinion while Justice Rastogi authored a separate opinion agreeing with the majority view.

"The appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners shall be made by the President on the advice of a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition of the Lok Sabha, and in case no leader of Opposition is available, the leader of the largest opposition Party in the Lok Sabha in terms of numerical strength, and the Chief Justice of India," the verdict states.

How did the court arrive at the verdict?

The Court's verdict is based on a reading of the debates of the Constituent Assembly to ascertain what the founding members of the Constitution envisaged the process to be and an interpretation of similar provisions in the Constitution.

What was the government's stand?

The government argued that "in the absence of such a law, the President has the constitutional power." The government has essentially asked the court to exhibit judicial restraint.

3. **Election of the President of India**
   How is the President elected?

- **About:**

  o The Indian President is elected through **an electoral college system**, wherein the votes are cast by **national and State-level lawmakers.**

  o The elections are conducted and overseen by the **Election Commission (EC) of India.**

  - The electoral college is made up of all the **elected members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament** (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha MPs), and the **elected Members of the Legislative Assemblies** of States and Union Territories (MLAs).

  o **Related Constitutional Provisions:**

  - **Article 54:** Election of President

  - **Article 55**: Manner of election of President.

  - **Article 56** :Term of office of President

  - **Article 57:** Eligibility for re-election.

  - **Article 58**: Qualifications for election as President

- **Procedure:**

  o Before the voting, **comes the nomination stage,** where the candidate intending to stand in the election, files the nomination along with a signed list of 50 proposers and 50 seconders.

- These proposers and seconders can be anyone from the total members of the electoral college from the State and national level.

  - The **rule for securing 50 proposers and seconders was implemented when the EC noticed, in 1974,** that several candidates, many without even a bleak chance of winning, would file their nominations to contest the polls.

- An elector **cannot propose or second the nomination of more than one candidate.**

What is the value of each vote and how is it calculated?

- A vote cast by each MP or MLA is not calculated as one vote.

- The **fixed value of each vote by an MP of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha is 700.**

- Meanwhile, the **vote value of each MLA differs from State to State based on a calculation that factors in its population vis-a-vis the number of members** in its legislative Assembly.

  - As per the Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Act 2001, currently, the population of States is taken from the figures of the 1971 Census. This will change when the figures of the Census taken after the year 2026 are published.

- The **value of each MLA's vote is determined by dividing the population of the State by the number of MLAs** in its legislative Assembly, and the **quotient achieved is further divided by 1000.**

  - Uttar Pradesh for instance, **has the highest vote value for each of its MLAs, at 208. The value of one MLA's vote in Maharashtra is 175,** while that in Arunachal Pradesh is just 8.

What is required to secure a victory?

- A nominated candidate **does not secure victory based on a simple majority** but through a system of bagging a specific quota of votes. While counting, the EC totals up all the valid votes cast by the electoral college through paper ballots **and to win, the candidate must secure 50% of the total votes cast + 1.**

- Unlike general elections, where electors vote for a single party's candidate, **the voters of the electoral college write the names of candidates on the ballot paper in the order of preference.**

- The President's election **is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote** and the voting is **by secret ballot.**

Can the President be Impeached?

- According to **Article 61,** the President can be removed from his office before the expiry of his term only **on the grounds of violation of the constitution.**

- However, the **Constitution does not define the meaning of the phrase 'violation of the constitution'.**

- The impeachment process **can be started from any house of the parliament by levelling charges against him.**

- The notice bearing the charges against the president must be signed by at least a quarter of the members of the house.

- The resolution to impeach the president **must be passed by a special majority (two-thirds) in the originating house.**

- Next, it is sent to the other house for consideration. The other house acts as the investigating horse. **A select committee is formed** to investigate the charges labelled against the president.

- During the process, the **President of India has the right to defend himself through authorised counsel.** He can choose to defend himself or appoint any person/lawyer or **attorney general of India** to do so.

UNIT- II
Role and impact of Science and Technology in the development of India

1. **Chat GPT**

   Introduction:

   Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been making waves in the technological world for years now. From virtual assistants to customer service chatbots, AI has been helping businesses automate and streamline their operations.

   What is ChatGPT?

   ChatGPT, OpenAI's language model, is the latest breakthrough in AI research. Built on GPT (Generative Pretrained Transformer) architecture and tweaked to perform a variety of tasks — from responding to inquiries to producing text pieces and even reciting poetry — Chat GPT has quickly become one of the most powerful tools available for natural-language processing.

   Chat GPT stands out from other AI chatbots due to its exceptional skill in comprehending and responding to human language. This is attributed to its extensive training on a dataset of human language, granting the bot an uncanny ability for replicating how humans converse with one another. Thus, Chat GPT not only understands but also responds articulately and naturally when asked questions or prompted.

   The Advantages of Using Chat GPT

   Human-like Interactions

   Chat GPT stands out for its uncanny ability to offer realistic human-like experiences. Unlike classic AI chatbots, Chat GPT grasps and responds appropriately to natural language—emulating the familiar atmosphere of a legitimate conversation between two people. For

companies in need of automation regarding customer service or virtual assistant services, Chat GPT offers an invaluable solution.

Quick and Accurate Responses

With Chat GPT, you won't have to wait for hours for an answer. Instead, your AI chatbot can respond quickly and accurately in real-time — maximizing the efficiency of your business operations while offering a superior customer experience.

Customizable and Scalable

Chat GPT offers unparalleled customizability, allowing you to train it to carry out language tasks that are pertinent to your company. This high degree of customization makes Chat GPT an ideal choice for businesses both large and small — you can quickly adjust it based on the individual requirements of your firm.

Use Cases of Chat GPT

Customer Service

hat GPT is quickly becoming the industry standard for customer service automation. Its natural language processing capabilities enable it to accurately respond to customers' inquiries in mere moments, streamlining operations and providing a superior level of satisfaction for your customers!

Virtual Assistant

Chat GPT is a virtual assistant that automates tedious tasks such as appointment booking and reservation management, eliminating the need for manual labor. Its sophisticated natural language processing technology allows it to quickly respond to requests – even email handling! With Chat GPT, you don't have to spend valuable time on mundane activities anymore; instead, you can focus your efforts and resources on more urgent business matters.

Content Creation

ChatGPT is the perfect tool for rapidly generating high-quality content! Whether you need to create articles, stories, or even poetry — ChatGPT's advanced AI understands and responds to human language quickly so it can generate whatever type of content you're looking for in a fraction of the time that a human writer would take.

Challenges of Using Chat GPT

Privacy Concerns

One of the potential pitfalls of Chat GPT is privacy issues. As this AI-driven technology draws from a massive dataset of human conversations, there exists the risk that confidential information may be inadvertently exposed if adequate safeguards are not in place.

Quality Control

Chat GPT is a powerful tool, capable of producing human-like responses that are accurate and relevant. However, to ensure the quality output from Chat GPT meets your business needs, it's essential to have measures in place for quality control. Without such systems put into practice, you may find yourself with mismatching answers or ones which simply don't hit the mark. Quality management procedures are key when employing Chat GPT – take this step now to secure success further down the line!

Technical Expertise

Ultimately, another challenge to using ChatGPT is the necessity of technical expertise. Configuring and training a ChatGPT model can be intricate and may require businesses to hire an AI specialist team for its proper setup and coaching.

Conclusion:

Ultimately, ChatGPT is a groundbreaking AI language model that empowers revolutionary natural language processing capacity. By comprehending and responding to human conversations in an organic way, it can be applied to applications like customer service bots, virtual assistantships, and content generation – making it indispensable for numerous different purposes.

Unit – III : Tamil Society – Its Culture and Heritage

1. **100th Year of Vaikom Struggle**

Context:

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin will inaugurate **the centenary** celebrations of the **Vaikom Satyagraha**, started from **30 March 1924**.

- It was a mass **Temple entry movement** for lower caste people.

The social context of Travancore at the dawn of the 20th century:

- The princely state of Travancore had a "**feudal, militaristic, and ruthless system of custom-ridden government".**
- In Travancore, the **idea of caste pollution** worked not only on the basis of touch but also sight.
- This was documented by travellers such as **Portuguese Duarte Barbosa** who wrote in his memoirs, "When (upper caste Nairs) walk along a street, they shout to the low caste folk to get out of their way, this they do and if one will not, the Nairs may kill him."
- However, in the **second half of the 19th century**, a number of **social and political developments** would usher in **social change** much faster than ever before.
- **First**, **Christian missionaries**, supported by the East India Company, had expanded their reach and many lower castes converted to Christianity to escape the clutches of an oppressive system that continued to bind them.
- **Second, westernised Maharaja Ayilyam Thirunal** undertook many progressive reforms took place because of pressure from the British Resident.
- Most important of these was the introduction of a modern education system with frees primary education for all – even lower castes.
- **Third, forces of capitalism** and these reforms created new social hierarchies – which were not always congruent with traditional ones.
- **The rise of the Ezhava community:**
- The Ezhavas emerged as "**the most educated and organised untouchable community in Travancore"**

The lead up to the Vaikom Satyagraha:

- The issue of **temple entry** was first raised by **Ezhava leader TK Madhavan** in a 1917 editorial in his paper
- When Gandhi came to south India in 1921, Madhavan managed to arrange a meeting with him and secured his support for a **mass agitation to enter temples**.
- Due to various reasons, it would take two more years before any concrete progress was made in the matter.
- In the **1923 Kakinada session of the INC**, a resolution was passed by the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee to take up **anti-untouchability** as a key issue.
- This was followed by a massive public messaging campaign and a movement to open Hindu temples and all public roads to avarnas.
- Notably, to widen the appeal of the movement leaders chose not to emphasise on the issue of temple re-entry to begin with. Rather, the movement focussed on **opening up the four roads around the temple to avarnas**.

The Satyagraha:

- Satyagrahis made efforts to use the 4 roads around the temple. However, they were stopped by the police and arrested, with the crowd dispersed. But this whole drama repeated itself again and again –
- Between **April and September**, protests reached their peak.
- Leaders such as **Periyar and C Rajagopalachari** came to Vaikom to offer support and lead the protesters.
- On the other hand, counter-agitations raged on and protesters were often met with violence and intimidation from conservative caste Hindus.
- In March 1925, **Gandhi began his tour of Travancore** and was able to iron out a **compromise: three out of the four roads surrounding the temples were opened up** for everyone but the fourth, eastern road was kept reserved for Brahmins.
- This was finally **implemented in November 1925**, when the government completed diversionary roads that could be used by the low castes without polluting the temple. On November 23, 1925, the last satyagrahi was recalled from Vaikom.

Significance:

- Vaikom Satyagraha saw previously unseen unity **across caste lines**, which was crucial for this continued mobilisation.
- The (upper caste) leadership of the Congress was able to coerce the caste-Hindus to compromise on the question of temple-entry as the only viable means to **ward off religious conversion** which challenged the very survival of the Hindu community.
- It would lead to a rift within the Congress with Periyar famously falling out with Gandhi over the issue.
- While Gandhi, as always, was keen on a good compromise, for Periyar, the struggle had to be much more radical.
- In November **1936**, the **historic Temple Entry Proclamation** was signed by the **Maharaja of Travancore** which removed the age-old ban on the entry of marginalised castes into the temples of Travancore.

PAPER - III

Unit – I : Geography of India with special reference to Tamil Nadu

1. Tamil Nadu Organic Farming Policy, 2023

Introduction:

The State government on Tuesday released the Tamil Nadu Organic Farming Policy 2023 to ensure food security and conserve and protect soil health, agroecology and biodiversity.

Policy:

The policy, which would have a validity of five years, seeks to ensure agricultural sustainability by encouraging organic practices and resource conservation, strengthening the organic certification sector, preference to cluster approach, R&D and education on organic farming and strengthening of institutions, and seeks to provide safe, healthy and environment-friendly food.

Focus on potential crops and prospective districts for various crops and the creation of market linkages and exports are the other core areas dealt with within the policy.

Under sustainable agriculture, the policy proposes to popularise integrated organic farming systems and adopt season-based crop diversification.

Encouraging the integration of rain-fed agriculture, horticulture, permaculture, agroforestry, farm-forestry, dairying, fish culture, beekeeping, poultry and resource recycling within the farm are also among the strategies proposed in the policy.

Subsidy & incentives

As an extension of the government's nutritional security measure, the Agriculture department has mooted encouragement of organic farming of nutritional crops like millets, pulses and vegetables. The creation of a support system for organic farmers, incentivising them for eco-services and traditional practices, besides distributing bio-fertilisers and bio-inputs at subsidised rates has been recommended. Credit flow and support through crop insurance for crop loss/damage under natural calamities are also envisaged.

Panel to review, monitor

The policy recommends forming of a high-level committee led by the state Chief Secretary with members from the government and institutions to review the policy and status.

A steering committee under the chairmanship of the Agriculture Production Commissioner and Agriculture Secretary will monitor the implementation of the policy.

2. Migration Issues

Context
- Tamil Nadu has been witnessing controversies in recent months over the recruitment of non-Tamils in government jobs that have triggered a perceptible rise in voices against migrants taking up jobs in the State.
- After the Andhra Pradesh government's recent legislation to reserve 75% of jobs in the private sector for locals, tensions in the state are intensifying even more.

The Recent Case
- A video clip of a railway job aspirant from a village in Tamil Nadu, went viral describing his experience at the physical examination **asserting huge turnout of North Indians**.
- The same day several videos were circulated showing a crowd, purportedly of migrants, who had lined up outside the Tamil Nadu Special Police Force Training Ground to attend the physical examination test.
- Hence, **concerns were voiced about migrants taking away opportunities** from the local workforce in Tamil Nadu.
- The slogans demanding 'protection' of jobs in Tamil Nadu have also gained traction among a section of mainstream political parties.
- The government order allowing people from outside Tamil Nadu to get state and central jobs in the state was amended during the former AIADMK regime.

Number of Migrants Working in TN

- According to a **PIB 2022 report**, based on the 2011 census, there are over 34.87 lakh migrant labourers in the state and of this 7.13 lakh are women.
- Also, about half are concentrated in **northern Tamil Nadu cities** of Thiruvallur, Chennai and Chengalpattu, while the remaining are primarily based in the manufacturing hubs of Tirupur, Coimbatore and Erode.
- The migrant workers are **majorly employed as labourers** at various construction sites and industrial areas in the state.
  - The industry bodies thus fear that the state's industrial and manufacturing sector would be severely impacted by a migrant exodus.

Unfounded Fears

- While the popular perception is that a majority of migrants are from north-eastern and northern States, **Census 2011 data** shows that **2% of the migrants are from neighbouring States** like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Puducherry.
  - While 12.76 lakh migrants from these neighbouring States were residing in TN in 2011, the same figure from TN migrating to these States was higher, at 15.86 lakh.
- The data proves that the fears about migration are often **exaggerated and misconceptions abound.**
- Also, a vast majority of the migrants come to TN mainly for **'3D' jobs**, i.e., dirty, dangerous, and demeaning jobs, which the locals do not prefer.
- Thus, the migrants are **not taking away the skilled** and locals in the state are able to get competent jobs because of comparably stronger investments in education, which have been accompanied by economic growth in the state.

Extent of Internal Migration in India

- The **2011 census** reported the number of internal migrants in India at **36 crore**, making up **37% of the country's population**.
  - This number included **both inter-state migrants and intra-state migrants**. The annual net migrant flows amounted to **about 1% of the working age population**.
  - Also, the duration of stay of migrants indicates that **immigration to TN had been happening gradually** for long as 42% of the migrants residing in TN had moved 10 years before, while nearly 23% had moved 20 years before.
- The **Economic Survey 2016-17** pegged the size of the migrant workforce at **roughly 20% of the population**, or more than **10 crore**
- **District-wise migration data** revealed that the highest influx of migrants within the country was in **city-districts** such as Gurugram, Delhi, and Mumbai while relatively less developed states such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have high net out-migration.
  - Also, few pockets like Gautam Budh Nagar (Uttar Pradesh), Indore and Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Bengaluru (Karnataka) and Thiruvallur, Chennai, Kancheepuram, Erode, and Coimbatore (TN) reflected in-migration.
- Also, relatively more developed states take **positive CMM** (Cohort-based Migration Metric) values reflecting net immigration such as Goa, Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.
  - The **largest recipient** was the **Delhi** region, which accounted for more than half of migration in 2015-16, while **UP** and **Bihar** taken together account for half of total out-migrants.
  - **Maharashtra**, **Goa** and **Tamil Nadu** had major **net in-migration**, while **Jharkhand** and **Madhya Pradesh** had **major net out-migration**.
- The **Report of the Working Group on Migration, 2017** by Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, revealed that 17 districts accounted for top 25% of India's total male out-migration.
  - Ten of these districts are in UP, six in Bihar, and one in Odisha.

Migration in India Report 2020-21
- The report released by **MoSPI** in 2022 noted that **7%** of the country's population was recorded as a 'temporary visitor' across households after the **onset of the Covid-19 pandemic** in 2020.
  - The **temporary visitors** were defined as those who arrived in households after onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020 and stayed continuously for a period of 15 days or more but less than 6 months.
  - On the other hand, **migrants** were classified as people whose current location of enumeration is different from their previous place of habitation.

Conclusion
- While the necessity and importance of migration cannot be overlooked, few concerns raised by locals in the TN need redressal, if there are alleging bias in government recruitment, where **people with fluency in Hindi are preferred over the locals**.
- However, these concerns should not lead to an anti-migrant mindset and **a holistic policy to accommodate migrant workers should be adopted.**

Unit – II: Environment, Bio Diversity and Disaster Management

1. Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Plan, 2023

Introduction:

Tamil Nadu on Friday announced a Disaster Management Policy 2023 to build a safe and disaster resilient Tamil Nadu through inclusive development and mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into the sustainable development ethos of the State

Over the past century, over 50 cyclones have battered the TN coast at various locations, posing a constant threat to people living in the coastal districts. Apart from the cyclones, other frequent disasters in the State are floods, landslides, droughts, sea erosion and sea water incursion, heat waves, thunderstorm and lightning, industrial & chemical disasters, fire accidents and forest fires

Addresssing Disaster Risks:

The 2004 Tsunami was a major disaster that adversely affected people in many ways (7,995 deaths). Few pockets of the State are vulnerable to earthquakes. The State is also vulnerable to health-related hazards, epidemic and pandemic prone diseases such as chikunguniya, dengue, COVID-19 and other vector and waterborne diseases.

The State government is aware of these challenges and recognises the importance of devising a disaster management policy that takes into account the present and emerging challenges with a long-term value based vision. The policy reflects the priority of protecting human and animal lives, livelihoods, public and private properties by addressing disaster risks and transforming risks to resilience.

Policy objectives:

The policy's goal is to reduce the negative impact of all types of disasters with the help of strong disaster management machinery, so that loss of life, property, and damage to critical infrastructure is minimised, and economic and development benefits achieved by the State are not lost during such calamities/disasters.

The policy's objectives include replacing the existing approach of reactive relief by a proactive approach of mitigation and risk reduction; develop a new culture of prevention, preparedness and quick response for management of disasters and reduce the vulnerability of the community through proper risk assessment and essential measures of risk mitigation.

On sourcing of funds for mitigation measures, the policy document says that it will be sourced mainly from the State Disaster Mitigation Fund and National Disaster Mitigation Fund and Special purpose funds created by the Centre.

The 15 Finance Commission has provided 2,500 crore for Reducing the Risk of Urban Flooding in seven most populous cities. An allocation of 500 crore is to be provided to Chennai at the rate of 100 crore per year in five years.

To take up drought mitigation programmes, Tamil Nadu has been provided with 100 crore. This will be provided at the rate of 20 crore over a period of 5 years.

An allocation of 750 crore has been provided for Managing Seismic and Landslide Risks in Ten Hill States. The Centre will be approached to provide allocations to Tamil Nadu in view of the recurring landslides in The Nilgris District and emerging landslide related risks in the hill areas of Theni, Dindigul, Salem, Thirupatthur districts.

An allocation of 5,000 crore has been provided under NDRF – Capacity Building Component for modernising the fire services of the country. The State will prepare a perspective plan for modernisation of fire services to avail funding support from the Centre.

While the recommendation of 15th Finance Commissions are applicable for the period from 2021-2026, the Government will urge the Centre to continue to provide special

support for disaster management more particularly to disaster mitigation, the policy document says.

Unit – III : Indian Economy – Current economic trends and impact of global economy on India

1. Foreign Trade Policy 2023

In News

- Recently, **the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry**, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles has launched th**e Foreign Trade Policy 2023.**

About

- The New policy has **replaced the old policy that had been in place since 2015,** the new policy kicks in from 2023-24 and **aims to almost triple India's goods and services exports to $2 trillion by 2030**, from an estimated $760 billion in 2022-23.
- The Old Policy enabled the growth of exports by 75% from $435 billion in 2015-16 to $760 billion in 2022-23.
- India's global share in merchandise exports and services exports is very low and the **government aims to grow it to the range of 7% to 10%**.
- **Provisions:**
  o The new policy **will have no sunset date (ending date)** and will be **tweaked based on the emerging world trade scenario** and industry feedback. While the policy will be open-ended, the schemes sanctioned under it will be time bound.
  o There are no major new schemes, barring a **one-time amnesty under the existing Advance Authorisation and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) schemes**, that allow imports of capital goods subject to specified export obligations.
  o The Policy had opened up up a new area of potential exports called **"merchanting trade"**
    ▪ **Merchanting trade** refers to shipment of goods from one foreign country to another foreign country without touching Indian ports, involving an Indian intermediary. This will also enable exports of restricted goods
  o Four towns in Uttar Pradesh — **Faridabad, Moradabad, Mirzapur and Varanasi —** were announced as centres of export excellence for their performance in the apparel, handicrafts, handmade carpets and handlooms, respectively.
  o The policy also plans to launch a **special advance authorisation scheme for the clothing and apparel secto**r so that they can react to market demands and fashion trends faster.
  o It is also looking **to lower qualification thresholds for star ratings** which recognise exporters based on export performance.

Challenges :

- **Low credit access:** Indian exporters have very low access to trade finance and export credit. This is especially true for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), even though they account for close to half of India's total exports.
  - The financial support Indian exporters receive is far less than in other countries. **export credit agencies doled out $7.6 billion in funds in India while the figure for China stood at $39.1 billion.**
- **Bureaucracy:** The export process in India is more time-consuming than in many other countries **due to a high documentation requirement**. Indian exporters must prepare a large set of documents for each stage of the shipping process.
  - It is also important to plan ahead **because certification authorities at Indian ports are not available round the cloc**k or on all days of the week.
- **Inadequate infrastructure:** Infrastructure is India's weakest link. In data firm **Statista's ranking of 100 countries based on the quality of their infrastructure in 2019, India's score was 68.1. To put this in perspective, top-ranked Singapore scored 95.4 while bottom-ranked Bolivia was 10-odd points behind India, at 57.1.** .

Initiatives for Improving Exports

- **Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product (RoDTEP):** It is a fully automated route for Input Tax Credit (ITC) in the GST (Goods and Service Tax) to help increase exports in India.
  - ITC is provided to set off tax paid on the purchase of raw materials, consumables, goods or services that were used in the manufacturing of goods or services. This helps in avoiding double taxation and the cascading effect of taxes.
- **Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies:** The scheme was offered for embedded state and central duties and taxes that are not refunded through Goods and Services Tax (GST).
  - It was available only for garments.It was introduced by the Ministry of Textiles.
- **Merchandise Exports from India Scheme:** MEIS was introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20, under MEIS, the government provides duty benefits depending on product and country.
  - Rewards under the scheme are payable as percentage of realised free-on-board value (of 2%, 3% and 5%) and MEIS duty credit scrip can be transferred or used for payment of a number of duties including the basic customs duty.
- Common Digital Platform for Certificate of Origin has been launched to facilitate trade and increase Free Trade Agreement (FTA) utilisation by exporters.

2. **Union Budget**
   Introduction:

   The Finance Minister of India introduced the **last full-fledged <u>Union Budget</u>** (for 2023-24) **before the Lok Sabha elections of 2024.**
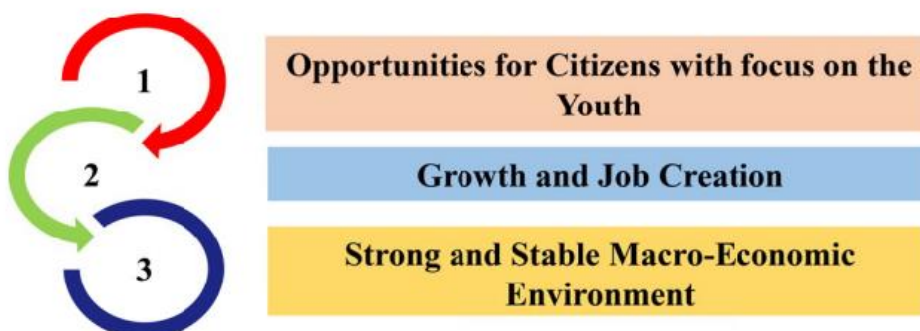
   Highlights of Budget 2023-24:

   - A key theme of Union Budget 2023-24 is the focus on inclusive development - **Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas** which specifically covers;

- o **Farmers, Women, Youth, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes,** Other Backward Classes **(OBCs)**, Divyangjan **(PwDs)** and Economically Weaker Sections **(EWS),**

  - o Overall **priority for the underprivileged** (vanchiton ko variyata),

  - o There has also been a sustained focus on **UTs of J&K and Ladakh** and the **Northeast Region (NER).**

- The Budget is along the lines of the **two-pronged growth strategy** first unveiled in 2019:

  - o **Incentivising the private sector** thus creating jobs and pushing growth.

  - o **'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance';** increasing capex and raising more revenues via **disinvestment.**

- **Key Takeaways of the Budget:**

  - o Changes in the **new income tax regime** (in rebate limit and in tax slabs).

  - o A **33% increase in capital investment outlay** has been proposed, raising it to Rs 10 lakh crore (the **biggest in the past decade)**.

  - o **Changes in customs duty; reduced on** import of certain inputs for mobile phone manufacturing, shrimp feed etc. and **increased on** cigarettes, gold articles, compounded rubber etc.

  - o **Capital outlay for the railways increased to the highest ever** – Rs 2.40 lakh crore.

Budget's Vision for Amrit Kaal:

- **Amrit Kaal:**

  - o The Finance Minister of India called it the **first Budget in Amrit Kaal.** The vision for the Amrit Kaal is an **empowered and inclusive economy** that is **technology-driven and knowledge-based** with a **robust financial sector.**

Vision for Amrit Kaal

1. Opportunities for Citizens with focus on the Youth
2. Growth and Job Creation
3. Strong and Stable Macro-Economic Environment

- **The Budget identifies 4 transformative opportunities to be leveraged before reaching India@100:**

  - o Economic Empowerment of Women through SHGs

  - o PM VIshwakarma KAushal Samman (PM VIKAS)

- o Tourism Promotion in Mission Mode
- o Green Growth

Priorities of Budget 2023-24

- ▪ **Saptarishi:**

Saptarishi-7 priorities

- ▪ **Agriculture:**
  - o **Agri-Credit:** Agriculture credit target to be **increased to Rs 20 lakh crore** with **focus on animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries.**
    - • A new **sub-scheme of <u>PM Matsya Sampada Yojana</u>** with targeted investment of Rs 6,000 crore to be launched for fishermen, fish vendors and MSMEs.
  - o **Horticulture: Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Programme** will be launched to boost availability of disease-free, quality planting material **for high value <u>horticultural crops</u> at an outlay of Rs 2,200 crore.**
  - o Millets: To make India a global hub for *'Shree Anna' (<u>Millets</u>),* the **Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad** will be supported as the **Centre of Excellence** for sharing best practices, research and technologies at the international level.
  - o **Agri-Cooperatives:** To fulfil the vision of **"Sahakar Se Samriddhi"**, the Government plans to establish decentralized storage capacity and set up **multiple <u>cooperative societies</u> in uncovered villages** over the next 5 years.

- ▪ **Education and Skilling:**

- **Health:**
  - **157 new nursing colleges will be established** in co-location with the existing 157 medical colleges established since 2014.
  - A Mission to **eliminate <u>Sickle Cell Anaemia</u> by 2047** will be launched.

- **New 'Aspirational Blocks Programme':**
  - Building on the success of the **Aspirational Districts Programme**, the **Aspirational Blocks Programme** was recently launched covering 500 blocks.
  - It is aimed at improving the performance of areas across multiple domains such as **health, nutrition, education, agriculture, water resources, financial inclusion, skill development, and basic infrastructure.**

- **National Green Hydrogen Mission:**
  - **An outlay of Rs 19,700 crores has been allocated** to the **National Green Hydrogen Mission** to facilitate transition of the economy to **low carbon intensity, reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports,** and make the country **assume technology and market leadership** in this sunrise sector.
  - The target is to reach an annual production of 5 MMT by 2030.

- **GOBARdhan Scheme:**
  - **500 new 'waste to wealth' plants under <u>GOBARdhan scheme</u>** will be established to promote <u>**Circular Economy**</u> **(200 <u>compressed biogas (CBG) plants</u>** and **300 community/cluster-based plants**). Total Investment - Rs 10,000 crore.
  - In due course, a **5% CBG mandate** will be introduced for all organizations marketing natural and biogas.

- **Bhartiya Prakritik Kheti Bio-Input Resource Centres:**
  - Over the next 3 years, the Centre will facilitate **1 crore farmers to adopt natural farming** by setting up **10,000 Bio-Input Resource Centres**, creating a national-level distributed **micro-fertilizer and pesticide manufacturing network.**

3. Tamil Nadu Budget

Introduction:

➤ **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.

<u>New Schemes</u>

➤ **Magalir Urimai Thogai**

- ✓ 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.

➢ **Annal Ambedkar Business Champions 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.

➢ **Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme**

- ✓ 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.

➢ **Registration Fee**

- ✓ 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%.

➢ **Culture/Tamil Development**
- ✓ Chola Museum will be set up in Thanjavur.
- ✓ Rs 5 crore financial allocation to translate BR Ambedkar's works into Tamil.

➢ **Women Development**
- ✓ Government targets bank loans to the tune of Rs 30,000 crore for Women SHG in FY24.

➢ **Development of Differently-Abled Persons**
- ✓ Monthly financial assistance for severely affected differently-abled persons increased from Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,000.

➢ **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.

➢ **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.

➢ **Higher Education Department**
- ✓ Allocation of Rs 6,967 crore in the budget.

- ✓ Government 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.

➤ 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.

➤ 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.

➤ 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.

➤ 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.

➤ 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.

➤ Welfare Boards
- ✓ A sum of Rs 10 crore earmarked for Pudhirai Vannar welfare board.

➤ Energy Development
- ✓ 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.

➤ Industries
- ✓ A sum of Rs 3,268 crore allocated for industries department during financial year 2023-24.

➤ 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.

> **Environment, Climate Change and Forests**
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ This will be the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the State.

> **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.

> **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.

> **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.

> **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**

4. TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURE BUDGET - 2023

> **Introduction:**

> **Tamil Nadu Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Minister MRK Panneerselvam - presented the state's Agriculture budget for the year 2023-2024 on March 21, 2023.**

✓ The allocation for this year's budget is Rs 38,904.4 crore, which is higher than the Rs 33,007.68 crore allocated last year.

✓ The budget aims to promote organic farming and increase millet production, increase the net area sown and mechanise farming operations with an emphasis on exports.

✓ The budget also aims to promote the state's farm produce by securing GI tag, and increase the income of farmers through agro-forestry.

> **Agriculture Budget for the year 2023-2024**
> **Highlights of the Budget Schemes and Programmes**

> **Kalaignarin All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme**

✓ The Government aims to implement Kalaignarin All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme, an initiative to make each village self-sufficient, at an outlay of Rs 230 crore in 2,504 villages.
✓ Allocation of Rs.744 crore for implementation of the Micro Irrigation Scheme.
✓ Steps would be taken to obtain Geographical Indication (GI) for 10 products viz., Krishnagiri Arasampatti Coconut, Krishnagiri Panneer Rose, Thanjavur Peravoorani Coconut, Mulanoor Kuttai Moringa, Sattur Cucumber, Thanjavur Veeramangudi Jaggery (Achu vellam), Thoothukudi Vilathikulam Chilli, Cuddalore Kotimulai Brinjal, Madurai Sengarumbu and Sivagangai Karuppukavuni rice in the coming year with an outlay of Rs.30 lakh.
✓ A new regional Startup hub will be created in Thanjavur by the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission to promote agrotechnological innovations in the Cauvery delta region.
✓ Through the agro-industrial corridor in the Cauvery delta region from Trichy to Nagapattinam, projects of agriculture-related sectors will be coordinated and effectively implemented at an outlay of Rs 1,000 crore in the next five years.
✓ A budget of Rs 6,600 crore has been allocated for the rural employment guarantee scheme and Rs 368 crore for the All Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam.

> **Promotion of Organic Farming**

✓ The government will form 725 clusters covering an area of 14,500 hectares in 32 districts and create awareness about the importance of organic farming among farmers, rural youth, farm women and students.

✓ Assistance will also be provided to farmers for setting up organic input production centres.
✓ Financial assistance of Rs one lakh per group would be given to 100 farmer groups to establish organic input production centres and sale of organic inputs like panchagavyam, jeevamirtham and vermicompost.
✓ Nammazhvar Award with a purse of Rs 5 lakh and a citation will be given during Republic Day to farmers who practice and promote organic farming.

- ✓ A special scheme will be implemented to massively promote organic farming in the Nilgiris district over a period of five years at an outlay of Rs. 50 crore

➢ Promotion of Millet cultivation

- ✓ The state has proposed to implement the Tamil Nadu Millet Mission for a period of five years.
- ✓ This mission is designed in line with the United Nations General Assembly which has declared 2023 as the "International Year of Millets".
- ✓ Under this scheme, subsidies will be given for bringing millet cultivation to fallow lands and crop diversification to millets in 50,000 acres.
- ✓ It will be implemented with the financial assistance of the Union and State Governments at an estimated cost of Rs.82 crore.
- ✓ A total of 100 groups of millet producers will be brought together and subsidies will be provided to install sprinkler irrigation systems for 12,500 acres.
- ✓ An assistance of Rs 1 lakh each will also be provided to 40 self-help groups to form millet clusters.
- ✓ Millet festivals would be held under the Tamil Nadu Millet Mission to create awareness among consumers and increase the millet consumption.

➢ Farmer Welfare Measures

- ✓ The government will provide cooperative crop loans of Rs.14,000 crore to farmers in the state during 2023-24 and interest-free cooperative loan of Rs.1,500 crore for goat rearing, dairying, poultry and fisheries.
- ✓ In 2022-23, a total of 1.643 million farmers were provided with crop loans of Rs.12,648 crore by the cooperative department.
- ✓ Considering the welfare of sugarcane farmers in Tamil Nadu, the government will allocate Rs.253 crore to provide special incentive of Rs.195.
- ✓ This will be over and above the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of Rs.2,821 per MT of cane announced by the Union government to eligible farmers during 2022-23 crushing season.
- ✓ A total of 150 farmers will be taken overseas to countries, such as Israel, the Netherlands, Thailand, Egypt, Malaysia, and the Philippines, to learn their practices where productivity is high by adoption of high yielding technologies.
- ✓ A sum of Rs.3 crore will be allocated from the union and state government funds for this.
- ✓ The agriculture department has also recognised the increasing demand for horticultural crops of high value and marketability such as dragon fruit, avocado, date palm, lychee, mangosteen, fig and olive.
- ✓ A sum of Rs.2 crore has been allocated from the union and state governments for this purpose.
- ✓ The funding will be used to expand the cultivation of these crops covering an area of 1,000 ha during the coming year with subsidy along with training on cultivation practices.
- ✓ Allocation of Rs 6,536 crore to provide free power supply to 23 lakh electricity connections of farmers.
- ✓ A sum of Rs.29 crore has been allocated for assistance for distribution of onion seeders, storage godowns, harvesting machines and onion de-toppers.
- ✓ This scheme will be implemented in the districts of Perambalur, Namakkal, Salem, Thoothukudi, Trichy, Dindigul and Tiruppur.

- ✓ To increase the productivity of tomato, interventions, such as installation of drip irrigation, staking, cultivation of high yielding varieties and mulching will be provided at an outlay of Rs.19 crore.
- ✓ This scheme will be implemented in districts of Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Salem, Dindigul, Theni, Tiruppur and Coimbatore districts.

Promotion of various Missions

- ✓ The mission for Madurai jasmine aimed at developing an integrated cluster for jasmine covering the districts of Madurai, Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Theni and Tenkasi
- ✓ The Jack Mission will be implemented by forming a cluster for Panruti Jack specific to Cuddalore
- ✓ The Moringa Mission will promote moringa cultivation in 1,000 hectares in Theni and other districts
- ✓ The Curry Leaf Cluster for Coimbatore.
- ✓ Chilli Zone for Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Sivaganga and Thoothukudi.
- ✓ A specific cluster development scheme at cost of Rs 130 crore for bananas in the Theni district.
- ✓ Announcement of 'Special Oilseeds Zone' covering Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Erode, Dharmapuri, Namakkal, Salem, Tiruchy, Krishnagiri, Cuddalore, Tirupatthur, Ariyalur, Vellore, Pudukkottai districts.
- ✓ Major oilseeds, such as groundnut and sesame, are grown in these districts and attention will be given for production, value addition, marketing and export of oilseeds.
- ✓ To increase cotton production to 4.52 lakh bales, 'Sustainable Cotton Cultivation Mission' will continue at a cost of Rs 12 crore.

➤ **Subsidies**

- ✓ A subsidy of Rs 50,000 will be extended to 10,000 integrated farming system units and Rs 50 crore will be allocated.
- ✓ An additional 20% subsidy to be provided for small and marginal farmers of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- ✓ The Government will provide financial subsidy schemes for cultivation of Pulses, oilseeds, dwarf and tall hybrid coconut and cotton.

➤ **Further Allocations**

- ✓ Kits containing perennial fruit seedlings such as mango, guava, jackfruit, amla, acid lime, and custard apple will be distributed to 10 lakh households at an outlay of Rs 15 crore.
- ✓ Rs 5 crore each for the beautification of government botanical gardens, Yercaud and horticultural park and Madhavaram in Chennai.
- ✓ Farm tourism to be promoted in association with the education department for school students at a cost of Rs 1 crore.
- ✓ Expansion of the electronic national agriculture markets (e-NAM) for Rs 9 crore
- ✓ Twenty-five farmers' markets to be renovated at a cost of Rs 9 crore.

➤ **Research Centers and Committees**

- ✓ An exclusive research centre for bananas will be established at the Agriculture College, Killikulam, Thoothukudi.
- ✓ A separate research centre for palmyra would be established in the same college at a cost of Rs 15 crore.

➢ **Agriculture through Technology**

✓ Agricultural machinery will be purchased through Primary Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies (PACCSs) and hired out through e-Vaadagai App to farmers.
✓ About Rs 500 crore will be allocated with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) assistance for the purpose.
✓ The scientist will provide information about newly released high-yielding varieties, cultivation technologies, crop protection methods, marketing strategies in agriculture, etc.