

APPLO STUDY CENTRE

PAPER I, II, III - CURRENT AFFAIRS (TAMILNADU) TEST (31.10.2021) PART I

TAMILNADU Current Affairs Topics தமிழ்நாடு நடப்பு நிகழ்வுகள் தலைப்புகள்

HISTORY / வரலாறு

1. 175th Birth Anniversary of Ayothidasar அய்யாத்திதாசரின் 175வது பிறந்தநாள் விழா

Introduction:

Iyothee Thassar was a prominent Tamil Activist and anti-caste activist. "In Tamil Nadu, no one could do politics without two words – Tamizhan and Dravidam. It was the Pandithar who converted the two words into identities. He founded the Dravida Mahajana Sahbai in 1891. He founded Oru Paisa Thamizhan and later ran it as Thamizhan.

The Pandithar was a multi-faced personality: a writer, researcher, historian, anthropologist, publisher, journalist, doctor, public speaker, linguist, polyglot, ideator, activist and a relentless crusader.

It was Kandappan, the grandfather of Iyothee Thass Pandithar, who handed over a copy of Thirukkural to Mr. Ellis [British civil servant Francis Whyte Ellis], leading to its publication.

Early life:

Born on 20 May 1845, Thass's original name was Kaathavarayan. He was born in Chennai's Thousand Lights area, and later migrated to Nilgiris district. He became an expert on Tamil literature, philosophy and indigenous medicine and could speak Tamil, English, Sanskrit and Pali.

Activism:

After organising the tribal people in the Nilgris in the 1870s, he established the Advaidananda Sabha in 1876.

He launched a magazine called Dravida Pandian along with Rev. John Rathinam in 1885.

He issued a statement in 1886 announcing that the so-called untouchables are not Hindus.

He also founded the Panchmar Mahajana Sabha in 1891 along with Rettaimalai Srinivasan.

According to Thass, the Paraiyars of Tamilakam were originally Buddhists and owned the land which had later been robbed from them by Aryan invaders.

Thass established the Sakya Buddhist Society in Madras with branches all over South India.

On June 19, 1907, Iyothee Thass launched a Tamil newspaper called Oru Paise Tamizhan or One Paise Tamilian.

He succeeds in the getting the thousands of acres of lands and distributed among the landless poor under the scheme of "Panchami Lands".

Ideologies:

He always stressed social transformation rather than political transformation.

He dreamt to form a casteless society. He was regarded as a pioneer of the Dravidian Movement.

A memorial for reformer Iyothee Thass Pandithar - 175th Birth Anniversary

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced that the State government would construct a 'manimandapam' in north Chennai to mark the 175th birth anniversary of Iyothee Thass Pandithar, a social reformer of the 19th century.

We should all bow our heads to his family's contributions to Thirukkural. Periyar E.V. Ramasamy himself had said the scholar was a pioneer in championing rationalist and reformist ideas, the Chief Minister recalled.

2. 150th Birth Anniversary of V.O.C

வ.உ.சிதம்பரனாரின் 150வது பிறந்தநாள் விழா

Introduction:

Recently, the Prime Minister paid tribute to V. O. Chidambaram Pillai, the legendary freedom fighter on his **150th birth anniversary**.

- He was popularly known as **Kappalottiya Tamilan** (The Tamil Helmsman) and **Sekkizuththa Semmal** (scholarly gentry who suffered at the oil press).

Birth:

- **Vallinayagam Olaganathan Chidambaram Pillai (VOC)** was born **5th September 1872** to an eminent lawyer Olaganathan Pillai and Paramyee Ammai in Ottapidaram, Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu.

Entry in Politics:

- VOC entered politics **in 1905 following the partition of Bengal**.
- Towards the end of 1905, VOC visited Madras and was drawn closer to the **Swadeshi Movement** initiated by **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** and **Lala Lajpat Rai**.
- It was not until the **arrival of VOC at Tuticorin (Present day Thoothukudi)** that the **Swadeshi movement** in Tirunelveli district began to gather force and momentum.

Role Played in Freedom Movement:

- By **1906**, VOC won the support of merchants and industrialists in Tuticorin and Tirunelveli for the idea of **establishing a Swadeshi merchant shipping outfit** by the name of the **Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company (SSNCo)**.

- VOC and Siva were aided in their efforts by a number of Tirunelveli-based lawyers, who formed **an organisation called the Swadeshi Sangam, or 'National Volunteers'**.
- The nationalist movement acquired a secondary character with the **beginning of the Tuticorin Coral Mills strike (1908)**.
- **Death:** V.O.C died on **18th November 1936** in the **Indian National Congress Office** at Tuticorin as was his last wish.

CM Stalin announced celebrations and 14 new projects on VOC's 150th birth anniversary

The announcements include:

1. Setting up of a bust of VOC in the hall of VOC inside Gandhi memorial in Chennai where the oil press pulled by VOC is placed and renovation of the hall.
2. Renaming Great Cotton road in Thoothukudi after VOC.
3. Setting up a life-size statue of VOC in VOC park in Coimbatore
4. Renovation of VOC's house in Ottapidaram in Thoothukudi district and memorial in Tirunelveli and to set up an audio-visual show to showcase the history of VOC in both the places.
5. Setting up of a research chair in the name of VOC in Manonmaniam Sundaranar University in Tirunelveli.
6. To name all the government buildings to be constructed in Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli districts, from September 5 this year to September 5, next year, after VOC.
7. To renovate all the books of VOC and to sell them at cheaper prices through Tamil Nadu Textbook Corporation.
8. To allot Rs 1.05 crore to construct additional classes, an art gallery, and a memorial arch in the school in Tirunelveli in which VOC and Bharathiyar studied.

9. To institute an award in the name of VOC for those who excel in the shipping industry. The awardee will be given Rs 5 lakh cash price and a certificate of appreciation.
10. November 8, the day VOC passed, will be observed as martyrs day.
11. The film showcasing the biography of VOC will be digitized and will be released to help the current generation know about him.
12. A bus will be designed in which a photo exhibition of VOC will be set up and the bus will be sent to educational institutions.
13. An online conference on VOC would be arranged through Tamil University.
14. The books and articles written by VOC would be refurbished and would be published online.

3. 100th Death Anniversary of Bharatiyar.

பாரதியாரின் 100வது நினைவு தினம்

Introduction:

Mahakavi Subramania Bharati - 100th death centenary.

- **Birth:** 11th December 1882, in Ettayapuram, Madras Presidency.
- **Brief Profile:** Indian writer of the **nationalist period (1885-1920)** who is regarded as the **father of the modern Tamil style**.
 - Also known as 'Mahakavi Bharathiyar'.
 - His **strong sense of social justice** drove him to fight for self-determination.

Involvement during Nationalist Period:

- After 1904, he **joined the Tamil daily newspaper Swadesamitran**.
 - This exposure to political affairs led to his involvement in the extremist wing of the **Indian National Congress (INC)** party.

- In order to proclaim its revolutionary ardour, Bharathi had the **weekly newspaper named 'India'** printed in red paper.
 - It was the **first paper in Tamil Nadu** to publish political cartoons.
 - He also published and edited a few other journals like **"Vijaya"**.
- **Attended the annual sessions of INC** and discussed national issues with extremist leaders like Bipin Chandra Pal, **B.G. Tilak** and V.V.S. Iyer.
- Published the sensational **"Sudesa Geethangal"** in 1908.
- Bharati's reaction to the Russian Revolutions of 1917, in a poem entitled **"Pudiya Russia" ("The New Russia")**, offers a fascinating example of the poet's political philosophy.
- He was **forced to flee to Pondicherry (now Puducherry)**, a French colony, where he lived in exile from 1910 to 1919.
- During this time, **Bharati's nationalistic poems and essays** were popular successes.
- **Important Works:** Kaṇṇan pāṭṭu (1917; Songs to Krishna), Panchali sapatham (1912; Panchali's Vow), Kuyil pāṭṭu (1912; Kuyil's Song), Pudiya Russia and Gnanaratham (Chariot of Wisdom).
 - Many of his English works were **collected in Agni and Other Poems and Translations and Essays and Other Prose Fragments (1937)**.
- **Death:** 11th September 1921.

State government to observe Mahakavi Day

1. The State government will observe the death anniversary of poet Subramania Bharathi as Mahakavi Day.
2. Poetry competitions will be conducted at the State level for school and college students and Bharathi Youth Poet Award will be given to a boy and girl with Rs 1 lakh cash prize

3. Select poems and essays of Bharathi will be compiled into a volume titled Manathil Uruthi Vendum (Need for a Resolute Mind) and will be distributed to 37 lakh students at cost of Rs 10 crore
4. The families of Tamil scholars – who have done research on Bharathi's life and works, be honoured with a certificate and Rs 3 lakh each.
5. Statues of Bharathi and the artefacts will be produced through Poompuhar and sold at concessional rates.
6. Manuscripts of Bharathi will be gathered and published as a critical edition; besides, the poet's works will be published in English.
7. A music concert will be staged at Nehru Indoor stadium (after containing Corona infection completely) wherein Bharathi's songs used in Tamil films will be sung.
8. For the next one year, weekly programmes will be conducted at Bharathi Memorial in Chennai for one year to commemorate the centenary of Bharathi's death anniversary.
9. Financial assistance will be given to maintain the house at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh where Bharathi lived a century ago.
10. A research chair in the name of Bharathiar will be established at the Bharathidasan University in Tiruchi.
11. Tamil associations across the world will be roped in for various activities.
12. For the next year, weekly programs will be organised by the Information Department at Bharathiar's memorial in Chennai.
13. The proposed park, to be set up by the Rural Development Department, for the welfare of women from SHGs, will be named after Bharathi.
14. Financial aid will be provided to those interested in making short films and dramas about Bharathi's work.

4. 75Th Death Anniversary of Rettamalai Srinivasan.

இரட்டைமலை சீனிவாசனின் 75வது நினைவு தினம்

Introduction:

Rettamalai Srinivasan is a social justice icon who carried an indomitable spirit fighting for equality and civil rights for the Dalits rubbing shoulders with another great icon of modern India, Ambedkar.

Rettamalai Srinivasan was born on 7th July 1859 in the Village Kozhiyalam, Maduranthagam Taluk, Kancheepuram District. His Father name is Rettamalai. Srinivasan. He was fondly called as Thatha by the people.

Early Life:

He graduated Bachelor of Law at Coimbatore Government Arts College.

He was considered as the first graduate among the Scheduled Caste.

Key Points:

In the year 1895, British Official Viceroy Lord Elsin Visited Chennai, Rettamalai Srinivasan met him along with the people and handover the grievance petition. He organized a meeting on Dec 23, 1893, at Wesleyan Missionary Hall in Madras against the Congress petition demanding that the Indian Civil Services Examination should be conducted in India.

In October 1893 he founded a Tamil newspaper at the age of 32, called 'Paraiyan', which highlighted the sufferings of the Depressed Classes (Who was later classified as Scheduled Castes). He also sought to abolish the dominance of Caste Hindus in the Village Administrative Officer posts which was implemented by the MGR government in 1980.

He was also instrumental in the formation of a Labour Welfare Department in 1919 by the British government to ameliorate the sufferings of the Depressed Classes. He was the president of the first Adi Dravidars Provincial Conference held at Pachaiyappan College of Chennai in 1928.

He also demanded complete prohibition in the state at the Legislative Council.

British Government honored him with Rao Sahib in the years 1926 at Madras, Rao Bahadur in 1930, Diwan Bahador in the year 1936. He was honored as 'Dravida Mani' in the year 1940 presided by Rajaji in the Presence of Thiru Vi.Ka.

The then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 6th July 2011, announced and ordered that 7th July, the birthday of Rettamalai Srinivasan will be celebrated as Government functions in honor of his service. A mani mandapam has been established for Rettamalai Srinivasan in Gandhi Mandapam Campus in Guindy, Chennai.

The central government issued commemorative stamps in 2000.

CULTURE / கலாச்சாரம்

1. KEEZHADI Civilization

கீழடி நாகரிகம்

Introduction:

- Keeladi, a tiny hamlet located 12 km southeast of the historic city of Madurai in Tamil Nadu.
- The Keeladi tale began to unravel in **March 2015**.

First round 2015

- The first round of excavation, undertaken by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, unearthed antiquities that “may provide crucial evidence to understanding the **missing links of the Iron Age [12th century BCE to 6th century BCE] to the Early Historic Period [6th century BCE to 4th century BCE]** and subsequent cultural developments.”

Second round - 2016

- The second round (2016) threw up strong clues about the **existence of a Tamil civilisation that had trade links with other regions** in the country and abroad.
- This civilisation has been described by Tamil poets belonging to **the Sangam period**. (Tamil Sangam, an assembly of poets, had its seat in Madurai between 4th century BCE and 2nd century BCE. The works of this period are collectively called Sangam Literature). This round was significant as it provided archaeological evidence about what was found in Tamil literature.

Third round-2017

- Results of carbon dating of a few artefacts, which were released in February 2017, traced their **existence to 2nd century BCE** (the Sangam period).
- The third round (2017) saw a delayed start.

- Keeladi almost faded from public memory as there was no “significant finding” in the third round. This led to criticism that the excavation had been deliberately restricted to 400 metres.
- On the intervention of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, ASI permitted the SDA to take up further excavation on its own. Thus, the excavations in the fourth round were carried out by the SDA.

Fourth round – 2018

- In the fourth round (2018), 5,820 antiquities were found. These included brick structures, terracotta ring wells, fallen roofing with tiles, golden ornaments, broken parts of copper objects, iron implements, terracotta chess pieces, ear ornaments, spindle whorls, figurines, black and redware, rouletted ware and a few pieces of Arretine ware, besides beads made of glass, terracotta and semi-precious stones.

Earlier history

- Based on radiometric dates recovered from archaeological sites like **Kodumanal**, **Alagankulam** and **Porunthal** [all in Tamil Nadu], we know that Tamil [the Tamil-Brahmi script] was **dated to 5th century BCE**. But the recent scientific dates obtained from the Keeladi findings **push back the date by another century**.

The Vaigai Valley Civilisation

- The Keeladi findings have led academics to describe the site as part of the Vaigai Valley Civilisation.
- The findings have also invited comparisons with the Indus Valley Civilisation.
- A researcher of the Indus Valley Civilisation and retired civil servant, R. Balakrishnan, points to the **similarities in urban planning between the Indus Valley and Keeladi**.
- Rajan refers to the cultural gap of 1,000 years between the two places: “This cultural gap is generally filled with Iron Age material in south India. The graffiti marks encountered in Iron Age sites of south India serve as the only residual links between the Indus Valley Civilisation and south India.”
- Some of the symbols found in pot sherds of Keeladi bear a close resemblance to Indus Valley signs.
- Graffiti marks are found in earthenware, caves and rocks in or near the excavation sites of Tamil Nadu.
- The Tamil Brahmi script, found engraved on the outer surface or the shoulder of black and red earthenware in Keeladi, carries personal names,

say archaeologists. According to the SDA report, "One of the sherds carries the vowel 'o' at the beginning of the name which is rarely found in both cave and pottery inscriptions."

- Keeladi reflects all the characteristics of an urban civilisation, with brick structures, luxury items and proof of internal and external trade.
- An interesting feature of Keeladi is that it has **not revealed any signs of religious worship** in all the five rounds.
- Till now, it has been a tale of an industrious and advanced civilisation that celebrated life. The artefacts unearthed at Keeladi are evidence of this.
- Recent finds include seven gold ornaments, copper articles, gem beads, shell and ivory bangles, and brick structures that point to the existence of industrial units.
- Structures that could have been used to convey molten metal or filter liquid strongly point to the existence of people who were involved in industrial work.
- The SDA report concludes that the "recent excavations and the dates arrived at scientifically clearly suggest that the people were living in Tamil Nadu continuously... and the Keeladi excavation [has] clearly ascertained that **they attained literacy or learnt the art of writing [Tamil-Brahmi]** in as early as 6th century BCE during [the] Early Historic Period."

A sophisticated urban settlement

- Keeladi is significant for many reasons. It has given evidence of urban life and settlements in Tamil Nadu during the Early Historic Period.
- It was around this time that evidence for a second urbanisation started appearing in the Gangetic Valley.
- **Keeladi has added greatly to the credibility of Sangam Literature.**
- To substantiate this point, he recalls the observations made by K. N. Dikshit in 1939 when he was Director General of ASI: "Considering that the conch shell, typical of the Indus Valley civilisation, and which seems to have been in extensive use in Indus cities, was obtained from [the] south-east coast of the Madras Presidency, it would not be too much to hope that a thorough investigation of the area in Tinnevely District and the neighbouring regions such as the ancient seaport of Korkai will one day lead to the discovery of some site which would be contemporary with or even little later than the Indus civilisation." This is exactly what has happened in Keeladi.
- Twenty-three bangle pieces made of shell and glass were found in the fourth round.
- Another Director General of ASI, B.B. Lal, had suggested in 1960 a possible link between the undeciphered Indus signs and the graffiti marks on black and red ware pottery of Tamil Nadu.

- Keeladi was indeed an urban habitation. Seventy samples of animal skeletal fragments, which were tested by the Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute, Pune, **show 53% of them belonging to oxen, cows, buffaloes and goats.** This indicates that the habitants were predominantly **cattle-rearing people.**
- Balakrishnan is excited about the presence of oxen and cows belonging to the *Bos indicus* species. The hump of the *Bos indicus* species is referred to as *imil* in Tamil literature, which later came to be known as *timil*. The grandeur of this species, which was also present in the Indus Valley, lies in its hump, points out Balakrishnan.
- *Bos indicus* is also the icon of the ancient sport *eru thazhuvuthal* or *eru anaithal* (embracing the bull), which was prevalent in villages around Keeladi. In this sport, now practised as *jallikattu*, the contestant is supposed to hold on to the hump of the bull inside the arena for a particular distance or period of time.
- Analysis of samples of materials used in the construction of walls, sent to the Vellore Institute of Technology, has shown that every specimen contained elements like silica, lime, iron, aluminium and magnesium.
- More significant are the letters engraved on pots that clearly demonstrate the **“high literacy level of the contemporary society that survived in 6th century BCE.”**
- It is inferred from the spectroscopic analysis of black and red ware by the Earth Science Department of Pisa University, Italy, that **“the potters of Keeladi were familiar with the technique [of using carbon material for black colour and hematite for red] and knew the art of raising the kiln temperature to 1100°C to produce the typical black-and-red ware pottery.”**
- They had also followed the same technique and materials from 6th century BCE to 2nd century BCE. “A few pottery samples of 2nd century BCE do contain earth content similar to that of other regions, thereby suggesting that they **exchanged goods with neighbouring regions**, probably through traders, craftsmen and visitors,” says the SDA report.
- The antiquities, taken together, suggest that the prime occupation of the people of Keeladi was **agriculture**, which was supplemented by the **iron industry, carpentry, pottery-making and weaving.**

2. Porunai Civilization

பொருநை நாகரிகம்

Introduction:

Carbon dating of rice with soil yields date of 1155 BC

A carbon dating analysis of rice with soil, found in a burial urn at Sivakalai in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu, by the Miami-based Beta Analytic Testing Laboratory has yielded the date of 1155 BC, indicating that the Thamirabarani civilisation dates back to 3,200 years.

Carbon Dating: The determination of the age or date of organic matter from the relative proportions of the carbon isotopes carbon-12 and carbon-14 that it contains.

About:

- Encouraged by this finding, Tamil Nadu Government announced the establishment of Porunai Museum in Tirunelveli at a cost of ₹15 crore.
- The finding has established that the Porunai river [Thamirabarani] civilization dates back to 3,200 years.
- Archaeological excavations would be carried out in other States and countries in search of Tamil roots.
- In the first phase, studies would be undertaken at the ancient port of Musiri, now known as Pattanam, in Kerala.
- The research will be done jointly with Kerala archaeologists to establish the ancientness and culture of the Chera country.

Research in Egypt

- Similar studies would be conducted at Vengi in Andhra Pradesh, Thalaikadu in Karnataka and Palur in Odisha.
- Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department would conduct research at Quseir alQadim and Pernica Anekke in Egypt, which were once part of the Roman empire, as well as in Khor Rori in Oman, to establish the Tamils' trade relations with these countries.
- Pot shreds with Tamil scripts have been found in these countries.
- Studies would also be conducted in southeast Asian countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam, where king Rajendra Chola had established supremacy.

- The outcome of recent excavations in Keeladi, Kodumanal and other sites in Tamil Nadu, including NBP, black slipped ware and good number of potsherds with Brahmi inscriptions, have corroborated the view that contacts between South India and North India might be as early as 600-700 BCE or even earlier.

3. Recent Archeological Excavations in Tamilnadu.

தமிழ்நாட்டின் சமீபத்திய தொல்பொருள் அகழ்வாராய்ச்சிகள்

SILVER COIN FOUND AT KEELADI REVEALS ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF SETTLEMENT

A punch-marked silver coin that was dug out during the seventh phase of excavation at Keeladi has sent a wave of excitement among archaeologists, as they are further able to collate and establish trading activity of the civilisation believed to have flourished on the banks of Vaigai river more than 2,500 years ago.

The finding of a single punched-mark silver coin so far is stated to be unique. However, a similar semi-circular silver coin was excavated earlier, at a depth of 162 cm, during the fourth phase of excavation at Keeladi. The two coins suggest commercial activities belonging to the middle of the 4th century BCE,

The designs on the coin, are of the sun, moon, a bull, taurine, and another animal that resembles a dog on one side and a semi-circle with two small geometric L-shaped marks on the obverse. "It is proof that there was trading with north India, where such coins were in use in the 6th Century BCE,"

, "The evidence is opening up the entire working system of the country in those times." The coin measuring 2.1 x 1.7 x 0.1 cm and weighing 2.2 g, was found at a depth of 146 cm. The shape, which is partly oval with rectangular edges on two sides, looks like a magnified drop. It indicates the time period of the Mauryan Empire.

"Each finding and information helps bridge the connection between the north and the south in the Gangetic valley," the excavation of beads, copper objects, northern black polished ware, semi-precious stones and punch-mark coins indicate that skilled people were importing raw materials, maybe from Gujarat and Afghanistan, and a flourishing making and cutting industry for jewels and other artefacts existed here.

RING WELL WITH DESIGN UNEARTHED AT KEELADI

Terracotta ring well has thumb impressions carved on a band

Every season of excavation at the Keeladi archaeological site has unearthed ring wells, an indicator of the advanced water conservation technology that existed over 2,000 years ago.

The ring well was traced at a depth of 126 cm in one of the eight pits dug for the seventh phase of excavation. , three layers of the ring well were exposed.

The height of the first ring is 44 cm, with a diameter of 77 cm. The overall height of the ring well, with a 2.5 cm-thick rim, is 79 cm. The second ring has a slightly differently designed band around the structure. It has small square depressions; the ring well with designs was a new find, indicating the aesthetic sense of the people. They also testify to the science behind the structures. Each ring has a locking system and sits tightly on top of the other to prevent sand from getting in, considering Keeladi's proximity to Vaigai river and the sandy terrain,

MEGALITHIC OFFERING POT FOUND

It was unearthed during excavation at Mayiladumparai

An intact offering pot was found during the excavation at Mayiladumparai, a megalithic site, in Krishnagiri district. "It was found intact 72 cm below the ground at the western side of the pit burial with a capstone at the excavation site. It is a red-ware pot, and its height is 25 cm and radius 20 cm. The rim measures 12 cm,"

MEGALITHIC FULL-LENGTH SWORD UNEARTHED

It was discovered in a megalithic cist burial monument

The excavations at Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri district have yielded a full-length iron sword broken at places. "We have unearthed swords in the past at many places. But they are small. This is the first time the Department of Archaeology has unearthed a full-length sword with a handle in Tamil Nadu. The length is 60 cm

2,300-YEAR-OLD STEPWELL FOUND NEAR ERODE

For the first time at the Kodumanal excavation site in Chennimalai Union in Erode district that served as habitation-cum-industrial site, a 2,300 year-old step-well has been found during excavation by a team of the State Department of Archaeology.

The circle-shaped well was unearthed at 2.36 metres depth and is 2.65 metres wide while the depth of the well would be known only after deposits were removed in the coming weeks. A flight of 13 steps, which was constructed using weathered rocks, slopes down from the ground to the well that served the habitation. Two rubble masonry walls measuring 9.30 metres exist on both sides of the steps.

excavations since 1981 revealed the presence of an industrial complex where beads and semi-precious stones were manufactured. There was evidence of the presence of a number of iron smelting units making forged steel at the site which was a trade centre from the fifth century BCE (Before the Common Era) to the first century BCE.

“Water from the well could have been used both for household needs and also for polishing beads and other industrial activities,” The village lies on the ancient trade route that connected the Chera capital of Karur with the Chera port of Muciri in Patnam in Kerala.

AGARAM

The unearthing of two new ring wells at Agaram and the completion of work on digging out a sixlayer ring well at the Keeladi main site are perhaps the last few surprises of the season as the archaeology staff prepare to wind up the seventh phase of excavation

The large-scale explorations in the cluster of sites, also including Manalur and Konthagai, 12 km southeast of Madurai, are being carried out by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology to establish the existence of an urban settlement on the banks of the Vaigai river more than 2,600 years ago.

In this round, the excavation at Agaram over two acres has yielded the highest number of ring wells.

While the excavations at Konthagai led to unearthing of skeletal remains and 11 burial and storage urns, at Manalur and Keeladi main, the findings also included weavers’ tools, beads and bangles made of shell glass stone

terracotta and semi precious stones and potsherds and indicated a trading activity during the Sangam Age.

SECOND TERRACOTTA RING WELL FOUND AT AGARAM

It was found at a depth of 125 cm below the lime deposit

TERRACOTTA SEAL FOUND IN AGARAM

Archaeological excavation in Agaram in Sivaganga district has yielded a fine specimen of terracotta seal. "The object is cylindrical in shape with concavity on the body and has flattened ends. The face of the seal comprises incised decorations with three segments of thick circles hand-made object..

The State government will undertake archaeological excavations in three new places - Vembakkottai in Virudhunagar district, Thullukkarpatti in Tirunelveli district and Perumpalai in Dharmapuri district

4. Centenary Year of Madurai Gandhi Museum.

மதுரை காந்தி அருங்காட்சியகத்தின் நூற்றாண்டு

To highlight the importance of Mahatma Gandhi and Madurai, India's first museum for Gandhiji was set up in Madurai on April 15, 1959, at the Rani Mangammal Palace. The then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated the museum. Although there are museums for Gandhiji in seven places across India, this stands to be the only museum in South India. Also, the blood-stained Dhoti that Gandhiji wore when he was shot is safely preserved here.

5. Centenary Year of Gandhi's Revolution In Dress.

காந்தியின் ஆடை புரட்சியின் நூற்றாண்டு

Tamil Nadu's 'Thoonga Nagaram' Gears Up To Celebrate 100 Years of Mahatma Gandhi's Dress Revolution

Madurai, the so-called 'Thoonga Nagaram', has geared up for the celebrations to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's dress revolution that will remind people how Madurai inspired the Father of the Nation to shift to iconic loincloth attire.

History says Mahatma Gandhi has visited Tamil Nadu over twenty times, in which he has sown various important revolutions when he came to Madurai at least five times.

In 1919, he mobilised the youth against the Rowlatt Act, also in 1921, he campaigned for the Non-Cooperation Movement, meanwhile, in 1927, Gandhiji campaigned for Khaddar clothes and in 1946 he visited for worship at the Meenakshi Amman Temple in Madurai.

Gandhiji gave his second visit to Madurai on September 21, 1921, when he took up a campaign on the Non-Cooperation Movement, the Swadeshi and Khaddar. For Madurai city, 251A Mela Masi Street is a historic landmark. Because Gandhiji stayed at a house numbered 251A owned by his follower Ram Kalyanji at the Mela Masi Street in Madurai. Gandhiji, who was wearing a traditional Gujarati turban with dhoti and shirt, shaved his head in the early hours of September 22 and appeared to be wearing loincloth attire.

However, Gandhiji implemented the decision in Madurai of shifting his attire to loincloth to mark the poor and pathetic condition of the labourers and farmers in the country. "I have never regretted the changes I made in my life. I had to make them. I made such a big change in my attire in Madurai," Gandhiji wrote in his notes.

The loincloth is worn by Gandhiji to symbolise India's poverty, later became his symbol. In the meantime, the house where Gandhiji stayed in Madurai Mela Masi Street came up for sale in 1954. The Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board bought it and began selling its Khaddar materials. For the first time, Gandhiji addressed the people gathering in Madurai on September 22, 1921, with the appearance of loincloth attire. To mark it, a statue of him was erected in 1984 at the place where he appeared in his iconic attire in 1921 and is now known as 'Gandhi Pottal'. Gandhiji's last visit to Madurai was in 1946.

6. Tamil Development department Announcements.

தமிழ் வளர்ச்சித்துறை அறிவிப்புகள்

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government is to promote the Tamil language among the diaspora and others by using modern technologies.
- ❖ The department in a statement on Tuesday said that several initiatives are being taken up for the promotion of Tamil language and Tamil culture among the Tamil community living abroad and in other states.

- ❖ The department of Tamil development and information is also consulting Tamil scholars, researchers, and academics in the Tamil language to create new Tamil words for education including technical education.
- ❖ The state government will be announcing major developments in Tamil language and culture on October 12, which is the Classical Tamil language day after the language, received classical status on the same day in 2004 after Union government notification.
- ❖ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin called upon the department to set up Tamil chairs in world-renowned universities and to promote Tamil language among the global Tamil diaspora especially among the younger generation of Tamil populace. He has also urged the Union government to announce Tamil classic, 'Tirukkural' as a national book.
- ❖ The Tamil language and culture department is in the process of following up the Chief Minister's appeal to the Central government on making 'Tirukkural' as a national book.
- ❖ The department is also trying to promote the usage of Tamil language in Central government offices in the state as well as in banks functioning in the state.
- ❖ Tamil department will also be setting up a new digital library, audio-visual programmes in memorials, and a museum. It will also be involved in increasing the seating capacity of MGR Film and Television Institute.
- ❖ These were released by the Minister Thangam Tennarasu in the Legislative Assembly during the demand for grants on the Tamil official Language and Tamil Culture and Archaeology Department.
- ❖ The Books of Tamil scholars will be nationalized and a sum of money will be given.
- ❖ Accordingly, the books of Dr. T. Paramasivan, Silamboli Su.Sellappan, Puluvar Ilangumaranar, Murugesu Bhagavathar, Sankaravalli Nayakam and Pulavar Se. Rasu will be nationalized.
- ❖ In the temples, Tirukkural classes are conducted along with Thevaram, Thiruvagam and the Naalayira Divya Prabhandam.

- ❖ Tamil classes will be conducted through the media under the name 'Theerak Kadhal Thirukural'.
- ❖ Rs. 1 crore will be allocated to form the 'Tamil Campaign Association' (தமிழ் பரப்புரைக் கழகம்) in order to teach Tamils living abroad and in other states.
- ❖ In particular, the Minister stressed that when writing a name in Tamil, the initials should also be written in Tamil.

POLITY - அரசியலமைப்பு

1. Centenary Year of State Legislature

தமிழ்நாடு சட்டப்பேரவை நூற்றாண்டு விழா

Introduction:

The Assembly chambers at Fort St. George, the 17th-century vestige of the colonial era and Tamil Nadu's seat of power, will witness a historic event on Monday (August 2), 2021, when President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates the centenary celebrations of the State legislature.

The occasion is significant for more than one reason. The House has passed several epoch-making legislation, beginning with voting rights for women in 1921.

Background

- The first elected legislature in the State, originally called the Madras Legislative Council, was established in 1921 under the Government of India Act, 1919.
- The Madras Legislative Council came into existence with the Justice Party, a precursor to the state's ruling DMK, forming the first government of the Madras Presidency under British rule.

Establishment of MLC

- The MLC was established in 1921 continued to function as the legislative assembly of the then Madras state after independence and thereafter Tamil Nadu from 1969.
- After the first council elections in 1920, the Justice Party formed the government - the government - the DMK's precursor ruled the council in the first, second, and fourth elections.
- The last and the fifth council saw the Justice Party running a minority government.
- It was inaugurated by Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught, and uncle of George V, Emperor of England, on January 12, 1921.
- The Madras Legislative Council was the largest gathering of its kind in India, constituted with 127 members in 1921, which included a total of 98 elected representatives, who were given a fixed term of three years to work for the people.
- The elected body would meet at Fort St. George regularly to carry out their public duties.

The House had passed several landmark legislations:

April 1921: The Legislative Council adopted the removal of sex disqualification on women for the franchise, which removed the gender restriction on voting as well as enabling the possibility of women becoming elected members.

In 1927, Muthulakshmi Reddy, the well-known medical practitioner and social activist, became the first woman member of the Council and, in no time, became the Deputy President of the Council.

- Hindu Religious Endowment Act (1926): It took over the management and administration of Hindu temples in the province. It established "boards" appointed by the government.
- Abolition of the Devadasi system (1947): It gave devadasis the legal right to marry and made it illegal to dedicate girls to Hindu temples.
- July 1947: The National Flag of India which was designed by Pingali Venkayya was first adopted in its present form during a meeting of the Constituent Assembly held on July 22, 1947, barely one month before India's independence from the British on August 15, 1947. The

first-ever flag flown after the independence is also stored in the third floor of a museum premises inside the Fort complex.

Inclusive representation

Tamil Nadu witnessed elections in November 1920 when electors (only men), accounting for just 3% of the population, were enrolled, as a result of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report and the Government of India Act of 1919.

The first Ministry of the Justice Party, a precursor to the present DMK, saw to it that two government orders (G.O.), famously called 'Communal G.O.s', were issued in September 1921 and August 1922. For the first time, caste became the basis for appointment to public services. It took over 70 years for the Central government to follow the principle in its institutions for education and employment.

The Council, in its first session in April 1921, resolved to provide voting rights to women. In early 1927, Muthulakshmi Reddy, the well-known medical practitioner and social activist, became the first woman member of the Council and, in no time, became the Deputy President of the Council.

There were several moments of pride associated with the Assembly.

One of the Congress stalwarts, S. Satyamurti, by rendering the banned songs of Subramania Bharati in the Legislative Council in October 1927, highlighted the issue and got the ban lifted subsequently.

Si.Pa. Aditanar, as Speaker during March 1967-August 1968, introduced the practice of commencing the House's proceedings with the recital of a verse from Thirukkural.

When Omandur P. Ramaswami Reddiar was the Chief Minister in the late 1940s, the government gave a convincing reply in the Assembly during a debate on the State government's emblem of temple gopuram and got the issue resolved.

During the two-year rule of the DMK founder C.N. Annadurai, the Assembly, in July 1967, adopted a motion renaming Madras State as Tamil Nadu, which later got the approval of Parliament.

During Jayalalithaa's first innings as Chief Minister, "Tamil Thai Vazhthu" was rendered in July 1991, for the first time at the beginning of the Governor's address.

Of late, the Assembly is taking steps to use technology in a big way and the State has joined the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA), a programme meant for digitisation of the working of legislatures all over the country. "We are moving towards a paperless legislature and to begin with, e-budget will be presented this year," says M. Appavu, Speaker.

For the State that boasts a Chola inscription of around 920 CE (Uthiramerur, about 90 km south of Chennai), dealing with a written Constitution, the celebration carries a special meaning beyond the fact that the legislature has completed 100 years of existence.

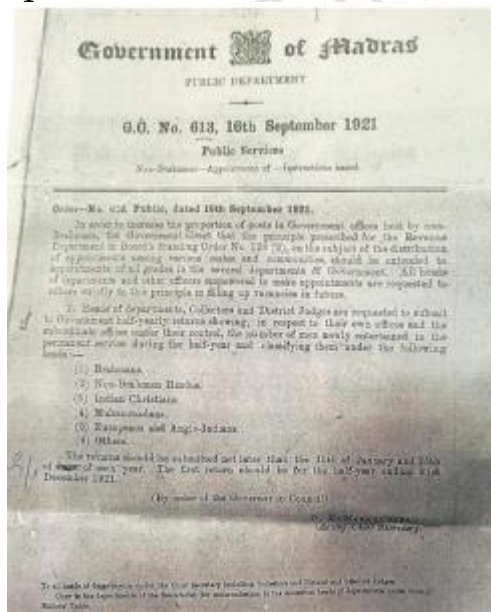
2. Centenary Year of Communal G.O

வகுப்புவாத அரசாணை நூற்றாண்டு விழா

A government order that heralded the social justice movement 100 years ago

Introduction:

The Communal G.O. proved to be a leveller, securing non-Brahmins the space due to them in administration and politics



Heralding change: The order was issued on September 16, 1921, by the Justice Party government.

The social justice movement in Tamil Nadu, which began with the 'Communal G.O.', issued 100 years ago on this day by the Justice Party government, has come a long way. The government order, and the successive measures that it spawned over the decades, has proved to be a leveller, empowering non-Brahmins and securing the space due to them in administration and politics.

The order, issued on September 16, 1921, sought "to increase the proportion of posts held by non-Brahmins," which also encompassed Indian Christians, Muslims and Adi-Dravidars, in the Provincial Services, including the Madras Secretariat. Before issuing the order, a resolution was moved in the Legislative Council.

"This followed in the wake of nearly four years of public education and propaganda on the subject. Prior to this, the Justice Party had demanded that the British constitute communal electorates, so that all communities are represented in the Madras Legislative Council."

"They also wanted the franchise to be enlarged. In effect, the demand for reservation was posited as a democratic demand. This was not unlike what B.R. Ambedkar had sought for Dalits, in his appearance before the Southborough Committee in 1919".

It was P. Thyagaraja Chetti, who captured the aspirations of the non-Brahmins. "We are nothing but slaves in the hands of the Brahmin hierarchy. Let us educate ourselves, and in due course, we shall have our portion of government service and political power, proportionate to our strength and importance," late Mythili Sivaraman recalled him as saying in her book *Haunted by Fire*.

Brahmin domination

The domination of Brahmins is summed up by N. Ram, former Editor-in-Chief of *The Hindu*, in an article in the *Economic and Political Weekly* in 1979.

"The data put together by the Madras government in 1912 showed that at the higher levels of government service, where Indians were employed, Brahmins made up 55% of Deputy Collectors, 83.3% of Sub-Judges, and 72.6% of District Munsifs," he said in the article *Dravidian movement in its pre-Independence phase*.

The analysis of caste composition among those employed in 1917 in the Revenue and Judicial departments, as tahsildars, deputy tahsildars, English head clerks, sharistadars of district and sub-courts, reinforces the same conclusion.

“In higher education itself, a break-up showed that between 1870 and 1918, the proportion of Brahmins among the students enrolled and those granted Bachelor of Arts degrees by the University of Madras was in the range of 67-71%,” he quoted further from government data.

As for the proportion of candidates for the Bachelor of Law degree, Brahmins constituted 73.57% in 1919; and for the Licentiate of Teaching degree, the figure was 73.03%. The proportion was appreciably lower only in the medical field.

Ms. Geetha said the Communal G.O. proved to be a symbolic document, since the actual power of appointment was in British hands, and in collusion with their upper caste, Brahmin colleagues, they scuttled appointments successfully.

“Justice Party leaders were lamenting that the G.O. only existed on paper. Only gradually did the non-Brahmanisation of the services take place, and in fact this picked up speed only in independent India”.

In the name of ‘merit’

She also recalled that it was struck down by the courts, leading to the first amendment to the Constitution.

“It is significant that in 1921, the objections to the G.O. were made in the name of ‘merit’ – that reservation would lead to a loss of merit. And this argument persists to this day, and we see here how merit is linked to birth”.

Impact on composition

According to her, the Communal G.O. impacted the composition of the bureaucracy, and not so much the legislature, and this has been a good thing, on the whole, though we all know that Dalits are mostly in the lower levels of the administration and judiciary, and this situation must change.

She rejected the argument that it had made way for “identity politics”.

“To be represented in a government is a democratic demand, and while it may be advanced on the basis of particular identities, it still relies on the political process, on democratic governance”.

3. Tamil Nadu Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Board

தமிழ்நாடு புலம்பெயர் நலவாரியம்

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Act was enacted during the previous DMK regime on March 1, 2011 and setting up of a Welfare Board was also announced,
- ❖ With the AIADMK assuming power later that year, the new regime did not set up the Board, the Chief Minister said adding, a welfare board for Non-Resident Tamils would now be founded.
- ❖ The state government would constitute a Rs five crore benevolent fund for Non-Resident Tamils,
- ❖ Tamils living in several parts of the world would be brought together and every year, January 12 would be celebrated as the "World Tamils Day,"
- ❖ A total sum of Rs 20 crores would be allocated for constituting the welfare board, of which Rs 6.40 crores would be allocated for the NRI Tamils welfare fund, Rs 8.10 crores to promote literature and cultural exchange and Rs 5.50 crores for others.
- ❖ For functioning of the board, Rs 1.40 crores will be allocated as capital expenses and Rs 3 crores per year will be allocated for administration expenses.
- ❖ A database of non-resident Tamils would be created and those registered would have extended life and medical insurance. Besides, education assistance, marriage assistance will be given to low-income NRI Tamils if they die at work.
- ❖ To provide counselling to NRI Tamils, a mobile application, a website and a toll-free call centre will be launched and a separate legal aid centre will also be established.

- ❖ Extending help to Tamils who returned home due to Covid-19, a Rs 2.5 lakhs loan will be provided to start a business, for which Rs 6 crores will be allocated.
- ❖ To help improve infrastructure and schools in their native villages a scheme called "My village" will be launched. Tamil will be taught to the children of the diaspora through the Tamil Propaganda Institute and the Tamil Virtual Academy.
- ❖ The official release referred to the proposed Welfare Board as "Pulampeyar Tamizhar Nala Variyam."
- ❖ While 'Pulampeyar' is a Tamil word used in reference to emigration and emigrated people, it may also mean and include the diaspora in general. Tamizhar Nala Variyam stands for a welfare board for Tamils.

GOVERNANCE - ஆளுகை

1. Achievements of First 100 Days of DMK Government

திருக அரசின் முதல் 100 நாள் சாதனைகள்

Chief Minister Stalin has listed the top 10 projects on the 100th day of the DMK government.

1. Protecting people from the corona epidemic
2. Transforming the public welfare sector into one that is capable of withstanding any wave
3. Free travel for women on government city buses
4. Reduction of milk price by Rs. 3 per litre
5. Reduction of petrol price by Rs. 3 per litre
6. 4 thousand rupees for 2 crores 10 lakh families as corona relief fund
7. 14 groceries worth Rs 9,000 crores not provided by any other state government in India
8. Selection of beneficiaries for awarding entitlement of Rs.1000 / - to housewives
9. Revival of Anna Rehabilitation schemes such as 'Namakku Naamey'
10. Kalaignar Urban Development Project-

Although more than 120 important announcements have been made, listed

here are only the primary schemes for the betterment of the poor and underprivileged people.

2. Welfare Schemes of Current DMK Government

தற்போதைய திமுக அரசின் நலத்திட்டங்கள்

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin Thursday launched 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam'(healthcare services at people's doorstep) scheme in Krishnagiri.
- The scheme is aimed at eliminating the need for patients to visit hospitals for treating non-communicable diseases.
- Kalaingar's 'Namaku Naame' public participation scheme to expand green cover will be implemented again at a cost of Rs 100 crore. Launched in 1997-98 by CM Karunanidhi, the scheme was renamed twice when J Jayalalithaa was voted to power in 2001 and 2011, while the original name was restored by Kalaingar in 2006
- Relaunch of 'Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam' with an outlay of Rs.1,200 crore.
- The urban poor to get an employment guarantee scheme, whose details were not spelt out
- In a major announcement of welfare schemes for farmers, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin distributed one lakh free power connection certificates to the state's farmers today.
- Government will launch a State Level Credit Guarantee Scheme to enable more MSMEs, particularly micro enterprises to access credit
- The government allocated Rs.490.27 crore for 2021-2022 for the free sarees and dhotis scheme
- Allocation of Rs. 1,725 crore has been allocated for the MGR lunch scheme for the year 2021-22.
- Chief Minister's Insurance Scheme will be implemented from this year at a budget of Rs.1,046 crore
- To reduce travel time, Tamil Nadu plans to expand 8,900km of state highways under a new scheme named 'Chief Minister's Road Development Programme'
- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, on Wednesday, launched a scheme to offer financial assistance and other benefits to children who lost either one or both of their parents to COVID-19. The state government has worked out long-term plans to support the children affected due to the pandemic.

- Under the new scheme, a deposit of Rs 5 lakh will be made in the bank accounts of children who lost both parents to COVID-19. This would be paid with the accrued interest when the child turns 18.

3. The Dravidian Model.

திராவிட மாதிரியில் தமிழ்நாடு

Tamil Nadu's ability to combine comparatively high levels of human development with economic dynamism can be attributed to the distinct political mobilisation against caste-based inequalities in the state.

apart from the extent of lower caste mobilisation, it is the nature of mobilisation that makes a difference. It sought and ensured opportunity-equalising policies in the expanding modern sectors through affirmative action policies and investments in education and health. It also succeeded in building a bloc of lower caste groups under a Dravidian-Tamil identity that subsumed and sought to transcend individual caste identities. Mobilisation built an ethos that questioned the privileges of caste elites and the naturalness of merit in caste society. When the bloc gained political power, it ensured a relatively inclusive development pathway through several policy interventions.

Dravidian Budget

Taking a cue from the past, the DMK government, which has come to power in the State after a gap of ten years, is said to have zeroed in on 'consumer socialism' in its budget.

The budget tabled by Finance Minister PTR Palanivel Thiagarajan that focuses on the autonomy of the State, constituting a High Level Committee for a distinct State Education Policy and the like proves that it is a Dravidian-model budget. "The Dravidian model budget, from the 1970s, are replete with a plethora of freebies,"

adding that during the last DMK tenure, from 2006 to 2011, all its budgets were tax-free ones and they are more particular about the consumer socialism model.

The announcement on the revival of 'Nammakku Naame' scheme, revamping the Social Security Pension scheme, restoring the Anna Marumalarchi Thittam and Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission schemes have ensured the socio-political empowerment of the layman.

the Dravidian politics always strives for uplifting the down trodden and putting money in the hands of the poor. "In the budget, the spending is mostly on the social justice front, mainly to uplift women and the downtrodden. a proposal to increase the maternity leave for the women by 12 months, like in western democracies, and another proposal on free bus pass to women.

4. "Data Base, Data Centric" Governance Model.

5. State-level Disha Committee.

மாநில அளவிலான திஷா குழு

- The State-level Disha Committee headed by Chief Minister MK Stalin will be monitoring the implementation of Centrally-sponsored schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana, National Rural Livelihood Mission, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana etc.
- The panel is in line with the Union Ministry of Rural Development's guidelines for the constitution of the State level DISHA committee.
- Tamil Nadu government has constituted a State-level Committee to monitor the implementation of various Centrally-sponsored rural development schemes.
- Chief Minister and Rural Development Minister will be the chairperson and co-chairperson respectively.
- The Committee in which some of the MPs of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and Secretaries of various departments are members, will monitor the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
- The committee will address implementation constraints of programmes, give suggestions to improve designs of approved ones and make mid-course corrections. It will also review the flow of funds in fulfilment of State's obligations in relation to various programmes and projects.

- “The meetings of the Disha Committee should be held at least once every six months. It will take all necessary measures to ensure flow of benefits of various programmes to the rural poor,” the G.O issued in this regard by Rural Development Secretary.
- The committee will monitor all time-bound national initiatives to ensure effective delivery of assets.
- It will also look into complaints/alleged irregularities received in respect to the implementation of the programmes, including complaints of wrong selection of beneficiaries in schemes, misappropriation/diversion of funds and recommend follow-up action.

6. AK Rajan Committee Recommendations- NEET.

AK ராஜன் குழு பரிந்துரைகள் - NEET

- In a 165-page report submitted by retired Justice AK Rajan Committee on the impact of NEET, the report stated that NEET should be eliminated immediately.
- The report submitted on September 14 to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin stated that if NEET continues for a few more years, it would affect the healthcare infrastructure of Tamil Nadu, bringing a shortage of doctors' appointments in primary health centres and government hospitals.
- The report also stated that students from rural regions and poor backgrounds might lose access to medical education.
- The Committee also laid out that students who studied Tamil as a medium couldn't fare well in NEET and strongly condemned the culture of 'coaching', claiming that it is gradually replacing 'learning', which is very essential for the would-be-Doctors (medical aspirants) to acquire all skills reasoning, decision making, judgemental, analytical and psychosocial skills which are acquired only in the schooling-learning, not in the coaching.

- **The committee made the below recommendations to state governments:**
- The state government may undertake immediate steps to eliminate NEET from being used in admission to medical programmes at all levels by following the required legal and/or legislative procedures.
- The government may take a stand that the words ' university education' found in Entry 25 List III is a general provision and 'Regulation of Universities' in Entry II is a special provision: Entry 32 is an exclusive state subject that cannot be ignored. Therefore, Article 254 cannot be invoked to override Act 3/2007 insofar as it relates to entry 32. Hence, admission to affiliated colleges under the Tamil Nadu Dr M G R Medical University are governed by Act 3 of 2007 and hence admission to those seats will be filled as per the provisions of that Act. (S.14 of NMC Act has no application to those seats). In this regard, the state may follow the required procedures to satisfy the legal and constitutional provisions.
- Alternatively, the state government may pass an Act, similar to the Act 3/2007, indicating the need for elimination of NEET at all levels of Medical Education, and get the President's assent for the same. This will ensure social justice and protect all vulnerable student communities from being discriminated in admission to medical education programmes.
- The HSc (Higher Secondary) scores shall become the sole admission criteria for admission to first degree medical programmes, and to ensure equality in opportunity for students from different Boards of Education, normalisation of scores may be followed.
- The socio, economic and other demographic adversities that cause poor performance of all relevant students, mainly the disadvantaged and underprivileged, in their HSc examination shall be identified, and according to the degree of intensities of adversities, re-profiling of scores can be done using a pre-developed framework of 'Adversity Score'.
- The school education, up to the level of HSc, shall be reformed such that 'learning' as opposed to 'coaching' is fostered, and that right from curriculum through teaching and learning to learning assessment (Board Examination), all shall be tweaked toward enabling and empowering students with subject knowledge and higher order skills including

reasoning, decision making, social disposition and so on. In particular, the rote form of learning assessment that leads to coaching shall be eliminated and the acquired knowledge and skills shall be focussed on.

- So far as the 'Deemed Universities' is concerned, an Act has to be passed by the Tamil Nadu assembly to bring all the Deemed Universities of Tamil Nadu under its purview, as under Act 3/2007 and the President's assent has to be obtained.
- The report concluded by saying that if NEET continues, Tamil Nadu may go back to the pre-independence days, where in small towns and in villages only 'bare-foot' doctors were catering for the needs that were available and that Tamil Nadu as a state would go down in the rank among States, in the Medical and Health Care system.

7. First 5 orders signed by CM Stalin. (governance)

முதல்வரின் முதல் ஐந்து கையெழுத்து

- Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) president M.K. Stalin was sworn in as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu today even as the debilitating COVID-19 pandemic raged in the State, claiming 195 lives on May 6. He is the third DMK leader to assume office as Chief Minister after C.N. Annadurai and M. Karunanidhi.
- Stalin and 33 Ministers were sworn in at a ceremony in Raj Bhavan, attended by MLAs, MPs and officers numbering 700. The Chief Minister asserted that the first priority of the government would be to control the spread of the disease and ensure quality care for all the people affected by the pandemic.
- First 5 orders signed by CM Stalin → MK Stalin signed five orders to provide relief to a state that is reeling under the coronavirus pandemic.
- ✓ Rs 4,000 will be provided to all "Rice" ration card holders in the state in an attempt to provide them some relief amidst the pandemic.

Of the Rs 4,000, Rs 2,000 will be distributed in the month of May and the remaining will be given later.

- ✓ The price of Aavin milk to be reduced by Rs 3.

- ✓ All women, including working professionals and students can travel in state owned buses (Ordinary fare) for free from May 8th.
- ✓ A new department to fulfil the promise of addressing all your complaints in the first 100 days of the DMK government will be formed.
- ✓ The expenses for COVID treatment in private hospitals will be covered under the Chief Minister's health insurance scheme and will be reimbursed to the hospitals by the government.

SOCIAL ISSUES - சமூக பிரச்சனைகள்

1. Impact of COVID in Tamilnadu

தமிழ்நாட்டில் கோவிட்டின் தாக்கம்

- Key Findings
- A major consequence of the pandemic-induced lockdown was job and livelihood loss. In February 2020, before the pandemic, 91.2 per cent of the sample households had at least 1-2 members employed.
- Subsequently, during March - May 2020, 53 per cent of the households faced livelihood loss. With the lifting of restrictions, this fell to 34 per cent in September 2020, and 17 per cent in January 2021. During the first 2 rounds, rural livelihoods were more affected.
- But, in the third round, the job and livelihood loss in urban areas was slightly higher (18 per cent) than in rural areas (16 per cent).
- Around 69 per cent of the overall job and livelihood loss came from the casual labour sector which remained the most affected throughout the pandemic, followed by the salaried category in private sector.
- With each lockdown, casual labour sector is likely to be vulnerable to both economic and health shocks and requires attention.
- This recovery has been disrupted by the second wave and the subsequent lockdown.

- While this has serious implications for the State's fiscal situation, the survey findings from first wave indicate the economy has the potential to recover if unlock measures are sequenced with positivity rates.
- Tamil Nadu handled food security issues well during the pandemic. Food security issues were reported by 22 per cent of households during first round; this dropped to 13 per cent by September and 6 per cent by January 2021.
- This was achieved due to the effective coverage of Public Distribution System (PDS) in the State and timely release of additional food transfers under Covid-19 relief measures.
- Lack of income was the key reason cited across three rounds for food security challenges.
- A number of relief measures were launched by the State to mitigate the adverse impact of the pandemic at different times.
- Most relief measures were deployed during the hard lockdown period between March and May of 2020, such as free rations to all ration card holders, one-time direct cash transfer of `1000, specific relief packages to migrant labourers, and to those without ration cards.
- During the stringent lockdown period, of all these measures, food transfers through PDS was reported as the most beneficial, followed by cash transfers. Free food through Amma canteens also played a role in dealing with the food security issues in urban areas.
- Covid-19 Economic Impact
- The state government-appointed expert committee formed to study the pandemic's impact on Tamil Nadu's economy has said the lockdown to curb the spread of Covid-19 has left the state in a bad shape.
- The report has stated that the crisis in the MSME sector has affected the manufacturing sector too. "The report warned that there may be a 13 to 15 % decline in the total output of the manufacturing sector in this

financial year due to the severe impacts of lockdown on MSMEs, which has suffered anywhere around Rs 34,000 to 41,000 crore loss in this financial year," the official said.

- According to the report, while services such as banking and IT were minimally affected, real estate, retail and tourism sectors have suffered a huge impact.

2. How Tamilnadu Tackled COVID - 19?

கோவிட்-19 பெருந்தொற்றை தமிழகம் எவ்வாறு எதிர்கொண்டது?

Tamil Nadu, the first to respond to Covid-19 threat

Tamil Nadu government was the first to swing into action to deal with the coronavirus threat—even before Naveen Patnaik government in Odisha. Tamil Nadu health department officials were keeping tabs on those coming from abroad even before the first Covid-19 positive case was reported from Kerala on 30 January. On 30 January, Tamil Nadu government informed that 78 people, who had come from China, were under house quarantine; they tested negative later.

The first Covid-19 positive case was reported on 7 March and the second one on 19 March. But by 17 March, the state administration was all geared up to tackle the menace, with the chief secretary issuing an elaborate set of instructions to all government departments and institutes, including the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPEs) and masks, constitution of 'contact tracing teams' in districts, use of thermal scanners at entry and exit points at railway stations, and setting up of helplines, among others.

Tamil Nadu announced a lockdown in the state a day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared it in a televised address.

Website related to Covid-19

The state government's website, related to Covid-19, gives a real-time update of the bed availability in various hospitals of multiple districts with classification of normal beds and oxygen-supported beds. This will help patients from running pillar to post to find beds or Covid-19 related medical emergencies.

Adequate oxygen supply

A 24 x 7 call centre has been set up to resolve 'any issues' faced by hospitals related to supply of medical oxygen and health facilities may call 104 for assistance, the Tamil Nadu government said.

Remdesivir

Anti-viral drug Remdesivir would be made available directly to private hospitals to avoid overcrowding in places designated for its prescription based sale by state authorities to the kin of COVID-19 patients, the Tamil Nadu government said.

All those above 45 years of age should get vaccinated within two weeks in either government or recognised private facilities to help prevent the virus spread, the government advised.

Gatherings for religious and festival purposes would be prohibited and prayers in all places of worship by adhering to norms like social distancing shall be permitted till time specified.

The e-registration rule would be in place as before to monitor those arriving in Tamil Nadu from other states and abroad.

Limiting the maximum number of people who could take part in weddings to 100 and those for funeral to 50, the government said spectators shall not be allowed for sporting events and swimming pools must be used only for training.

Be it groceries, retail shops, malls, big format stores, restaurants and tea shops, the number of people who could gather at any given time shall not exceed 50 per cent of the capacity and all outlets could function till 11 pm and take away services would also be open till such time.

The only '50 per cent' rule would also be applicable to movie theatres including single screen and multiplex, zoos, amusement parks, recreation clubs and '200' is the maximum number of people who could be allowed in auditoriums for events including cultural, entertainment, political or sports.

Emphasising strict adherence to Standard Operating Procedures including wearing masks and social distancing, the government appealed to the people to cooperate with it to aid prevention of virus spread.

Firms, factories, commercial complexes and hotels must ensure thermal screening, use of hand sanitisers and masks and expos would be allowed only for Business to Business process.

People who do not wear masks should not be allowed entry in premises including hotels and commercial complexes.

Industries should make arrangements to get employees vaccinated and action would be taken against establishments that do not follow the Standard Operating Procedure.

Though shoots for small screen soaps and movies shall be allowed, artists and employees must undergo RT-PCR tests and get vaccinated and production houses should ensure this, the government said.

Initiatives -like fever camps, door to door survey to detect people with flu like symptoms and contact tracing of those who were in contact with people who test positive- would be back across the state.

In containment zones, the current curbs would continue without any relaxations and international air travel shall not be allowed according to the Centre's ban.

In Chennai, field level committees for every zone would be set up to bring down the case load and similar panels shall become functional in districts too.

Monitoring mechanism for containment zones (involving personnel from police and health departments besides employees from local bodies) shall be in place to ensure that people do not step outside of such areas.

Volunteers would be assigned to help people in containment zones and they shall ensure availability of essential commodities for residents.

If COVID-19 symptoms are suspected, the nearest government facility should be approached, the government said and sought public cooperation.

3. Tamilnadu Slum Dwellers resettlement policy

தமிழக அரசின் புதிய குடிசை மாற்று மறுவாழ்வு கொள்கை

- Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board was established in September 1970 and has been implementing various Housing, Slum Development and Rehabilitation and Resettlement programmes to ameliorate the living conditions of the slum families in Tamil Nadu. The Board initially started its activities in Chennai and its activities were gradually extended to other urban areas of Tamil Nadu since 1984 onwards in phased manner.
- The motto of Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board is “*GOD WE SHALL SEE IN THE SMILE OF THE POOR*”. The Board has been implementing various programmes like In-situ tenemental schemes, In-situ plotted and infrastructure development and Rehabilitation and Resettlement schemes to improve the environs of the slums and the living standards of the urban slum families to achieve the Slum Free Cities Vision before 2023.
- The draft policy, released by the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB) on Tuesday, says that it is applicable to encroachment, eviction, and displacement undertaken by the departments, statutory bodies, and local bodies under various acts and rules.
- It says that while identifying land for resettlement, the daily livelihood activities of the intended beneficiaries must be taken into consideration.
- It also states that the distance from the source of employment and from the nearest towns must also be considered while scouting land for resettlement and rehabilitation.
- The TNUHDB which was earlier the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board has also in the draft specified that slum dwellers must be accommodated only in areas from where it will take only half an hour to reach the nearest town by bus or train.
- This draft policy has envisaged that it would prevail over other instructions on people evicted from objectionable poramboke land.

It also states that the policy is applicable only to the encroacher/non-title holders of the land.

4. Tamil Nadu Village Habitation Improvement Scheme (THAI)

THAI திட்டம்

Beneficiary:

People of the rural area.

Benefits:

Basic amenities to rural area.

THAI Scheme :

- This Government has introduced the flagship programme called Tamil Nadu Village Habitations Improvement (THAI) Scheme from 2011-12 on wards to overcome the bottlenecks in the uneven distribution of resources and to provide minimum basic infrastructure facilities to all the habitations.
- Tamil Nadu is the only State focusing on 'Habitation' as the unit of development and no other State in the Country is implementing such an innovative scheme. There are about 6 habitations on an average for each Village Panchayat in Tamil Nadu with 79,394 habitations in 12,524 Village Panchayats.
- However, the number of habitations varies from District to district. The average number of habitations in a Village Panchayat in The Nilgiris District is 37 whereas it is only 3 in Villupuram District.
- Therefore, allocation of equal amount to all the Village Panchayats, with varied number of habitations, has led to disparity in development, disproportionate distribution of assets and uneven progress.
- The THAI scheme has come as boon with the aim of extending the basic facilities to the grass root habitation. There are 12,524 Village Panchayats in the State spread across the 31 Districts (except Chennai).

Minimum Basic Requirements:

Water Supply :

Drinking water supply works like provision of power pump, extension of pipeline, augmentation of existing source shall be taken up depending upon the requirement.

Street Lights :

New streetlights will be provided in the new habitations, extension areas, Adi-Dravidar & Tribal habitations and IAY housing colonies, based on the actual needs. Additional street lights, including solar powered lights will be provided in the areas where the existing coverage is felt inadequate.

Cement Concrete Roads :

Pavements with residential units on sides, streets or lanes prone to water logging, part of the uncovered portion where a portion of the street has already been covered with cement concrete, will be taken up on priority.

Link Roads :

Link roads will cover bus-plying roads, upgradation of WBM roads to BT roads connecting two or more habitations in the same Panchayat and upgradation of earthen/gravel roads.

Cremation / Burial Grounds :

Each burial ground / cremation ground will be provided with approach road, compound wall, cremation shed, water facility and lights.

Pathway to Burial Ground :

Wherever the pathway is already available, improvement of the existing pathway will be taken up and wherever pathway is not available, top priority will be given to provide approach road or pathway.

The additional requirements and other permitted works will be taken up based on the need and necessity. Apart from THAI, the scheme will be implemented by dovetailing funds, from various schemes of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department and schemes of other Departments.

5. Chennai's Sustainable Urban Services.

சென்னையின் நிலையான நீடித்த நகர்ப்புற சேவைகள்

Introduction:

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors today approved a \$150 million program to support the Government of Tamil Nadu's vision of making Chennai into a world-class city that is more green, livable, competitive, and resilient to climate change and other shocks.

The \$150 million Chennai City Partnership: Sustainable Urban Services Program will help strengthen institutions, improve the financial health of service agencies, and drive significant improvements in the quality of four key urban services – **water supply and sewerage, mobility, health, and solid waste management.**

Highlights

- This programme will fulfil Tamil Nadu's vision of making Chennai into a city which is more green, liveable, and resilient towards climate change.
- Apart from programme in Tamil Nadu, World Bank has also approved a \$40 million project that will improve the quality of health services in the state Meghalaya. It will also strengthen capacity of state in handling health emergencies like COVID-19 pandemic.

Chennai City Partnership

Chennai City Partnership: Sustainable Urban Services Program is a \$150 million programme that will help in strengthening institutions. It will also help in improving the financial health of service agencies and bring in significant improvements in quality of four key urban services:

- Water supply and sewerage
- Mobility
- Health, and
- Solid Waste Management.

Water resource management, water supply, and sewerage services

To help break the recurring cycle of floods and droughts plaguing Chennai, the program will support an integrated management of water resources, the water supply system, and demand. It will support the creation of a Water

Regulatory Authority; use of performance-based operator contracts for improving water supply and sanitation services (WSS) in the core city area; extension of services to households residing in newly-added peripheral areas; improvement in operational efficiency (e.g. through reduction of water losses); and enhanced cost recovery (through improved collection of user charges and/or reduction of operating costs).

Urban mobility

The program will support Chennai in delivering seamless and safe citizen-centric mobility services, with an emphasis on ensuring integration across modes and enhancing women's safety in public transport and public spaces. It will improve the quantity and quality of bus services through performance-based contracting and expand pedestrian and cycling infrastructure. It will also support operationalization of the Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority as the entity for enhancing coordination across multiple transport modes and agencies.

Health Services

This program will strengthen the health care system by supporting Chennai deliver an expanded package of health services (including, for instance, screening for cancer, diabetes, and hypertension); improve the quality of public health centers and help them achieve National Quality Assurance Standards; and enhance disease surveillance through more regular reporting by public and private health facilities.

Solid Waste Management

The program will help Chennai reduce waste and enhance resource recovery, enabling the city to move up the waste hierarchy towards reuse, recycling, and recovery. It will also enhance the operational and financial sustainability of its solid waste management system.

Why this programme was launched in Chennai?

Metropolitan Area of Chennai is home to about 10.9 million people. It is the fourth most populous metropolitan area of India. Despite being an economic powerhouse, the city has not kept pace with the growing demand for key services. This city is also highly vulnerable to natural disasters, climate change as well as to pandemics like COVID-19. Thus, this project will help in mitigating all such challenges.

6. Singara Chennai 2.0.

சிங்கார சென்னை 2.0

Singara Chennai 2.0

The new DMK government elected to power in May 2021 has announced a proposal to revive the Singara Chennai project. In the interregnum between the last term of this government and the present term, several projects were taken up, chief among which was the Indian government's Smart Cities Project. Development works are already afoot in several areas. The pedestrian plaza in Pondy Bazaar is a glittering example. The operation of Chennai Metro both above and below ground has also eased the strain on travel within the city.

Proposals under Singara Chennai 2.0

- ❖ Project Blue- A project set to transform the city's coastline. The city will get beachfronts with a facelift, water sports facilities and an aquarium. The aim is to showcase the city's vast coastline and improve tourism
- ❖ Beautification of subways and flyovers across the city with urban gardens, play areas
- ❖ Redevelopment of Anna Nagar Tower Park with a proposal for a Ferris wheel
- ❖ Area improvement projects to be undertaken for Guindy & Egmore stations
- ❖ Science & Mathematics Parks for children to encourage scientific enquiry and temper
- ❖ Heritage landmarks of the such as the Victoria Hall to be renovated on priority
- ❖ Creation of an Art District in the city to encourage street art and other forms that showcase local life and culture
- ❖ Creation of a pet park, science center and a state-of-the-art multi-sports complex
- ❖ Promotion of electric vehicle use

The city corporation is shortly to begin various special projects under the Singara Chennai 2.0 as a government order (G.O.) was passed on Wednesday regarding the same. Top officials said some of the projects include Solid Waste Management such as bio-mining of legacy waste at Kodungayur and Perungudi, restoration of heritage buildings, access to quality toilets, and strengthening public health centres.

According to the G.O., by Additional Chief Secretary to the government, Shiv Das Meena, a go-ahead has been given for the proposal and guidelines to implement Singara Chennai 2.0. A five-member nodal panel has been formed as sanctioning and implementing authorities.

The project is also expected to give special focus to the added areas of the city. "We have already planted 60,000 saplings and sanctions have been given to construct school buildings. The G.O. will now allow us to go for some bigger projects," the official said, adding the beautification of walls and removal of posters were being done.

While bridges were greenified with dynamic lighting, historical structures such as the Mint Clock Tower, too, were given a face-lift. The G.O. is also expected to give an impetus to the 'Project Blue', which aims at beach beautification. "Priority will be to finish projects that can get funding faster. However, a concern is the budget allocation of Rs 500 crore will not be sufficient as the works under the scheme may exceed it by a big margin," officials said.

Additionally, the Metro Water will be providing water supply to every house. The fund management would be done by the TN Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited.

Thooimai Chennai

- ❖ Bio-mining of legacy waste, converting retrieved lands as urban green spaces
- ❖ Modernisation of slaughterhouses, markets
- ❖ Scientific disposal of construction waste

Pasumai Chennai

- ❖ Tree planting across the city

Neermegu Chennai

- ❖ Water supply works
- ❖ Rejuvenation of waterways and water bodies

Ezhilmigu Chennai

- ❖ Restoration of heritage buildings, provision of facade lighting

- ❖ Beautification of junctions, underside of bridges
- ❖ Upgrading city infrastructure
- ❖ Provision of footpaths for disabled

Nalaimigu Chennai

- ❖ Provision of public/community toilets
- ❖ Improvements to maternal and child health facilities
- ❖ Providing facilities for outdoor sports, exercise
- ❖ Promoting non-motorised transport
- ❖ Underground sewage scheme in uncovered areas

Kalvimigu Chennai

- ❖ Improvement of school infrastructure
- ❖ Learning centres for school children
- ❖ Modern libraries

7. Doorstep Medical

மக்களைத் தேடி மருத்துவம்

Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam - Doorstep Healthcare Scheme

Scheme:	Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam - Doorstep Healthcare Scheme
Scheme Under:	Tamil Nadu Government
Launched By:	Chief Minister MK Stalin
Launch Date:	August 5, 2021
Main Beneficiaries:	Patients with non-communicable diseases in the state
Benefit:	Medical care and treatment at the doorstep
Objective:	To provide medical services and treatments to the patients with non-communicable diseases at home

Objectives and Benefits:

- The main objective of the scheme is to treat the patients with non-communicable diseases with all the required health and medical care at home.
- Under this scheme, the patients will be able to access health and medical care facilities at home.
- It will provide medical help to areas with scarce medical resources.
- It will help in easy identification of disease and ailments thereby enabling quicker cure and treatment.
- This will also help the patients to avoid the visit to the hospital unless extremely necessary.
- The state government will be able to keep a check on the health of the residents.
- This scheme will enable to maintain a balance of life and health of the people.

Key Points:

- Doorstep Healthcare scheme - Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam is launched by Chief Minister MK Stalin on August 5, 2021.
- This scheme is launched currently in Krishnagiri, Thanjavur, Tiruchi, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, Chennai, Salem and Madurai districts.
- Under this scheme the state government will provide medications and medical services and treatments to the residents as required.
- It mainly aims to help the people with non-communicable diseases.
- This scheme will enable the patients to access health and medical care treatment at home.
- It thereby aims at avoiding the need of visiting the hospitals for treating the non-communicable diseases.
- It will help in quick detection of ailments and diseases thereby leading to immediate cure as required.
- Through this scheme, ailments like high blood pressure, diabetes, etc will be diagnosed early, kidney ailments can also be detected.
- This scheme will build a mechanism of health workers, nurses, physiotherapists, etc for providing health and medical services at the doorstep.
- About 1,264 women health volunteers, 50 physiotherapists and 50 nurses are already been appointed under this scheme in the first phase.
- About 1172 health sub centres, 189 primary health centres and 50 community health centres in 50 universal health coverage blocks will be covered.

- By the end of 2021 this scheme will be expanded to entire state with about 25,000 health and support staff in service.
- Total budget allocated for the scheme currently is Rs. 242 crores.
- It aims at benefiting about 30 lakh families counting to 1 crore people in all.
- This is a crucial step in providing health and medical care to the patients through treatment at home thereby avoiding the need to get admitted in the hospitals.
- This scheme will give a boost to the health care mechanism of the state.

8. Tamilnadu Urban Employment Scheme.

தமிழக நகர்ப்புற வேலைவாய்ப்பு திட்டம்

Introduction:

Tamil Nadu government has issued orders to implement the urban employment scheme in the state on a pilot basis. The scheme is aimed at providing livelihood and social security by increasing job opportunities and through creation and maintenance of public assets.

As a pilot, the scheme would be implemented in two zones in Greater Chennai Corporation, one zone each in 14 municipal corporations, one municipality each in seven regions, and one panchayat each in 37 districts for the year 2021-22. An initial allocation of Rs 100 crore has been made for the scheme for the year 2021-22.

The order states that as per the Urban employment scheme, 50 per cent of the total person-days under the scheme would be earmarked for women. Women and men would be paid the same wages for the same unskilled and semiskilled work. The TN Urban Employment Scheme is based on the recommendations made by a committee led by former Reserve Bank of India Governor C. Rangarajan.

The urban population in Tamil Nadu is growing fast and it would reach 60 per cent of the total population by 2036. A total of 4 crore people are now living in urban areas, accounting for 53 per cent of the total population.

Context:

This is an urban employment scheme proposed to be implemented by Tamil Nadu Government on the lines of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

It seeks to improve the livelihood of urban poor.

Need for:

Unlike other States, the urban population in Tamil Nadu is growing fast and it would reach 60% of the total population by 2036.

A total of four crore people are now living in urban areas, accounting for 53% of the total population.

But, many of them had lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Implementation and key features:

Under the scheme, workers will be used for activities such as desilting of water bodies and maintenance of public parks and other places.

Key objectives:

- ❖ Generation of paid rural employment of not less than 100 days for each worker who volunteers for unskilled labour.
- ❖ Proactively ensuring social inclusion by strengthening the livelihood base of rural poor.
- ❖ Creation of durable assets in rural areas such as wells, ponds, roads and canals.
- ❖ Reduce urban migration from rural areas.
- ❖ Create rural infrastructure by using untapped rural labour.

GEOGRAPHY / புவிபியல்

1. Jal Jeevan Mission - Tamilnadu.

ஜல் ஜீவன் திட்டம் - தமிழ்நாடு

Introduction:

Jal Jeevan Mission, is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India. The programme will also implement source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through grey water management, water conservation, rain water harvesting. The Jal Jeevan Mission will be based on a community approach to water and will include extensive Information, Education and communication as a key component of the mission.

Centre has allocated Rs 3,691 Crore grants to Tamil Nadu under Jal Jeevan Mission to make provision of tap water supply to every home. With a four-fold increase in allocation, the Central Government has pushed for accelerating pace in accomplishing the target of Har Ghar Jal by the State. The Ministry of Jal Shakti has also released Rs 614.35 Crore to the State as first tranche. Jal Shakti Minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat while approving this four-fold increase in allocation has assured full assistance to the State for making provision of tap water supply in every rural home by 2024.

In Tamil Nadu, out of a total of 1.26 Crore households, 40.36 lakh households have been provided with tap water connections. On 15th August 2019, at the time of launch of Jal Jeevan Mission, only 21.65 lakh households had tap water supply. In the last 22 months, 18.70 lakh households in the State have been provided tap water connections.

Jal Jeevan Mission announced by the Prime Minister on 15th August 2019 from Red Fort is under implementation in partnership with States and UTs to provide tap water connection to every rural household of the country by 2024.

2. Palmyra Development Mission.

பனைமர சாகுபடி திட்டம்

Introduction:

Palmyrah, the State tree of Tamil Nadu that has ecological and economic value, is all set to get its rightful place in the State again. Within six months, the agriculture department is aiming to plant 76 lakh palmyrah seeds across the State along the banks of waterbodies, agricultural land, fallow land, government poramboke land, and on roadsides.

Palmyrah Development Mission

Chief Minister MK Stalin launched a “Palmyrah Development Mission” on Friday. The State government has allocated Rs 3 crore towards the procurement of seeds and allied works. The original plan was to plant the seeds in 30 districts; this was later altered to encompass the entire State, with the focus being rural areas. Discussions are on to plant around 25,000 seeds along Coovum banks and other appropriate places in Chennai, in association with the Public Works Department (PWD) and the Chennai

Corporation. But the execution plans are yet to be finalised, according to the sources.

Considering the arrival of the monsoon, we are trying to complete planting the seeds by November, as we have to take into account the germination success. Experience tells us that 60 per cent of seeds germinate successfully," an official source said. It is, however, learnt that the target for this year might have to be brought down to 25 lakh, given the short period available before the monsoon kicks in.

The source also said that procurement of palmyrah seeds has already begun through the Tamil Nadu Seed Development Agency from Thoothukudi, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, and a few more districts where quality seeds are available. Many NGOs engaged in protecting this tree have come forward to donate seeds to the government.

Known scientifically as *Borassus flabellifer*, palmyrah (panai) has deep economic value in the State. "It takes years for the palmyrah tree to start yielding. Once it does, however, it will go on for many decades. No part of this tree goes to waste. Many entrepreneurs are engaged in exporting palmyrah products. So, in the long run, planting this tree in large numbers is an economically important move. Also, when the cyclonic storms hit the State, the palmyrah trees acted as 'wind warriors' in many areas," an official source said.

Most of India's palmyra in TN

Tamil Nadu has the highest number of palmyra trees in India. That is, about 5.10 crore of the estimated 8.59 crore palmyra trees in India are in Tamil Nadu, according to Tamil Nadu Palm Products Development Board. Activists, however, claim this figure has dropped drastically, to just three crore.

PRODUCTS TO BE SOLD VIA PDS

Of the ₹3 crore allotted, ₹1 crore had been granted for researches on topics like increasing the duration of the yield. "The government is planning to sell palmyra products through ration shops in future. Around ₹1 crore would be sanctioned to buy equipment to manufacture jaggery and other palmyra products," officials said

3. Blue flag certification. நீலக்கொடி தரச்சான்றிதழ்

Introduction:

Recently, Foundation for Environment Education (FEE), Denmark has awarded the **Blue Flag Certification to Kovalam (Tamil Nadu) and Eden (Puducherry)**, taking the total number of **such beaches in the country to 10**. A waving "Blue Flag" is an indication of 100% compliance to the 33 stringent criteria and sound health of the beach.

About:

- ❖ It is an **internationally recognised eco-label** that is accorded based on 33 criterias. These criterias are divided into 4 major heads namely,
 - Environmental education and information
 - Bathing water quality
 - Environmental management
 - Conservation and safety services in the beaches
- ❖ Blue Flag beaches are considered the cleanest beaches of the world. It is an **eco-tourism model endeavouring to provide the tourists/beachgoers** clean and hygienic bathing water, facilities, a safe and healthy environment and sustainable development of the area.
- ❖ It is accorded by the international jury composed of eminent members - **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, **United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)**, Denmark-based NGO **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)** and **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**.
- ❖ On the lines of Blue Flag certification, **India has also launched its own eco-label BEAMS** (Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services).

Other Eight Beaches which have Received the Certification:

- ❖ Shivrajpur in Gujarat,
- ❖ Ghoghla in Daman & Diu,
- ❖ Kasarkod in Karnataka and,

- ❖ Padubidri beach in Karnataka,
- ❖ Kappad in Kerala,
- ❖ Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh,
- ❖ Golden beach of Odisha,
- ❖ Radhanagar beach in Andaman and Nicobar.

In modern times, countries across the world are looking towards more sustainable forms of tourism. Eco-sensitive places such as beaches, and national parks, should be especially taken care of. During such a time, beaches such as Kovalam, and Eden serve as a reminder that we could transform our tourist sites, and make them more attuned to the environment.

4. GI Tag - Tamilnadu.

புவிசார் குறியீடு - தமிழ்நாடு

Introduction:

A GI (Geographical Indication) Tag is a name or a logo used on specific products about a geographic region or place of origin that grants the authorised user or manufacturer certain privileges.

The tag certifies that a certain product has been made using traditional methodologies within the said region, using ingredients local to the area and is a reaffirmation of the product's reputation. It offers legal protection to the producers of such goods or produce and prevents unauthorised use of GI tagged items by other sellers.

A GI tag is awarded to products associated with a specific geographical origin.

Award of a GI sign not only helps in tracing the origins of products but also helps in confirming authenticity and marketing of indigenous specialities. GI tags are issued as per the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act,1999.

This tag is issued by the Geographical Indication Registry under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The futility of such measures becomes evident in the cases of GI-tagged products such as the traditional handcrafted Dindigul locks and the Kandangi sari from TN.

Tamil Nadu's 'Kanniyakumari Clove' got GI Tag.

Kanyakumari Clove grown in the hills of Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu.

In India, the total production of cloves is 1,100 metric tons and of this, 1,000 metric tons is produced in Tamil Nadu every year while 750 metric tons of cloves are produced in the Kanyakumari district alone.

Tamil Nadu's Karuppur kalamkari paintings and the Kallakurichi wood carvings are the latest artistic creation to have earned the distinction of geographical indication (GI) tags. The artistic creations are both traditional as in the sense they are made on a cotton cloth piece with pens and brushes made up of bamboo tree and coconut tree stems. The wood carving is characterized by traditional designs drawn on temple related items and furniture.

Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation (Poompuhar) moved the application to register the Karuppur kalamkari paintings for the GI tag. The tag for the Kallakurichi wood carvings was jointly applied by the Kallakurichi Wood Carving Handicrafts Industrial Cooperative Limited Society and the Chinnasalem and Vriksha Association of Wood Carving Artisans self-help group.

1. Tamil Nadu White Paper.

தமிழ்நாடு வெள்ளை அறிக்கை

Introduction:

Tamil Nadu Minister for Finance and Human Resources Management P. T. R. Palanivel Thiagarajan on Monday published the much-awaited White Paper on the state's finances at the Secretariat in Chennai. The white paper highlighted the fiscal mismanagement during the past 10 years of AIADMK rule in Tamil Nadu.

Every family in the state has a debt of Rs 2,63,976, said Tamil Nadu Finance Minister PTR Palanivel Thiyagarajan on Monday while releasing the white paper for the state's finances of the past 15 years.

The white paper is expected to serve as a guide to the information regarding the fiscal management, state's liabilities, and especially losses incurred in state-owned corporations including Tamil Nadu Electricity Board in the past decade.

Here are the major takeaways from the paper:

Revenue deficit of TN has been deteriorating for the last eight years. Such a long-term trend has affected the development investments.

Revenue deficit: 3.16 as percentage of GSDP for FY 2020-21.

Fiscal deficit of the state has been primarily increasing due to increase in govt borrowing.

Fiscal deficit is 4.43 as percentage of GSDP.

The public debt is Rs 2,63,976 per family in TN.

Public debt as percentage of GSDP is 26.69 per cent, which is above the allowed limit of 25 per cent. Outstanding debt of GoTN has been mentioned as Rs 4,85,503 crores until now. However, if we consider "other means" of financing the fiscal deficit the real debt is Rs 5,24,574 crores.

Taxes

State's Own Tax Revenue registered a significant decline.

Commercial taxes, a main component of the State's Own Tax Revenue, was on a decreasing trend even before GST was introduced.

TN has a lower tax rates than many states leading to continued loss in Revenues. Eg: Motor vehicle tax rates have not been revised in the past 15 years.

Tamil Nadu has 6.124 per cent share of the population of the country but only 4.079 per cent share in the total tax revenue of the country, which is a proportion of 66.607 per cent. This is third lowest in the country.

Proportion of Cesses and Surcharges has gone up from 10.4 per cent in 2011-12 to 20.2 per cent in 2019-20. These Cesses and Surcharges are not shareable with the States.

Subsidies

Subsidies amounted 12.65 per cent (Rs 4841.80 crores) of revenue expenditure and 1.48 per cent of GSDP in 2006-07. This has increased to 27.06 per cent (Rs 62,338.84 crores) of Revenue Expenditure and 3.21 per cent of GSDP in 2020-21.

High increase in subsidy amounts calls for some urgent measures for improving and re-orientation of subsidies.

Power subsidy is the highest at 1.10 per cent of GSDP.

Food subsidy- 0.49 per cent of GSDP

Transport subsidy- 0.19 per cent of GSDP

These are the significant points raised in the white paper

The state government's revenue has come down by one-fourth. The decline in revenue is pointed out by the reserve bank and finance commission. State's revenue from the tax, which remained at 11.4% during the DMK regime, has come down to 4.4% in the last ten years.

The debt state of TANGEDCO and the transport department is in a worrisome state. The debt is over Rs 2 lakh crore and of which, the government has borrowed Rs 1.34 lakh crore for TANGEDCO alone. The state has been incurring a loss of Rs 59.57 if a TNSTC bus is operated for a kilometer.

The revenue which stood at 13.89% during the DMK period, has come down to 4.65% in the AIADMK regime.

The fiscal deficit of the state is Rs 92,305 crore. The pending GST share of the state is Rs 20,033 crore. Of Rs 21.46, tax levied on a litre of petrol, Rs 9.46 was given to the state earlier but now, it has come down to just Re 1 of Rs 33.

Local bodies have to pay Rs 1,743 crores towards electricity and water bills to the state government.

The government has been spending Rs 20.81 for producing and distributing 1000 litres of water but the Chennai metro water board is selling it for Rs 10.42

2. Tamil Nadu Budget

தமிழ்நாடு நிதிநிலை அறிக்கை

Introduction:

Tamil Nadu finance minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan on Friday presented a paperless budget. It is a revised budget for the year 2021-22. Here are the highlights of the budget.

The budget being presented today will be the first paperless budget session in the history of the state legislative assembly.

Budget Highlights:

- A separate committee of experts will be established by the government to claim the GST compensation due to the state from the Centre.
- About 14,317 jobs are vacant and need to be filled in TN police department of the total 1.33 lakh jobs.
- About Rs 8,900 crore budget allocated for the TN police department, says Tamil Nadu FM

- Rs 500 crore to be set aside for road safety initiative across departments: Palanivel Thiagarajan
- About Rs 405 crore budget allocated for the TN fire service department
- Over the next 10 years, thousand check dams and shutters to be constructed towards achieving better water management.
- Over Rs 111 crore allocated for desilting ponds
- Water holding capacity of major dams including Mettur and Vaigai to be restored to their past levels.
- About Rs 111 crore budget allocated to clean up 200 lakes and ponds across the state
- Food subsidy increased to Rs 8,437 crore.
- Distribution of cooking oil and dhal through PDS shops to continue.
- Chennai Kasimedu fishing harbour to be upgraded with Rs 150 crore.
- Rs 1,149 crore to be set aside for fishermen welfare.
- About 8 lakh families will get new houses in the villages in the next five years.
- Allocated Rs 2,000 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission, which aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections.
- Integrated bus terminus would be established in Trichy.
- Rs 100 crore allocated for Namakku Naame scheme to be implemented after Kalaignar (M Karunanidhi).
- Tamil Nadu FM says self-help groups will get Rs 20,000 crore loan.
- Singara Chennai 2.0 plan will begin soon.
- Rs 1,000 crore allocated to Kalaignar Urban development scheme.
- Three flyovers would be constructed in Chennai.
- Government is keen to make the Tamil Nadu as thatched house free state.
- About Rs 20,000 crore loan aide will be given for women self-help groups (SHGs).
- Allocated Rs 2,000 crore for underground drainage plan.
- Have allocated Rs 703 crore for the free ride for TN women in public buses.
- Metro railway projects will be expedited and completed by December 2026.
- Diesel subsidy of Rs 750 crore given to state public transport.
- Tamil Nadu government reduces Rs. 3 from State excise duty on petrol.
- Revised estimate of expenditure: Rs. 2,61,188.57 crore
- Defecit: Rs.58,692.68 crore

- Defence Industrial Park to come up in Coimbatore in about 500 acres .
- Rs 703 crore granted as subsidy for free bus travel for women.
- Green Movement to be launched in Tamil Nadu. Massive tree planting drive will be taken up in the next ten years
- Efforts will be strengthened to pursue Tamil as official language in Secretariat and other departments.
- 6,607.17 crore allocated for irrigation. Schemes will also be taken up with World Bank and Asian Development Bank funding.
- Special Public Distribution Scheme to continue.
- Food subsidy has been hiked to over ₹8,000 crore.
- Allocation of 5 crore to continue excavation at its Archaeological sites including Keeladi.
- Works on Smart City Missions and AMRUT will be completed by 2023.
- Efforts to make Chennai poster-free.
- Constituency development fund is fixed at ₹3 crore.
- Anna Marumalarchi Scheme will be launched to provide basic amenities in hamlets.
- Old Age Pension scheme to be revamped to accommodate all deserving candidates.
- 5,369.09 crore allocation for Higher Education.
- 165 crore allocated for construction of Financial Tech city in Nandambakkam in Chennai.
- Food parks proposed in Manapparai, Theni and Tindivanam.
- 762.23 crore allocated towards marriage assistance for women scheme.

3. Tamil Nadu Agri Budget

தமிழ்நாடு வேளாண் நிதிநிலை அறிக்கை

Introduction:

Minister Panneerselvam presented the Agriculture Budget for 2021-22.

For the first time in Tamil Nadu, a separate budget was tabled for the agriculture sector.

Budget highlights:

- A quintal of paddy will be purchased for Rs 2,060 and the normal variety for Rs 2,015. The Rs 2.62 crore Union-State Fund for Youth Entrepreneurship will be implemented.

- Coconut Value Added Center for Delta Coconut Farmers will be set up at Thanjavur.
- 5000 solar powered pump sets will be installed in the current year at 70% subsidy.
- An agricultural museum at a cost of Rs 2 crore will be set up in Chennai for the younger generation to know the pride of agriculture.
- Steps will be taken to produce 200 acres of seed in government seed farms in Tiruvallur, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Salem, Erode, Tiruppur, Trichy, Pudukottai, Thanjavur, Mayiladuthurai, Tiruvarur, Theni and Tirunelveli districts and distribute it to farmers.
- The state government will allocate Rs 25 lakh for this project. In the first phase, this year 2500 youths will be imparted training in grafting, logging, raiding, green hut maintenance, maintenance of micro-irrigation system, operation of horticultural machinery and repair of agricultural machinery.
- The project will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs 5 crore with the financial assistance of the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation.
- Measures will be taken to cultivate cotton in 1.7 lakh hectares to produce about 4 lakh bales and to purchase cotton at regulated outlets when the market price falls.
- Farmers will be given a special incentive of Rs 150 per tonne during the dry season.
- The purchase price of sugarcane will be increased from Rs 2,750 to Rs 2,900 per tonne.
- Subsidy will be provided for vegetable cultivation in all districts and cultivation of lettuce in an area of 1000 hectares.
- Two lakh seeds containing 12 varieties of vegetable seeds will be provided in subsidy in rural areas for children to reach for plants.
- Subsidy will be provided to improve soil fertility in 2000 villages where vegetable cultivation is less and to cultivate vegetables in an area of 1250 hectare and to increase production by cultivating lettuce in an area of 100 ha in all districts.
- A special Rs. 2 crore plantation center will be set up at Panruti in Cuddalore district.
- In Cuddalore, Dindigul, Erode, Pudukottai, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Trichy, Vellore, Karur and Kallakurichi districts, 10 small scale farmers' markets will be set up in municipalities and urban areas at a cost of Rs. 6 crore.
- 40 per cent subsidy of Rs 20,000 dry fields at regulated sales outlets in Cuddalore, Villupuram, Salem, Namakkal, Krishnagiri, Erode, Trichy,

Thanjavur, Theni, Dindigul, Tiruppur and Kanyakumari districts at an estimated cost of Rs 3.5 crore.

4. 1 trillion-dollar economy – TN.

1 டிரில்லியன் டாலர்கள் பொருளாதாரம் - தமிழ்நாடு

Roadmap to \$1 trillion economy: TN unveils export strategy

The five-year strategy was unveiled by Chief Minister MK Stalin on Wednesday as TN targets a \$1 trillion economy by quadrupling its exports in nine years.

Tamil Nadu has an estimated untapped export potential of Rs 1.6 lakh crore (\$22 billion) and there is a need for sector-specific export-oriented intervention to accelerate overall export growth, according to the Tamil Nadu Export Promotion Strategy 2021.

The five-year strategy was unveiled by Chief Minister MK Stalin as TN targets a \$1 trillion economy by quadrupling its exports in nine years.

Drawing a comparison to 'Made in India' products that are available across the globe, the State should work towards ensuring 'Made in Tamil Nadu' products, too, are on par with them, said Stalin, unveiling the strategy at the Tamil Nadu Exports Conclave, held as a part of events commemorating the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence.

Meanwhile, 24 memoranda of understanding (MoU) were signed which would provide investments.

The investments have been made in textiles, chemicals, IT/ITES, steel, leather apparels, and general manufacturing sectors, at various locations in Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tirupattur, Krishnagiri, Madurai, Salem, Tiruchy, Thanjavur, Thoothukudi, Dindigul, and Tirunelveli districts, 'ensuring a balanced growth across the State'.

Stating that TN will adopt a two-pronged approach – export promotion and export diversification.

Industries asked to find new avenues for export

The State is setting up an Export Promotion Council under the Chief Secretary to boost exports the State has identified 10 export hubs where infrastructure projects will be strengthened.

The Chief Minister also released an MSME Exporters Handbook and gave land allotment orders to the first two companies for an exclusive park, catering to the needs of the polymer industry, in Voyalur near Ponneri.

Meanwhile, the Cotton Corporation of India has handed over a letter to Stalin to set up cotton depots. This comes after the CM cancelled the one per cent market cess on cotton and waste cotton.

Stalin launched a Single Window Portal 2.0 with upgraded digital services such as parallel processing of clearances, virtual meeting with departments, an Artificial Intelligence-based Chatbot and approval for select clearances for existing and new investors.

5. Tamilnadu Investment Conclave.

முதலீட்டாளர்களின் முதல் முகவரி – தமிழ்நாடு

Tamil Nadu government entered into an Agreement or MoU with several companies at an investment conclave in Chennai with an employment potential of 55,054

Key Highlights

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's CM MK Stalin also laid the foundation stone for 9 projects, besides the inauguration of five other projects
- ❖ The MOUs entail investments worth over Rs 17,000 crore
- ❖ This will be the first series of MoUs to be inked by the two-month-old DMK government.

The Tamil Nadu government signed 35 MoUs worth Rs 17,141 crore with an employment potential of 55,054 during an investment conclave in Chennai today. Tamil Nadu's CM MK Stalin also laid the foundation stone for 9 projects, besides the inauguration of five other projects.

This will be the first series of MoUs to be inked by the two-month-old DMK government.

While JSW Energy signed an MoU for setting up renewable energy power plants in Thoothukudi, Tiruppur and Tirunelveli districts for an investment of Rs 3,000 crore, the MoU with CapitaLand would pave the way for establishing a data centre at Ambattur for an investment of Rs 1,500 crore. Additionally, TCS would set up an IT/ITES unit for an investment of Rs 900 crore.

The event also witnessed the laying of the foundation for a liquid oxygen production unit by INOX Air products at Hosur. It would entail an investment of Rs 150 crore, with a capacity of 200 MT a day.

Also, General Electric (GE) signed an MoU with the TN government on Tuesday to establish a centre of excellence in aerospace, seen as a sunrise sector in the state to attract investments due to its adjacency to engineering industries, in association with state-owned Tidco.

Altogether, 47 projects with a combined investment of more than Rs 28,664 crore and providing employment to 82,400 people have been lined up for Stalin's engagement on Tuesday, industries minister Thangam Thennarasu had tweeted.

Among the projects that would be inaugurated are Vikram Solar at Oradagam; DP World - Integrated Chennai Business Park (I) Pvt Ltd; Danish auto component manufacturer Dinex's unit in Mahindra World City; and Coral Manufacturing Works' unit in Erode.

6. Economic Advisory Council - Tamil Nadu.

பொருளாதார ஆலோசனைக் குழு - தமிழ்நாடு

The reason for setting up the council

Tamil Nadu is reeling under a precarious financial crunch, following the slowdown and the COVID-19 pandemic. With persistent high revenue and fiscal deficits and a large overhang of debts, the state is struggling hard to finance the welfare schemes. The state has been fighting hard to get its GST dues from the Government of India.

The members and their expertise

1. Prof. Esther Duflo – A poverty alleviation expert and Nobel laureate, Esther is a Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT, USA).
2. Dr Raghuram Rajan – A former RBI governor, Rajan also helped design India's core social-security project, MNREGA.
3. Dr Arvind Subramanian – Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) to the Government of India between 2014 and 2018.
4. Prof. Jean Dreze – A development economist, Dreze is Visiting Professor at Ranchi University in India.
5. Dr S. Narayan – A former bureaucrat with nearly four decades in public service, who had served as economic advisor to the Government of India during the Vajpayee administration in 2003-04. He is a proponent of the Dravidian brand of politics.

What will the committee do?

The committee will provide general guidance on economic and social policy, social justice and human development related issues. The advice will be on particular matters related to ensuring equal opportunities for women and the well-being of underprivileged groups. The council will advise on boosting economic growth, employment and productivity in the state.

While guiding the state on improving the overall fiscal health of the state, it will also advise on improving the state capacity to deliver better services to the people. It will also act as a sounding board for new ideas or on possible solutions to intransigent roadblocks.

The output of the council will be in the form of policy briefs or notes or even consultations, according to the issued Government Order. The council is expected to provide the chief minister with quick advice proactively in response to specific requests.

With a former Lehman banker PTR Palanivel Thiagarajan as the finance minister, the council is considered as an added advantage to take the state's economic growth at a faster pace and bailout from the economic crisis. The council as per the Terms of Reference in the GO issued by the government says that the members may, suo moto or on request from the chief minister or finance minister, provide specific inputs.

According to highly placed sources in the state secretariat, the members of the council were roped in by PTR, in consultation with chief minister Stalin. Sources also said that Stalin is highly concerned about the precarious financial situation of the state, which he feels could hamper his dream of a welfare state.

Stalin's plan seems to be driven by his aim to revitalise Tamil Nadu's fallen economy. The new team is likely to help him achieve parallel growth across all sectors in the state.

Responses to the formation of the council have been positive, with policy watchers calling it a "dream team" due to the qualifications of its members. Tamil Nadu state in India has pulled off the unthinkable - a dream economic advisory team.

Poverty-alleviation expert and Nobel laureate Esther Duflo, former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan & Jean Dreze, who helped design India's core social-security project, MGNREGA, are part of it.

7. Tamil Nadu export promotion policy 2021.

தமிழ்நாடு ஏற்றுமதி கொள்கை 2021

Chief Minister M K Stalin unveiled the Tamilnadu Export Promotion Policy that aims to increase its exports to USD 100 billion by 2030.

Releasing the policy at the Tamilnadu Exports Conclave here, Stalin said the State will adopt a two-pronged approach—export promotion and export diversification, to achieve this objective.

As per the policy, Tamilnadu would develop two Economic Employment Enclaves in Manaellore and Thoothukudi to ensure balanced growth of exports across the State.

It said the state has identified 10 Export Hubs and shall strengthen export related common infrastructure projects in these hubs by reimbursing 25 per cent of the project cost, subject to a ceiling of Rs 10 crore per Export Hub.

As per the policy, schemes have been formulated to provide special package incentives in order to encourage exporters to produce value-added products.

In a major boost to industry and to increase exports, the Tamilnadu government signed 24 MoUs with 100 per cent with a cumulative investment of Rs 2,120.54 crores, creating employment opportunities for 41,695 people.

The MoUs were signed on behalf of the Industries and MSME departments in the presence of Chief Minister M K Stalin at the Tamil Nadu Exports conclave being held with the theme 'growth in Exports, TN in Forefront'.

While 14 MoUs were signed on behalf of the Industries Department with the 100 per cent Export Oriented Units, with a cumulative investment of Rs 1880.54 crore, that would create employment opportunities for 39,150 persons.

Another 10 MoUs were signed on behalf of the MSME Department, with a cumulative investment of Rs 240 crore, providing employment opportunities for 2,545 persons.

In all 24 MoUs were exchanged with a total investment of Rs 2120.54 crore which would generate employment for 41,695 persons.

These investments have been made in various sectors, including textiles, chemicals, IT / ITES, steel, leather, apparels and general manufacturing.

It is significant to note that these investments will be made across the state in various locations like Chennai, Kanchipuram, Tirupathur, Krishnagiri, Madurai, Salem, Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur, Thoothukudi, Dindigul and Tirunelveli Districts ensuring balanced growth throughout the State.

8. Mudra scheme - Relating to Tamilnadu weavers.

தமிழக நெசவாளர்களுக்கான முத்ரா திட்டம்

PMMY Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana was launched in 2015 to provide loans to non-corporate, small and micro-enterprises. Under the scheme, loans up to Rs 10 lakhs are provided. The loans are given by Regional Rural Banks, Commercial banks, Small Finance Banks, Non-Banking Financial Corporations, Micro-Financial Institutions

Tamil Nadu weavers received more loans under the Mudra scheme than all other states put together in the last three years,

41,568 Tamil Nadu weavers were provided loans under the Mudra scheme in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21. This was way higher than 25,193 loans sanctioned for weavers from all the other states put together during the same period.

The loan amount given to weavers from Tamil Nadu accounted for Rs 207 crore, whereas the loan given to all other states was Rs 159 crore,

During the last three years 1,438 weavers benefitted from central government's skill development scheme while 9924 weavers were trained in other parts of the country. Similarly, 1,955 weavers from TN were provided looms and accessories, while weavers from all other states put together accounted for 20192.

9. National Monetisation Plan - Tamilnadu.

தேசிய பணமாக்கல் திட்டம் - தமிழ்நாடு

ASSET MONETISATION PLAN - TAMILNADU

On August 23, Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman - launched a four-year road map for Rs.6-lakh-crore asset monetisation plan.

- ❖ The National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) lists out the government's infrastructure assets to be sold over the next four years
- ❖ The plan includes mostly brownfield assets of central ministries and public sector entities across roads, railways and power.
- ❖ It also includes infrastructure assets, including national highways, passenger trains, railway stations, airports, roads, stadiums and power grid pipelines

Six airports in the state including Chennai, 491 km of national highway and the Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) - are among the infrastructure assets identified by the Centre under the National Monetisation Plan.

- ❖ Solar power capacities of NLC India,
- ❖ Gas pipelines in the Cauvery basin,
- ❖ Some port assets of VOC Port in Tuticorin,
- ❖ Railway stations of Puducherry and Chennai,
- ❖ Hotel Ashok in Puducherry, are among the chosen assets to witness joint leasing by the Union government

- ❖ Trichy airport has been identified for monetisation through brownfield PPP models in FY22.
- ❖ This will be followed by Madurai and Coimbatore airports in FY23, and Chennai airport in FY24
- ❖ The national highway stretches identified for monetization over FY 2022-2025 in the State include,
 - Ulundurpet-Padalur (94 km),
 - Ulundurpet-Tindivanam (73 km),
 - Trichy-Padalur (38 km),
 - Krishnagiri-Thopurghat (63),
 - six laning of Hosur-Krishnagiri (60 km), Tambaram-Tindivanam (46.5)
 - Trichy-Karaikudi including Trichy bypass (117 km).

