

# A Kaleidoscope of Tamil Nadu's Past and Present



**TNPSC INTERVIEW**

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### **Beyond Knowledge: The Interview's Test of Spirit and Poise**

Once a young aspirant named Aravind stood before the interview panel, his heart racing with the culmination of years of hard work. In his pocket, he carried a note from his mentor that read, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts." - Winston Churchill.

Despite meticulous preparation, he stumbled over a question. The panel watched as a wave of disappointment crossed his face. But recalling the struggles of his role model, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, who overcame setbacks with resilience and eventually became the President of India, Aravind composed himself. He remembered Kalam's words, "Don't take rest after your first victory because if you fail in second, more lips are waiting to say that your first victory was just luck."

With renewed determination, Aravind answered the subsequent questions with confidence and clarity. His recovery was admirable, a testament to his perseverance. Aravind's story is a beacon to all aspirants: the interview is not just about knowledge, but the spirit to persist and the poise to rise above challenges.

**Wish you all the Success.**

**Iyachamy Murugan**

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<b>UPSC   TNPSC   INTERVIEW</b>
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+ The Origin of the Tamils
+ Tamil Nadu's Historical and Political Evolution
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+ Dravidian Model of Development
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+ National Education policy Versus Tamilnadu
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✚ All India Federation for Social Justice
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✚ Vanavil Mandram
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## Historical Region of Tamilaham

### Extent and Definition:

- Tamilaham extended from the Tirupati hills in the north to Cape Comorin (Kanyakumari) in the south.
- Bordered by the Bay of Bengal in the east and the Arabian Sea in the west.
- This definition represents an expansion from the original boundaries of ancient Tamilaham.

### Earliest Reference in Tolkappiyam:

- The "Tolkappiyam," the oldest extant Tamil grammar text, describes Tamilaham's boundaries.
- Panamparanar's preface mentions the verse: "வடவேங்கடம் தென்குமரி ஆயிடைத் தமிழ்கூறு நல்லுலகத்து."
- It implies the region between the Tirupati hills and Cape Comorin.

### Significant Rivers:

- Kumari river (Tenkumari) nourished the southern Pandyan territory.
- Pahruli river watered the northern part of the Pandyan country.
- The area between these rivers had 49 major divisions.

### Insights from Adiarkkunallar's Commentary

#### First Major Deluge:

- Destroyed vast areas, submerging lands around the Kumari and Pahruli rivers.
- Led to the sea being named 'Kumarik-kadal.'
- The First Tamil Sangam in Ten Madurai was lost in this deluge.

#### After the First Deluge:

- The Pandyan dynasty and people moved northward to Kapaadapuram.
- Second Tamil Sangam was established here.
- "Tolkaappiam" was written during this period.

#### Second Deluge:

- Resulted in the destruction of Kapaadapuram.
- People migrated further north to Madurai.
- Establishment of the Third Tamil Sangam.

### Modern Geographical Boundaries

#### Contemporary Tamil Nadu:





- Geographically reduced from its ancient expanse.
- Western part is now Kerala; north beyond Tirupati hills is Andhra Pradesh.
- Northern boundary is around Tiruttani.

### Geographical Features:

- Principal rivers include Kaveri, Vaigai, Amaravathi, Bhavani, and Tambraparani.
- Western Ghats form the boundary with Kerala.
- Eastern Ghats, with several breaks, lie to the east.

### The Origin of the Tamils:

#### Foreign Theories:

- Dr. Caldwell: Tamils related to speakers of Scythian languages, possibly migrated from Baluchistan.
- Mr. Kanagasabai Pillai: Tamils of Mongol-Tibetan origin.
- Elamite Origin: Proposed by some scholars.
- Dr. N. Subramanian: Dravidians arrived in India before Aryans, had maritime contact with the Middle East.
- K. K. Pillay: Tamils possibly migrated from the Mediterranean region.

#### Indigeneous Theories:

- P.T. Srinivasa Iyengar: Tamils are indigenous, descended from the submerged continent of Lemuria.
- Lemurian Theory: Supported by evidence in Tamil literature about lost lands.
- No Evidence of Migration: No mention in Tamil literature of Tamils coming from outside.
- Spread from South to North: Tamils were original inhabitants of Lemuria and present-day South India.
- Indus Valley Civilization: Believed by some to be Dravidian, ancestors of modern Tamils.
- Fr. Heras: Indus Valley culture and language are Tamil.
- Dr. Navalar Somasundara Bharathiar: Tamils' original abode was Tamilakam in South India.
- Iravatham Mahadevan, a prominent Indian epigraphist, claimed that the Indus Valley Civilization's language was an early form of Dravidian.
- Balakrishnan's "Journey of a Civilization: Indus to Vaigai" seeks to establish common ground between the Indus Valley and Old Tamil traditions.

### Conclusion:



- The debate between indigenous and foreign origins of Tamils continues.
- More research is needed to reach a definitive conclusion.

### **Tamil Nadu's Historical and Political Evolution**

#### **A Glorious Past:**

- The area comprising Tamil Nadu has a history spanning thousands of years.
- The three Tamil Kingdoms, Chera, Chola, and Pandya, flourished before and after the Christian era.
- South India witnessed prosperous cities and ports during this period.

#### **Muslim Invasions and Kingdoms:**

- Muslim invasions started from the time of Malik Kafur.
- A Muslim Sultanate was established in Madurai in 1334.
- The Vijayanagar Kingdom followed in 1336.
- The Nayaks ruled over Tamil Nadu before falling to attacks by various forces.

#### **British Rule and the Madras Presidency:**

- European powers arrived for trade, eventually leading to British domination.
- The Madras Presidency was formed in the 18th century, later losing territories to form Andhra State.
- The demand for linguistic states gained momentum, leading to further reorganization.

#### **Formation of Tamil Nadu:**

- The States Reorganization Commission was formed in 1953 to address state boundaries.
- The Commission recommended reorganizing states based on various factors, not just language.
- The resulting reorganization took effect in 1956, forming the present-day Tamil Nadu.
- Tiruthani and Kanyakumari became the state's northern and southern boundaries, respectively.
- Madras remained the capital, despite Andhra's claims.
- Perunthalaivar Kamarajar became the first Chief Minister of the reorganized state.

#### **Role of Leaders:**

- Silambuchchelvar Thiru M. P. Sivaganam played a significant role in securing the northern boundary.



- Thiru. Nesamani actively participated in merging the southern districts of Travancore-Cochin.

### Linguistic Basis for States:

- The concept of forming states based on language received support from various parties.
- Madras State was renamed Tamil Nadu in 1967 under the DMK government led by Perarignar Anna.

### Administrative units of state

<b>District Statistics</b>	38
<b>Revenue Divisions</b>	82
<b>Taluks</b>	285
Firkas	1,349
Revenue Villages	17,680
Municipal Corporations	12
Municipalities	125
<b>Panchayat Unions (Blocks)</b>	385
Town Panchayats	561
<b>Village Panchayats</b>	12,618
<b>Lok Sabha Constituencies</b>	39
<b>Assembly Constituencies</b>	234

### Geographical Division of Tamil Nadu

#### Based on Landscapes:

- Five Regions: Tolkappiyam divided the Tamil land into five regions based on geography:
  - Kuringi (mountain)
  - Mullai (forest)
  - Marudam (plain)
  - Neidal (sea coast)
  - Paalai (desert) (added later)
  - Each region had distinct ways of life and cultural development.



## Historical Division:

- Four Kingdoms: Historically, Tamil Nadu consisted of four major kingdoms:
  - Paodyanadu (ruled by Pandyas)
  - Cholanadu (ruled by Cholas)
  - Cheranadu (ruled by Cheras)
  - Pallavanadu (ruled by Pallavas)
  - Madurai served as the significant city for the Tamils.
  - A Tamil academy flourished in Madurai.

## Landforms

- **Western and Eastern Ghats:**
  - Tamil Nadu is triangular in shape.
  - The Deccan Plateau forms a western edge with the steep Western Ghats.
  - The plateau gradually slopes towards the Eastern Ghats.
  - Both Ghats run parallel to the eastern and western coasts of the peninsula.
  - Western Ghats function as a natural frontier.
  - A sea wall extends from Kasarkodu (north) to Aralvaioli (south) as another natural boundary.

## Western Ghats Highlights:

- The Nilgiris, with Doddabetta peak (8,760 ft), receive abundant rainfall and boast lush vegetation and scenic beauty.
- Palghat Gap (south of Nilgiris) serves as the main entrance to the Malabar Coast.
- Anaimalai (south of Palghat Gap) rises to 8,841 ft, one of the highest peaks in South India.
- The Western Ghats continue south from Anaimalai to Cape Comorin.
- Passes like Aramboli and Shencottah connect Travancore and the Pandyan Kingdom.
- Rivers flowing towards Tamil Nadu originate from the Western Ghats.
- Ooty, Kunoor, Kotagiri, Erkad, and Kodaikanal are prominent hill stations on these hills.
- Palani, Madurai, Anaimalai, Satyamangalam, Thekkadi, Dimbam, and Pollachi are key locations in the southern part.



- Valuable teak, rosewood, coffee, and pepper are grown abundantly in these areas.
- Tribal communities like Kadar, Irular, Pulayar, and Muduvar inhabit these hilly regions.

### Eastern Ghats:

- Less attractive than the Western Ghats.
- Scattered and broken in nature.
- Geologically older and different in productivity and scenery compared to the Western Ghats.
- Their detached nature facilitated free movement between the plateau and coastal plain.
- Most Tamil Nadu rivers flow towards the Bay of Bengal, cutting across the Eastern Ghats.

### River Systems of Tamil Nadu

#### Major Rivers:

- Kaveri (475 miles) - "South Indian Ganges" known for its sacredness, scenic beauty, and maximum water utilization.
- Palar - originates in Nandidurg, Mysore, flows through North Arcot district, irrigates limited areas.
- Pennar - originates in Chennanarayan Pettai, Mysore, passes through Bangalore, Salem, and Cuddalore, limited irrigation scope.
- Vaigai - originates in Palani hills, flows through Madurai, now mostly dry, Vaigai dam provides irrigation in Madurai and Ramnad districts.
- Tamiraparani - originates in Western Ghats, flows through Tirunelvely district, waters rely on Southwest monsoon, creates a delta, important for agriculture.

#### Other Rivers:

- Bharathappuzha - largest in Kerala (156 miles), passes through Chittor, Palghat, and Ponnani.
- Periyar - another major river in Kerala (146 miles), flows through Kalali and Alwaye, one branch flows through Kodumgallur.
- Paraliyaru - flows through Tovalai and Agastisvaram taluks, falls into Manakkudy estuary, important for towns like Bhutappandi, Kottar, Nagercoil, and Suchindram.

#### Significance:

- Most rivers originate in Western Ghats.
- Fertile riverbeds provide life necessities.



- Historical capitals, temples, cities, and towns built on riverbanks.
- Rivers served as seats of Dravidian civilization.

### Additional Information:

- Kaviri historically controlled by Chola ruler Karikala who built Kalanai dam, making Tanjore the "rice bowl of Tamilaham."
- Korkai, a famous seaport, was situated at the mouth of Tamiraparani.
- The Gulf of Mannar is known for pearl fishing.

### Maritime Trade

- Tamil Nadu's long coastline played a significant role in its economy.
- Natural harbors like Musiri, Tondi, Kavirippumpattinam, and Korkai facilitated maritime trade.
- This allowed Tamils to establish trade with various regions, including Java, Sumatra, China, Persia, Ceylon, Babylonia, Greece, and Rome.
- Maritime activities contributed significantly to the economic and social development of Tamils.

### Climate and Rainfall

- Tamil Nadu experiences a dry climate with high temperatures throughout the year, especially during April, May, and June.
- Regular monsoons provide crucial rainfall for the region.
- South-West monsoon (June-October) brings rainfall to Kerala but provides limited rainfall to some districts in Tamil Nadu.
- North-East monsoon (October-December) brings the heaviest rainfall to Tamil Nadu.
- South-East monsoon provides fertile conditions for southern districts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- Average rainfall is 40 inches, but droughts and famines could occur due to insufficient rainfall.

### Agriculture

- Rivers and rainfall provide adequate water for cultivation.
- Agriculture is the main occupation of Tamils.
- Western and Eastern Ghats offer diverse products like tea, coffee, bamboo, rosewood, pepper, cardamom, tapioca, and coconut.
- Lowland deltas and dry areas cultivate rice, tobacco, groundnuts, chillies, ragi, kambu, and cholam.



- Agricultural products have significantly determined the industrial and economic development of Tamil Nadu since the Sangam age.
- Population growth and natural resources also influence the economy.

## Festivals of Tamil Nadu

- Pongal: Harvest festival in January, thanking the sun, earth, and cattle for a bountiful harvest.
- Jallikattu: Bull fight following Pongal in some parts of southern Tamil Nadu.
- Chithirai festival: Re-enactment of the marriage of Meenakshi and Sundareswarar in Madurai.
- Adipperukku: Celebrated on the 18th day of the Tamil month Adi, marking the beginning of new farming operations.
- Dance Festival, Mamallapuram: Features Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Kathakali, Odissi, and folk dances.
- Natyanjali Dance Festival, Chidambaram: Tribute to Lord Nataraja.
- Mahamagam Festival: Pilgrimage to Kumbakonam every 12 years.
- Summer Festival: Held in Ooty, Kodaikanal, or Yercaud.
- Kanthuri Festival: Celebrated at the shrine of saint Quadirwali.
- Velankanni festival: Attracts thousands to the basilica of Our Lady of Health.
- Navarathiri Festival: Celebrates the goddess Sakthi for nine nights.
- Karthigai Deepam: Festival of lights with rows of earthen lamps and fireworks.
- Chennai Music Festival: Celebrates Carnatic music and dance with renowned artists.

## Demography of Tamil Nadu - Highlights:

- Population: 72.14 million (2011), 74.32 million (2013)
- Decadal growth rate (2001-2011): 15.6%
- Population density: 555 persons per sq km (much higher than national average)
- Sex ratio: 995 (improved from 987 in 2001)
- Urbanization: 48.45% - highest among large states in India

## Tamilnadu Economy - Highlights:

### Growth Rate and Rankings:

- Tamil Nadu's GSDP grew at 8% at constant prices in 2021-22 and 2022-23, exceeding the national average.



- GSDP in current prices grew at 14.16% in 2022-23, compared to India's 16.06%.
- Tamil Nadu ranked second in GSDP at current prices after Maharashtra in 2021-22.

#### **Inflation and Per Capita Income:**

- Tamil Nadu's inflation was lower than the national average in both 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- Per capita income in Tamil Nadu was significantly higher than the national average in both years.

#### **Sector-wise Contribution:**

- Agriculture and livestock contributed 12.18% and 11.73% to GSDP in 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively.
- Industry contributed 36.88% and 37.36%, with manufacturing being the major sub-sector.
- Services contributed 50.94% and 50.92%, acting as the key growth driver.

#### **Comparison with National Economy:**

- Tamil Nadu's economic structure is similar to the national economy.
- The share of industry remained stable at 36%-37% over the past decade.
- Services played a crucial role in propelling the economy forward.

#### **Future Outlook:**

- Tamil Nadu's economy is expected to reach \$1 trillion by 2034.
- Achieving this target by 2031 would require an average growth rate of 16.5%.

#### **Poverty Reduction**

Overall Performance:

- Tamil Nadu ranks first in India for implementation of SDG 1 (No Poverty).
- The state has consistently held this position in all three editions of NITI Aayog's SDG reports.

#### **Factors Contributing to Success:**

- Efficient Administration:
  - Strong development administration at the district level.
  - Effective implementation of Central and State government schemes.
- MGNREGS:
  - Ensured food security during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Empowered women and vulnerable groups.





- Self-Help Groups:
  - Strong movement with significant role in poverty identification and reduction.
- CM's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme:
  - Protected vulnerable sections from adverse health events.
  - Prevented immiseration and poverty traps.
- Universal Public Distribution System:
  - Provision of free rice helps to alleviate hunger and poverty.
- Strong Social and Educational Indicators:
  - High literacy rates and school enrollment.
  - Effective programs like ICDS and its variants.

### Areas for Improvement:

- Nutrition:
  - Despite success in other areas, the state needs to address nutrition concerns more effectively.
- Relative Poverty:
  - While absolute poverty is low, relative poverty persists in rural and urban areas.

### Tamil Nadu's Healthcare System:

- Top Ranking in Health Indicators: Tamil Nadu consistently ranks among the top three states in vital health indicators.
- Robust Public Health System: The state has built a well-developed public health system with a strong infrastructure and skilled workforce.
- Efficient Drug Procurement: Tamil Nadu has a successful model for drug procurement and distribution.
- Comprehensive Health Insurance: CMCHIS provides affordable health insurance for the poor.
- Transparent Recruitment System: The state has instituted a transparent system for recruiting healthcare professionals.
- Extensive Medical Infrastructure: Tamil Nadu boasts the highest number of government medical colleges and hospitals in India.
- Pioneering Initiatives: The state has implemented innovative schemes and initiatives to improve healthcare.
- Significant Reduction in IMR and MMR: Tamil Nadu has achieved impressive reductions in infant and maternal mortality rates.



- Focus on Post-Pandemic Maternal and Child Health: Renewed focus on death audits and improving standards of maternal and child healthcare.

### Highlights:

- Leading Industrial State: Tamil Nadu ranked 1st in number of factories and employed workers (ASI report 2019-20).
- High Productivity and Output: State has the highest number of factories contributing 11.04% to India's manufacturing GDP and ranked 3rd in Gross Output, Net Value Added, and Invested Capital.
- Export Powerhouse: Tamil Nadu is the third largest exporting State in India, contributing 8.96% of total exports.
- **\*\*Vision for 1 Trillion Economy:\*\*** Aiming to become a US 1 trillion economy by 2030, with manufacturing playing a key role.
- Improved Business Climate: Ranked 3rd in Ease of Doing Business rankings.
- Focus on Skill Development: Naan Mudhalvan program aims to create a future-ready workforce for industries.
- Investment and Job Creation: Targeting Rs.23 lakh crore investments and 46 lakh jobs in manufacturing.

### National Recognition:

- India Today's State of States Survey 2022: Best performing State in India.
- Top performer in human capital formation, knowledge diffusion, and knowledge output (India Innovation Index).
- 3rd position in R&D investments among States.
- Chennai ranked most cost-competitive destination for electronics R&D.
- Ranked 3rd best performing State (amongst large States) in the State Ranking 2023 by CareEdge.
- Ranked 3rd amongst States with investments worth Rs.1.72 lakh crore in 2021-22 (Projects Today).
- Second nationally in overall performance and sustainability (Public Affairs Index 2021).
- Chennai, Coimbatore & Madurai ranked top 3 favored cities for women in India (Avtar study).
- Ranked second in SDG India Index 2021 and Goal 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.

### Key Industries:

- Automobiles & Auto Components: A major hub for leading automakers and component manufacturers, contributing significantly to India's automotive industry.



- **Food Products:** Boasts a strong food processing industry, with major players in sectors like dairy, poultry, and beverages.
- **Textiles & Wearing Apparel:** Renowned for its textile heritage and a leading producer of yarn, fabrics, and garments.
- **Leather Goods:** A major center for leather production and export, known for its high-quality leather products.
- **Machinery & Engineering Goods:** A hub for manufacturing machinery, tools, and industrial equipment.
- **Electronics:** A growing electronics industry, attracting global giants and fostering innovation in areas like semiconductors and electronics manufacturing services.
- **Basic Metals:** A major producer of steel, aluminum, and other basic metals, serving as a foundation for diverse industries.
- **Chemicals:** A thriving chemical industry, producing fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, and other essential chemicals.
- **Rubber Products:** A leading producer of rubber tires, tubes, and other rubber products.

### Strengths:

- **Skilled Workforce:** Tamil Nadu boasts a skilled workforce, attracting investments and supporting growth in various industries.
- **Robust Infrastructure:** The state has a strong network of roads, ports, and airports, facilitating efficient logistics and transportation.
- **Government Support:** Supportive government policies and incentives create a favorable environment for industrial development.
- **R&D Focus:** Growing emphasis on research and development is propelling innovation and technological advancements within the manufacturing sector.
- **Strategic Location:** Tamil Nadu's strategic location on the Indian peninsula provides access to both domestic and international markets.

### Agriculture in Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu lies in the semi-dry subhumid to dry humid tropics.
- 79.38 lakh landholders cultivate an area of 59.71 lakh hectares.
- 93% of landholdings belong to marginal and small farmers, who operate 62% of the total cultivable land.
- Medium and large farmers hold the remaining 7% of landholdings and operate 38% of the cultivable land.
- The average landholding size in Tamil Nadu is 0.75 hectares, significantly smaller than the national average (1.08 hectares).



## Major crops grown in Tamil Nadu:

### Food Crops:

- Paddy (Rice): The most important food crop, grown across the state in various seasons.
- Millets: Jowar, ragi, and bajra are widely cultivated, especially in dryland areas.
- Pulses: Black gram, green gram, red gram, and Bengal gram are major pulse crops.
- Maize: Grown in some areas as a cash crop and for animal feed.

### Commercial Crops:

- Cotton: A major cash crop, cultivated primarily in Coimbatore and Tirupur districts.
- Sugarcane: Grown in Cauvery delta and other irrigated areas.
- Groundnut: A major oilseed crop, cultivated across the state.
- Coconut: A major plantation crop, grown along the coastal regions and in the Cauvery delta.
- Rubber: A plantation crop grown in Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts.
- Tea and Coffee: Grown in the Nilgiris and Coimbatore hills.

### Fruits and Vegetables:

- Mango: The most important fruit crop, followed by banana, guava, and papaya.
- Vegetables: Tomato, onion, brinjal, okra, beans, and leafy vegetables are widely grown.

### Other Crops:

- Spices: Chilli, coriander, turmeric, and ginger are cultivated in various districts.
- Flowers: Jasmine, marigold, rose, and chrysanthemum are commercially grown for domestic and export markets.

## Tamil Nadu's Infrastructure:

### Transportation:

- Roads: Tamil Nadu has the second largest road network in India, encompassing over 1.8 lakh kilometers of roads.
- National Highways: The state has a significant network of national highways, connecting major cities and towns.
- State Highways: State highways provide efficient connectivity within the state.



- Railways: Tamil Nadu has a well-developed railway network, with over 5,600 km of railway lines.
- Airports: The state has four international airports and several domestic airports, connecting it to major cities across India and internationally.
- Ports: Tamil Nadu has three major ports - Chennai, Thoothukudi, and Ennore - that handle a significant portion of India's maritime trade.

#### Power:

- Tamil Nadu has an installed power generation capacity of over 35,000 MW, meeting its energy demands and contributing to the national grid.
- The state has diversified its energy sources, including thermal, hydro, solar, wind, and biomass.

#### Water:

- Tamil Nadu has a network of dams, reservoirs, and canals for water management and irrigation.
- The state is also focusing on rainwater harvesting and desalination to address water scarcity issues.

#### Telecommunications:

- Tamil Nadu has a well-developed telecommunications infrastructure, with high penetration of mobile phone and internet services.
- The state is also investing in fiber optic networks to improve connectivity and bandwidth.

#### Social Infrastructure:

- Tamil Nadu has a strong network of educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and social welfare programs.
- The state has achieved high literacy rates and made significant progress in healthcare indicators.

### SELECT SOCIO ECONOMIC INDICATORS – TAMIL NADU

<b>A. AREA AND POPULATION 2011</b>		
1.	<b>Density of Population per sq.km.</b>	<b>555</b>
2.	<b>Literacy Rate 2011</b>	<b>80.09</b>
3.	<b>Percentage of Workers to total Population (2011 Census)</b>	<b>45.58</b>
4.	<b>Percentage of Scheduled Castes to total Population (2011 Census)</b>	<b>20.01</b>



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## தடை அதை உடை

Tests	Numbers
Daily Prelims Test	84
Sectional Test	10
PYQ Test	10
Grand Test	10
<b>Total Test</b>	<b>114</b>



**Date :**

January 2nd

**Time :**

11:00am - 12:00am

**FEEES OFFLINE-6,000 ONLINE-5000**

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5.	Percentage of Scheduled Tribes to total Population (2011 Census)	1.10
6.	Sex Ratio (Female per 1000 Males) - (2011 Census)	996
7.	Percentage of Literate Scheduled Castes to total Scheduled Castes Population (2011 Census)	73.26
8.	Percentage of Literate Scheduled Tribes to total Scheduled Tribes Population (2011 Census)	54.34
9.	Birth-rate per thousand 2019 (SRS)	12.4
10.	Death-rate per thousand 2019 (SRS)	8.4
11.	Infant Mortality Rate 2019 (SRS) (Per '000' Live Births)	11.1

**B. STATE INCOME (Base Year 2011-12)**

1.	Per Capita Income at Current Prices – NSDP – 2020-21 (AE) – Rs.	225106
	Per Capita Income at Constant Prices NSDP – 2020-21 (AE) – Rs.	150990
2.	Net State domestic product at current prices 2020-21 (Rs. in Lakhs)	171654353
	Net State domestic product at constant prices 2020-21 (Rs. in Lakhs)	115137117

**C. AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION(2020-21)**

1.	Cropping Intensity	1.274
2.	Percentage of Cultivated area to Total area	45.6
3.	Net area sown per capita (Hec.) (2011 Census )	0.07
4.	Percentage of area sown more than once net area sown	10.1
5.	Percentage of net area irrigated to net area sown	57.18
6.	Percentage of gross area irrigated to gross area sown	58.58
7.	Average Yield-rate per hectare (in Kgs.)	
	a. Rice	3380
	b. Cholam	1054



	c. Cumbu	2357
	d. Ragi	3480
	e. Maize	6409
	f. Cotton (Bales of 170 Kg Lint in terms of Lint)	369
	g. Sugarcane (Cane in Tonnes/Hect.)	104
	h. Groundnut ( in Nuts per Ha.)	2502
8.	<b>Index Nos. of Wages paid to certain categories of Agricultural Labourers 2011-12=100</b>	
	a. Ploughmen	i. Men 333
	b. Sowers and pluckers	i. Men 275
		ii. Women 266
	c. Transplanters and weeders	i. Men 288
		ii. Women 258
	d. Reapers and Harvester	i. Men 260
		ii. Women 244
	e. Other Agricultural Operations	i. Men 262
		ii. Women 263
	f. Field Labourers Men	i. 289
		ii. Women 256
<b>D. LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY (2012 Livestock Census)</b>		
1.	Live stock served per veterinary institution in numbers	8683
2.	Number of villages served per veterinary institution	11
<b>E. ELECTRICITY 2020-21</b>		
1.	Percentage of consumption of electricity by purpose	
	a. Domestic	35.05
	b. Commercial	9.59





	<b>c. Industries (Including Traction)</b>	<b>34.71</b>
	<b>d . Agriculture</b>	<b>14.95</b>
	<b>e. Miscellaneous (including Traction and Railways)</b>	<b>2.93</b>
	<b>f. Public Lighting &amp; Water works</b>	<b>2.77</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Percentage of villages electrified to total villages</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**F. MEDICAL 2020-21**

	<b>Population served per (Based on 2011 population)</b>	
	<b>a. Medical Institution (Modern Medicine)</b>	<b>12074</b>
	<b>b. Bed</b>	<b>94939</b>
	<b>c. Doctor</b>	<b>19778</b>
	<b>d. Nurse</b>	<b>40762</b>

**G. EDUCATION 2020-21**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Average number of students per Institution</b>	
	<b>a. Primary stage</b>	<b>76.7</b>
	<b>b. Middle stage</b>	<b>153</b>
	<b>c. High School stage</b>	<b>285.9</b>
	<b>d. Higher Secondary stage</b>	<b>877</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Teacher-Pupil ratio</b>	
	<b>a. Primary Schools</b>	<b>22.6</b>
	<b>b. Middle Schools</b>	<b>21.1</b>
	<b>c. High Schools</b>	<b>24.8</b>
	<b>d. Higher Secondary Schools</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Number of Primary Schools per lakh of population 2011 Census Population</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Number of Middle Schools per lakh of population</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Number of High Schools per lakh of Population</b>	<b>8</b>



6.	Number of Higher Secondary Schools per lakh of population	9
<b>H. TRANSPORT</b>		
1.	Number of Motor Vehicles per 10,000 of population (Based on 2011 Population)	2830
<b>J. COMMUNICATION</b>		
	Population served per Post Office (Based on 2011 Population)	6073

## Human Development Report – 2017

**Tamilnadu Human Development Index 2017****HDI INDEX OF TOP & BOTTOM FIVE DISTRICTS**

District	Index	Rank
----------	-------	------

## Top 5 districts

Kanyakumari	0.944	1
Virudhunagar	0.855	2
Thoothukudi	0.852	3
Chennai	0.847	4
Kancheepuram	0.845	5

## Bottom 5 districts

Thiruvarur	0.568	28
Villupuram	0.561	29
Theni	0.539	30
Perambalur	0.447	31
Ariyalur	0.282	32

**TamilNadu Who is who?**



Chief Minister	M.K.Stalin  (After Independence 14th chief minister of Tamil Nadu)  (30th chief Minister from 1921)
Governor	R.N.Ravi
Speaker	M.Appavu
Deputy Speaker	K.Pitchandi
Opposition Leader	Edappadi K.Palaniswami
Chief Secretary	Shiv Das Meena ( 48 <sup>th</sup> )
Advocate General	R.Shunmugasundaram
Chief Election Officer	Thiru. Satyabrata Sahoo
Tamilnadu Election Commissioner	V. Palani kumar
State Information Commission	R. Rajagopal
Human Rights Commission	Justice S.Baskaran
State women Commission	A.S.Kumari
TNPSC	Retired
Chief Justice of high court	Sanjay Vijaykumar Gangapurwala
Tamilnadu state child protection commission	Saraswathi Rangasamy
TN Lokayukta chairman	P.Devadoss.



**COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WITH THEIR PORTFOLIOS AS ON 15.12.2023**

1.	Thiru M.K. Stalin Honble Chief Minister	Public, General Administration, Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service, Indian Forest Service, Other All India Service, District Revenue Officers, Police, Home, Special Initiatives, Special Programme Implementation and Welfare of Differently Abled Persons.
2.	Thiru Duraimurugan Minister for Water Resources	Irrigation Projects including Small Irrigation, Legislative Assembly, Governor and Ministry, Elections and Passports, Minerals and Mines.
3.	Thiru K.N. Nehru Minister for Municipal Administration	Municipal Administration, Urban and Water Supply
4.	Thiru I. Periyasamy Minister for Rural Development	Rural Development, Panchayats and Panchayat Union.
5.	Dr. K. Ponmudi Minister for Higher Education	Higher Education including Technical Education, Electronics, Science and Technology.
6.	Thiru E.V. Velu Minister for Public Works	Public Works (Buildings, Highways and Minor Ports).
7.	Thiru M.R.K. Pannerselvam Minister for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare	Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering, Agro Service Co-operatives, Horticulture, Suguras, Sugarcane Excise, Sugarcane Development and Waste Land Development.



8.	Thiru K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management	Revenue, District Revenue Establishment, Deputy Collectors, Disaster Management
9.	Thiru Thangam Thennarasu Minister for Industries	Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture Archeology , Finance, Planning, Human Resources Management, Pension and Pensionary benefits and Statistics, Additional Charge : Electricity, Non-Conventional Energy Development
10.	Thiru Udhayanidhi Stalin Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development	Youth Welfare, Sports Development, Special Programme Implementation Department & Poverty Alleviation Programme and Rural Indebtedness
11.	Thiru S. Regupathy Minister for Law	Law, Courts, Prisons and Prevention of Corruption
12.	Thiru S. Muthusamy Minister for Housing and Urban Development	Housing, Rural Housing, Town Planning Projects and Housing Development, Accommodation Control, Urban Planning, Urban Development , Prohibition and Excise, Molasses
13.	Thiru K.R. Periyakaruppan Minister for Co-Operation	Co-Operation
14.	Thiru T.M. Anbarasan Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MS&ME)	Rural Industries including Cottage Industries, Small Industries, Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board
15.	Thiru M.P. Saminathan Minister for Information and Publicity	Information & Publicity, Film Technology and Cinematograph Act, Newsprint control, Stationery and Printing, Government Press , Tamil Development



16.	Tmt. Geetha Jeevan Minister for Social Welfare & Women Empowerment	Social welfare including Women and Children Welfare Orphanages and Correctional Administration, Integrated Child Development Scheme and Beggar Homes and Social Reforms & Nutritious Meal Programme
17.	Thiru Anitha R. Radhakrishnan Minister for Fisheries-Fishermen Welfare and Animal Husbandry	Fisheries, Fisheries Development Corporation and Animal Husbandry
18.	Thiru R.S. Rajakannappan Minister for Backward Classes Welfare	Backward Classes Welfare and Most Backward Classes Welfare Denotified Communities Welfare and Khadi & Village Industries Board
19.	Thiru R. Ramachandran Minister for Tourism	Tourism and Tourism Development Corporation
20.	Thiru R. Sakkarapani Minister for Food and Civil Supplies	Food and Civil Supplies, Consumer Protection and Price Control
21.	Thiru V. Senthil Balaji	Minister Without portfolio
22.	Thiru R. Gandhi Minister for Handlooms and Textiles	Handlooms and Textiles, Boodhan and Gramadhan
23.	Thiru Ma. Subramaniyan Minister for Health and Family Welfare	Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare



24.	Thiru P. Moorthy Minister for Commercial Taxes and Registration	Commercial Taxes, Registration and Stamp Act, Weights and Measures Debt Relief including legislation on Money lending Chits and Registration of Companies
25.	Thiru S. S. Sivasankar Minister for Transport	Transport Nationalised Transport and Motor Vehicles Act
26.	Thiru P.K. Sekarbabu Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments	Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments and CMDA
27.	Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan Minister for Finance and Human Resources Management	Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services.
28.	Mano Thangaraj	Milk & Dairy Development
29.	Thiru Gingee K.S. Masthan Minister for Minorities Welfare and Non Resident Tamils Welfare	Minorities Welfare, Non Resident Tamils Welfare, Refugees & Evacuees and Wakf Board
30.	Thiru Anbil Mahes Poyamozhi Minister for School Education	School Education
31.	Thiru Siva V. Meyyanathan	Environment and Pollution Control and Ex- Servicemen



	Minister for Environment-Climate Change	
32.	Thiru C.V. Ganesan Minister for Labour Welfare and Skill Development	Labour Welfare, Population, Employment and Training, Census, Urban and Rural Employment
33.	T.R.B. Rajaa	Industries Minister
34.	Dr. M. Mathivethan Minister for Forest	Forest
35.	Tmt. Kayalvizhi Selvaraj Minister for Adi Dravidar Welfare	Adi Dravidar Welfare, Hill Tribes and Bonded Labour Welfare

### Is Tamilnadu is Developed State?

#### Economic Growth

- Tamil Nadu is the second most industrialised state in India, boasting the highest number of factories and employed workers.
- The state has consistently ranked high in terms of Gross Output, Net Value Added, and Invested Capital.
- Its growth rate has exceeded the national average, reaching 8% at constant prices in 2021-22 and 2022-23.

#### Industrial Prowess

- Tamil Nadu is a major hub for several key manufacturing sectors, including automobiles, textiles, food products, leather goods, and electronics.
- The state has attracted significant investments from both domestic and foreign companies, making it a major player in India's industrial landscape.
- Its strategic location, robust infrastructure, and skilled workforce contribute to its attractiveness as an investment destination.



### **Inclusivity and Social Development**

- While Tamil Nadu has made significant strides in industrial development, concerns remain regarding inclusivity and social development.
- The state has achieved impressive reductions in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) well ahead of schedule.
- However, relative poverty remains a challenge, particularly in rural areas and urban slums.

### **Focus on Health and Education**

- Tamil Nadu has a strong public health system and a large network of educational institutions, contributing to high literacy rates and improved health outcomes.
- The state's initiatives like the CMCHIS and the Naan Mudhalvan skill development program address crucial needs in healthcare and workforce development.
- Yet, further efforts are needed to address issues like malnutrition and ensure equitable access to quality education and healthcare across all segments of society.

### **Future Outlook**

- Tamil Nadu aims to become a US\$ 1 trillion economy by 2030, with manufacturing playing a key role in achieving this goal.
- The state is committed to creating a favorable business environment and attracting significant investments to fuel its economic growth.
- However, ensuring inclusive and sustainable development while addressing social disparities remains critical for Tamil Nadu's future.

### **Overall**

Tamil Nadu has achieved remarkable success in industrial development, solidifying its position as a major economic powerhouse in India. However, the state must address social disparities and ensure inclusive growth to truly become a developed and equitable society.

### **Challenges:**

- One of the challenges facing Tamil Nadu is the need to develop its infrastructure further.
- The state also needs to address issues such as pollution and environmental degradation.
- Tamil Nadu also needs to focus on developing its human capital by providing better education and training opportunities.

### **What is Dravidian Model of Development?**

#### **Core principles:**



- Self-respect
- Social Justice
- Equality
- Fraternity
- Secularism
- Federalism
- Greater state powers
- Equal rights for all ethnic groups

### Key features:

- Inclusive financial planning: Budgeting and policy decisions focus on the well-being of all citizens.
- Access to basic necessities: Everyone has access to education, housing, nutrition, and healthcare.
- Implementation of UN SDGs: The state actively works towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Decentralized governance: Power and decision-making are shared at various levels, promoting citizen participation.
- Constitutional adherence: The government upholds the Constitution and protects fundamental rights, including religious and personal freedom.

### Benefits:

- Sustainable development: The model promotes long-term economic progress and social well-being.
- Empowerment of marginalized groups: Social justice measures help uplift disadvantaged communities.
- Improved public health and education: Investments in these sectors contribute to a healthier and more educated population.
- Reduced inequality: The model aims to create a more equitable society with less disparity between groups.
- Stronger democracy: Decentralization promotes citizen participation and strengthens democratic processes.

### Challenges:

- Balancing social justice with economic growth: Ensuring both social justice and economic success requires careful policy measures.
- Combating corruption and inefficiency: Maintaining a transparent and accountable government is crucial.



- Overdependence on government: The model needs to promote private sector participation and reduce reliance on the state.

### **Vision for Society:**

- Upliftment of marginalized groups: oppressed, poor, less privileged, women, minorities, transgender, differently abled
- Access to socio-economic benefits for all
- Freebies as necessary support for equal competition
- Empowerment of the underprivileged to participate and win in societal progress

### **Social Justice is only about reservation?**

Reservation, while important, is only one tool to achieve social justice. It can help to address historical inequalities and create a more level playing field. However, it is not a magic bullet and must be accompanied by other measures to address the root causes of inequality.

### **some key aspects of social justice beyond reservation:**

#### **Equality of Opportunity:**

- This includes ensuring that everyone has access to basic necessities like education, healthcare, and housing, regardless of their background.
- It also involves addressing systemic discrimination that creates barriers for certain groups of people.

#### **Economic Justice:**

- This means ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to earn a fair wage and live a decent life.
- It involves tackling issues like poverty, income inequality, and exploitation.

#### **Political Participation:**

- This includes ensuring that everyone has a voice in the political process.
- This can involve measures like electoral reform and voter education.

#### **Social Inclusion:**

- This means creating a society where everyone is valued and respected, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or any other social group.
- It involves addressing issues like discrimination, prejudice, and hate crimes.

#### **Environmental Justice:**

- This means ensuring that everyone has access to a clean and healthy environment.



- It involves addressing issues like pollution, climate change, and environmental degradation.

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### **Social Justice in Tamil Nadu: Re-evaluation Needed?**

Dravidian model of social justice in Tamil Nadu has achieved success in democratizing the public sphere but needs to be revisited to address the issue of unequal distribution of benefits within the backward classes.

#### **Key Points:**

##### **Unequal distribution of benefits:**

Certain communities within the backward classes hold a disproportionate share of government jobs and educational opportunities.

##### **Past attempts to address inequality:**

- The Sattanathan Commission in 1970 recommended economic criteria and removing certain castes from reservation benefits, but the government increased the OBC quota instead.
- The Ambasankar Commission in 1982 reiterated the findings of the Sattanathan Commission, but the government added more communities to the backward classes list without addressing the skewed representation.

##### **Neoliberalism and social justice:**

The growth of the private sector since the 1990s has limited the applicability of reservations, leading to underrepresentation of SC/STs and minorities in private educational institutions.



### Recommendations:

- Release a white paper on reservations to assess the current situation.
- Fill the backlog vacancies for SC/STs and increase their reservation percentage.
- Implement reservation policy in the private sector.
- Pursue reservation in private educational institutions as mandated by the Constitution.

### Tamil Nadu Budget 2023-24: Key Highlights

#### Expenditure:

- Total expenditure: ₹3,56,321 crore
- Revenue expenditure: ₹3,08,056 crore
- Capital expenditure: ₹44,366 crore (16% increase over revised estimate of 2022-23)

#### Key sectors:

- Education: ₹33,243 crore (9.3% of total expenditure)
- Health and Family Welfare: ₹26,408 crore (7.4%)
- Water Resources: ₹19,831 crore (5.6%)
- Agriculture and Rural Development: ₹17,279 crore (4.8%)
- Social Welfare: ₹15,731 crore (4.4%)

#### Schemes and Others

- Rs 1,000 monthly cash assistance for eligible women heads of households.
- Significant reduction in revenue deficit from Rs 62,000 crore to Rs 30,000 crore.
- Increased allocation for education:
  - Rs 40,299 crore for school education.
  - Rs 6,967 crore for higher education.
  - Rs 2,877 crore for transforming 71 government ITIs to Centres of Excellence.
- Expansion of Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme to all 30,122 government primary schools.
- Increased enrollment of female students in colleges attributed to the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Pudhumai Penn Scheme.
- Scheme to support civil services aspirants:
  - 1,000 aspirants will be shortlisted through a test.



- Each aspirant will receive Rs 7,500 per month for 10 months.
- Those who clear the preliminary exam will get a lump sum of Rs 25,000.
- North Chennai Development Project: Rs 1,000 crore over three years to improve infrastructure and basic amenities.
- Metro Rail projects planned for Coimbatore (Rs 9,000 crore) and Madurai (Rs 8,500 crore).
- Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission: Rs 2,000 crore over five years to prevent sea erosion, reduce marine pollution, and conserve marine biodiversity.
- **Ambitious plans for road infrastructure:**
  - Widening roads.
  - Constructing elevated flyovers.
  - Developing modern transit junctions.
- Procurement of 1,000 new buses and renovation of 500 old ones at a cost of Rs 500 crore.
- **Subsidies:**
  - Rs 2,800 crore for free bus travel for women.
  - Rs 1,500 crore for student concession in bus fares.
  - Rs 2,000 crore for diesel subsidy.
- Establishment of a memorial for Tamil martyrs.
- Grant of Rs 5 crore to translate the works of B R Ambedkar into Tamil.
- “International Conference on Tamil Computing” to promote Tamil as a global language.
- Eight-storeyed modern library in Madurai named Kalaignar Centenary Library.
- “Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme” to provide support to SC, ST entrepreneurs.
- “Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme” to ensure basic amenities in Adi Dravidar habitations.

### **National Education policy Versus Tamilnadu**

- Tamil Nadu has already achieved a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 51.4% in higher education, exceeding the target of 50% proposed by the NEP and demonstrating its superior existing education system.
- Implementing the NEP's 5+3+3+4 education pattern would disrupt the proven practices of the current system.



- Requiring children to enter school at age 3 and not allowing them to enter later would negatively impact rural and tribal communities.
- The option to exit Grade 10 and re-enter Grade 11 could increase dropouts and hinder achieving 100% GER at the higher secondary level.
- Existing schemes like free education, mid-day meals, and uniforms have been successful in preventing dropouts and promoting education.
- Starting vocational education and internships in Class 6 could alienate vulnerable sections from formal education and the economy.
- Internal evaluation aligned with the Right to Education Act is better for students under 14 than external evaluation proposed by the NEP.
- Multiple exit options in degree programs could encourage dropouts and hinder specialization.
- Merging arts and science streams could limit expertise in specific fields and suppress scientific knowledge.
- Tamil Nadu is not obligated to implement the NEP as education falls under the concurrent list of the Constitution, allowing the State to decide its own policies

### **Tamil Nadu's opposition to the three-language formula in the NEP**

- Tamil Nadu has a long and sensitive history with the language question, particularly regarding Hindi imposition.
- The state government fears that the NEP's three-language formula, which could include Hindi or Sanskrit, will:
  - Diminish the importance of Tamil, one of the oldest living languages with rich literature.
  - Burden students with an unnecessary third language when English already serves communication needs.
- The state's opposition to Hindi imposition dates back to the 1930s and is rooted in events like:
  - The 1937 decision by the Congress government to make Hindi compulsory, sparking protests led by E.V. Ramasamy.
  - The 1965 anti-Hindi agitation that played a role in the DMK's rise to power.
- The DMK government, led by C.N. Annadurai, implemented the two-language formula, teaching only Tamil and English in government schools.
- This policy has continued regardless of the ruling party, with both DMK and AIADMK leaders expressing strong concerns about the NEP's potential harm to Tamil and student well-being.
- The opposition emphasizes that the two-language formula is not blind resistance but a calculated defense of the state's autonomy and cultural heritage.



### **State Education Policy**

The State Education Policy, prepared by a high-level committee led by retired High Court judge D. Murugesan, is being translated into Tamil before its official submission to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin soon.

### **Dravidian Principles: A Core Ideology for Tamil Nadu**

Dravidian principles are a set of core values and beliefs that have shaped the political and social landscape of Tamil Nadu, India. These principles emerged in the early 20th century as a response to the dominant Brahminical ideology and continue to influence various aspects of life in the state today.

#### **Social Justice:**

- Equality: Elimination of caste system and social inequalities based on birth, gender, or religion.
- Rationalism: Emphasis on reason and scientific thinking over blind faith and superstitions.
- Self-respect: Dignity and respect for all individuals, regardless of their social background.
- Anti-Brahminism: Resistance to the dominance of the Brahmin caste in religious and social spheres.
- Women's rights: Empowerment of women through education, economic opportunities, and political participation.

#### **Linguistic Identity:**

- Revival of Dravidian languages: Promotion of Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and other Dravidian languages as distinct from Indo-Aryan languages.
- Opposition to Hindi imposition: Resistance to the imposition of Hindi as the national language of India.
- Cultural preservation: Protecting and celebrating the unique cultural heritage of the Dravidian people.

#### **Political Autonomy:**

- Federalism: Advocating for greater autonomy and decision-making power for Dravidian states within India.
- Opposition to centralization: Resisting excessive control by the central government.
- Decentralization: Promoting local governance and community participation.

#### **Economic Development:**

- Socialism: Advocating for a more equitable distribution of wealth and resources.





- Focus on education and healthcare: Promoting access to quality education and healthcare for all.
- Industrial development: Supporting industrial growth and development in Dravidian state

## Freebies in Tamil Nadu

### Benefits of Freebies:

- Improved Human Development Indices: Tamil Nadu boasts one of the best human development indices in India.
- Lower Total Fertility Rate: The state has achieved a total fertility rate below the replacement level.
- Highest number of Working Women: Tamil Nadu has the highest number of working women in the country.
- Inclusive Growth: Freebies promote inclusive growth and contribute to economic development.

### Examples of Freebie Schemes:

- Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme: Provides financial support, free education, and healthcare for girl children.
- Pudhumai Penn Scheme: Focuses on girls' education and empowerment.
- Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thittam: Improves the livelihood and standard of living for women.
- Free Bus Passes: Provides mobility and accessibility for students, senior citizens, and differently abled individuals.

### Controversy surrounding Freebies:

- Strain on Finances: Critics argue that freebies can strain the country's finances and hinder economic growth.
- Vote-Buying: Some view freebies as a form of vote-buying and argue they undermine democracy.
- Need vs. Entitlement: There is a debate about whether freebies are a legitimate way to provide social welfare or simply an entitlement mentality.

### Arguments in favour of Tamil Nadu's Freebie Model:

- Social Justice: Freebies can serve as tools for social justice by providing access to education, healthcare, and other essential services.
- Economic Development: Freebies can stimulate economic activity by increasing purchasing power and promoting entrepreneurship.
- Empowerment: Freebies can empower marginalized groups by providing them with opportunities for education, employment, and self-sufficiency.

### Way Forward:



- Differentiation between Subsidies and Freebies: A clear distinction should be made between targeted subsidies and freebies that lack economic justification.
- Better Policy Implementation: Economic policies and development models should be effectively implemented to ensure sustainable growth.
- Judicious Use of Freebies: Freebies should be offered judiciously and within budgetary constraints, focusing on demonstrably beneficial programs.
- Voter Awareness: Increased awareness among voters about the potential consequences of freebies is crucial.

### **Relevant Judgment:**

- The 2013 Supreme Court judgment upheld the right of parties to make electoral promises and stated that such promises are not corrupt practices as long as allocations are cleared by the legislature.

### **Management of Hindu Temples**

#### **PM Modi's Claims:**

- State governments control and loot Hindu temples in South India, especially Tamil Nadu.
- This is a conspiracy against Hindus, as other religions' worship places are not controlled by the government.

#### **Historical Roots of Temple Oversight:**

- Hindu kings traditionally managed temples (ref. Kautilya's Arthashastra).
- British initially controlled temples but withdrew in 1833, leading to mismanagement.
- This prompted legislation like the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act to re-establish oversight.

#### **Contemporary Debate:**

- Concerns about both state control and deregulation of temple management.
- State control can lead to mismanagement and corruption, while deregulation could result in exploitation.

#### **Secularism in India:**

- India guarantees freedom of religion but allows state regulation of "economic, financial, political or other secular activity associated with religious practice."

#### **Arguments for and against State Control:**

##### **For:**

- Prevents mismanagement and misuse of funds.



- Ensures preservation of temples and traditions.
- Promotes social welfare and reforms.

### **Against:**

- Infringes on religious freedom.
- Can lead to corruption and political interference.
- Creates inequality as other religions manage their own institutions.

### **Suggestions:**

- Hybrid model of temple management (some controlled by government, some by independent trustees).
- Independent body to oversee all temples in Tamil Nadu.

### **Why Hindus Don't Have the Same Freedom as Other Religions:**

#### **Historical Context:**

- British intervention set a precedent for state involvement in Hindu temple affairs.
- Concerns about mismanagement led to continued state oversight post-independence.

#### **Legal and Constitutional Framework:**

- Article 26 grants freedom to manage religious affairs but allows state intervention in certain circumstances.
- Different states have their own laws governing religious institutions.
- Concerns about uniformity and political implications also contribute to state involvement.

#### **Conclusion:**

- The relationship between state and temples is complex, requiring a balanced approach.
- Balancing the benefits of state oversight with potential problems like mismanagement is crucial.
- Ensuring equity across religions and adapting to contemporary dynamics is also important.

### **Tamilnadu and Management of Hindu Temples**

#### **Historical Regulation of Temples:**

- ❖ **1927:** The Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act was enacted by the Justice Party.
- ❖ **1950:** Law Commission of India recommended laws to prevent misuse of temple funds and properties.



- ❖ **Supreme Court's Intervention:** In the Shirur Mutt case, the Supreme Court upheld the TNHR&CE Act's constitutionality, albeit with some provisions struck down.
- ❖ **1959:** A revised TNHR&CE Act was legislated, which is currently in effect.

### **Hindu Religious Endowments Commission (1960):**

- ❖ Chaired by Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar.
- ❖ Established the necessity of government control over temples to prevent maladministration.
- ❖ Noted the neglect of institutions in states lacking temple regulation enactments.

### **Dravidian Movement and Temple Reforms:**

- ❖ Promoted rights for backward classes, leading to events like the right to walk on roads adjoining the Shiva temple in Vaikom.
- ❖ Resulted in the Travancore Temple Entry Proclamation of 1936.
- ❖ Reforms in Kerala and Tamil Nadu led to the appointment of backward class members as archakas (priests).
- ❖ **August 2021:** DMK appointed 208 personnel, including archakas from all castes and a female odhuvar (hymn singer) under the TNHR&CE Act.

### **Counter to 'Anti-Hindu' Accusations against Dravidian Movement:**

- ❖ TNHR&CE Department efficiently manages and contributes to temple development.
- ❖ **Integrated Temple Management System:** Aims to digitize temple records, enhancing transparency and accountability.
- ❖ **Additional Initiatives:**
  - Institutes to train archakas.
  - Conversion of donated jewelry into gold bars.
  - Monthly incentives for priests in around 13,000 temples.
  - Deployment of 10,000 security guards in temples.
  - Expeditious actions against land encroachments.

### **Why Poverty Alone Can't Be a Basis for Reservation**

### **Historical Injustice vs. Current Economic Status:**

- Reservations were introduced to address historical injustices faced by certain social groups, such as discrimination, untouchability, and limited access to education and employment.
- Economic status alone does not necessarily reflect the historical and social disadvantages faced by these groups. For example, even economically well-off



individuals from historically marginalized communities may still face social stigma and discrimination.

### **Meritocracy Concerns:**

- Expanding reservations based on economic criteria could potentially harm the representation of historically marginalized groups in government services and higher education.
- The current system of reservation attempts to provide compensatory justice by addressing historical imbalances in representation.

### **Fluidity of Economic Status:**

- Economic conditions can change significantly over time. Individuals can move in and out of poverty, making it difficult to maintain accurate and consistent criteria for economic reservations.
- This could lead to a situation where individuals who were once eligible for reservations due to poverty might lose out on opportunities if their economic status improves.

### **Potential for Misuse:**

- Determining economic status accurately can be challenging, especially in the informal sector where documentation of income might be limited.
- This could lead to potential misuse of the system by individuals who might misrepresent their economic status to gain access to benefits.

### **Additional Arguments:**

- Reservations based on economic criteria may not effectively address the issue of poverty. It is important to focus on broader social and economic policies that aim to create opportunities and reduce poverty for everyone.
- Expanding reservations further could create social tensions and divisions between different groups. The focus should be on promoting social harmony and inclusivity.

### **Conclusion:**

While economic disadvantage is a serious issue that needs to be addressed, poverty alone cannot be the sole basis for reservation. A more nuanced approach that considers both historical injustices and current social realities is necessary to ensure fair representation and promote equality of opportunity.

## **Cooperative Federalism in India**

### **Cooperative Federalism**

- Cooperative federalism describes the collaboration between national, state, and local governments to address common problems.
- India's Constitution, although not explicitly mentioning it, promotes this model through various provisions.

### **Need for Cooperative Federalism:**



- Promotes social justice by accommodating diverse voices and ensuring minority representation.
- Provides flexibility and helps withstand stress through accommodation.
- Ensures stability and growth, especially during challenging situations.
- Addresses contemporary issues like pandemics requiring intergovernmental cooperation.

### **Constitutional Provisions Supporting Cooperative Federalism:**

- Representation of States in President's Election: Members of state legislative assemblies participate in the Electoral College.
- Council of States: Represents states in the union legislative process.
- Division of Powers: Articles 246 and Schedule VII divide legislative powers between the Centre and states.
- Inter-State Water Disputes: Article 262 allows Parliament to adjudicate such disputes.
- Inter-State Councils: Established under Article 263 to investigate matters of common interest.

### **Recent Measures Promoting Cooperative Federalism:**

- NITI Aayog: Provides a platform for collaboration between the Centre and states.
- Goods and Services Tax (GST): A unified tax system requiring collaboration between central and state governments.
- Centrally Sponsored Schemes: Collaboration between the Centre and states on specific projects.

### **Challenges to Cooperative Federalism:**

- Over-centralization: Centre having more power can lead to conflicts.
- Limitations of Inter-State Council: Recommendations lack enforcement power.
- Regionalism: Strong regional sentiments can hinder cooperation.
- Uniform Approach: One-size-fits-all policies can be ineffective in a diverse country.
- Fiscal Federalism: Unequal distribution of resources can hinder state development.
- Administrative Challenges: Lack of staffing, communication, and bureaucratic hurdles can hinder cooperation.

### **Steps to Strengthen Cooperative Federalism:**

- Sarkaria Commission Recommendations: Implementing recommendations on Inter-State Council, President's rule, and Governor's office.



- Fiscal Federalism: Promoting greater autonomy for states in financial matters.
- Strengthening Institutions: Enhancing the role of NITI Aayog, Inter-State Council, and Finance Commission.
- Regular Inter-Governmental Meetings: Facilitating communication and consensus on policy matters.
- Avoiding One-Size-Fits-All Approach: Recognizing the diversity of states and tailoring policies accordingly.
- Empowering Local Governments: Granting them greater decision-making and financial resources.

### **COVID-19 and Cooperative Federalism:**

- The pandemic required collaboration between the Centre and states in the health sector (State List) and infectious disease control (Concurrent List).
- The Epidemic Diseases Act 1897 and Disaster Management Act 2005 facilitated joint efforts.
- National and State Disaster Management Authorities worked together.
- Virtual meetings between Prime Minister and Chief Ministers demonstrated cooperation.
- Collaboration on the COVID-19 vaccination program received international praise.

### **Conclusion:**

- Cooperative federalism is vital for effective governance in India.
- Collaborative efforts are crucial for addressing national challenges and fostering sustainable development.
- Continuous improvement of the system through reforms and adaptation is necessary.

### **Central vs. Union Government:**

- The Tamil Nadu government's decision to replace "Central government" with "Union government" in official communications aims to recapture the original intent of the Indian Constitution.
- The Constitution uses "Union of States," not "Central government," emphasizing a federal structure with shared power.
- The General Clauses Act, 1897, defines "Central government," but its constitutionality is debatable.

### **Historical Context:**

- The Constituent Assembly initially envisioned a decentralized government with limited central powers.



- Partition and violence led to a stronger central government to prevent secession.
- B.R. Ambedkar emphasized "Union of States" to negate the right of secession and ensure an "indestructible" India.

#### **Debate:**

- Maulana Hasrat Mohani criticized the use of "Union," fearing a centralized government akin to Bismarck's Germany.
- Ambedkar clarified that the Union and States are co-equal entities deriving power from the Constitution.

#### **Implication of Terminology:**

- "Union government" emphasizes a unified nation with shared governance.
- "Central government" carries connotations of centralized power and hierarchy.

#### **Conclusion:**

- The shift in terminology reflects a desire to uphold the federal spirit of the Indian Constitution.
- It remains to be seen whether those in power will uphold this spirit in practice.
- As Nani Palkhivala said, the true test lies in the conscience of those wielding power.

#### **India's Fiscal Federalism**

- India's fiscal federalism needs rethinking due to significant shifts in the economic and political landscape.
- Equity in intergovernmental transfers: The current system favors the wealthy and exacerbates income inequality. A more equity-oriented approach is needed, considering metrics like Human Development Index (HDI) for tax devolution.
- Revisiting Article 246 and Seventh Schedule: The division of powers needs to be revisited to accommodate changes in the political, social, and technological landscape.
- Subsidiarity principle: Functions should be assigned to the level at which they can be best performed. This requires a new local list for panchayat raj institutions and municipalities.
- Strengthening the third tier: Local governments need more autonomy and financial resources. Uniform financial reporting systems and standardized budgeting rules are crucial.
- Off-budget borrowing: Both Union and States need to be transparent about off-budget borrowing practices and bring all extra-budgetary transactions under public scrutiny.

#### **Context:**





- India's shift from a planned economy to a market-mediated system, multi-tier fiscal system, and GST implementation have changed the fiscal landscape.
- Increasing income inequality and divergent per capita income across states necessitate a more equitable and responsive fiscal system.

### **Recommendations:**

- The 16th Finance Commission should prioritize equity and consider HDI in tax devolution.
- Revisit Article 246 and Seventh Schedule to reflect changes in the political and economic context.
- Implement the subsidiarity principle and establish a new local list for panchayat raj and municipalities.
- Strengthen the third tier by providing more autonomy and resources, promoting standard budgeting practices, and acknowledging their "self-government" status.
- Ensure transparency in off-budget borrowing practices by bringing all transactions under public scrutiny.

### **South India Up in Arms over Tax Devolution and Representation**

#### **Context:**

- India's Fifteenth Finance Commission is tasked with determining tax devolution for the next five years.
- A key point of contention is using the 2011 census population data instead of the 1971 freeze.
- Southern states argue that the freeze incentivized population control and shouldn't be abandoned

#### **Key Points:**

- Southern states oppose using the 2011 census for allocating tax revenue, arguing for the 1971 freeze to incentivize lower population growth.
- Demographic transition has created a North-South divide: fewer, richer people in the South, and more, poorer people in the North.
- Fears exist that using 2011 data will increase redistribution, favoring poorer states and penalizing the South for controlling population growth.
- Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah questions the rationale behind incentivizing population growth through tax devolution.
- Estimates show southern states would have received about Rs. 20,000 crore less over 5 years if the 14th Finance Commission used 2011 figures.
- This dispute foreshadows a larger fight in 2026 when Lok Sabha seats will be reallocated based on the 2021 census.



- Southern states fear losing political representation even as they remain the main source of tax revenue.

### Impact:

- Fears exist that using 2011 data will disproportionately favor northern states with higher population growth.
- Southern states stand to lose significant tax revenue if the 2011 census is used.
- This dispute could escalate further in 2026 when Lok Sabha seats are reallocated based on the 2021 census.
- Lok Sabha seats will be reallocated among states in 2026 based on the 2021 census.
- Using only population data could lead to a loss of political representation for southern states.
- This could further exacerbate tensions between the North and South.

### Conclusion:

- The issue of tax devolution based on population data has created a North-South divide in India.
- Southern states fear being penalized for their success in controlling population growth and losing political representation.
- Finding a solution that balances economic disparity and population control is crucial for maintaining national unity and ensuring equitable development.



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## Tamil Nadu's Opposition to NEET

Tamil Nadu is strongly opposed to the National Eligibility and Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to undergraduate medical courses.

### Reasons for opposition:

- NEET's focus on marks disregards student quality and aptitude.
- It disrupts admired education models like CMC Vellore.
- NEET dismantles the state's in-service quota for medical graduates.
- NEET is seen as unfair to socially disadvantaged students and rural students.

### Emotional arguments:

- NEET is seen as an attack on Tamil Nadu's autonomy and values.
- It is viewed as violating social justice principles.
- The state's education vision emphasizes accessibility and equity.

### Legislative action:

- Tamil Nadu has passed Bills twice to bypass NEET, but they were returned by the President and Governor.
- The state argues that NEET is against the Constitution and federalism.
- The Governor argues that NEET is beneficial for rural and disadvantaged students.

### Anti-NEET Bill basis:

- The Justice A K Rajan Committee concluded that NEET favors affluent and repeaters.
- It found a significant decline in seat share in backward districts after NEET.
- NEET was found to discriminate against first-generation graduates and rural students.

### Significance:

- The NEET issue reflects the struggle between uniformity and fairness with local needs.
- It highlights the clash between central standardisation and local autonomy.
- The debate is rooted in differing views on democracy, equality, and social justice.

### AK Rajan Committee Report

### Overall:



- NEET disadvantages rural, poor, and government school students in securing medical college admissions.
- Tamil medium-educated, state board students, and first-generation graduates are particularly affected.

### Specific Findings:

- English medium dominance: In 2017-2021, 98% of admitted students were from English medium schools, compared to 20% in 2010.
- Non-first generation advantage: The percentage of FGGs securing seats dropped from 24.61% in 2010-2011 to 14.46% in 2017.
- State board disadvantage: No state board student secured a government medical seat in 2017-2018, compared to 26 in 2014-2015.
- Government school disadvantage: Their share of MBBS seats fell from 14.44% pre-NEET to 1.7% post-NEET.
- Increased repeaters: In 2020-2021, 71.42% of students were repeaters compared to 0.71% in 2011-2012.
- Marginalized communities affected: Their share of seats in the open category has declined significantly.

### Consequences:

- Students are shifting to private schools, exacerbating inequality.
- Rural and poor students lack resources to repeat the exam.
- Marginalized communities are disproportionately excluded.

### Conclusion

- Tamil Nadu's opposition to NEET stems from the belief that it hinders access to medical education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- The exam favors privileged groups and undermines the state's efforts to promote social justice and equity.
- Finding a solution requires a balanced approach that:
  - ✓ Respects Tamil Nadu's specific needs and values.
  - ✓ Maintains national standards for quality education.
  - ✓ Promotes equity without sacrificing merit.
  - ✓ Upholds the principles of federalism.

### Justice P Kalaiyaran Committee Recommendation

#### Context:



- Tamil Nadu has been critical of NEET, arguing that it favors students from privileged backgrounds and undermines the state's efforts to promote social justice.
- The committee's recommendation is part of a broader effort to address these concerns and ensure a more equitable medical education system.

### **Key Points:**

- The Justice P Kalaiyaran Committee recommended a 7.5% internal reservation in NEET for students who studied in government schools in Tamil Nadu.
- This reservation applies in addition to existing reservations for SC/ST/OBC categories.
- The recommendation was approved by the state government in July 2020.
- This policy aims to address concerns that NEET disadvantages government school students and hinders their access to medical education.
- The reservation applies only to government school students who qualify for the NEET exam.
- The implementation will be monitored to assess its effectiveness and impact on student access to medical colleges.

### **Significance:**

- This reservation policy is a significant response to concerns about NEET's impact on social justice in medical education.
- It aims to improve access to medical education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- The policy reflects Tamil Nadu's commitment to equity in educational opportunities.

## **Anantha Krishnan Committee for Abolition of Common Entrance Test (CET)**

### **Background:**

- In 2006, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government of Tamil Nadu formed a committee under the leadership of M. Anantha Krishnan, former Vice-Chancellor of Anna University.
- The committee's objective was to recommend measures for abolishing the Common Entrance Test (CET) for admission to professional courses in the state, starting from the academic year 2007-08.

### **Reasons for Abolishing CET:**

- The committee identified several concerns regarding the CET, including:

- Favoritism towards urban and affluent students: The committee argued that the CET favored students from urban backgrounds who had access to better coaching facilities and resources.
- Disadvantage to rural and economically disadvantaged students: The CET placed a significant disadvantage on rural and economically disadvantaged students who lacked the resources and guidance needed to excel in the exam.
- Focus on rote learning: The committee criticized the CET for its focus on rote learning and memorization, neglecting other important skills and aptitudes.
- Limited access to higher education: The CET created a bottleneck for students seeking admission to professional courses, limiting their opportunities for higher education.

### Recommendations:

- Based on its findings, the committee recommended the following measures:
  - Abolition of the CET: The committee recommended abolishing the CET as the primary criterion for admission to professional courses.
  - Focus on Class 12 marks: The committee proposed using Class 12 board exam marks as the primary criterion for admission, arguing that it would provide a more comprehensive assessment of a student's academic performance.
  - Aptitude tests: The committee suggested conducting aptitude tests for specific courses to assess students' ability and suitability for those programs.
  - Reservation for marginalized groups: The committee emphasized the need to maintain reservation quotas for marginalized groups, ensuring fair access to higher education for all sections of society.

### Impact:

- The recommendations of the Anantha Krishnan Committee led to the abolition of the CET in Tamil Nadu in 2006.
- This decision was met with mixed reactions, with some praising the move for promoting equity and others expressing concerns about potentially lowering academic standards.
- The long-term impact of this policy is still being debated, with studies showing both positive and negative effects on student access and academic performance.

### Conclusion:

The Anantha Krishnan Committee played a significant role in shaping the landscape of higher education in Tamil Nadu. Its recommendations aimed to address concerns about equity and accessibility, prioritizing student potential over standardized test scores. While the impact of these changes is still under evaluation, the committee's



work undoubtedly sparked crucial conversations about how to create a more fair and inclusive education system.

### **All India Federation for Social Justice**

The All India Federation for Social Justice (AIFSJ) is a political organization formed in 2023 by M.K. Stalin, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and leader of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party.

#### **Objectives:**

- The AIFSJ aims to fight for the rights and interests of marginalized communities across India, including Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Backward Classes (BCs), minorities, and women.
- The organization seeks to promote social justice, equity, and inclusion in all spheres of life, including education, employment, healthcare, and housing.
- It also works to address issues such as discrimination, casteism, and religious intolerance.

#### **Activities:**

- The AIFSJ conducts various activities to achieve its objectives, including:
  - Organizing protests and demonstrations against discriminatory practices.
  - Lobbying the government for legislative changes that promote social justice.
  - Providing legal assistance to victims of discrimination.
  - Educating the public about the rights of marginalized communities.
  - Building alliances with other social justice organizations.

#### **Significance:**

- The formation of the AIFSJ marks a significant development in the struggle for social justice in India.
- It provides a unified platform for various marginalized communities to come together and raise their voices against inequality and discrimination.
- The AIFSJ has the potential to serve as a powerful force for change and contribute to the creation of a more just and equitable society in India.

#### **Current Developments:**

- The AIFSJ is still in its early stages of development.
- The organization is currently focusing on building its membership base and infrastructure across India.
- It is also working to develop concrete programs and initiatives to address the specific needs of different marginalized communities.

#### **Future Prospects:**



- The future of the AIFSJ depends on its ability to effectively organize and mobilize marginalized communities across India.
- Building strong alliances with other social justice organizations will be crucial for its success.
- The AIFSJ also needs to develop clear and achievable goals and objectives, and implement effective strategies to reach those goals.
- If the AIFSJ can successfully overcome these challenges, it has the potential to play a significant role in advancing the cause of social justice in India.

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### Mekedatu Drinking Water Project

The Mekedatu drinking water project is a proposed reservoir project on the Cauvery River in Karnataka, India. The project aims to provide drinking water to the rapidly growing city of Bengaluru and its surrounding areas. However, the project has been met with strong opposition from neighboring Tamil Nadu, leading to a long-standing dispute.

#### Key Points:

- **Project details:**
  - Proposed construction of a balancing reservoir near Mekedatu in Kanakapura district.
  - Aims to store and supply 4.75 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of water for drinking purposes.
  - Estimated cost of Rs. 9,000 crore.



- **Benefits for Karnataka:**

- Address water scarcity issues in Bengaluru and surrounding areas.
- Generate 400 MW of hydropower.
- Improve irrigation facilities.

- **Concerns from Tamil Nadu:**

- Project violates the final order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.
- Reduces water flow to Tamil Nadu, impacting agriculture and livelihoods.
- Adverse environmental impact on the Cauvery River ecosystem.

- **Current status:**

- Project awaiting approval from the Central Water Commission.
- Legal disputes pending in the Supreme Court.
- Ongoing protests and political tensions between the states.

**Arguments in favor of the project:**

- Bengaluru's water scarcity is a critical issue, and the project offers a solution.
- Tamil Nadu already receives a significant share of Cauvery water compared to Karnataka.
- The project will also benefit the environment by providing water for irrigation.

**Arguments against the project:**

- The project violates the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's final order, which is legally binding.
- Tamil Nadu's farmers rely heavily on Cauvery water, and the project could threaten their livelihoods.
- The environmental impact of the project has not been adequately assessed.

**Possible solutions:**

- Reaching an agreement between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu through negotiation and compromise.
- Implementing water-saving measures in both states to conserve water resources.
- Exploring alternative water sources for Bengaluru, such as desalination plants.

**Keeladi Excavations:****Key Findings:**

- Carbon dating of samples confirms the presence of a settlement in Keeladi around the 6th century BCE (580 BCE).

- This finding pushes back the date of Tamil-Brahmi script to the 6th century BCE, a century earlier than previously thought.
- The presence of Tamil-Brahmi inscribed pottery and high-quality brick structures suggests a high literacy rate and advanced urban civilization in 6th century BCE Tamil Nadu.
- Faunal remains indicate an agrarian society with cattle rearing being the dominant activity.
- Structural remains showcase sophisticated engineering skills, such as well-laid floors, brick walls, and roof tiles.
- Graffiti and symbols suggest a form of codified communication and preliminary writing system.
- The presence of 56 Tamil-Brahmi inscribed potsherds further confirms the high literacy rate of the 6th century BCE society.

**Significance:**

- The Keeladi excavations provide significant evidence for the antiquity and cultural richness of Tamil Nadu.
- They challenge the previously held view that second urbanization did not occur in South India.
- These findings contribute to a better understanding of the Sangam Age and rewrite the cultural history of Tamil Nadu.

**Sivakalai excavation**

- 34 burial urns unearthed during the third phase of excavation
- Bones and other materials found inside the urns
- Paddy found in some burial urns during the second phase Analysis:
- Bones and other materials taken to Madurai Kamaraj University for analysis
- Paddy dating analysis fixed the age of the civilization to 3,200 years old Significance:
- Provides valuable information about the ancient civilization that existed in the region

**Archaeological discovery in Mayiladumparai**

- Radiocarbon dating of excavations in Mayiladumparai confirmed iron use in Tamil Nadu as early as 2172 BCE, making it the oldest iron age site in India.
- This pushes back the start of the Iron Age in Tamil Nadu by 600 years.
- The excavations also revealed the presence of black-red pottery more than 4,200 years ago, suggesting its introduction during the late Neolithic Age.

**Significance:**

- This discovery rewrites the history of iron use in India and Tamil Nadu.



- It provides valuable insights into the development of agriculture and the transition from the Neolithic to the Iron Age.
- This finding supports the theory that Tamil Nadu played a crucial role in the development of Indian civilization.

### **Archaeological Discoveries at Thulukkarpatti:**

#### **Key Points:**

- Archaeological excavations are ongoing at Thulukkarpatti, located near the Nambiyar River in Tamil Nadu.
- The excavation began in mid-March and is expected to last for two years.
- So far, artifacts including potsherds, broken ceramics, graffiti, beads, and wares have been unearthed.
- A carnelian bead and graffiti were discovered on Tuesday.
- The site shows evidence of black and red wares, coarse red wares, and white painted-black and red wares.
- Officials plan to excavate 12 trenches near the Nambiyar River.

#### **Significance:**

- These findings contribute to our understanding of ancient Tamil culture and settlements.
- The abundance of artifacts suggests Thulukkarpatti may have been a significant settlement.
- Further research and analysis of the artifacts may reveal more about the inhabitants and their way of life.

### **Committee for Revival of MSMEs in Tamil Nadu:**

#### **Key findings:**

- Tamil Nadu has the highest share of MSME units in India (11.13%).
- An expert committee, led by Dr. N. Sundaradevan, has submitted a report with over 100 recommendations to revive the MSME sector in the state.

#### **Key recommendations:**

- **Long-term:**
  - Adoption of a "corridor and cluster" approach to develop and support MSME clusters.
- **Short-term:**
  - Implementation of a single window clearance system to streamline the process of starting and operating an MSME.
- **General:**



- Strengthening the existing SIDBI's Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises' program to improve access to finance for MSMEs.

### **Naan Mudhalvan**

Naan Mudhalvan is a state-sponsored scheme launched by the Tamil Nadu government to provide free skill development training to unemployed youth in the state.

#### **Objectives:**

- Empower 10 lakh youth across the state with relevant skills.
- Help youth identify their talents and interests.
- Provide career and academic guidance.
- Offer spoken English training, software coding, robotics sessions, and more.
- Equip youth with industry-specific skills for better job opportunities.

#### **Key Features:**

- Free training for youth aged 18-35 years.
- Nationally certified training programs.
- Empanelled training partners across urban and rural areas.
- Over 20 sectors covered, including healthcare, media & entertainment, green jobs, retail, beauty, construction, electronics, food processing, IT, leather, logistics, etc.
- Online portal for registration and information.

#### **Benefits:**

- Increased employability for youth.
- Improved job opportunities.
- Enhanced career prospects.
- Personal development.
- Contribution to the state's economy.

### **Murugesan Panel to Formulate Tamil Nadu Education Policy**

#### **Objective:**

- To draft a distinct State Education Policy for Tamil Nadu, focusing on the interests and future of the state's youth.

#### **Areas of Focus:**

- Developing modern, technology-driven, and updated curriculum frameworks for all levels of education (early childhood, school, college, teacher education, and adult education).



- Improving access, equity, and quality of education by addressing implementation challenges, learning outcomes, and employment-ready skills.
- Implementing examination reforms.
- Reforming teacher/assistant professor recruitment, training, and accountability.
- Exploring funding opportunities from within India and abroad.

## Tamil Nadu Seven Point Agenda

**Aim: To** boost industrial and economic growth in Tamil Nadu.

### Key points:

#### 1. Transparency:

- Promote transparency and accountability in governance.
- Streamline bureaucratic processes.
- Reduce red tape and simplify regulations.

#### 2. Infrastructure to Attract Foreign Investment:

- Develop world-class infrastructure, including roads, ports, and airports.
- Create Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to attract foreign investors.
- Offer attractive incentives to foreign companies.

#### 3. Encourage Mass Entrepreneurship:

- Support entrepreneurship through policy initiatives and financial assistance.
- Simplify the process of starting and running a business.
- Foster a culture of innovation and risk-taking.

#### 4. Identify New High Growth Industries:

- Focus on industries with high growth potential, such as:
  - Aerospace and defense
  - Food processing and agro
  - Electronic system design and semiconductor fabrication
  - Medical electronic devices
  - Electric vehicle components and battery manufacturing
  - Biotech and pharmaceuticals
  - Smart textiles
- Provide targeted support and resources to these industries.

#### 5. Develop a FINTECH (Financial Technology) Park:




# IYACHAMY ACADEMY

GROUP 1 PRELIMS TEST SERIES-2024  
STARTS FROM JANUARY 2ND

## தடை அதை உடை

Tests	Numbers
Daily Prelims Test	84
Sectional Test	10
PYQ Test	10
Grand Test	10
Total Test	114

 **Date :**  
January 2nd

 **Time :**  
11:00am - 12:00am

**FEEES OFFLINE-6,000 ONLINE-5000**

**ONLINE (PDF)|OFFLINE**

**CHENNAI|TIRUNELVELI|TENKASI**



**PREVIOUS YEAR'S  
QUESTIONS BASED**

IYACHAMY ACADEMY, offering assessment, time management, real exam simulation, identifying weak areas, confidence building, and feedback for improvement.



**MENTORSHIP|MATERIAL**

One to one Mentorship and Materials ( 5000 Extra)

**ENROLL NOW**



**CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Exclusive current Affairs based on the Current Trends will be given

For Details 9952521550,9840281550

IYACHAMY ACADEMY| CHENNAI|TIRUNELVELI| TENKASI- 9952521550



- Create a dedicated FINTECH park to attract leading financial technology companies.
- Foster innovation and collaboration in the financial technology sector.
- Position Tamil Nadu as a global hub for FINTECH.

## 6. Reverse Brain Drain:

- Attract talented individuals back to Tamil Nadu by offering attractive career opportunities and a high quality of life.
- Leverage the skills and expertise of the Tamil diaspora to contribute to the state's development.

## 7. Rural Transformation (Building Cities out of Towns):

- Promote the development of rural areas by creating new towns and cities.
- Provide rural residents with access to essential services and infrastructure.
- Create economic opportunities in rural areas to reduce urban migration.

**இதர்ப்பம்**  
**COMBINED INTENSIVE  
COACHING FOR  
PRELIMINARY**

**Batch will be Continued  
till Group 4 Exam**

**ONLINE / OFFLINE**

**GROUP  
1,2,4  
EXAMS**

## Kalaingar All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme (KAVIADP)

### Objectives:

- Increase cultivable land area by bringing fallow lands under cultivation through creation of new water sources.
- Enhance agricultural production and productivity.



- Improve the economic status of farmers.

#### Key Features:

- Implementation in all 12,525 village panchayats across Tamil Nadu.
- Joint execution by the Agriculture and Rural Development Departments.
- Distribution of various resources like coconut saplings, home farming saplings, horticultural saplings, farming sprays, and vegetable garden kits.
- 100% subsidy for Adi Dravida farmers for specific activities like sinking wells in dry lands, employing drip irrigation, and digging farm ponds.

#### Ennum Ezhuthum Scheme:

**Objective:** To fill the learning gap caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and improve the educational quality for students in Tamil Nadu.

**Target Group:** Students in grades 1 to 3.

#### Key Features:

- Provision of workbooks: Students will receive workbooks to support their learning.
- Focus on reading and basic arithmetic: Aims to ensure all students can read with comprehension and perform basic arithmetic by 2025.
- Bridge learning gap: Specifically designed to address the learning gap caused by the pandemic.
- Primary education improvement: Provides systematic and comprehensive primary education to all students.
- Basic literacy: Aims to achieve basic literacy for all students.
- Mitigation of pandemic impact: Developed to alleviate the negative effects of the pandemic on education.
- Foundational skills development: Focuses on ensuring foundational literacy and numeracy skills.
- Inclusive education: Aligns with the government's motto of "education for everyone" with specific attention to primary education.
- Increased student engagement: Includes various activities to enhance student interest in learning.

#### Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission:

**Objective:** Restore 100 wetlands across Tamil Nadu within five years and improve the livelihoods of communities dependent on them.

#### Functions:

- Identify and list wetlands in the state.





- Recommend wetlands for notification and regulation.
- Create a digital inventory of all wetlands.
- Develop a comprehensive list of regulated and permitted activities within wetlands.
- Define strategies for conservation and wise use of wetlands.
- Review and recommend management plans for notified wetlands.
- Identify mechanisms for maintaining the ecological character of wetlands.
- Coordinate the implementation of management plans.
- Function as a nodal authority for all wetland-specific bodies in the state.
- Issue necessary directions for wetland conservation and management.
- Create awareness among local communities about the importance of wetlands.
- Advise on matters related to wetland conservation.

**Six wetlands in Tamil Nadu have been recognized as Ramsar Sites:**

1. Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary: Man-made wetland, largest reserve for resident and migratory water birds in South India (72.04 hectares).
2. Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve: Unique marine environment rich in biodiversity, first Marine Biosphere Reserve in South and Southeast Asia.
3. Vembannur Wetland Complex: Man-made inland tank forming the southernmost tip of India, part of the Important Bird and Biodiversity Area, home to 250 bird species.
4. Vellode Bird Sanctuary: Also known as Periyakulam Yeri, one of the 141 prioritized wetlands in the state.
5. Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary: One of the oldest bird-protected areas in Tamil Nadu, history of local protection dating back centuries.
6. Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary: Important staging and breeding ground for several waterbird species.

**Significance:**

- Ramsar recognition highlights the international importance of these wetlands for waterbirds.
- Protects vital ecosystems for ecological and economic benefits.
- Promotes conservation and sustainable management of these valuable resources.

**Tamil Nadu Footwear and Leather Products Policy 2022:**

**Objective:**



- Attract investments of ₹20,000 crore and create over 2 lakh jobs in the footwear and leather products sector.
- Create a favorable environment and robust supply chain for footwear manufacturing.

### **Key Features:**

- Turnover-based subsidy: Applicable to incentivize growth based on turnover.
- Fixed capital subsidy: 10% of investment for industries outside clusters.
- Development of footwear parks: 30-50 acres with plug-and-play facilities.
- Working women's hostels: Built near clusters to support women's participation.

### **Potential of TN in the sector:**

- 48% of India's footwear exports and 26% of production.
- Major manufacturing centers: Ambur, Ranipet, Vaniyambadi, etc.
- Only state with Zero Liquid Discharge in tanneries.
- Manufactures for international brands and provides sourcing for raw materials.
- Brands include Louis Vuitton, Giorgio Armani, Gucci, etc.

### **Conclusion:**

- Aims to make Tamil Nadu the most preferred destination for footwear and leather products in Asia.
- Encourages industries to promote "Make in Tamil Nadu" products globally.
- Contributing to achieving a USD 1 trillion economy by 2030.

### **Requirements for a new airport in Chennai**

#### **Current Situation:**

- Chennai Meenambakkam Airport is experiencing steady growth with a CAGR of 9% (2009-2019).
- Expansion of the existing airport is limited due to surrounding residential areas and high land costs.
- Capacity constraints are expected to reach a peak of 35 million passengers per year by 2028.

#### **Need for a New Airport:**

- To cater to the growing business, trade, tourism, and air traffic demands of South India.
- To improve connectivity between Chennai and other major cities in India and globally.



- To accommodate future growth and prevent stagnation of Chennai's economic development.

### **Economic Benefits:**

- Studies by ICAO show significant economic benefits from aviation, with a multiplier effect of 3.25 for every 100 rupees invested.
- New airport construction will stimulate industrial and economic growth across Tamil Nadu.
- Local communities will benefit from improved infrastructure and job opportunities.

### **Key Features:**

- New airport at Parantur to handle 100 million passengers annually.
- Existing Chennai Meenambakkam Airport will continue to operate.

### **Vallalar Biodiversity Reserves Scheme**

#### **Objective:**

- Protect stray, deserted, and injured animals in Tamil Nadu.

#### **Key Features:**

- Budget: Rs 20 crore.
- Beneficiaries: NGOs and service groups involved in animal care.
- **Support for:**
  - Maintenance of stray, injured, and deserted animals.
  - Pet care.
  - Animal birth control and rabies vaccination programs for stray dogs.
  - Emergency medical care for sick animals.
  - Procurement of ambulances for animals.

#### **Impact:**

- Improved animal welfare.
- Reduced animal suffering and mortality.
- Enhanced public awareness about animal care.

#### **Significance:**

- The scheme aligns with Vallalar's philosophy of compassion towards all living beings.
- It addresses the growing problem of stray and abandoned animals in the state.



- It contributes to a more humane and sustainable society.

## Vanavil Mandram

### Objective:

- Transition students from rote learning to activity-based learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects.
- Improve scientific reasoning and critical thinking skills.
- Increase student engagement and interest in STEM fields.

### Target Group:

- Students from classes VI to VIII across Tamil Nadu.
- Approximately 20 lakh students.

### Key Features:

- Activity-based learning: Utilizing activities instead of rote memorization to deepen understanding.
- Mobile laboratories: Providing STEM facilitators with kits to conduct experiments and demonstrations.
- Exposure to real-world applications: Visiting industries, museums, and other relevant locations to connect classroom learning to real-world scenarios.
- Development of scientific reasoning: Encouraging students to think critically and question the world around them.

### Impact:

- Improved learning outcomes in STEM subjects.
- Increased student engagement and motivation.
- Enhanced problem-solving and decision-making skills.
- Development of a future workforce prepared for STEM careers.

### Overall:

Vanavil Mandram is a significant initiative by the Tamil Nadu government to transform STEM education and equip students with the necessary skills for success in the 21st century.

## Tamil Nadu Transgender Welfare Board

### Objective:

- Improve the welfare and living conditions of transgender people in Tamil Nadu.
- Provide access to essential services and economic opportunities.
- Promote social inclusion and acceptance of transgender people.



**Key Features:**

- Board Composition: 12 transgender persons and one cis woman.
- Establishment: First constituted in 2008, recently reconstituted with more transgender representation.
- **Services Offered:**
  - Identity cards
  - Ration cards
  - Housing
  - Free sewing machines
  - Higher education assistance
  - Self-help groups
  - Free bus travel
  - Free skill training
  - Grants for income-generating activities
- **Economic Activities Supported:**
  - Provision stores
  - Rearing of milch animals
  - Canteens
  - Production units
  - Passenger autos
  - Businesses related to cloth, coir, rice, etc.
- Technology Use: "Thirunangaial" mobile app for registration and enumeration of transgender people.

**Impact:**

- Improved access to essential services and resources for transgender people.
- Increased economic opportunities for transgender individuals and groups.
- Enhanced social inclusion and acceptance.
- Empowerment of the transgender community in Tamil Nadu.

**Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary**

**Establishment:**

- Notified by the Tamil Nadu government on November 8, 2022.
- Covers an area of 686.405 sq km in Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri districts.



- Created under Section 26-A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

**Connectivity:**

- Connects Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu with Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka.
- Forms part of a large, contiguous network of protected areas for wildlife.

**Significance:**

- Unique ecological, faunal, and floral importance.
- Important elephant habitat in South India.
- Critical for riverine species like Leith's Soft-shelled turtles, Smooth-coated Otter, and Marsh Crocodile.
- Provides habitat continuity to the Nilgiri Biosphere and facilitates tiger movement.
- Supports two important elephant corridors: Nandimangalam - Ulibanda and Kovaipallam - Anebiddahall

**Tamil Nadu Aerospace & Defence Industrial Policy 2022**

**Objective:**

- Become the preferred destination for aerospace and defense (A&D) investments, innovations, and product and service development.

**Key Goals:**

- Attract INR 75,000 crore (USD 10 billion) in investments over 10 years.
- Create 1 lakh (0.1 million) direct and indirect jobs within 10 years.

**Key Features:**

- Develop a robust, world-class, and high-tech A&D manufacturing ecosystem.
- Attract global OEMs, Tier-1 suppliers, and Indian majors as anchor units.
- Foster innovation by developing centers and startup hubs, making Tamil Nadu India's leading A&D innovation hub.
- Support companies that contribute to India's A&D self-reliance vision.
- Leverage the state's strengths in related sectors like automobiles, electronics, and textiles to support A&D ecosystem development.
- Establish five well-connected nodes (Chennai, Hosur, Salem, Coimbatore, and Tiruchirappalli) for the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor.

**Focus Areas:**

- Aircraft standard parts & Drones
- Mobility (Armoured vehicles, Tanks & Specialist Vehicles)



- Aircraft Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO)
- Missiles, Rockets and Ammunition
- Sensors, Radars, Communication and Electronic Warfare
- Small Arms and Assault rifles
- Space
- Ship Building

## Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission

### Objective:

- Protect and restore natural resources in Tamil Nadu.
- Achieve carbon neutrality significantly earlier than the national target of 2070.
- Make Tamil Nadu a "climate-smart state."

### Key Features:

- First state in India to launch its own Climate Change Mission.
- Budget allocation of Rs 500 crore for climate change management and mitigation activities.
- Establishment of Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company, India's first such special purpose vehicle.
- Three major nature conservation projects:
  - Green Tamil Nadu Mission
  - Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission
  - Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission
- Focus on district-level climate missions to address local challenges.

### Impact:

- Reduced carbon emissions.
- Enhanced resilience to climate change.
- Improved air and water quality.
- Protected biodiversity.
- Sustainable development.

## Tamil Nadu Research & Development Policy 2022

### Objective:

- Transform Tamil Nadu into a knowledge-based economy by 2030 through R&D-driven manufacturing and service excellence.



## Policy Scope:

- Recognize R&D's role in driving innovation, productivity, and economic growth.
- Acknowledge Tamil Nadu's leading position in R&D and human capital development.
- Remain competitive in the global innovation race.

## Focus Areas:

- Manufacturing: pharmaceuticals, high-performance computers, aerospace, scientific instruments, electric machinery
- Services: FinTech, clean energy systems, biotechnology, precision medicine, genomics
- Emerging Technologies: electric vehicles and components, smart grids, semiconductors

## Mission:

- Increase R&D inputs (researchers, scientists) and outputs (patents, publications).
- Develop a synergistic innovation ecosystem with research parks, centers, hubs.
- Promote private sector R&D:
  - Target new indigenous R&D performing firms in manufacturing and services.
  - Stimulate greater R&D investment in existing firms.
  - Encourage non-R&D firms to adopt R&D practices.
  - Support public-private collaboration in R&D centers and GCCs.

## Tamil Nadu Life Sciences Promotion Policy 2022

### Objective:

- Establish Tamil Nadu as a premier destination for life sciences manufacturers, innovators, and creators.

### Need for the Policy:

- Increased demand for drugs, vaccines, and medical equipment due to the pandemic and global changes.
- Rapid scientific advancements and growing healthcare needs necessitate a revolution in life sciences.
- Life sciences companies create products to improve health and well-being.

### Scope of the Policy:





- Industry sectors:
  - Biotechnology and Bio-Services
  - Pharmaceutical and Nutraceutical Industry
  - Medical Devices
  - Medical Textiles
- Investment focus:
  - Biologics
  - Biosimilars
  - Medical technology

### **Mission:**

- Attract researchers and manufacturers in cutting-edge life sciences fields.
- Enhance the existing life sciences ecosystem for efficient operation and production.
- Simplify the business environment for life sciences companies.
- Build local production capacity for biologics, biosimilars, and advanced medical equipment.
- Reduce reliance on imports of these products.

### **Chief Minister's Economic Advisory Council in Tamil Nadu:**

#### **Conceptual:**

- Provides expertise beyond purely economic matters, influencing policy and political goals.
- Encourages states to develop their own economic expertise and not rely solely on the Union government.
- Enables states to take ownership of their economic development and improve efficiency across various sectors.

#### **Structural:**

- Creates a revolving door of experts within the state, allowing fresh perspectives and knowledge infusion.
- Offers opportunities for diverse experts to contribute to governance, leveraging their experience and knowledge.
- Requires careful management to avoid issues like expert arrogance and bureaucratic resistance.

#### **Geographical:**

- Distributes talent beyond the centralized North Block in Delhi, attracting expertise to state governments.



- Encourages competition among states for talent, leading to overall growth and development.
- Offers a platform for questioning the status quo, challenging existing policies, and proposing new ideas.

**Overall:**

- The Chief Minister's Economic Advisory Council is a positive step towards creating a more efficient and competitive economic environment in Tamil Nadu.
- Other states should follow this model to improve their own economic development and governance.
- The Union government can learn from this initiative and adapt it to enhance collaboration and knowledge sharing across different levels of government.

**Appointment of archakas in Tamil Nadu:**

**Background:**

- Trained archakas (priests) have been waiting for government postings since 2008.
- Issue of appointing non-Brahmin archakas in Vedic temples has been controversial since 1971.
- Legal battles have been ongoing for decades, challenging the Tamil Nadu government's attempts to allow archakas from all castes.

**Key legal events:**

- 1971: E.V. Ramasamy (Periyar) declares intention to enter sanctum sanctorum with people from all castes.
- 1972: Madras High Court upholds amendments abolishing hereditary appointments, but rules that appointments should be made according to temple's agama norms.
- 2002: Supreme Court rules that customs violating human rights and social equality cannot be used to claim rights.
- 2006: Tamil Nadu government passes G.O. 118 allowing anyone with qualifications and training to be appointed as an archaka.
- 2015: Supreme Court clarifies that if agamas don't proscribe any group based on caste, then no violation of Article 17 occurs.

**Constitutional considerations:**

- Article 25 ensures social welfare and reform.
- Article 26 ensures a denomination's freedom to manage its own religious affairs.
- Article 25(2)(a) allows state regulation of secular activities associated with religious practice.



## **Current status:**

- Madras High Court has put appointments on hold pending final order on petitions.

## **Overall:**

### **Arguments of Hindutva groups:**

- Government control: Why are only Hindu temples under government control, and not churches or mosques?
- Limited government role: The HR & CE Act 1951 intended to limit government involvement to administration and finance.
- Tradition and knowledge: Rituals are not merely ceremonial but involve intricate preparations maintained by priests without financial gain.
- Priesthood as a calling: Priesthood should not be a last resort for those failing to secure other jobs.

### **Friction between modernity and tradition:**

- Debates over hereditary rights and the entry of women into Sabarimala temple highlight the tension between societal progress and tradition.
- This complex issue lacks easy solutions and requires careful consideration of all perspectives.

### **Additional points:**

- The appointment of priests from all castes remains controversial, with legal battles ongoing.
- Constitutional provisions like Article 25 (social welfare) and Article 26 (religious freedom) play a role in the debate.
- Finding a balance between respecting tradition and ensuring social equality and access remains the key challenge.

### **Tamil Nadu's Resolution Against 'Imposition' of Hindi:**

#### **Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu has a long history of opposing Hindi imposition, dating back over seven decades.
- The anti-Hindi movement was spearheaded by E.V. Ramasamy (Periyar) in response to the C. Rajagopalachari government's decision to make Hindi compulsory in schools.
- Subsequent protests erupted in 1965 when reports suggested Hindi would replace English as the official language.
- Despite assurances from Jawaharlal Nehru against forced Hindi imposition, the DMK government repealed the three-language formula in 1968, adopting a policy of teaching Tamil and English only.



- The opposition to Hindi goes beyond mere language concerns, often seen as a symbol of northern dominance, Aryan-Dravidian conflict, and the introduction of a single culture.

### **Significance:**

- The Tamil Nadu resolution highlights the ongoing debate about language, culture, and identity in India.
- It represents the state's strong commitment to protecting its linguistic heritage and resisting perceived cultural assimilation.
- The resolution raises questions about the future of Hindi as a national language and the importance of respecting linguistic diversity in India.

### **Green Tamil Nadu Mission**

**Mission:** Increase Tamil Nadu's tree and forest cover from 23.69% to 33%.

### **Significance:**

- Climate regulation: Trees help mitigate global warming by absorbing carbon dioxide.
- Environmental benefits: Forests conserve soil, retain moisture, and promote biodiversity.
- Socio-economic benefits: Trees provide fuel, fodder, and other resources for rural communities.
- Carbon capture: Trees are the most efficient natural technology for capturing carbon.
- Sustainable Development: Tree planting contributes to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 15 (Life on Land).
- Disaster management: Forests reduce the impact of natural disasters like floods and landslides.

### **Key Actions:**

- Large-scale tree planting: Planting various tree species to increase forest cover.
- Forest fire protection: Implementing measures to prevent and control forest fires.
- Community involvement: Engaging local communities in tree planting and conservation activities.
- Sustainable forest management: Managing forests to ensure their long-term health and productivity.

### **Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme in Tamil Nadu:**

### **Objective:**



- Provide breakfast to students in government primary schools to address hunger, improve nutrition, and alleviate burden on working mothers.

### **History:**

- Inspired by a similar scheme launched in 1920 by P. Theagaraya Chetty.
- Builds upon legacy of previous Chief Ministers who introduced mid-day meals schemes.

### **Features:**

- Initially benefits 114,000 students in 1,545 schools.
- Phased expansion planned to reach more students in the future.
- Aims to improve student health and learning outcomes.

### **Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran hill tribes of Tamil Nadu.**

- ✓ The Narikuravar is an indigenous community in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The main occupation of the people is hunting, but as they were prohibited entry into the forests, they were forced to take up other alternatives such as selling beaded ornaments to survive.
- ✓ They migrate from place to place to find a market for their beads.
- ✓ Children follow the adults wherever they go, which means they never get to attend school.
- ✓ During British rule, they were placed under the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871 and hence stigmatized for a long time. However, they were denotified in 1952, but the stigma continues.
- ✓ Their original name is Kuruvikkaran or Nakkale or Akkibikki but wrongly named Narikurava.
- ✓ They speak the unclassified Indo-Aryan language called Vaagri Booli.
- ✓ Almost all Narikuravas are well-versed in Tamil.
- ✓ Although all they come under one roof based on their common clan they were broadly sub-divided into two sub-divisions: the buffalo-sacrificers and goat-sacrificers

### **The Cauvery Water Dispute:**

- States involved: Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry
- Basin area: spans across major parts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, with smaller portions in Kerala and Puducherry
- Nature of the dispute: sharing of Cauvery river water
- **History:**

- Dates back to 1892
- Several agreements and attempts at resolution made over the years
- Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) constituted in 1990
- CWDT's final award in 2007 allocated water as follows:
  - Tamil Nadu: 419 tmc ft
  - Karnataka: 270 tmc ft
  - Kerala: 30 tmc ft
  - Puducherry: 7 tmc ft
- Both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu filed review petitions

**Sharing of Cauvery Water:**

The Cauvery water is shared based on the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) in 2007 and the Supreme Court's judgment in February 2018.

**how it works:**

- Total available water: 740 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) in a normal year.
- **Allocation:**
  - Karnataka: 284.75 tmc ft
  - Tamil Nadu: 404.25 tmc ft
  - Kerala: 30 tmc ft
  - Puducherry: 7 tmc ft
  - Environmental protection & escapages: 14 tmc ft (10 + 4)
- **Karnataka's responsibility:**
  - Release 177.25 tmc ft to Tamil Nadu at Biligundulu (inter-State border)
  - This includes:
    - 123.14 tmc ft during June-September (southwest monsoon season)
    - Remaining 54.11 tmc ft during the rest of the year
- **Schedule:**
  - A monthly schedule exists for Karnataka to release the water to Tamil Nadu.

**Reasons for continuing dispute:**

- Distress years: During droughts, the Cauvery cannot meet the demands of all states, leading to conflicts.
- Karnataka's claims: Believes it didn't receive its due share of water under the British-era agreement

- Tamil Nadu's needs: Requires the water for extensive farming, which has increased due to Karnataka's water commitments
- Increased water usage: Both states expanded their cultivable land and utilize water for hydro energy
- Political factors: Political parties often exploit the issue

**Possible solutions:**

- Water conservation: Both states need to improve water conservation and usage practices.
- Irrigation management: Reviving traditional tanks and implementing efficient irrigation systems are crucial.
- Crop diversification: Reducing rice cultivation and shifting to less water-intensive crops can help.

**Importance of Cauvery water for Tamil Nadu:**

- The Cauvery delta is vital for rice cultivation, the state's main crop.
- Failure to receive adequate water can cripple the agricultural sector.

**Additional fact:**

- The final award of the CWDT was notified by the Centre on February 29, 2013.

**Mullaperiyar Dam Dispute**

The Mullaperiyar Dam dispute is a long-standing issue between the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

**Background:**

- Dam built in 1895 by British on the Periyar River in Kerala.
- Lease agreement gave control of the dam to Tamil Nadu for 999 years (starting 1886).
- Dam's purpose: divert water to Tamil Nadu for irrigation.
- The Mullaperiyar dam, located in Kerala's Idukki district, is operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu

**Issue:**

- Concerns regarding the dam's safety arose due to its age and earthquakes in the region.
- Kerala wants to limit the water level to 136 feet due to safety fears.
- Tamil Nadu wants to raise the water level to 142 feet as it relies on the dam for water supply.

**Legal Standings:**

- **Kerala:**



- Dam is unsafe and raises concerns of potential flooding.
- Wants a new dam to be built.
- **Tamil Nadu:**
  - Dam is safe after repairs and strengthening measures.
  - Raising water level crucial for agriculture and drinking water.

### **Supreme Court Verdict:**

- Allowed Tamil Nadu to raise the water level to 142 feet after repairs.
- Ordered a tri-party committee to oversee the dam's safety.

### **Current Situation:**

- Dispute remains unresolved, with both states sticking to their positions.
- Need for a long-term solution that addresses safety concerns and water needs of both states.

### **Possible Solutions:**

- Strengthening the existing dam and operating it safely at a mutually agreed water level.
- Building a new dam with advanced safety features.
- Implementing water conservation measures in both states.
- Engaging in open dialogue and negotiation to find a compromise.

### **Related Facts:**

- A.S. Anand Committee report found the dam to be structurally and hydrologically safe at 142 feet after repairs.
- Pennycuick, the British engineer who built the dam, used innovative techniques for its construction.

### **Why was the Dam Safety Act framed and how does it affect Mullaperiyar?**

#### **Reason for the Act:**

- Absence of a proper dam safety institutional framework in India.
- Need for a centralized body to ensure dam safety across the country.

#### **Key Provisions of the Act:**

- Holds dam owners responsible for their construction, operation, maintenance, and supervision.
- Creates two sets of bodies:
  - National level:
    - National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) - sets policies and recommends regulations.



- National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) - implements policies, resolves inter-state issues, and acts as the regulatory body.
- State level:
  - State Dam Safety Organisation (SDSO) - responsible for dam safety within the state.
  - State Committees on Dam Safety - provide guidance and oversight.
- NDSA assumes the role of SDSO for dams located in one state and owned by another.

**Impact on Mullaperiyar:**

- Mullaperiyar falls under the purview of the Act as it is located in Kerala but owned by Tamil Nadu.
- NDSA will act as the SDSO for Mullaperiyar.
- This means NDSA will take responsibility for:
  - Surveillance and inspection of the dam.
  - Ensuring safe operation and maintenance.
  - Addressing any unresolved issues between Kerala and Tamil Nadu regarding the dam.

**Supreme Court's ruling:**

- Supreme Court has vested the supervisory committee with the powers of NDSA for Mullaperiyar.
- This committee can:
  - Decide on all outstanding matters related to the dam's safety.
  - Conduct a fresh safety review.
  - Take action against anyone violating its directions or the Act.
- Both states need to nominate their representatives to the committee within two weeks.

**Periyar-Vaigai Basin: Rainfall Deficit and Water Management Challenges****Key Points:**

- Periyar-Vaigai basin is a rain-deficient region, meaning it receives less rainfall than needed for agricultural production.
- The Mullaperiyar dam plays a crucial role in supplying water for irrigation, allowing farmers to cultivate crops in the basin.

- Rule curve method for dam management restricts storage to a certain level even during high inflows, potentially affecting water availability during dry periods.
- Farmers argue that reducing water flow through Rule curve implementation would negatively impact food production and cause hardship for farmers.
- The shrinking width of the Vaigai river towards the Bay of Bengal further highlights the basin's water scarcity.
- Allowing Tamil Nadu to maintain the Mullaperiyar water level at 142 feet after monsoon would ensure water availability during dry periods without violating the Supreme Court's directive.

### **Amma Canteen Scheme in Tamil Nadu:**

#### **Goal:**

- Launched in 2013 by AIADMK government to combat urban hunger and malnutrition.
- Aims to provide affordable and hygienic food to all sections of society.

#### **Key Features:**

- Highly subsidized prices for food items like idli, pongal, sambar rice, and curd rice.
- Over 400 canteens operating across the state, serving millions of meals daily.
- Employs women from disadvantaged backgrounds, empowering them economically.
- Adapted to address challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic through measures like free meals and parcel services.

#### **Impact and Recognition:**

- Gained significant popularity, drawing attention from other states and internationally.
- Catered to diverse groups, including daily wage earners, migrant laborers, professionals, and tourists.
- Critics argue about impact on local vendors, but some have adapted by offering complementary items.

#### **Overall Significance:**

- A successful example of a sustainable welfare program with widespread support.
- Demonstrates how effective policy can address social needs and empower communities.



- Serves as a model for other initiatives aimed at promoting food security and social welfare.

### **States Following Tamil Nadu's Amma Canteen Scheme**

- Rajasthan: Annapurna Rasoi Yojana - Provides breakfast for Rs. 5 and lunch for Rs. 8.
- Madhya Pradesh: Deendayal Canteen - Offers subsidized meals to the poor and underprivileged.
- Andhra Pradesh: NTR Anna Canteens - Provides breakfast and lunch at affordable prices.
- Delhi: Aam Aadmi Canteens - Offers various food items at subsidized rates.

### **Prohibition in Tamil Nadu:**

#### **Background:**

- Tamil Nadu has a long history of prohibition, dating back to as early as 1937.
- The state has seen various periods of prohibition and lifting of the ban, often driven by political agendas and social movements.
- The Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC) has a monopoly on liquor sales in the state and generates significant revenue for the government.
- Recent anti-liquor agitations have put pressure on the government to consider total prohibition again.

#### **Key Points:**

- Political parties:
  - AIADMK and DMK have both implemented and lifted prohibition at different times.
  - PMK and MDMK have consistently demanded total prohibition.
- Revenue:
  - Liquor sales contribute significantly to the state's revenue.
  - Alternative revenue sources are needed if prohibition is implemented again.
- TASMAC:
  - Government-owned corporation that controls liquor sales in Tamil Nadu.
  - Operates over 6,800 retail outlets across the state.
  - Recently opened premium outlets targeting the upmarket segment.
- Social impact:

- Alcohol consumption is a major social issue in Tamil Nadu.
- Prohibition is seen as a solution to address issues like alcoholism, domestic violence, and health problems.
- Anti-liquor agitations have gained momentum in recent years.
- Prohibition in other states:
  - Gujarat, Nagaland, and Lakshadweep have total prohibition.
  - Bihar recently banned liquor sales and consumption.
  - Kerala is phasing out liquor.

### Alcohol consumption in Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu has a high rate of alcohol consumption among men, with 46.7% reporting consumption.
- The state has a large number of liquor outlets (6,826) that are highly visible, fueling the demand for prohibition.
- TASMAL, the state-run liquor corporation, has successfully kept low-quality liquor at bay.
- TASMAL plays a role in reducing the rural-urban divide in alcohol consumption.
- Revenue from TASMAL sales is significant for the state, contributing over 30% of its revenue.
- Prohibition, if implemented, could lower per capita alcohol consumption but may not last long due to fiscal considerations.
- Unintended consequences of prohibition, such as increased drinking among women and rise in crime, are possible.
- Political parties in Tamil Nadu need a Plan B for alcohol regulation beyond prohibition.

### Against a complete ban:

- Difficult to enforce: Tamil Nadu's diverse population and lack of experience with such a strict policy make a complete ban challenging.
- Negative consequences: Prohibition in other states led to bootlegging, corruption, and crime, suggesting similar risks in Tamil Nadu.
- Existing ban violation: The ban on paan, gutka, and chewable tobacco is widely disregarded, highlighting enforcement difficulties.
- Health risks: A complete ban might lead to consumption of poisonous and illicit liquor, causing health problems and deaths.
- Focus on rehabilitation: The state should prioritize rehabilitation centers and improve working conditions for affected groups like mortuary workers instead.

### Proposed alternative measures:



- Location restrictions: Ban bars on highways, within 2km of educational institutions, and in villages.
- Distribution control: Allow alcohol purchase only through Smart Ration Cards, encouraging moderation.
- Increased taxes: Hike liquor taxes and utilize the revenue for public welfare schemes.

**Conclusion:**

- The issue of prohibition is complex and involves various economic, social, and political factors.
- Tamil Nadu is likely to witness intense debate and political maneuvering over this issue in the upcoming elections.
- The future of prohibition in the state remains uncertain.

**Dravidian movement**

- The Dravidian movement was formed in 1916 by non-Brahmin leaders to fight for social justice and political representation.
- It started as the South Indian Liberation Federation (SILF) and later became the Justice Party, then the Dravidar Kazhagam (DK), and finally split into the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK).
- The movement achieved significant progress in areas like:
  - Reserving government jobs for non-Brahmins.
  - Electing India's first female legislator, Muthulakshmi Reddy.
  - Bringing Hindu temples under state control to curb discrimination.
- The DMK and AIADMK have been the dominant political forces in Tamil Nadu since the 1960s, promoting social welfare policies and advocating for Dravidian identity.

**Timeline:**

- 1916: SILF formed.
- 1920: Justice Party wins majority in Madras Presidency elections.
- 1938: Periyar becomes leader of the Justice Party.
- 1944: Justice Party merges with Self Respect movement to form DK.
- 1949: DMK formed by C.N. Annadurai.
- 1972: MGR forms AIADMK.

**Impact:**

- The Dravidian movement has had a profound impact on Tamil Nadu's social and political landscape.



- It has empowered non-Brahmin communities, promoted social welfare, and strengthened Dravidian identity.
- The DMK and AIADMK continue to play a significant role in Tamil Nadu politics.

## Jallikattu:

### History and Significance:

- Ancient sport (~5,000 years old) depicted in Indus Valley seals.
- Mentioned in Sangam literature (2nd BCE – 2nd CE) as "Eru Thazhuvuthal".
- Celebrated during Pongal harvest festival (January-July).
- Traditionally involved taming bulls for strength testing and breeding purposes.

### Ban and Controversy:

- 2008: Animal Welfare Board of India and PETA petition Supreme Court for ban, citing animal cruelty.
- 2009: Tamil Nadu enacts law to regulate Jallikattu under SC guidelines.
- 2014: Supreme Court bans Jallikattu, citing animal cruelty and injuries to humans.
- 2016: Government issues order exempting Jallikattu, but SC upholds ban.

### Arguments for Allowing Jallikattu:

- Domestication and taming animals are ingrained in Indian tradition.
- Jallikattu preserves native cattle breeds like Kangayam, Pulikulam, and Umbalachery.
- Ban threatens extinction of these breeds and livelihoods dependent on them.
- Modernization has reduced the role of bulls, making Jallikattu vital for their preservation.
- Misconceptions about cruelty exist; regulations ensure animal welfare.
- Bulls are inspected and provided with proper care.
- The sport involves minimal interaction with the animal, focusing on agility and skill.

### Facts:

- Tamil Nadu had six cattle breeds. These are Kangayam, Pulikulam, Umbalachery, Barugur, Alambadi and Malai Maadu.
- Each breed is uniquely adapted to its local environment.
- Jallikattu plays a crucial role in preserving these breeds and their cultural heritage.



- Banning the sport could have devastating consequences for both the animals and the communities that depend on them.

### **Misconceptions about Jallikattu:**

#### **Similarity to Spanish bullfight:**

- Misconception: Jallikattu is similar to the Spanish bullfight where the bull is tormented and killed.
- Reality: Jallikattu focuses on holding onto the hump of the bull and running alongside it, not harming the animal.

#### **Animal cruelty:**

- Misconception: Jallikattu involves cruelty towards animals, including alcohol consumption, tail twisting, and confinement in dark places.
- Reality: Strict regulations and scrutiny prevent such practices. Bulls are inspected, provided with glucose water, and registered with authorities. In rare instances where violations occur, owners are held accountable.

#### **Extent of harm to bulls:**

- Misconception: Jallikattu significantly harms the bulls involved.
- Reality: Out of 10,000 instances of bulls participating annually, only a handful show potential harm, which is investigated and addressed.

#### **Lack of regulations:**

- Misconception: Jallikattu lacks regulations and proper animal welfare measures.
- Reality: Bulls undergo mandatory inspections, receive medical certificates, and are monitored by veterinarians and animal welfare officials.

#### **Owner indifference towards animal welfare:**

- Misconception: Jallikattu participants do not care about the well-being of bulls.
- Reality: Bull owners are responsible for their animals' health and well-being, and jeopardizing that by harming them would be counterproductive and punishable.

### **Changing the capital of Tamil Nadu from Chennai:**

#### **Main points:**

- Chennai offers good connectivity by road, air, and sea, making it accessible to different parts of the state and the world.
- The city has existing infrastructure, administrative facilities, and mass connections, making it suitable for a state capital.



- Shifting the capital would disrupt existing infrastructure and development located around Chennai.
- Instead of shifting the capital, the government should focus on decentralization and distribution of economic activities.

#### **Reasons to consider Tiruchirappalli as a second capital:**

- Tiruchirappalli is centrally located, making it easily accessible from any part of the state.
- Former Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran supported Tiruchirappalli as a potential second capital due to its location and accessibility.

#### **Argument against shifting the capital:**

- Urban sprawl is driven by factors like industrialization, commercialization, and the service sector, not by the government sector.
- Shifting the capital is not a solution to these issues. Decentralization of decision-making and economic activities is a more effective approach.

#### **Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme for Students:**

##### **Key Points:**

- The scheme provides breakfast to students from class 1 to 5 in government schools.
- The goal is to address hunger among students, improve nutrition, prevent malnutrition, boost attendance, and reduce the burden on families.
- Currently, the program operates in select corporations, municipalities, and remote villages.
- The government has allocated 33.56 crores for the scheme's expansion to all 38 districts.
- The program benefits over 114,000 students across 1,545 schools.
- Implementing agencies include the Departments of Social Welfare, Rural Development, Municipal Administration, School Education, and Food Protection, along with monitoring committees and school-level groups.

##### **Benefits:**

- The breakfast scheme builds upon a long tradition of providing meals to students in Tamil Nadu.
- The scheme aims to address hunger, improve nutrition, and promote education.
- The initiative is rooted in the Dravidian movement's commitment to social justice.
- The vision for the future is to create a state where everyone has access to food and a chance to thrive.





## History of the Midday Meal Scheme in Tamil Nadu:

### Early Beginnings:

- Iyothee Thass Pandithar planted the seed for the midday meal scheme in the early 1900s.
- He implemented the idea in Karnal Olcott Memorial schools in Chennai.
- Sir Pitty Thiagarayar, Mayor of Madras Corporation, officially launched the scheme.

### Interruption and Reintroduction:

- The British discontinued the program due to financial constraints before India's independence.
- Perunthalaivar Kamarajar reintroduced the scheme in 1955 as Chief Minister.
- N.D. Sundaravadivelu, a follower of Thanthai Periyar, implemented the scheme despite opposition.

### Expansion and Enhancement:

- Muthamizharignar Kalaingar led the Nutritional Meals Programme in 1971.
- He expanded the program to include pregnant mothers and offered baby bread to children.
- He launched the Integrated Nutritional Programme across the state in 1975.
- Makkal Thilagam M.G.R further expanded the program by setting up more centers and allocating more funds.

### Continued Growth and Modifications:

- Kalaingar reintroduced the scheme upon returning to power in 1989.
- He gradually introduced eggs, reaching five days a week with bananas as an alternative.
- Former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa Ammaiyar incorporated variety rice into the program.

### Conclusion

According to the Manimekalai epic, 'Pasiyum, Piniyum, Pagaiyum Neengi, Vasium, Valanum Surakka Vaazhga'. We will establish such a State

## Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Memorial Higher Education Assurance Scheme

### Pudhumai Penn Scheme

This scheme is initiated on behalf of the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment

### Goals:



- Promote higher education for women.
- Empower women to become scientists, doctors, engineers, educators, and workforce participants.
- Achieve gender equality.
- Prevent child marriage.
- Reduce dropout rates among girls.
- Increase job opportunities for women.
- Create an enlightened society.

### **Eligibility:**

- Must have completed 6th to 12th standard in government schools in Tamil Nadu or private schools under the Right to Education scheme and 9th to 12th standard in government schools.
- First-time entrant to higher education after 8th, 10th, or 12th standard.

### **Benefits:**

- Financial assistance for higher education.
- Encouragement to pursue desired fields of study.
- Improved skills and employability through higher education.
- Socio-economic protection.

### **Inspiration:**

- Based on the principle that education is a permanent asset for women.
- Aims to empower women and contribute to a stronger economy.

### **Dravidian Movement and Education for All**

- The Justice Party, founded 100 years ago, was driven by the belief that education should be accessible to all without discrimination.
- This principle is a cornerstone of the Dravidian Movement.
- In the past, only wealthy upper-caste men had access to education.
- The Justice Party introduced reservations and opened schools to ensure inclusivity.
- Dravidian leaders like Thanthai Periyar, Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, Perarignar Anna, and Muthamizharignar Kalaignar implemented policies and movements to promote social justice through education.
- The Dravidian Model Government continues to follow their footsteps, enabling thousands of girls to access education today.
- This is a direct result of the Dravidian Movement's long-standing advocacy for women's rights and education.



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## IYACHAMY ACADEMY

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- The 1929 Self-Respect Conference in Chengalpattu marked a significant turning point, passing resolutions demanding women's right to property, work, remarriage, and choosing a life partner.
- 60 years later, in 1989, Kalaignar granted legal equality to women in property rights.



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### Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar

- Ammaiyar is referred to as a "lioness" for her courage and strength in challenging social injustices.
- She actively worked against the suppression of women's rights, particularly their access to education.
- She fought tirelessly to open doors of opportunity for girls who were denied education due to prevailing superstitions.
- Ammaiyar played a crucial role in the Dravidian Movement alongside Thanthai Periyar, enacting a significant revolution for women's rights a century ago.
- In 1938, she participated in a protest march from Tiruchi to Chennai, demonstrating her unwavering commitment to the cause.
- Recognizing her contributions, Perarignar Anna awarded Ammaiyar the first-ever award for heroes of the Dravidian Movement.

### Veeramangai Velu Nachiyar

- Velu Nachiyar is praised for her exceptional courage, described as having "bravery in her breath."



- After her husband's death in a war with the British, she took upon the responsibility of reclaiming her kingdom.
- With the support of Maruthu Pandiyar, Hyder Ali, and Gopal Naik, she mobilized her people and waged a continuous war against the British for seven years.
- Velu Nachiyar successfully recovered Sivagangai from British control and ruled it until 1789.
- She is credited as the first woman warrior to fight against the British for freedom, predating Rani Lakshmbai of Jhansi by nearly 75 years.
- Her bravery and leadership remain unparalleled, earning her the title "Veeramangai" (Brave Woman).
- Velu Nachiyar ruled Sivagangai Seemai until her death on December 25, 1896.

### **Athikadavu - Avanashi Ground Water Recharge Project,**

The Athikadavu-Avinashi Scheme has been conceived to benefit the droughtaffected areas of Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode Districts.

#### **features:**

- Total length of the canal 133.4 km and 3.70 km in tunnel
- Main canal length 35.20 km
- Avanashi branch canal 21.65 km
- Perundurai branch canal 72.9 km
- Project cost as per DPR Rs 1,820 crore
- Irrigation only through ground water recharge
- Once the project is executed, 1.50 tmc of excess water from Kalingarayan Dam on the Bhavani River will be pumped out to irrigate 24,468 acres of land in drought-hit areas of these three Districts by filling up 32 Public Works Department lakes, 47 Panchayat Union lakes and 971 tanks and ponds.

### **Ramalinga Adigalar (Vallalar):**

- Born on October 5, 1823, in Marudhur near Chidambaram.
- A spiritual visionary and reformer.
- **Founded:**
  - Samarasa Suddha Sanmarga Sathya Gnana Sabhai: A spiritual organization promoting social justice and religious reform.



- Sathya Dharmasalai: A free food kitchen for the poor.
- **Promoted:**
  - Equality: Advocated for equal rights and opportunities for all.
  - Education: Believed education was essential for individual and social progress.
  - Meditation: Taught meditation as a way to connect with God and achieve inner peace.
- **Authored:**
  - Thiruvartuppa: A collection of devotional poems.
  - Jeevakaarunyam: A book on compassion towards all living beings.
  - Arulneri: A collection of spiritual discourses.
- **Known for:**
  - Opposing animal sacrifice in religious practices.
  - Emphasizing the importance of compassion and service to others.
  - Leading a simple and selfless life dedicated to spiritual growth and social welfare.

## Tamil Nadu's Economic and Educational Strength:

### Economic Highlights:

- 9.22% share of India's GDP: Tamil Nadu is a major contributor to the national economy.
- 6% share of Union Government's tax income: The state contributes significantly to government revenue.
- 8.4% share of India's total export: Tamil Nadu is a major exporter of various goods.
- 19.4% share of textile export: A leader in textile export industry within India.
- 32.5% share of car export: A significant player in the Indian automobile export market.
- 33% share of leather export: A major exporter of leather goods in India.

### Educational Excellence:

- 32 out of 100 best colleges in India: Tamil Nadu boasts a high concentration of top-ranking colleges.
- 21 out of 100 best universities in India: The state is home to numerous prestigious universities.



- 11 out of 50 best medical colleges in India: Tamil Nadu provides excellent medical education opportunities.
- 18 out of 50 very excellent higher education institutions in India: A high number of top-tier educational institutions are located in the state.
- 6 out of the very best engineering colleges in India: Tamil Nadu excels in engineering education.
- Presidency College in Chennai ranked 3rd best arts and science college in India: Further emphasizing the state's educational leadership.

## 44th International Chess Olympiad:

### Introduction:

- The 44th International Chess Olympiad is a major event attracting worldwide attention to Tamil Nadu.
- The competition benefits not only the sports sector but also tourism and industry.
- Tamil Nadu's reputation will rise due to hosting this prestigious event.

### Historical Significance:

- The game of chess originated in India as "Chaturanga vilayattu" before the 6th century AD.
- The competition takes place in Mamallapuram, known for its historical significance and natural beauty.
- Mamallapuram is located near the ancient port city of Chaturangapattinam, whose name is related to chess.

### Tamil Nadu's Chess Prowess:

- Tamil Nadu boasts a rich history and significant contributions to chess in India.
- International Master Manuel Aaron and Grand Masters Viswanathan Anand, Vijayalakshmi Subbaraman, and Praggnanandhaa are all from Tamil Nadu.
- Tamil Nadu has a high concentration of Grand Masters, with 26 out of 73 in India.

### Commitment and Pride:

- The Tamil Nadu government allocated substantial funding (Rs. 102 crore) and covered all expenses for Indian players.
- The mascot, Thambi, wearing traditional attire and greeting with "Vanakkam," symbolizes brotherhood and inclusivity.
- The theme song, composed by renowned musician A.R. Rahman, adds further cultural significance to the event.



## **Archaeological Findings:**

- Keezhadi excavation unearths the history of an ancient Tamil civilization.
- Among the artifacts discovered are two types of ivory play-pieces and black-and-red pottery fragments.
- Researchers speculate that the play-pieces could be related to games like chess.

## **Warfare and Strategy:**

- The passage connects the artifacts to warfare, highlighting the presence of elephants, horses, forts, and soldiers.
- This suggests a connection between the ancient Tamils and strategic thinking.

## **Connection to Ancient Tamil Culture:**

- Tamil literature refers to chess as "Aanaikuppu," highlighting its long history in the region.
- Naalaayira Divya Prabandham mentions the game, showing its cultural relevance for thousands of years.

## **Emphasis on Knowledge and Strategy:**

- The passage emphasizes chess as a game of intelligence and strategy, aligning with Valluvar's teachings about knowledge as the ultimate protection.
- This intellectual competition echoes Valluvar's principles.

## **From King's Game to Everyone's Game:**

- Chess has transitioned from being a "king's game" to an accessible and inclusive activity for everyone.

## **Promoting Intellectual Development:**

- The passage expresses confidence that the competition will further popularize chess in Tamil Nadu and India, fostering intellectual growth.

## **Educational Revolution in Tamil Nadu:**

### **Primary Education:**

- Illam Thedi Kalvi: This program brings education to the doorstep of children, ensuring access even for those facing challenges.
- Ennum Ezhuthum: This initiative promotes literacy and numeracy skills in adults, empowering them with essential knowledge.
- Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme: This scheme provides free breakfast to school children, improving their nutrition and focus in the classroom.
- Naan Mudhalvan: This program aims to instill leadership qualities and empower students to take charge of their lives.





- Kalloori Kanavu: This initiative assists students from marginalized communities in pursuing higher education, fulfilling their dreams.
- Rs. 1,000 monthly pension for Government school girl students: This program encourages girls to continue their education by providing financial support.

### **Higher Education:**

- 7.5% reservation for Government school students in professional courses: This ensures equitable access to higher education for students from government schools.
- Government taking care of fees: This removes financial barriers and further promotes inclusivity in professional education.

### **Vocational and Technical Education:**

- Upgrading of Industrial Training Institutes into Technology Centres: This initiative aims to enhance the quality of vocational education and equip students with industry-relevant skills.
- Tata company's participation: This partnership leverages private sector expertise to improve vocational training programs.

### **Education Reforms:**

- School Reform in the name of Inamana Perasiriyar Anbazhaganar: This initiative focuses on reforming the school system to improve learning outcomes and create a student-centered environment.
- College Reform in the name of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar: This program aims to modernize colleges and universities, fostering quality education and research.

## **significance of July 18th and the struggle for Tamil Nadu's name**

### **The Name's Power:**

- Perarignar Anna's thunderous announcement in the Legislative Assembly on July 18, 1967, highlights the importance of the name "Tamil Nadu" to the Tamil people.
- Mahakavi Bharathi's verses emphasize the sweetness and strength associated with the name.

### **Struggle for Recognition:**

- The passage recounts the decades-long struggle to name the state after its majority population, involving arguments, protests, and sacrifices.
- Paavendar Bharathidasan's words emphasize the need for a Tamil scholar as the leader of the state.

### **Ancient Tamil Civilization:**

- Archaeological discoveries like Keezhadi and Sivakalai prove the existence of a thriving Tamil civilization dating back centuries.



- The riverine civilization along Thamirabarani is a testament to the rich history of the region.

### **The Dravidian Movement's Role:**

- The Dravidian Movement is credited with laying the foundation for the struggle and instilling the Tamil identity.
- The 1938 anti-Hindi movement is highlighted as a pivotal point in fostering this spirit.

### **Leaders and Sacrifices:**

- Leaders like Thanthai Periyar, Anna, and Kalaignar played crucial roles in the movement.
- Thanthai Periyar's imprisonment and Kalaignar's youthful activism are highlighted.
- The sacrifices of Natarasan, Thalamuthu, and Virudhunagar 'Thiyagi' Sankaralinganar are remembered.

### **Legacy of the Movement:**

- The anti-Hindi agitation of 1938 served as training ground for future struggles.
- It provided the impetus for the movement to create linguistic states and name Tamil Nadu.
- The passage concludes by acknowledging the contributions of Ma.Po.Si. and Thiru. Ku.Ma. who dedicated their lives to the cause.

## **Language, Race, and State Autonomy: The Pillars of Tamil Nadu's Development**

### **Importance of Language, Race, and State Autonomy:**

- These are crucial factors for Tamil Nadu's development.
- They impact education, industry, living standards, and social development.

### **Universally Recognized Concept:**

- Scholars beyond Tamil Nadu advocate for these principles.

### **Unwavering Commitment:**

- Never compromise on Tamil language affinity, racial rights, and state autonomy.

### **Compatibility with National Unity:**

- Advocating for Tamil does not create animosity towards other languages.
- State autonomy strengthens India's unity by respecting diverse cultures.

### **Historical Examples:**



- Leaders like Bharathiyar, Kavimani, Marshal Nesamani, and Ma.Po.Si. exemplify this.

### **Broad-Minded Approach:**

- Advocate for the equal development of all languages, races, and states within India.
- Respect for diversity strengthens national unity.

### **Ennum Ezhuthum scheme:**

- Inspired by the Tamil poetess Avvaiyar's emphasis on education.
- Aims to bridge the learning gap caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Targets children below 8 years old to achieve literacy and basic math skills by 2025.
- Will be implemented in classes 1, 2, and 3 of government and government-aided schools for 3 years (2022-2025).
- Utilizes workbooks, an app, and various teaching methods like dance, music, and storytelling.

### **Importance of education:**

- Quoted Avvaiyar's saying: "Education and knowledge is like the eye for everyone."
- Emphasized the responsibility of both parents and government to provide education.
- Positioned the Dravidian Model Government as prioritizing education for all.
- Highlighted the role of primary education in shaping children's lives and society.

### **Goals:**

- All children below 8 years in Tamil Nadu to read and write without mistakes by 2025.
- Basic knowledge of mathematics for all children by 2025.

### **Implementation:**

- 3-year project starting from 2022-2023.
- Implemented in classes 1, 2, and 3 of government and government-aided schools.
- Workbooks prepared for Tamil, English, and Mathematics in both Tamil and English.
- Workbooks designed as practical learning tools, not just lessons.
- "Ennum Ezhuthum" app created for learning process.



- Lesson materials include guidance procedures and suggestions for classroom setup.
- Diverse teaching methods: dance, music, storytelling, acting, puppet shows, handicrafts.
- Videos will also be distributed.

### **Importance of Primary Education:**

- Early learning critical for brain development and personality formation.
- Dravidian Model Government committed to "education for all" and "higher education for all."
- Primary education is the foundation for success in life and self-confidence.
- Strong primary education for all children is key to a healthy society.

### **Rettamalai Srinivasan: A Champion of the Adi Dravida People**

- **Early Life and Background:** Born in 1860 in Kozhiyalam, Chengalpattu district, Tamil Nadu.
- **Activism and Publications:** Organized groundbreaking conferences in 1893 (Wesleyan Mission Hall, Royapettah) and 1895 (Chennai Town Hall). From 1893 to 1900, he edited the weekly publication "Paraiyan," which began as a monthly magazine, highlighting the issues of the Adi Dravida community.
- **International Exposure:** Intended to travel to London for advocacy, but ended up in South Africa where he worked in government employment (1904-1921).
- **Return to India and Collaboration:** Collaborated with Indian leaders like MC Raja, N Sivaraj, and Sahajanandar. Worked with national figures such as Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. BR Ambedkar.
- **Buddhism and Disillusionment:** Embraced Buddhism in 1882 after meeting Colonel Alcott and Madam Blavatsky. Disengaged from Buddhism within 7-8 years due to disillusionment with the government's lack of support for Scheduled Caste converts.
- **Advocacy for Dravidian Identity:** Campaigned for the collective identity of "Adi Dravidar" for Scheduled Castes in Tamil Nadu, securing an ordinance during the Justice Party regime. Earned the title "Dravida Mani" in 1939.
- **Recognition and Titles:** Recognized for his contributions by leaders like C Rajagopalachari (Rajaji) and MC Raja. His title "Dravida Mani" was given to honor his service and commitment to uplifting oppressed communities.
- **Opposition to the Term 'Scheduled Castes':** Objected to the term "Scheduled Castes" introduced in the 1935 Government of India Act. Proposed "United Castes" instead.



- **Rejection of the Term 'Harijan':** Advocated against Gandhi's proposed term "Harijan" for Scheduled Castes, preferring "Adi Dravidar" during a debate in the Madras Provincial Assembly in 1938.
- **Legacy:** Srinivasan's advocacy for "Adi Dravidar" as a term and identity persists in Tamil Nadu today, a testament to his lasting impact on the social and political landscape.

## **First 5 schemes signed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu**

The first 5 schemes signed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin after assuming office on 07.05.2021

- Rs.4,000 cash relief to all rice card holders to help the livelihood of people in the face of the rising threat of the Corona pandemic. First instalment of Rs. 2,000 to be provided immediately.
- Reduction of price of Aavin milk by Rs.3/- per litre.
- Free travel for women in Government-owned city and town buses plying on ordinary fare throughout Tamil Nadu.
- Creation of a new Department under 'Chief Minister in Your Constituency' Scheme to take action within 100 days on petitions received during the election campaign.
- The Government of Tamil Nadu will bear the expenses of people who undergo treatment in private hospitals for Corona infection, under the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme.

## **Significant Scientists in Tamilnadu**

### **N. Valarmathi, the Project Director for RISAT-1 launch:**

- Led the team behind the successful launch of India's first indigenously developed Radar Imaging Satellite.
- Became a celebrated figure after the launch, attracting significant media attention.
- Described the launch as a "proud moment" and highlighted the satellite's unique technologies.
- Joined ISRO in 1984 and has since worked on various satellite projects.
- Is the first woman to head a remote sensing satellite project at ISRO, following T.K. Anuradha's lead in the communication satellite domain.

### **N. Kalaiselvi appointed as CSIR's first woman Director-General:**

- After 80 years, CSIR appoints its first woman Director-General.
- Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director of CSIR-CECRI, will now lead the network of 38 labs and 4,500 scientists.

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- Her research focuses on electrochemical power systems and energy storage devices.
- Her expertise will likely aid India's electric vehicle ambitions, aligning with the FAME-2 program.
- Dr. Kalaiselvi's journey:
  - Studied in her native Tamil Nadu village and pursued a Ph.D. from Annamalai University.
  - Appointed Director of CSIR-CECRI in 2019, becoming the first scientist from there to lead CSIR.
  - Renowned as a "lithium battery expert," she has published research papers, holds patents, and guides Ph.D. students.

### **K. Sivan**

- K. Sivan, ninth head of ISRO.
- Dr. Sivan is currently focused on the upcoming PSLV launch and expressed his dedication to following in the footsteps of legendary leaders like Vikram Sarabhai and Satish Dhawan.
- Dr. Sivan has a strong background in aerospace engineering, with degrees from prestigious institutions like the Madras Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Science, and IIT Bombay.
- He joined ISRO in 1982 and has played a key role in projects like PSLV and GSLV rockets.

### **Mylswamy Annadurai: The Moon Man of India**

- Instrumental in India's first lunar mission: Played a key role in developing the spacecraft for Chandrayaan-1.
- Distinguished career at ISRO: Held various positions, including project engineer, project manager, and director.
- Significant contributions to satellite development: Led the development of several satellites, including IRS-1A/B, IRS-1C/D, and IRS-P3.
- Expertise in satellite systems: Headed the Satellite Systems Division and oversaw the development of diverse satellite systems.
- Focused on space applications: Directed the Satellite Applications Centre, emphasizing the use of space technology for various applications.
- Leader in Indian space exploration: Considered the "Moon Man of India" for his contributions to Chandrayaan-1 and other missions.
- Recipient of prestigious awards: Acknowledged for his achievements with the Hariom Ashram pretit Vikram Sarabhai Research Award.
- Fellow of prestigious academies: Recognized for his expertise by the Indian National Academy of Engineering and the Indian Academy of Sciences.



- Inspiring figure for future generations: Motivates young scientists and engineers to pursue careers in space exploration.
- Legacy of excellence: His contributions continue to shape India's space program and inspire future generations to reach for the stars.

## **Dr. Narayanan**

- The Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) played a vital role in developing the propulsion systems for Chandrayaan-3.
- LPSC Director, V. Narayanan, led the investigation into the Chandrayaan-2 lander crash.
- Recommendations from the investigation were implemented in Chandrayaan-3, contributing to its success.

## **A. Rajarajan**

- Director of Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC SHAR)
- Expertise in composites technology
- Focus on space infrastructure development for increased launch capability
- Instrumental in developing state-of-the-art production and launch facilities
- Played a key role in improving payload fairing separation reliability
- Paved the way for composites technology in Indian space industry
- Recipient of ISRO Merit and Team Excellence awards
- Leading speaker and author on composites technology

## **M Vanitha**

- Chandrayaan 2 Project Director: Became the first woman to lead an interplanetary mission at ISRO, overseeing the Chandrayaan 2 lunar mission.
- Extensive Career at ISRO: Joined ISRO in 1987 and has held various positions, including junior engineer, associate director, and project director.
- Expertise: Recognized for her work on satellite projects and hardware testing and development.
- Early Life and Education: Born in Chennai, India, and completed her education at the Boiler Plant School Trichy and the College of Engineering, Guindy.
- Challenges and Setbacks: Faced setbacks, including being replaced as project director for the Chandrayaan 3 mission, but remains a valued member of ISRO.
- Recognition and Legacy: Her contributions to ISRO remain significant, and she is a source of pride for India, inspiring countless women to pursue careers in STEM fields.

## **Nigar Shaji's**





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- Joined ISRO in 1987, starting at Satish Dhawan Space Centre.
- Project director for the Aditya L1 solar mission since 2020.
- Program director for 'Space Infrastructure: Low Earth Orbit and Planetary Platform' at UR Rao Space Centre.
- Believes in the importance of children experiencing hard work and teamwork.
- Comes from a humble background in Sengottai, Tamil Nadu.
- District topper in classes 10 and 12.
- Graduated in electronics and communication engineering from Government Engineering College in Tirunelveli.
- Holds a Masters degree from BITS, Pilani.

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### P Veeramuthuvel

- P Veeramuthuvel, a scientist from Villupuram, Tamil Nadu, led the successful Chandrayaan-3 mission.
- He dreamed of becoming an ISRO scientist since childhood and pursued his education in engineering and technology.
- He credits the success of the mission to the collective effort of over 500 people from across the country.
- The family is proud of his achievements and his father, a retired railway technician, supported his dreams.



- ISRO Chairman S Somanath provided an update on the Indo-Japan Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) mission.
- The project faces challenges due to the weight of the rover supplied by Japan, requiring new engine development.
- Negotiations are ongoing to reduce the rover's mass and finalize the mission architecture.

### **Recent Hooch Tragedy in Tamil Nadu:**

- 17 people died in two separate incidents in North Tamil Nadu after consuming spurious liquor.
- This comes just a month after the state government claimed no hooch tragedies in 14 years.
- The deaths raise questions about administrative lapses and the continued availability of methanol.

### **Key Points:**

- Death Toll: 12 in Villupuram district, 5 in Chengalpattu district, 50 hospitalized.
- Cause: Apparent use of methanol in the spurious liquor.
- Government Actions:
  - Probe into the incident by Crime Branch-CID.
  - Solatium of ₹10 lakh to each deceased family, ₹50,000 to hospitalized individuals.
  - Zero tolerance policy towards illicit liquor enforcement.
- Central Data: Tamil Nadu reported no deaths due to illicit liquor from 2016-2019, 20 in 2020, 6 in 2021.
- Concerns:
  - Availability of cheap illicit liquor compared to government-sold brands.
  - Administrative failure to control methanol movement.

### **Possible Discussion Points:**

- Should the government provide financial assistance to families of victims?
- What steps should be taken to prevent future tragedies?
- How can the state and central government work together to address the issue of illicit liquor?
- Is a uniform national policy needed to combat this problem?

### **Alcohol in Liquor:**



- The primary alcohol in liquor is ethanol, present in varying amounts (5% in beer, 12% in wine, 40% in spirits).
- Ethanol is a psychoactive drug with intoxicating effects and potential health risks.
- Long-term use can lead to dependence, increased cancer and heart disease risk, and even death.

### **Spurious Liquor:**

- Contains methanol, a highly toxic substance used in industry.
- Methanol is sometimes added to increase kick or volume of illicit liquor, making it very dangerous.
- Consumption of even small amounts of methanol can be fatal.

### **Methanol's Deadly Effects:**

- Metabolized to formaldehyde and formic acid, causing metabolic acidosis.
- This leads to acidemia, where blood pH becomes dangerously acidic.
- Can also cause blindness, cerebral edema, and death.

### **Treatment for Methanol Poisoning:**

- Immediate treatment with pharmaceutical-grade ethanol or the antidote fomepizole is crucial.
- Dialysis and other supportive measures may also be needed.
- Early diagnosis and treatment are key to improving survival chances.

### **Why was Chennai so badly flooded?"**

#### **Chennai Floods of 2023:**

- Heavy rains triggered by Cyclone Michaung caused severe flooding in Chennai and surrounding districts.
- Southern and northern areas were most affected, with Ambattur and Velachery facing particular hardship.
- While the 2023 floods were heavier than those of 2015, they lacked a singular cause like the reservoir release in 2015.

#### **Government Response and Criticism:**

- The DMK government claims its ongoing storm water drain project and quick relief measures mitigated the impact.
- Opposition AIADMK criticizes the project's effectiveness and demands a higher relief amount.
- Public criticism focuses on inadequate relief work, slow restoration of services, and lack of transparency in flood mitigation plans.



## Positive Developments:

- Smooth cooperation between the Central and State governments.
- Active participation of Central agencies in relief efforts

## Key Issues:

- Unchecked development: Unapproved layouts and lack of proper planning contribute to flooding.
- Neglect of water bodies: Shrinking natural wetlands like Pallikaranai marsh reduce their sponge-like capacity.
- Lack of transparency: Citizens feel the Thiruppugazh committee report on flood mitigation should be published and debated openly.

## Proposed Solutions:

- Sustained efforts: Beyond immediate relief, long-term solutions need to be implemented to prevent future flooding.
- Stricter regulations: Stop approving unapproved layouts and prioritize proper urban planning.
- Maintain water bodies: Restore and protect natural wetlands like Pallikaranai marsh.
- Transparency and debate: Publish and discuss reports like Thiruppugazh's to ensure informed decision-making.
- Long-term vision: Consider developing an alternative capital in central Tamil Nadu to reduce pressure on Chennai.

## Governor R.N. Ravi and the DMK Government in Tamil Nadu:

Numerous instances of friction since Ravi's appointment in 2021:

- NEET Bill: The Governor's delay in forwarding the anti-NEET bill passed by the Assembly led to protests and calls for his resignation.
- Comments on Dravidian culture: Ravi's remarks on Thirukural and "Sanatana Dharma" were seen as promoting Hindutva ideology and criticized by the DMK.
- Three-language policy: Ravi's subtle push for Hindi in his Republic Day address sparked controversy in Tamil Nadu, a state known for its strong two-language policy.
- Appointment of Vice-Chancellors: The DMK government's Bills to control VC appointments were opposed by the Governor, leading to further tensions.
- Governor's walkout: Ravi's deviation from the approved text of his address and subsequent walkout from the Assembly escalated the conflict.



- "Tamizhagam" controversy: Ravi's preference for "Tamizhagam" over "Tamil Nadu" was criticized by the DMK as a reflection of Hindutva ideology.
- Online gambling Bill: The Governor's initial opposition and later assent to the re-adopted Bill highlighted the uncertainty in his actions.
- Senthilbalaji's dismissal and U-turn: Ravi's unilateral "dismissal" of a minister and the quick reversal exposed the confusion surrounding his powers.

## Office of the Governor: Origins, Powers, and Controversies:

### Origins:

- Established in 1858 under British rule as agents of the Crown.
- Evolved with the Government of India Act, 1935, where Governors acted on advice of provincial Ministers.
- Retained after Independence, but phrases like "in his discretion" were omitted.

### Debate in the Constituent Assembly:

- Key debate points:
  - Election vs. nomination: Concerns about impartiality of nominated Governors.
  - Discretionary powers: Balancing limited discretion with potential for misuse.

### Governor's Role:

- Appoints Chief Minister and Council of Ministers.
- Summons, prorogues, and dissolves Legislative Assembly.
- Assents to Bills (with options to return, withhold assent, or suggest amendments).
- Has limited discretionary powers in exceptional situations.

### Controversies and Supreme Court Judgments:

- Concerns about Governors interfering with day-to-day administration.
- S.R. Bommai case (1994): Established Assembly floor as the sole forum to test government majority.
- Emphasis on limited and non-arbitrary use of Governor's discretion.

### Commissions' Recommendations:

- Sarkaria: Governors should be neutral figures, not members of ruling party at the Centre.
- Punchhi: Governors must be independent and act without political bias, protecting state institutions from central influence.

### Tamil Nadu NEET Bill: Governor's Assent



- Tamil Nadu Assembly re-passed the Bill seeking exemption from NEET for medical and dental seats.
- Governor Ravi previously returned the Bill, citing concerns for rural and poor students.
- Article 200 mandates Governor's assent after reconsideration by the Assembly.
- The Bill needs President's assent due to conflict with the central NEET law.

### **Governor's Role in Bill Passage:**

- Can assent, withhold assent, request reconsideration, or reserve for President.
- No specific timeframes for these actions.
- Must reserve Bills weakening High Court powers for President's consideration.

### **President's Role in Bill Consideration:**

- Can assent, withhold assent, or request reconsideration by the Assembly.
- No specific timeframe for decision.

### **Governor's Discretion:**

- Limited: generally bound by the advice of the Council of Ministers.
- Can return a Bill for reconsideration even on ministerial advice.

### **Next Steps:**

- Governor must assent to the Bill as per Article 200.
- Bill needs President's assent to overcome conflict with central law.

### **Additional Notes:**

- Governor's earlier discretion under the Government of India Act, 1935, was removed during the Constitution's drafting.
- Sarkaria Commission clarifies that Governors have limited discretion regarding Bills.

### **V.P. Singh's "Special Connection" with Tamil Nadu:**

Statue unveiling in Chennai on his 15th death anniversary.

### **Remembered for:**

- Implementing Mandal Commission recommendations (OBC reservations).
- Establishing Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.
- Both decisions favored by Tamil Nadu political parties in 1990.

### **Assembly resolution:**



- Unanimous appreciation for Mandal Commission decision.
- Singh defended the decision against doubts from Congress.
- He spoke at a DMK rally, acknowledging the "limitations of Delhi" and advocating for social justice.

### **Cauvery issue:**

- Singh followed Supreme Court's directive despite his party's Karnataka unit's opposition.
- Karunanidhi (DMK) appreciated the decision.

### **Other engagements:**

- Launched National Front in Chennai.
- Attended Karunanidhi's swearing-in and campaigned against Congress at the Centre.
- Defended Dravidian movement against criticism from then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- Agreed to a National Integration Council meeting at Karunanidhi's request.
- DMK's first Union Minister, Murasoli Maran, served in his Cabinet.

### **N. Sankaraiah:**

#### **Prominent Communist Leader:**

- Founding member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in 1964.
- Served as the State Secretary of the CPI(M) in Tamil Nadu (1995-2002).
- Active politician until his death at the age of 101 in November 2023.

#### **Long Political Career and Activism:**

- Participated in the Quit India movement during the Independence struggle.
- Spent eight years in prison, both pre- and post-independence, for his political activities.
- Powerful speaker known for his fiery speeches, likened to a "roar of an old lion".

#### **Literary and Cultural Contributions:**

- Editor of Theekathir, the official mouthpiece of the Tamil Nadu CPI(M).
- Championed the reading of ancient Sangam literature and its importance for Tamil culture.
- Admired national poet Bharathi and defended him against criticism based on caste.

#### **Other Notable Achievements:**



- First recipient of the Thagaisal Thamizhar Award in 2021.
- Donated the prize money of the award for COVID-19 relief work.
- Had a close relationship with leaders from other political parties, including G.K. Moopanar.

## Caste Atrocities in Tamil Nadu:

### DMK's Response:

- Unusual move: Deployed senior minister Durai Murugan, a regional leader from the accused area.
- Highlighted improved conviction rate under their rule (9.12% vs. 7.15% under AIADMK).
- Listed measures taken by the government to protect SC/STs.

### Acknowledging Problems:

- Accepted cases of caste crimes and discrimination against SC chiefs of village bodies.
- Cited incidents like Nanguneri attack and Vengaiyaval faeces case as examples.
- Acknowledged media reports and NGO studies on caste discrimination.

### Remaining Challenges:

- Need for continued efforts as recent incidents demonstrate.
- Collaboration between Raj Bhavan and state government is crucial.
- Involvement of public officials, activists, and panchayat leaders is essential.

## Dr. M.S. Swaminathan

- Born: August 7, 1925, in Kumbakonam, then Madras Presidency.
- Education: Zoology and Agricultural Science.
- Early Career: Focused on plant genetics and breeding, particularly potatoes.

### Green Revolution:

- Collaborated with Dr. Norman Borlaug to develop high-yielding wheat varieties for India.
- Played a key role in increasing India's wheat harvest threefold.
- Transformed India from a "begging bowl" to a self-sufficient food producer.

### Leadership:

- Director-General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).





- Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Director General of the International Rice Research Institute.

**Advocacy:**

- Championed women farmers' rights and access to resources.
- Led the National Commission on Farmers to address farmer suicides.
- Promoted sustainable agriculture and environmental protection.

**Awards and Recognition:**

- World Food Prize (1987).
- Ramon Magsaysay Award (1971).
- Albert Einstein World Science Award (1986).
- Padma Vibhushan (1989).
- Numerous other international and national awards.

**Pioneering Women in Tamil Nadu's Legislature**

- 1921: Madras Legislative Council adopts resolution for women's franchise.
- 1923: First women vote in Madras Presidency and Central Assembly.
- 1926:
  - Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, an advocate for women's rights, contests in the South Kanara constituency.
  - Muthulakshmi Reddy nominated to the Council, becomes deputy president, and leads campaign against the Devadasi system.
- 1937: Rukmini Lakshmipathi elected to the legislature, later becomes Deputy Speaker and first woman Minister (Health).
- 1953: Jothi Venkatachalam becomes the first woman Minister after Independence (Prohibition).
- 1967: Satyavani Muthu appointed Minister for Information and Welfare of Harijans in the first DMK Cabinet.
- 1979: Satyavani Muthu becomes first woman Minister from Tamil Nadu at the Centre (Social Welfare).
- 1977: P.T. Saraswathi becomes the first woman Minister in the AIADMK party (Social Welfare).
- 1988: Janaki Ramachandran assumes office as the first woman Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu (briefly).
- 1989: Jayalalithaa becomes the first woman Leader of the Opposition.
- 1991: Jayalalithaa elected Chief Minister for the first time.



## **Abolition of the Devadasi System in Tamil Nadu:**

### **Muthulakshmi Reddy's Role:**

- First Indian woman medical graduate in the Madras presidency (1912) and first woman Deputy President of the Legislative Council (1927).
- Inspired by a 13-year-old Devadasi's letter highlighting the system's abuses.
- Launched a relentless campaign against the Devadasi system in 1927.
- Faced opposition from within her own party and sections of the Devadasi community.
- Advocated for education and economic opportunities for women.

### **The Devadasi System:**

- Women dedicated to temples, performing duties like fanning deities, singing, and dancing.
- System degraded over time, leading to exploitation and marginalization of women.
- Muthulakshmi viewed it as harmful and restrictive, hindering women's freedom and well-being.

### **Abolition of the System:**

- Despite initial setbacks, the Madras Legislative Assembly passed the Bill in 1947.
- The Bill did not involve criminal prosecution or family interference, facilitating its passage.
- P. Subbaroyan, Home Minister, acknowledged Muthulakshmi's crucial role in eradicating the "evil" practice.

### **Legacy:**

- Muthulakshmi Reddy's campaign remains an inspiring account of social reform and women's empowerment.
- The abolition of the Devadasi system marked a significant step towards gender equality and justice.

## **Katchatheevu: A Disputed Island Between India and Sri Lanka**

### **Key Points:**

- **Location:** Uninhabited island 285 acres in size, 14 nautical miles off Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu.
- **Dispute:** Claimed by both India and Sri Lanka.
- **Historical Agreements:**



- 1974: India-Sri Lanka agreement demarcated maritime boundary; placed Katchatheevu on Sri Lankan side.
- 1976: Supplemental agreement restricted fishing activities by either country in each other's waters.
- **Significance for Fishermen:**
  - Traditionally used by fishermen from both countries.
  - Restrictions imposed by agreements have impacted livelihoods.
- **Trigger for Negotiations:**
  - Sri Lanka based claim on Portuguese occupation (1505-1658).
  - India argued for Raja of Ramnad's possession as part of his zamin.
- **Opposition to 1974 Agreement:**
  - Walkouts in both houses of Indian Parliament by various parties.
  - Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu (Karunanidhi and Jayalalithaa) expressed disapproval.
- **Resurgence of the Issue:**
  - Periodically revived by Tamil Nadu leaders, including Chief Minister Stalin's recent demand for retrieval.
- **Union Government's Stand:**
  - No territory ceded, matter settled through 1974 and 1976 agreements.
  - Katchatheevu lies within Sri Lanka's maritime boundary.
  - Matter currently sub-judice in Supreme Court.

### **Additional Notes:**

- St. Anthony's Church festival on Katchatheevu draws devotees from both sides, showcasing cultural ties.
- Issue remains sensitive and impacts the livelihoods of fishermen on both sides.

### **Sabhanayagar Temple Controversy:**

#### **Temple History and Significance:**

- Located in Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu.
- Holds immense historical and religious importance.
- Administered by the Podhu Dikshitaras, a community of priests and administrators.

#### **Main Controversies:**

- Access to Kanagasabai mandapam:



- Dikshithars deny access to devotees during specific rituals.
- HR&CE Department opposes the restriction.
- Recent conflict arose over this issue in June 2023.
- Allegation of "two-finger test":
  - Governor R.N. Ravi made the accusation in May 2023.
  - Police denied conducting any forced virginity test.
  - Health Minister refuted the claim.
- Verification of temple records and assets:
  - HR&CE Department wanted to audit temple finances and valuate assets.
  - Dikshithars initially resisted, later cooperated.

### Current Situation:

- No resolution in sight.
- Both sides remain firm on their positions.
- Possibility of further litigation looms large.

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### Old Pension Scheme (OPS) Restoration Dilemma for State Government

#### Current Situation



- Presently, two pension schemes exist: Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and Old Pension Scheme (OPS).
- CPS covers around 600,000 employees, while OPS benefits about 315,000 employees and 715,000 pensioners.

### **Financial Implications**

- Salaries and pensions currently constitute about 40% of the government's revenue receipts (RR).
- By 2032-33, these expenditures are projected to account for 100% of RR.
- Approximately 3% of government employees retire annually.

### **Investment and Policies**

- Tamil Nadu has not adopted the National Pension System (NPS), but funds under CPS are invested with LIC.
- The DMK's electoral promise to revive OPS is under scrutiny, with no clear mention in the recent State Budget.
- An official committee's report on OPS, submitted five years ago, is still "under examination."

### **Possible Options and Comparisons**

- Policymakers and economists suggest several alternatives, referencing Andhra Pradesh's proposed formula which was rejected by employees.
- This formula includes retaining NPS's contributory nature, offering 33% of basic pay as pension.
- Another option is increasing the government's contribution to NPS from the current 10% to match the Central government's 14%.
- For more flexibility, the lumpsum payment at retirement could be raised to 100% of the corpus, versus the current 60% commutation and 40% annuity investment.

### **Decision Challenges**

- The government faces a challenging decision, balancing financial sustainability with commitments and employee expectations.
- The debate involves finding a viable path that aligns with fiscal capabilities while fulfilling electoral promises and employee welfare.

### **Sethusamudram Project Revival Debate:**

#### **Project Details:**

- Aims to create a navigable channel connecting Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay.
- Proposed length: 167 km, including dredging in Adam's Bridge (Ram Setu) area.
- Estimated cost: ₹2,430 crore (as per 2005 estimate).



- **Benefits:**
  - Reduce travel time for ships.
  - Enhance strategic value for national security.
- **Challenges:**
  - Environmental concerns and possible damage to marine ecosystem.
  - Religious opposition due to its impact on Ram Setu.

### **Current Status:**

- Stalled since 2007 by Supreme Court order.
- DMK government in Tamil Nadu pushing for revival.
- BJP open to considering an alternative alignment.
- Pending petition in court regarding Ram Setu status.

### **Historical Context:**

- Project idea dates back to 1860, with various alignments proposed.
- Project launched in 2005 under UPA-I government.
- Former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa opposed the project for environmental and economic reasons.

### **Tamil Nadu Governor vs. Chief Minister Face-off:**

Trigger: Governor R.N. Ravi omitted paragraphs from the State government's prepared speech during his address to the Assembly on January 9.

### **Reactions:**

- DMK and allies: Criticized Ravi's actions, seeing them as a violation of Assembly traditions and protocol.
- AIADMK and BJP: Defended Ravi, claiming the omitted sections were a "personal attack" on him.
- President Droupadi Murmu: Tamil Nadu government delegation met her seeking intervention.
- Governor's event: Ruling DMK and allies boycotted Pongal celebration hosted by Ravi at Raj Bhavan.

### **Ravi's omissions:**

- References to national and regional leaders.
- Phrase "Dravidian model of governance".
- Descriptions of Tamil Nadu as peaceful, attractive for investments, and a forerunner in various sectors.

### **Precedents:**



- First time a Governor skipped sections in Tamil Nadu.
- Similar incidents in Kerala, West Bengal, and Parliament in the past.

**Constitutional issues:**

- Deviation from prepared text and President's authority to modify speeches.
- Practice of past Presidents like R. Venkataraman and Pranab Mukherjee.

**Assembly's motion:**

- Legality questioned due to Rule 17 of Assembly Rules.
- Precedent of passing the Jallikattu Bill after the Governor's address in 2017.

**Tamil Nadu's Performance in Tackling Poverty and SDGs:**

**MGNREGS:**

- High expenditure on unskilled labor wages (₹7,340 crore) in 2021-22, contributing to poverty reduction.
- Completion of 4.87 lakh works and provision of jobs to 80 lakh individuals.
- Issues with wage disbursement, but overall positive impact on rural families.

**Other Poverty Alleviation Measures:**

- Provision of ₹4,000 to rice-drawing ration cardholders with COVID-19 relief hamper.
- Launch of State Urban Employment Scheme in 37 town panchayats.

**Progress on Specific SDGs:**

- Goal 2 (Zero Hunger): Inauguration of Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme.
- Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being): 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' for non-communicable diseases.
- Goal 4 (Quality Education): 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' to address learning loss and 'Pudhumai Pen' for women's higher education.
- Goal 10 (Reduced Inequality): Social justice panel, 7.5% quota for government school students in professional education, and inclusion of Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran communities in Scheduled Tribes list.
- Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities): 'Anaithum Sathiyam' museum for differently-abled.
- Goal 15 (Life on Land): Biodiversity management committees and conservation authority for Pallikaranai marshland.
- Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions): Forensic DNA profile search tool for missing persons.

**Tamil Nadu's Quest for a \$1 Trillion Economy by 2030:**



### **Target and Road Map:**

- Ambitious goal of \$1 trillion economy by 2030 requires 13-13.5% nominal GDP growth annually.
- Consultant to be hired within two months to draft a roadmap for achieving the target.
- Current GSDP of Tamil Nadu is roughly \$290 billion.

### **Optimism and Challenges:**

- Experts and industry leaders believe the target is achievable with sustained efforts.
- Challenges include scaling up policies, skill gap, competition from other states.

### **Priorities and Strategies:**

- Focus on sectors like electronics, e-vehicles, renewables, non-leather footwear, fintech, and defense manufacturing.
- Expand IT and IT-related services to tier 2 and 3 cities.
- Develop high-value textile products in existing hubs like Tiruppur.
- Push for food processing and textile parks.
- Leverage the potential of tier-2 locations for scaling companies and attracting startups.

### **Specific Examples:**

- MoU signed with Taiwan footwear major Hong Fu after initial discussions.
- Chief Minister's recent visit to UAE resulted in MoU for a garmenting unit in northern Tamil Nadu.
- Potential for creating 1 lakh jobs in an integrated textile park.

### **Government's Approach:**

- Following trends in key sectors like textiles.
- Conscious of promoting labor-intensive industries.
- Balancing economic development with equity concerns.

### **Overall:**

- Tamil Nadu is serious about its \$1 trillion target and taking concrete steps to achieve it.
- Challenges remain, but the government and industry are optimistic about the potential.
- Focus on diverse sectors, skilled workforce, and tier-2 cities are crucial for success.





## Palk Bay Fisheries Conflict between India and Sri Lanka:

### Current Situation:

- Tensions escalated after Sri Lankan Navy arrested 12 Tamil Nadu fishermen and impounded boats.
- 41 fishermen and 6 boats remain in Sri Lankan custody since January.

### Key Issues:

- Fishing methods: Tamil Nadu's mechanised bottom trawling is banned in Sri Lanka and clashes with traditional fishermen's methods.
- Boat impoundment: Sri Lanka's planned auction of impounded boats raises concern about their fate.
- Festival participation: Sri Lanka's denial of entry to Tamil Nadu fishermen for the annual St. Antony's Church festival adds to tensions.
- Deep-sea fishing: Alternative fishing methods promoted by India haven't gained traction among Tamil Nadu fishermen.

### Potential Solutions:

- Convening Joint Working Group meetings at official level and fishermen-level talks to find long-term solutions.
- India providing promised assistance to Sri Lankan fishermen to address their concerns.
- Exploring additional incentives to encourage Tamil Nadu fishermen to adopt deep-sea fishing as a sustainable alternative.

### Overall:

- The decades-old fisheries conflict remains unresolved, causing hardship for fishermen on both sides.
- Collaborative efforts and diplomatic solutions are crucial to de-escalate tensions and find lasting agreements.

## Tamil Nadu Tourism Policy 2023:

### Key Goals:

- Attract ₹20,000 crore investment in tourism over 5 years.
- Contribute 12% of state GDP from tourism annually.
- Create 25 lakh jobs in tourism and related industries.

### Key Initiatives:

- Focus Tourism Destinations: Invest in specific areas with high tourism potential.



- Gateway Hubs: Develop Chennai, Tiruchi, Madurai, Coimbatore, and Kanniyakumari as entry points for tourists.
- Theme Park: Build a large amusement park near Chennai.
- Cruise Tourism: Launch cruise facilities on specific routes.
- Sports & Golf Tourism: Partner with existing operators to promote these sectors.
- Film Tourism: Develop a separate scheme with incentives for filming in Tamil Nadu.
- Marina & Underwater Activities: Explore feasibility of a marina and underwater sports at Kovalam.
- Water-based Activities: Encourage private operators to set up infrastructure for surfing, speed boats, etc. at beaches.

## Impact of Zero-Ticket Bus Travel (ZTBT) Scheme for Women in Tamil Nadu:

### Overall:

- The ZTBT scheme has positively impacted women passengers in Chennai, especially in terms of savings and mobility.
- Women save an average of Rs.858 per month, which can be 8-12% of their monthly income.
- Younger women (below 40) seem to benefit more in terms of increased mobility.
- The scheme benefits SC and BC women disproportionately, with nearly 39% of users being from SC households.
- Married women with children are the primary beneficiaries.

### Key Findings:

- Savings: ZTBT saves women 28% of their income if they earn less than Rs.5000. Savings decrease with higher income levels.
- Mobility: Most women make 2 trips per day, with 10% making 4+ trips. Travel frequency doesn't necessarily increase with free travel.
- Demographics: 60% of users are below 40 years old, 80% belong to SC/BC households, and 82% are married with children.

### Challenges:

- Limited scope: The scheme only covers travel up to 30 km.
- Informal sector: Women in the informal sector may not benefit as much due to irregular work schedules.
- Sustainability: The long-term financial viability of the scheme needs to be assessed.



### Tamil Nadu's EV Landscape:

#### Positives:

- Attracted ₹60,000 crore in EV investment commitments.
- Strong manufacturing presence: 70% of India's EV two-wheelers and 40% of four-wheelers made in TN.
- Updated EV policy with incentives for local manufacturers and infrastructure development.
- Reduction in power tariff for EV charging stations.
- Proactive government initiatives like policy tweaks and consultations.

#### Challenges:

- Low EV adoption rate (4.93% compared to national average of 5.7%).
- Affordability issues for consumers.
- Limited charging infrastructure, especially in cities.
- Concerns about range, safety, and performance of EVs.
- Lack of incentives for private vehicle buyers.
- High power connection charges for charging stations.

#### Solutions:

- Increased awareness campaigns to educate consumers about EV benefits.
- Expanded charging infrastructure network, especially fast-charging stations on highways and in cities.
- More aggressive State-level subsidies for EV purchases, especially for private buyers.
- Reduced GST and quarterly taxes, toll charges exemption, and cheaper loans for EV operators.
- Collaboration between manufacturers, financiers, and charging station operators for viable models.
- Taking EV buses on lease to minimize initial investment for private operators.

### Significance of Sengol in Tamil Culture:

Sengol (meaning "rightful sceptre") is a complex concept in Tamil culture that transcends its physical manifestation as a decorated rod. It represents:

- Righteousness and just governance: Sengol embodies the ideal of a king ruling fairly and ethically. It symbolizes their commitment to upholding justice and the well-being of their subjects.

- Legitimacy and authority: Traditionally, rulers were seen as custodians of Sengol, signifying their rightful claim to power and responsibility towards their people.
- Contrast to authoritarianism: Kodungol ("bent sceptre") stands in opposition to Sengol, representing misuse of power and tyranny.

**Evidence for Sengol's significance:**

- Literature: References in ancient Tamil epics like Silapathikaram and Tholkappiyam highlight Sengol's association with just kings and prosperous kingdoms.
- Tirukkural: The chapter "Sengonmai" emphasizes the importance of Sengol as a virtue for kings to uphold.
- Historical interpretations: While some scholars believe Sengol was a physical object, others argue it was more of a symbolic principle.

**Contemporary debates:**

- Sengol in the new Parliament building: The BJP government's decision to include the sceptre gifted to Nehru has sparked debate about its relevance in modern India's democratic setting.
- Physical vs. conceptual: Arguments exist about whether Sengol was a literal object or purely symbolic.

**Overall:**

Sengol remains a powerful symbol of righteous governance and legitimacy in Tamil culture, even though its physical form and interpretation may vary. Understanding its historical context and evolution can help us appreciate its deeper meaning beyond a mere scepter.

**Jallikattu: A Complex Tradition with Deep Roots in Tamil Culture**

This article delves into the complex and multifaceted tradition of Jallikattu, often referred to as "Eru Thazhuvuthal," in Tamil Nadu.

**Historical and Cultural Significance:**

- Symbol of Tamil identity: Jallikattu, rooted in ancient Tamil society, serves as a significant symbol of Tamil pride and cultural identity.
- Evolution of the sport: Initially confined to pastoral communities, Jallikattu transcended caste and regional boundaries in the 20th century, becoming a symbol of rural Tamil culture.
- Literary references: Tamil Sangam literature celebrates Jallikattu as a display of physical strength and courage, with poems glorifying the act of taming the bull.



- Link to Indus Valley Civilization: Karthikeya Sivasenapathy proposes a connection between Jallikattu and the Indus Valley Civilization, drawing parallels from the Keezhadi excavation site.
- "Vaadivaasal" by C.S. Chellappa, showcasing the passion and dedication associated with Jallikattu.

### **Contemporary Debates:**

- Supreme Court verdict: The recent Supreme Court ruling upholding the Tamil Nadu law paves the way for Jallikattu's continuation, sparking celebration among supporters.
- Animal welfare concerns: Critics argue against the sport's cruelty towards animals, questioning the act of taming a "harmless" creature as an act of valor.
- Cultural preservation: Supporters like Sivasenapathy highlight Jallikattu's role in preserving native cattle breeds like Kangeyam and Umblacherry, vital for the local ecosystem.

### **Ponniyin Selvan: Fact vs. Fiction and the Hero's Identity**

- Debate over the hero: Readers grapple with whether Raja Raja I, the historical king, or Vandhya Devan, the fictional confidant, is the true hero of Ponniyin Selvan.
- Vandhya Devan's dominance: Kalki's masterful characterization makes Vandhya Devan so prominent that he seems to overshadow Raja Raja I.
- Historical accuracy: The novel's historicity is questioned, with many characters and events being fictionalized or adapted from Kalki's imagination.
- Raja Raja I's portrayal: Though not the central focus, Kalki treads cautiously in depicting the well-documented Raja Raja I due to the abundance of historical evidence.
- Fictional characters: Several key figures like Azhwarkadiyan and Nandini play crucial roles, adding to the novel's allure despite their lack of historical basis.
- Vandhya Devan's historical basis: While not entirely fictional, Vandhya Devan's achievements and personality are largely Kalki's creation, with inscriptions only mentioning him as Kundhavai's husband.
- Kalki's approach to historical fiction: Kalki's epilogue acknowledges the flexibility in writing historical novels, citing the lack of definitive evidence in Tamil Nadu's history.
- Vandhya Devan's origins: He is introduced as a Banar warrior, with historians suggesting the Banas were ancient kings in the Perumbanappadi region.
- Raja Raja I's succession: The novel simplifies the complex situation surrounding Raja Raja I's ascension, overlooking other claimants to the throne.

- Pazhuvettaraiyars: Kalki creates two Pazhuvettaraiyar brothers, while historically, there was only one named Maravan Kandan with three sons.
- Chronological liberties: The novel takes liberties with timelines, introducing Sambuvarayars before their historical prominence.
- Vanathi's identity: Vanathi is identified as Vanama Madevi, confirmed as Rajendra's mother by inscriptions.
- Ponniyin Selvan's impact: The novel's popularity and enduring influence on Tamil culture are undeniable, contributing to Dravidian Movement sentiments.

### Interplay Between Tamil Cinema and Politics

#### Dravidian Identity and Cinema's Role:

- Dravidian politics centered around language, ethnicity, and cultural identity, tackling caste discrimination and advocating for regional autonomy.
- Cinema became a powerful tool to mobilize support and promote Dravidian ideals, with films serving as platforms for asserting Tamil identity and language.
- Leading figures like Annadurai, M.G. Ramachandran, and Karunanidhi, all with backgrounds in film, employed strong visual and aural elements in their political communication.

#### Future of the Cinema-Politics Nexus:

- With Karunanidhi and Jayalalithaa gone, and Vijaykanth's declining political influence, questions arise about the future of this intertwined relationship.
- The BJP's attempt to engage Rajnikanth remains a factor, but the current generation of film stars also seem to harbor political aspirations.

### Is Sanatana Dharma Compatible with the Constitution

#### Defining Sanatana Dharma:

- The term "Hindu" originally referred to ethnic identity, not religion.
- Sanatana Dharma is often defined as the eternal religion or ancient law based on Vedas and other texts.
- Traditional definitions emphasize a strict caste system, gender inequality, and obedience to scriptures.

#### Challenges to traditional definitions:

- Ambedkar argued that Sanatana Dharma should be interpreted to include Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism, which reject caste and inequality.
- He criticized the Hindu Code Bill's opponents for relying on outdated scriptures and called for legal reforms based on reason and gender equality.



- Nehru and Ambedkar emphasized the need for a new, progressive interpretation of Sanatana Dharma compatible with the Constitution's principles.

### Constitutional implications:

- Articles 15 and 13 of the Indian Constitution prohibit discrimination based on religion, caste, sex, or other factors.
- This means that traditional Hindu customs and laws inconsistent with the Constitution are invalid.
- The Constitution provides the framework for a modern, inclusive understanding of Sanatana Dharma that promotes equality and justice.

### Conclusion:

- Attempts to enforce outdated interpretations of Sanatana Dharma are legally irrelevant and violate the Constitution's core values.
- India needs to embrace a new, progressive understanding of Sanatana Dharma that upholds the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity.

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