

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

FEBRUARY 2024 - PART 2



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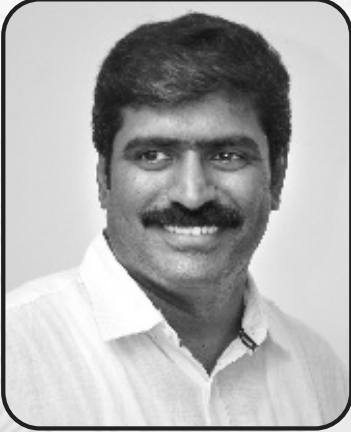
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Preface



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My Dear Aspirants,

Greetings to all of you! "What we think we become" Gautama Buddha. We all have dreams. To make dreams come into reality it takes a lot of determination, dedication, self discipline and continuous effort.

We at VETRII IAS Study Circle are committed to provide the right guidance, quality coaching and help every aspirants to achieve his or her life's cherished goal of becoming a civil servant.

The class room coaching at VETRII IAS Study Circle is meticulously planned to equip the aspirants with all the relevant facts and fundamentals of the subjects. Further the VETRII IAS Study Circle Study materials aim to support the candidate by providing the most relevant study material in a comprehensive manner.

We also thank other family members of Vetrii for making this effort a reality.

We wish the aspirants ALL THE VERY BEST for their journey in Civil Services !

Pages : 68

Size : (240 × 180) mm

Price : ₹ 40

Published by:

VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE

F Block New No. 1, 9th Street,

1st Avenue Main Road, Chinthamani,

Anna Nagar (E), Chennai - 102.

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**NATIONAL-DIARY OF
EVENT**

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**INTERNATIONAL
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TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

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1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
February 10	World Pulses Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ World Pulses Day is celebrated every year to create awareness about the significance of pulses and how it can help in body functions.▪ The day was first observed in 2018.▪ International Year of Pulses is observed in 2016.
February 13	World Radio Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ World Radio Day is observed on February 13 every year to celebrate the usage of Radio.▪ The day was established in 2011 by UNESCO.▪ Theme 2024: "Radio: A century informing, entertaining and educating".
February 17	World Pangolin Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ World Pangolin Day is observed annually on the third Saturday in February and in 2024 it takes place on February 17.▪ The day is observed to raise awareness for the conservation's efforts of one of the world's most trafficked mammals.▪ The day is observed in India with special focus on the plight of the Indian Pangolin.
February 19	Soil Health Card Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Soil Health Card Day is observed on February 19 every year to commemorate the launch of the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme and to raise awareness of its advantages.▪ SHC Scheme was launched on 19 February 2015.▪ SHC is a printed report which contains nutrient status of soil with respect to 12 nutrients

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
February 20	Arunachal Pradesh Statehood Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arunachal Pradesh celebrated its 38th Statehood Day on 20 February On 20th February 1987, Arunachal Pradesh became a full-fledged State. It was known as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) till 1972. On 20 January 1972, it gained the status of a Union Territory and was renamed Arunachal Pradesh. Article 371H deals with the special provisions for the state of Arunachal Pradesh
	48th Raising Day of ICG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) organised 'Day at Sea' at Chennai to mark its 48th Raising Day. ICG was established by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 on February 1, 1977.
February 21	International Mother Language Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day is observed on 21 February every year to spread awareness about the importance of linguistic, cultural diversity, and multilingualism. 2024 theme "Multilingual education – a pillar of learning and intergenerational learning".
February 24	Tamil Nadu Girl Child Protection Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 24, which marks the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, is observed as the 'State Girl Child Protection Day'. The day was first observed in 2020.
February 28	National Science Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every year February 28 is observed as National Science Day to commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect by Indian Scientist CV Raman. Theme 2024 : "Indigenous Technology for Viksit Bharat"

1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

'Dosti-16' Exercise

- The **16th edition** of the **India-Maldives-Sri Lanka trilateral Exercise** known as '**Dosti-16**' is being held in Maldives.
- Dosti exercise first began in 1991 between India and Maldives.
- Sri Lanka joined the exercise in 2012.

'Dharma Guardian'

- The 5th edition of Joint Military Exercise "**Dharma Guardian**" was held between **India and Japan in Rajasthan**.
- It is an annual exercise and is conducted alternatively between India and Japan.

1.3 WORLD SUMMITS AND ORGANISATIONS

Raisina Dialogue

- The ninth edition of the Raisina Dialogue was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.
- The Raisina Dialogue is an annual conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, which aims to address the most challenging issues faced by the world.

1.4 SPORTS AND GAMES

2024 Badminton Asia Team Championship

- India beat Thailand to win its first ever Badminton Asia Team Championships
- This is the first time India is winning gold at the Badminton Asia Team Championships

1.5 AWARDS & HONOURS

Jnanpith Award

- Urdu poet Gulzar and Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya have been selected for the 58th Jnanpith Award recently.
- Jnanpith is considered to be India's highest literary honour.
- The Jnanpith Award is presented by the Bharatiya Jnanpith, which was established in 1944.
- Durga Charan Rakshit was the first Indian to receive this award.

Kalaighnar Ezhudhukol Award

- Senior journalist V.N.Samy was awarded the Kalaighnar Ezhudhukol Award recently for the year 2022.
- 'Kalaighnar Ezhudhukol Award' is awarded for journalists who strive for the welfare of the society.
- The award carries Rs. 5 lakh cash prize and a certificate.

"Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur".

- Shashi Tharoor recently received France's highest civilian award, "Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur".

1.6 APPOINTMENTS

Chairperson of the Lokpal

- Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar was recently appointed as the new Chairperson of the Lokpal.
- Appointments in Lokpal are made by the President on recommendation of a five-member selection committee
- Prime Minister (Head)
- Chief Justice of India
- Speaker of Lok Sabha
- Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha
- An eminent jurist

2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

India – Nepal

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) signed an agreement to integrate fast payment systems of India and Nepal through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) of

India and National Payments Interface (NPI) of Nepal, respectively.

- The integration is aimed at facilitating cross border remittances between India and Nepal.

2.2 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Electoral bonds scheme struck down

- A five-judge Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud struck down the the electoral bonds scheme as “unconstitutional”.
- The court held that the preceding amendments made to the Representation of the People Act, the Companies Act, and the Income Tax Act, violated the voters’ right to information about political funding under Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution.

Key Highlights

- Issuance of electoral bonds to be stopped
- SBI to submit full details of bonds purchased by donors and subsequently encashed by political parties since April 12, 2019 to the Election Commission of India by March 6, 2024.
- ECI to publish the entire information given by SBI on its website by March 13, 2024

Law to register NRI marriages

- The Law Commission has submitted a report regarding the NRI Marriages to the Union government recently.

Key Recommendations

- The report recommends a comprehensive law to register marriages of non-resident Indians (NRIs) to deal with situations arising out of “fraudulent marriages”.
- It is further recommended that all marriages between the NRIs/OCIs and Indian citizens should be made compulsorily registered in India.
- Chairman of the Law Commission is Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi.

Draft guidelines for Coaching Centres

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has released draft guidelines for the “Prevention of misleading advertisement in coaching sector” recently.
- The guidelines note such misleading advertisements as offences under the Consumer Protection Act.
- Earlier, the CCPA had formed a sub-committee to draft the guidelines.

Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022

- The Union government has recently amended the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022

- The amendment notified that both gametes need not come from a married couple in case they are certified as suffering from a medical condition.
 - The amendment also notified that **single women (widow or divorcee)** undergoing surrogacy must use self-eggs and donor sperm to avail surrogacy procedures
- Three new criminal laws**
- According to a notification released by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** the **three new criminal laws** that were passed by Parliament in **2023** will come into effect from **July 1, 2024**.
 - The **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita** and the **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam** that will replace the **Indian Penal Code, 1860; Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898; and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872**, respectively, received President Droupadi Murmu's assent on **December 25, 2023**.
 - The laws aim to overhaul the criminal justice system.

2.3 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

Amrit Bharat stations

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for **554 Amrit Bharat stations** across **27 States** and inaugurated rail overbridges and underbridges under **Amrit Bharat Stations Scheme (ABSS)**.
- **Objective** - To revamp key railway stations across the country.
- The scheme envisages to take-up **1275 stations for upgradation/modernisation over Indian Railway**.

SWAYAM Plus Platform

- The **Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan** launched the '**SWAYAM Plus**' platform.
- It is funded by the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education.

- IIT Madras - Nodal agency for implementing SWAYAM Plus.
- It was launched in collaboration with leading industry players to bring employability and professional development focussed programmes to its learners.

World's Largest Grain Storage Plan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the '**World's Largest Grain Storage Plan**' in cooperative sector.
- It covers **11 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** in 11 States.
- Under this initiative, foundation stone was laid for additional **500 PACS** across the country for construction of godowns and other agri-infrastructure.
- The initiative is aimed at **fortifying food security** and **fostering economic development** in the country.



3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

- The 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) was concluded in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

- The State of Migratory Species Report 2024 was released in the summit.
- Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity (GPEC) was launched to protect and connect natural areas of migratory species.
- One Health Central India Project was launched to address the concerns about zoonotic diseases.





4. ECONOMICS

4.1 RECENT ECONOMIC TRENDS

100% FDI in space sector

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union Cabinet approved the amendments to the existing **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy on space sector** by allowing **100% FDI in space sector**.
- The amendment is made in line with the vision and strategy under the **Indian Space Policy 2023**.

4.2 REPORTS AND INDICES

All-India Household Consumption Expenditure Survey

- The summary of the findings of the **All-India Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES)** carried out between **August 2022 and July 2023** was released by the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** recently.
- The survey is carried out **every five years**.
- The survey aims at generating estimates of household **Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE)**

Key Findings

- The average **monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE)** in Indian households rose by **33.5%** since 2011-12 in urban households.
- The Proportion of spending on food has dropped to **46.4%** for rural households from **52.9% in 2011-12**

Note

- NSSO functions under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.



5. SCIENCE

5.1 LATEST INVENTIONS ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

'10,000 genome' project completed

- The **Department of Bio-technology (DBT)** officially announced the completion of the '10,000 genome' project.
- It is an attempt to create a reference database of whole genome sequences from India.
- India **first** sequenced a **complete human genome in 2006**.
- **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** and the **Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad** are coordinating the project.

Three ISRO facilities

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **three facilities** of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.
 - **Trisonic Wind Tunnel** - Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
 - **Integration facilities for the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** - Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
 - **Semicyrogenic Integrated Engine and Stage Test Facility (SIET)** - ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.

5.2 SPACE

CE20 Cryogenic engine

- ISRO has accomplished a major milestone by successfully testing the **CE20 cryogenic engine** that powers the cryogenic stage of the **LVM3 launch vehicle for Gaganyaan missions**.
- **Gaganyaan Mission** aims to send a crew of **3 members to an orbit of 400 km for a 3 days mission** and bring them back safely to earth.

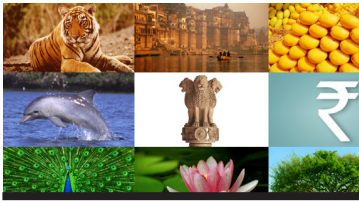
GSLV F-14 rocket

- The **GSLV-F14 carrying INSAT-3DS** is scheduled for a launch from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota**.
- The satellite is aimed at augmenting weather forecasting, disaster management, and related meteorological services.
- The **GSLV-F14** is the **16th flight of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle**

(GSLV), and the 10th flight with the indigenous **cryo stage**.

Gaganyaan crew announced

- India announced the names of the four astronaut-designates for the Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission, planned for launch in 2025.
- The names of the Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots are
 - **Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair**
 - **Group Captain Ajit Krishnan**
 - **Group Captain Angad Pratap**
 - **Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla**
- **Gaganyaan programme** - Aims to demonstrate indigenous capability to undertake human space flight mission to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).



6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

HEMS Initiative

- **Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS)** will be launched for the first time India in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.
- The initiative aims to extend medical assistance and trauma care services to a wider population across the country using helicopters.
- It is launched under 'Sanjeevani' project.

4 web portals unveiled for news publishers

- **Union Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur** launched four online portals for news publishers.
- The four portals include,
- **Press Sewa** - for registration of newspapers and periodicals
- **NaViGate Bharat** - for videos on the entire gamut of the government's development-related and citizen welfare oriented measures.
- The other portals are for registration of local cable operators and for an e-billing system.

India's longest rail tunnel

- India's **longest rail tunnel** was opened in Jammu on **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link**.
- It is **12.77-km long**.
- It is known as **T-50** which runs between the **Khari-Sumber** section.

First Private Ammunition Manufacture Facility

- **First two Private Ammunition Manufacture** facilities for the manufacture of ammunition

and missiles were opened by **Adani Defence and Aerospace in Kanpur**.

- The twin-facility complex, spread over **500 acres**.

India's longest cable-stayed bridge

- **India's longest cable-stayed bridge - Sudarshan Setu** was recently inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Gujarat.
- The bridge is **2.32 kilometers long**.
- The bridge links **Okha mainland and Beyt Dwarka**.

India's First indigenous hydrogen ferry

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched **India's First indigenously built hydrogen fuel cell ferry boat**.
- It was launched under the **Harit Nauka** initiative in **Thoothukudi**.
- **Harit Nauka Guidelines** aims to embrace low/zero emission sources of fuel and attain **100% green vessels** in the Indian waters by **2047**.
- The vessel has been built at the **Cochin Shipyard**.

India Digital Summit (IDS) 2024

- The **18th edition** of the **India Digital Summit** is held in **Mumbai**.
- The **India Digital Summit (IDS)** is the flagship annual conference of the **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)**.
- **IAMAI** is a **not-for-profit industry body** established in **2004**.



7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

First Woman Chief Minister in Pakistan

- Maryam Nawaz became the **Pakistan's First-ever woman Chief Minister in Eastern Punjab** province.
- She is the eldest daughter of Pakistan's former **Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif**.





8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 2023

- The Tamil Nadu Assembly recently adopted the **Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 2023** recently.
- The Bill aims to further amend the **Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994**, for fixing the tenure of the **State Election Commissioner** to **“five/six year or sixty-five years of age**, whichever is earlier, without any provision for extension”

First Mini-TIDEL Park

- TN Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated **Tamil Nadu’s First Mini-TIDEL Park in Villupuram**.
- It covers an area of **63,000 square feet** on a five-acre land parcel at Thiruchitrambalam in Vanur taluk.
- **Mini-TIDEL Parks** are being established in **Tier II and Tier III towns** like **Thanjavur, Salem, Thoothukudi, Vellore, Karaikudi, Namakkal, Tiruppur, and Udhamandalam**.

Maghizhchi Programme

- **Maghizhchi Programme** was launched recently by the **Director General of Police Shankar Jiwal in Madurai**.
- It is a **mental well-being programme** for police personnel and their families.
- The programme aims at providing treatment to police personnel who were addicted to alcohol and suffered from mental depression.

Sale of cotton candy banned

- Sale of cotton candy banned in Tamil Nadu after samples reveal presence of industrial dye

- **Rhodamine-B**.

- It was found that **Rhodamine-B** was used as a **colouring agent in cotton candies**.

Tamil Nadu State Policy for Women 2024

- **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** unveiled the **Tamil Nadu State Policy for Women 2024** recently.

- **Vision** - To ensure social justice for all and provide women access to their rightful entitlements.

Objective

- To establish a gender sensitive education system and reduce the dropout rate among girls.
- To improve health and nutrition status of adolescent girls and women.
- To increasing their participation in the workplace.
- To promote digital literacy to bridge the digital gender gap.
- To support women for remunerative placements.
- To encourage participation of women in politics.

- A **high-level women empowerment committee** headed by the **Chief Secretary** shall meet once in six months to review the implementation of the policy.

- The policy is valid for 10 years from the date of its notification or till a new policy is formulated.

Tamil Nadu State Highways Authority

- The Bill to establish **Tamil Nadu State Highways Authority (TNSHA)** was passed in the ongoing Budget session.

- It is a **statutory body** to implement **road infrastructure projects** in Tamil Nadu.
- TNSHA will be formed on the lines of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to **maintain and manage roads as per global standards**.
- The extension of the scheme in the **Ghats section** was launched in **Udhagamandalam**.
- It would be implemented in other hilly areas later.

Report on Keeladi excavation

Umagine 2024

- TN CM MK Stalin inaugurated the **two-day conference - Umagine TN 2024** in Chennai.
- The conference was hosted by the **Tamil Nadu government's IT and Digital Services Department**.
- **Theme of the conference** : "Inform the present. Innovate the future"
- The first phase of the state government's free Wi-Fi hotspots scheme in Chennai was launched during the conference
- **Mr. Ramakrishna** had led the **first two phases** of the excavations in Keeladi between 2014 and 2016.
- There were no significant findings in Phase III of the excavations.
- The **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology** carried out the excavations from the **fourth phase** and so far **nine phases** had been completed.

Extension of Vidiyal Payanam

- The **Free Bus Travel Scheme** for women in Tamil Nadu famously known as "**Vidiyal Payanam**" was extended recently.

TN BUDGET 2024 - 25

TN BUDGET 2024 - 25

- **Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu** presented the State Budget for 2024-25.
- **Theme: 'Crossing obstacles and marching towards growth'**
- **Grand 7 Tamil dreams mentioned which includes,**
 - Social Justice
 - Welfare of the Marginalized
 - Transforming Tamil youth as global achievers
 - Knowledge based economy
 - Equality focussed on welfare of women
 - Green Growth and Sustainable future
 - Tamil Language and culture.
- For 2024-25, the State has estimated its capital expenditure to be **₹47,681 crore**, which is a **growth of 12.11% over the revised estimates 2023-24**.
- **Top Three Sectoral Allocation**
 - Education Department - 52,254 crores
 - Urban Development - 41,733 crores
 - Rural Development - 27,922 crores.
- **Key Highlights**
- **Development of Tamil language**
 - **Translation of Twin Epics**
 - **Tharani Engum Tamil**

Translated Tamil books will be available in world's top 100 universities and libraries.

▪ Kani Tamil 24

Fund for Startups for developing new technologies in Tamil Translation.

▪ Digitization of rare books and documents in Tamil Language.

▪ Ethnographic documentation of tribal linguistic resources.

▪ Culture

- Open-air museum at the Keeladi excavation site.

- Excavation at 8 locations

- Keeladi - Sivaganga
- Vembakottai - Virudhunagar
- Porpanai Kottai - Pudukkottai
- Keezhamandi - Tiruvannamalai district.
- Thirumalapuram - Tenkasi
- Kongalnagaram - Tiruppur
- Marungur - Cuddalore
- Chennanur - Krishnagiri

▪ Excavation in Other States

- Muziris - Kerala
- Palur - Odisha
- Vengi - Andhra Pradesh
- Muski - Karnataka

▪ Deep sea excavations

- Korkai and Alagankulam

Rural development

▪ Kalaingar Kanavu Illam Scheme

▪ **Aim** - To create a 'hut-free Tamil Nadu' by 2030

▪ Tamil Nadu Rural Roads Improvement Scheme (TNRRIS)

▪ Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam -II (AGAMT-II)

▪ 2000 New Overhead Water tanks.

▪ Initiative to restore 5000 water bodies.

Poverty Eradication

▪ Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Scheme

- **Aim** - To bring around five lakh of the poorest families out of poverty within two years.

Municipal administration and water supply department

▪ Singara Chennai 2.0

▪ Chennai Theevu Thidal Development Scheme

▪ Vada Chennai Valarchi Thittam.

▪ Rivers Restoration Project

- Cauvery - Erode, Trichy
- Noyal - Coimbatore, Tirupur
- Vaigai - Madurai
- Porunai - Paddy

▪ Urban Green Project

- Sea Water Desalination Plant - Nemmeli

Women Welfare

▪ Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai.

▪ **Vidiyal Payanam Thittam** - Rs 3,050 crore has been provided as subsidy for this scheme.

▪ Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiya Puthumai Penn Thittam would be extended to girl students in Tamil medium government-aided schools as well from the next academic year.

▪ Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme 30,992 schools - 15 lakh people

▪ Thozhi - Women Hostels. Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai

Vulnerable Sections

▪ Transgender Welfare

- The Transgender Welfare Board - ₹2 crore allotted for free educational expenses, including tuition and hostel fees of transgender students in pursuing higher education

▪ Department of Social Security and Women & Child Development

- Poonjolai - Model Home for Children Coimbatore

▪ 'Tholkudi' scheme

- **Aim** - To upgrade the amenities in tribal habitations and improve the living standards of tribals.

School Education

- Prof. Anbazhagan School Development Scheme
- 15,000 Smart Classrooms
- 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' scheme

Higher Education

- Perunthalaivar Kamarajar College Development Scheme.
- Upgrading 45 Polytechnic Colleges to Industry 4.0 Standards.
- Muthamizh Arignar Kalaingar Library & Science Centre – Coimbatore.
- **Naan Mudhalvan Scheme** – 28 lakh people benefittedx
 - Free training programme under the Naan Mudhalvan scheme for six months to prepare for Central Government Jobs
 - Tamizh Pudhalvan Scheme
 - Aim – To provide a monthly assistance of ₹1,000 to boys who have studied in government schools from Classes VI to XII.

Sports

- **Four olympic academies** - Chennai, Madurai, Trichy and Nilgiris.
- Chief Minister Youth Festival
- India's first Tamil Nadu Olympic Water Sports Academy – Ramanathapuram.
- Six sports centres exclusively for para - sportspersons will be set up.

Labor welfare

- 10 New Government Industrial Training Institutes
- Centres of Excellence

Medicine and population well-being

- Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam
- Innuyir Kappom Nammai Kaakum 48
- Cancer Management Mission
- Centre of Excellence for persons with autism spectrum disorder.

Industrial Development

- SIPCOT Park – Thanjavur
- **New Space Industrial and Propellant Park - Thoothukudi**
- **10 mini-textile parks** - Erode, Karur and Virudhunagar
- Neo TIDEL park at 5 locations.
- **IT Park – Coimbatore**

Knowledge Based Economy

- **Kalaingar international convention centre-Muttukkadu, Chennai**
- Global Start-up Summit – To be held for the first time in Chennai.
- **Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission** – Under State Chief Minister.
- Free Wi-Fi will be provided at 1,000 prime locations including Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchi and Salem.

Environment

- **TN-SHORE (Neithal Meetchi Iyakkam)**
- Aim - To restore coastal resources spanning 1,076 km across 14 districts.
- **Development of beaches in Tamil Nadu - Blue Flag Beach Certification.**
 - Marina – Chennai
 - Ariyaman – Ramanathapuram
 - Kayalpattinam – Thoothukudi
 - Kodavilai – Tirunelveli
 - Kameswaram – Nagapattinam
 - Kattumavadi – Pudukottai
 - Silver beach - Cuddalore
 - Marakkanam - Villupuram

AGRICULTURE BUDGET 2024 - 25

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- **Tamil Nadu Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare MRK. Panneerselvam** recently presented the **4th Exclusive Agriculture Budget for 2024-25** at the Legislative Assembly.
- A total sum of ₹42,281 crore has been allocated for agriculture and related departments during 2024-25.
- **Agriculture Budget** was first presented by the **Tamil Nadu Government in 2021-22.**

Key Highlights

- **Chief Minister's Mannuyir (மண்ணூயிர்) Kaathu Mannuyir (மன்னூயிர்) Kaappom Scheme (CM MK MKS).**
 - **Aim** - To improve soil quality, and move towards sustainable and chemical-free agricultural practices for the well-being of society.
 - It will be implemented from the year 2024-2025 for which Rs.206 crore will be allocated.
- **One model Organic Farm**
 - **Aim** - To promote the concept of Organic Farming.
- **Sustainable Green Cover Mission** - Under the scheme 1.96 crore tree saplings were distributed to 72,597 farmers at a cost of Rs.24.85 crore.
- **'Honey Production Hub'** will be established in Kanyakumari district with a budget of Rs.3.60 crore.
- **100 Uzhavar Angadis** will be established in urban areas along the lines of Uzhavar Sandhais at an outlay of Rs. 5 crore.
- The **Kalaignarin All Village Integrated Agricultural Development Programme.**
 - **Aim** - To transform every village into a model of self-sufficiency.

▪ Pulses Development Scheme

- To attain self sufficiency in pulses, the scheme will be implemented during 2024-2025 in an area of 4.75 lakh acres at an outlay of Rs.40.27 crore

▪ Edible Oilseeds Production Enhancement Scheme

- It will be implemented in all the districts of Tamil Nadu covering an area of 2.50 lakh acre at an outlay of Rs.45 crore.

▪ Scheme for Incentivising Enhanced Crop Productivity

- **Aim** - To enhance the productivity of food grains, coconut, sugarcane, cotton, and sunflower, to position Tamil Nadu as one of the top three states in terms of productivity.

▪ One Village One Crop - Demonstration

- It will be introduced in 15,280 revenue villages to catapult production in rural areas.

▪ Tamil Nadu Millet Mission

- It will be implemented for five years from 2023-2024 to 2027-2028 in the two millet special zones.

▪ Village Agriculture Development Group

- Under the scheme, village development groups will be formed to offer training within the village panchayats.

▪ Cotton Cultivation Mission

- To enhance the income of cotton farmers.

▪ Special Scheme for Mukkani Development

- **Aim** - To boost the cultivation of mango, jackfruit, and banana in the State during 2024-25.

- **Establishment of New State Horticulture Farm and Parks**
 - **Mullai Garden** – Velimalai, Kanyakumari.
 - **Marutham Park** - Thirumalai Samuthiram
 - **Sun Garden** – Kanyakumari
 - **Hibiscus Nursery Garden** - Attur, Chengalpattu
 - **State Horticulture Farm** – Naduvakurichi
 - **Jackfruit Value Addition Centre** - Panruti, Cuddalore District.
 - **Technology cum Market Promotion Centre** – Perambalur.
- **GI Tags**
 - In 2024-2025, Geographical Indication tag will be obtained for the following 10 Agricultural Products at the cost of Rs.30 lakh.
 - i. Sathayamangalam Red Banana (Erode)
 - ii. Kolli Hills Pepper (Namakkal)
 - iii. Meenambur Seeraga Samba (Ranipet)
 - iv. Ayyampalayam Nettai Thennai (Dindigul)
 - v. Urigam Puli (Krishnagiri)
 - vi. Bhuvanagiri Mithi Pagarkai (Cuddalore)
 - vii. Sencholam (Salem, Karur)
 - viii. Tirunelveli senna Leaf (Tirunelveli)
 - ix. Odaipatti Seedless Grapes (Theni)
 - x. Gloriosa Superba (Senkanthal seed-Karur, Dindigul, Tiruppur)
- The name of **Department of Seed Certification and Organic Certification** in Tamil i.e., விதச்சான்று மற்றும் அங்ககச் சான்றுத்துறை will be renamed as விதச்சான்றளிப்பு மற்றும் உயிர்மச் சான்றளிப்புத்துறை".
- Research programmes to develop **new varieties in tuberose, chrysanthemum and rose** with improved productivity and profitability through new genetical methods will be carried out.
- **Rural Development**
 - Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
 - Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women
- **Revenue and Disaster Management**
 - The **Catalytic Assistance for Drought Mitigation programme** will be implemented from 2024-2025 in 110 Villages of 55 Blocks in seven districts namely Dharmapuri, Tiruppur, Pudukkottai, Sivagangai, Virudhunagar Ramanathapuram and Thoothukudi at an estimated cost of Rs.110.59 crore.
 - **“Digital Azmoish (Digital Crop Survey)”**
 - i. **Aim** - To enumerate crops cultivated in Agricultural lands.
 - ii. By using the data captured in Digital Azmoish, e-Adangal will be issued online to the farmers from the year 2024-2025 onwards.
- **Development of Palm Products**
 - **Palmyra Development Mission** - The Government has been implementing the Palm Development Mission for the last three years to increase the number of palm trees.