



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

TAMILNADU Current Affairs Topics  
தமிழ்நாடு நடப்பு நிகழ்வுகள் தலைப்புகள்

HISTORY / வரலாறு

1. 175<sup>th</sup> 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 - 175<sup>th</sup> 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. 150<sup>th</sup> 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 **150<sup>th</sup> 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 **5<sup>th</sup> 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 **18<sup>th</sup> 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. 100<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary of Bharatiyar.

பாரதியாரின் 100வது நினைவு தினம்

#### Introduction:

**Mahakavi Subramania Bharati - 100<sup>th</sup> death centenary.**

- **Birth:** 11<sup>th</sup> 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:** 11<sup>th</sup> 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. 75<sup>Th</sup> 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

## 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.

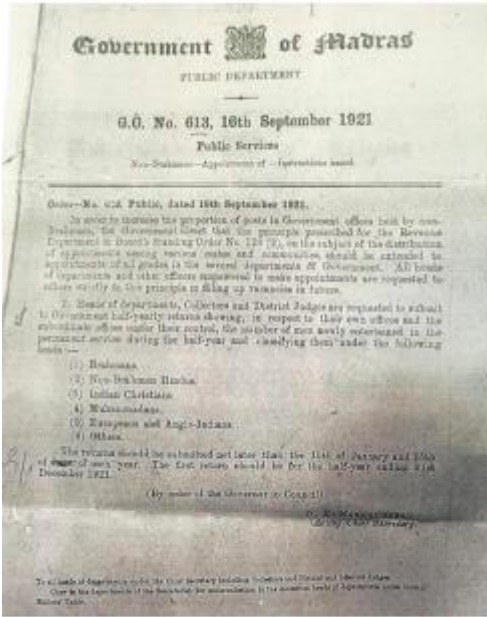
For the State that boasts a Chola inscription of around 920 CE (Uthiramerur, about 90 km south of Chennai), dealing with a written Constitution, the celebration carries a special meaning beyond the fact that the legislature has completed 100 years of existence.

## 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 (Polity)

தமிழ்நாடு புலம்பெயர் நலவாரியம்

## GOVERNANCE - ஆளுகை

### 1. Achievements of First 100 Days of DMK Government

திமுக 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. Kalaingar 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 Kalaignar 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

#### **6. AK Rajan Committee Recommendations- NEET.**

AK ராஜன் குழு பரிந்துரைகள் - NEET

7. First 5 orders signed by CM Stalin. (governance)  
முதல்வரின் முதல் ஐந்து கையெழுத்து

### SOCIAL ISSUES - சமூக பிரச்சனைகள்

1. Impact of COVID in Tamilnadu  
தமிழ்நாட்டில் கோவிட்டின் தாக்கம்
2. How Tamilnadu Tackled COVID - 19?  
கோவிட்-19 பெருந்தொற்றை தமிழகம் எவ்வாறு எதிர்கொண்டது?
3. Tamilnadu Slum Dwellers resettlement policy  
தமிழக அரசின் புதிய குடிசை மாற்று மறுவாழ்வு கொள்கை
4. Tamil Nadu Village Habitation Improvement Scheme (THAI)  
THAI திட்டம்
5. Chennai's Sustainable Urban Services.  
சென்னையின் நிலையான நீடித்த நகர்ப்புற சேவைகள்
6. Singara Chennai 2.0.  
சிங்கார சென்னை 2.0
7. Doorstep Medical  
மக்களைத் தேடி மருத்துவம்
8. Tamilnadu Urban Employment Scheme.  
தமிழக நகர்ப்புற வேலைவாய்ப்பு திட்டம்

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1. Jal Jeevan Mission - Tamilnadu.  
ஜல் ஜீவன் திட்டம் - தமிழ்நாடு
2. Palmyra Development Mission.  
பனைமர சாகுபடி திட்டம்
3. Blue flag certification.  
நீலக்கொடி தரச்சான்றிதழ்
4. GI Tag - Tamilnadu.  
புவிசார் குறியீடு - தமிழ்நாடு

**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 Kalaingar (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 Kalaingar 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
5. **Tamilnadu Investment Conclave.**  
முதலீட்டாளர்களின் முதல் முகவரி - தமிழ்நாடு
6. **Economic Advisory Council - Tamil Nadu.**  
பொருளாதார ஆலோசனைக் குழு - தமிழ்நாடு
7. **Tamil Nadu export promotion policy 2021.**  
தமிழ்நாடு ஏற்றுமதி கொள்கை 2021
8. **Mudra scheme - Relating to Tamilnadu weavers.**  
தமிழக நெசவாளர்களுக்கான முத்ரா திட்டம்
9. **National Monetisation Plan - Tamilnadu.**  
தேசிய பணமாக்கல் திட்டம் - தமிழ்நாடு

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