



FVF RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - November

TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu - has slipped to level III in 2020-21 in the Performance Grading Index (PGI) released by the Department of School Education and Literacy under the Ministry of Education.

PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE

Performance Grading Index (PFI) 2020-21 for Tamil Nadu

Parameters	2020-21	2019-20
Learning Outcomes (180)	132	132
Access (80)	78	77
Infrastructure facilities(150)	131	142
Equity (230)	183	219
Governance (360)	331	336
Total score (1000)	855	906

- ✓ The State had obtained poor scores in equity, infrastructure, and governance in the latest rankings released on November 3.
- ✓ As per the latest index, the overall score of the State has come down from 906 in 2019-20 to 855 in 2020-21.
- ✓ The PGI comprises 1000 points across 70 indicators in five domains —learning outcomes and quality, access, infrastructure and facilities, equity and governance process.
- ✓ Among the various domains, the state has improved its score to 78 from 77 in the domain of ‘access’ alone.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has slipped from 219 to 183 in the ‘equity’ domain
 - ✓ The indicators in this domain compares performances of SC, ST students and general category students, rural and urban students, girls and boys, enrolment of children with special needs, percentage of schools with ramps and functional toilets.

- ✓ In infrastructure and facilities also, the state slipped by nine points from 142 to 131.
 - ✓ With no National Achievement Survey (NAS) conducted since 2017, the score in learning outcomes and quality remained unchanged as 132 out of 180.
 - ✓ It has to be recollected that the state was ranked as one of the top five states at level II in the Performance Grading Index (PGI) in 2019-20
 - ✓ In the latest PGI for the year 2020-21, seven states — Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Chandigarh — were ranked as the top performing states in the country with Level 2 score of 901-950
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu is in level III with Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Lakshadweep, NCT of Delhi, Odisha, with scores in the band of 851-900
 - ✓ Interestingly, no state has attained the Level 1 score of 951-1000 as also the lowest band of Level 10, which is between 0 and 550
 - ✓ According to the report, the most improved performance was by Ladakh, which attained Level 4 score in 2020-21 after featuring in Level 10 in 2019-20
 - ✓ The Performance Grading Index (PGI) is a comprehensive analysis of school education system across the country.
 - ✓ The main objective of the rankings is to develop evidence-based policy-making and to ensure quality education for all students across the country.
 - ✓ The PGI 2020-21 report was prepared based on data drawn from several sources including Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE +) and National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2017.
 - ✓ The grading system was introduced in 2017-18, and till now, no state has achieved the Level 1 grade.
- **The state government - has increased the project sanctioning powers of the corporation commissioners and mayors in all the corporations of the state, except the Greater Chennai Corporation**
- ✓ In this regard, the government has issued an order on November 2 fixing responsibility on the commissioner for the proposed projects.
 - ✓ As per the government order (GO), a mayor can now provide administrative sanction (AS) for civil works up to an estimated cost of Rs.50 lakh, up from Rs.20 lakh.
 - ✓ The commissioner can provide AS for projects up to Rs.30 lakh, up from Rs.10 lakh.
 - ✓ Similarly, ward committees can approve projects worth up to Rs.10 lakh, which is an increase of Rs.5 lakh.
 - ✓ The approval limits of the standing committee have been reduced from Rs.30 lakh to Rs.20 lakh.
 - ✓ However, the limits allowed for the council remain the same as it can give AS for projects worth up to Rs.10 crore.

- ✓ While the ward committee and the standing committee should provide AS with the concurrence of the commissioner, the mayor must provide AS in consultation with the commissioner.
 - ✓ The measure has been taken to complete the projects without wasting time by taking approval from the Commissionerate of Municipal Administration (CMA) and the state government for smaller projects.
- **Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation, which is implementing the 'Naan Mudhalvan' initiative - has set aside Rs.200 crore for establishing Centres of Excellence and innovation hubs among others.**



- ✓ The corporation intends to offer soft skill training for students pursuing higher studies in association with industry partners
- ✓ At present, only around 5-6 out of the 50 partners under the programme were from the industry, and the rest were training partners
- ✓ Under the initiative, 18 mandatory courses are offered to the students to upskill communications, digital skills and emerging technologies
- ✓ More than 2,000 educational institutions are onboard under the industry relevant skill enhancement initiative for students pursuing higher education in the state
- ✓ On March 1, 2022, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated the 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme and launched a new portal 'naanmudhalvan.tnschools.gov.in'
- ✓ The first-of-its-kind initiative aims to equip about 10 lakh youth across the State with skills that will help them realise their talents for the benefit of the country
- ✓ The scheme aims to identify, train and offer career and academic guidance to talented students in government-run and State-aided educational institutions.
- ✓ It also aims to offer spoken English lessons to enable students to face interview panels successfully.
- ✓ The scheme will offer training modules in coding and robotics in accordance with technological advancements.
- ✓ Training will be offered through both in-person and virtual sessions, and a guidance bureau will be created in every school.

SCHEMES

- **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan - inaugurated the state revenue department's digital resurvey project, called 'Ente Bhoomi' (my land) on the occasion of the 66th foundation day of Kerala**



- ✓ The Kerala day was observed recently on November 1 to mark the state's formation from the then Madras state 65 years ago
- ✓ The newly launched project aims to identify and provide plots to over three lakh landless families in the state.
- ✓ As part of the project, of the 1,666 villages in the state, a digital survey of around 1,550 is expected to be completed in the next four years at a cost of Rs. 807 crore
- ✓ Ente Bhoomi is an ambitious digital land resurvey programme that, when completed, will make the state the first in the country where there are no landless citizens
- ✓ The initiative has its own mascot, an elephant called Survey Pappu
- ✓ Through digitalisation, the government desires to meet the objectives of “Land for Everyone, Title to that Land, and Smart Services”
- ✓ The aim of the scheme is to digitize all land records and prepare an authentic document regarding the land area
- ✓ According to the Department of Survey and Land Records (DSLRL), which oversees Ente Bhoomi, the programme is being executed under the Rebuild Kerala Initiative, a government-level programme to build a resilient Kerala
- ✓ As per the plan, in the first three years, starting from 1 November, 400 villages each will get surveyed digitally
- ✓ After the resurvey, the land owners will be given a unique Property Identification Code followed by a Property Card
- ✓ The survey will be carried out using the latest survey equipment such as Real Time Kinematic (RTK) Rover and Robotic Total Station.
- ✓ In the case of drone survey, it will be carried out under the SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayat Raj
- ✓ In India, the digitalisation of land records was started in the 1980s through centrally-sponsored schemes called Computerisation of Land Records and Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land records.
- ✓ It was followed by a comprehensive scheme called the National Land Record Modernisation Programme in 2008 to implement a Conclusive Titling System

- ✓ Later, in 2015-16, this scheme was revamped and brought under the Digital India umbrella initiative of the government and renamed as Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme.

STATES

- **On November 4, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal – announced various anti pollution measures for the national capital in a joint meeting with Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann**



- ✓ Delhi's air quality remained at the highly toxic "severe" category with a 24-hour Air-Quality Index (AQI) of 447 for the second straight day
- ✓ The CM has announced the closure of all primary schools in Delhi beginning on November 5 due to the pollution crisis in the Delhi-NCR.
- ✓ Additionally, all classes above class 5 will be barred from participating in outdoor activities.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Delhi transport department banned petrol cars of up to BS-III emission standards as well as diesel vehicles up to BS-IV standards within Delhi till further notice.
- ✓ Further, pollution watchdog, commission for air quality management (CAQM) ordered barring all diesel four wheelers other than the BS-VI ones.
- ✓ However, vehicles used for essential and emergency service have been exempted.
- ✓ A six-member monitoring committee, headed by the special commissioner of transport, has been formed for implementation of the ban on the entry of trucks.
- ✓ The government imposed the latest measures under stage IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)
- ✓ The AQI has been "severe" on three of the four days in November so far.
- ✓ Further, to reduce vehicular pollution, 50% of Delhi government employees will work from home.
- ✓ To combat pollution, the transport department has decided to procure 500 private buses as part of the "Paryavaran bus service" which were hired especially when air pollution is at its peak.
- ✓ The government is also exploring the option of implementing the odd-even scheme, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal announced

- ✓ A special task force will be formed for monitoring pollution levels at hotspots.
 - ✓ According to data released by SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research) India, the stubble-burning contributed 34% in Delhi's PM 2.5 pollution.
 - ✓ When the Air Quality Index is between 0 and 100, it is good; when it is between 100 and 200, it is moderate; when it is between 200 and 300, it is bad; when it is between 300 and 400, it is very poor; and when it is between 400 and 500 or above, it is severe.
- **The Kerala cabinet – decided to drop its controversial plan to increase the retirement age in state PSUs to 60 years.**
- ✓ The decision has come following widespread protests from youth organisations affiliated to the Left parties and opposition parties.
 - ✓ The retirement age of various PSUs in Kerala varies from 56 to 58 and the latest order was issued based on the recommendations of an expert committee.
 - ✓ The committee conducted a comprehensive study on the formulation of a common framework for pay/wage structure of PSUs in the state.
 - ✓ The expert committee had recommended enhancement of the retirement age of employees of all state PSUs uniformly to 60 as in the case of central PSUs.

NATIONAL

- **On November 4, the University Grants Commission (UGC) - released the draft of the “UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2022”.**
- ✓ The UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2022, which will replace the 2019 guidelines, have been modified in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020
 - ✓ Institutions that are ‘deemed-to-be-university’ enjoy academic status and privileges of a university
 - ✓ As per the new regulations, the UGC has proposed waiving of the 20-year condition to apply for the ‘deemed-to-be’ university tag.
 - ✓ It has proposed a set of regulations including making multi-disciplinary institutions or clusters of them in the same city/town with a minimum of five departments to apply for the tag of deemed university.
 - ✓ Deemed universities will also be allowed to start off-shore campuses by the UGC and admissions will be based on a testing by a government agency
 - ✓ An institution must have a valid accreditation by NAAC grade with at least a 3.01 CGPA for three consecutive cycles to be eligible to apply for the status of deemed-to-be university
 - ✓ For technical institutions seeking the deemed university status, two-thirds of their eligible technical programmes must be accredited by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) for three consecutive cycles.

- ✓ Institutions that are ranked in the top 50 by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) in any specific category for three consecutive years are also eligible to become deemed universities.
 - ✓ Besides this, those who remain in the top 100 of the overall NIRF ranking continuously for three years can also seek the same status.
 - ✓ The criteria for the deemed university status also includes a teacher-student ratio of 1:20
 - ✓ It also includes a minimum combined faculty strength of at least 100 teachers and a minimum combined student strength of not less than 2000 under the classroom mode with the condition that at least one-third of them must be postgraduate/ research students
 - ✓ The salient features of these modified regulations include fixing fee transparently keeping in view non-profiteering/ non-commercial aspects.
 - ✓ The deemed universities may provide fee concession/ scholarships or may allocate some seats to meritorious students belonging to socially and economically deprived groups of the society
 - ✓ They may also implement the reservation policy in admissions/ recruitment, in accordance with the Constitution of India and the Act of Parliament in force.
 - ✓ These universities are also allowed to offer online/ distance courses degrees in accordance with the UGC Regulations notified on the subject.
 - ✓ In case of violations of the regulations, graded penalties have been introduced, which include warning through public notice, ban on expansions, closure of programmes or departments and withdrawal of deemed university status for repeated lapses.
 - ✓ The UGC has invited comments from stakeholders on the draft till November 18.
 - ✓ There are around 170 deemed institutions in the country currently.
- **The government - is setting up a comprehensive database of drug formulations manufactured and marketed in the country**
- ✓ The move is aimed at strengthening the quality monitoring mechanism and plugging loopholes in the regulatory system.
 - ✓ The government has constituted an expert panel to prepare a 'National Drugs Database' which will list the information on the drug, its manufacturer or marketer, dosage forms and strengths.
 - ✓ At present, there is no comprehensive national database which provides all details on drugs.
 - ✓ The Ministry of Health maintains 'Sugam', an index of drug licenses issued to companies by state FDAs.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Russia - said that it was rejoining a deal that allows the shipment of grain from Ukrainian ports through the Black Sea**

- ✓ Russia announced the sudden reversal of decision after Turkey and the UN helped Ukrainian grain shipments without Russian participation in inspections.
- ✓ At least 15 grain ships have departed from Ukraine since Russia announced it was pulling out of the agreement on October 29.
- ✓ The Russian defence ministry justified the u-turn by saying it had received guarantees from Ukraine not to use the Black Sea grain corridor for military operations against Russia.
- ✓ Ukraine has denied in the past that it used the shipping corridor as cover for attacks.
- ✓ Russia had suspended its participation in the grain deal last week after an attack on Russian naval ships in the Black Sea port of Sevastopol that it blamed on Ukraine
- ✓ Ukraine and Russia are key global exporters of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other food to developing countries where people are already struggling with hunger and famine
- ✓ The United Nations and Turkey struck separate deals with Russia and Ukraine in July to ensure Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia would receive grain and other food from the Black Sea region during Russia's eight month-old war in Ukraine
- ✓ The July agreement, known as the Black Sea Grain Initiative, seeks to address the global food shortage issue by restarting Ukraine's exports, with cargo ships moving through a sea corridor to Istanbul.
- ✓ In Istanbul, the ships would be inspected by officials from Russia, Ukraine, Turkey and the United Nations.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The 12th edition of Biennial International Exhibition and Conference India Chem 2022 - was held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on November 2 and 3**

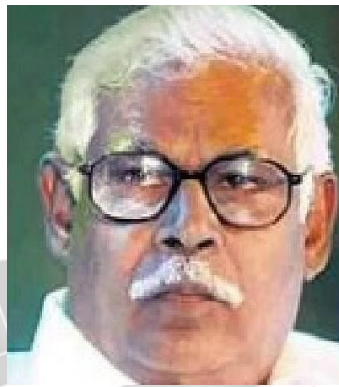


- ✓ The two-day flagship event was organized by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).
- ✓ India Chem 2022 is one of the biggest composite events in the Asia-Pacific region for the stakeholders of chemical industry

- ✓ The event was held based on the theme “Vision 2030: Chemicals and Petrochemicals Build India”.
- ✓ It highlighted the Government’s policies targeting the sustainable growth of the chemicals and petrochemical industry.
- ✓ The foreign investors from China, Japan, Iran, Germany, Turkey, Vietnam, and Korea participated in the event
- ✓ Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha are the participating States in the event

OBITUARY

- **Tamil writer and retired professor K Nedunchezhiyan (79 years) - died in Chennai on November 4 due to age-related illness recently.**



- ✓ A native of Padugai in Trichy, Nedunchezhiyan has written several books on Tamil literature, philosophy, Dravidian movement, and its leaders Periyar and CN Annadurai.
- ✓ He worked as professor at Thanthai Periyar EVR Government Arts and Science College, Trichy, and later as head of Tamil Department in Thanjavur Tamil University.
- ✓ Besides this, he had worked at Bharathidasan and Periyar Universities.
- ✓ Nedunchezhiyan was an active member in the Dravidian movement and Tamil politics.
- ✓ He is best known for his research books ‘Chithana Vasal’, Sanga Kaala Tamizhar Samayam’, and ‘Tamizharin Adayalam’.
- ✓ Aasivagamum Iyyanar Varalarum, his last book, was released by DMK president and current Chief Minister MK Stalin in 2019
- ✓ In August this year, CM M K Stalin presented him with the ‘Kalaingar M Karunanidhi Semmozhi Tamil’ award for his work in literature.

UDISE+ 2021-22 - REPORT

- **On November 3, the Ministry of Education - has released the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2021-22 report on system of school education in India**

- ✓ The report reveals that the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), that measures the general level of participation in schools, has improved in 2021-22 at primary, upper primary, and higher secondary levels, as compared to 2020-21
- ✓ As per the report, the total enrolment in 2021-22 was a little over 25.57 crore, an increase by more than 19 lakh over 2020-21, which includes more than eight lakh girl students.
- ✓ The latest data also indicated that overall school infrastructure has improved, especially in availability of electricity, drinking water facilities, computers, internet and toilets for children with special needs.
- ✓ The pupil teacher ratio too has improved between 2018-19 and 2021-22 across four different levels of school education.
- ✓ Among the states/ UTs, Uttar Pradesh witnessed the highest number of enrolment of students in government schools and recruitment of teachers.
- ✓ In 2021-22, total students enrolled in school education from primary to higher secondary stood at 25.57 crore compared to 25.38 crore enrolment in 2020-21, registering an increase of 19.36 lakh enrolments.
- ✓ Total number of scheduled caste enrolment increased to 4.82 crore in 2021-22 as compared to 4.78 crore in 2020-21.
- ✓ Similarly, total scheduled tribe enrolment increased to 2.51 crore in 2021-22 from 2.49 crore in 2020-21.
- ✓ Total other backward students also increased to 11.48 crore in 2021-22 from 11.35 crore in 2020-21.
- ✓ The total enrolment of children with special needs in 2021-22 stands at 22.67 lakh, with an improvement of 3.45% over 2020-21
- ✓ For the first time UDISE+ 2021-22 collected data on additional critical indicators to align with NEP 2020 initiatives, which included peer learning, hard spot identification, the number of books available in school libraries, etc.
- ✓ As per the report, only 44.85% of schools in India have access to computers and about 34% of schools have internet connection
- ✓ The total number of schools in 2021-22 stood at 14.89 lakhs as compared to 15.09 lakhs in 2020-21
- ✓ According to the report, there were 0.9% fewer teachers in government schools in 2021–2022 than the previous year, 1.45% less in government-aided schools, 2.94% fewer in private schools, and 8.3% fewer in other institutions.

