



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–FEBRUARY 17, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu – has unveiled a New Industrial Policy, 2021 and the Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises Policy, 2021 on February 16 in Chennai**
- ✓ The New Industrial Policy aims to attract ₹10 lakh crore in new investments and create 20 lakh jobs by 2025
- ✓ It seeks to achieve an annual growth rate of 15% in the manufacturing sector from the current rate of 25% (as of 2019-20) and increase the contribution of the sector to the state's economy to 30% by 2030
- ✓ After unveiling the policies, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami inaugurated eight completed projects involving an investment of ₹3,377 crore and offering employment to more than 7,000 people.
- ✓ **The state government also signed 28 MoUs that will pave way for new investments of more than ₹28,000 crore in the state**
- ✓ The sectors that bagged the investments include smartphones, electric vehicles, wind energy and auto components, city gas distribution and textiles.
- ✓ These investments will result in employment generation to nearly 69,000 people
- ✓ The policy has given a special thrust to the emerging sunrise sectors, including aerospace and defence, renewable energy components, electronics (ESDM), medical devices, electric vehicles, pharmaceuticals, technical textiles and medical textiles (biotechnology)
- ✓ Among the key investors are Tata Electronics, which will invest ₹4,684 crore and employ more than 18,000 people in its unit in Krishnagiri district
- ✓ Further, Pegatron Corporation, Taiwan, proposed an investment of ₹1,100 crore for making smartphones and employing more than 14,000 people at Mahindra World City, Chengalpattu
- ✓ Both the companies will make Apple products and join Foxconn and Salcomp to make Tamil Nadu the new hub in Apple products manufacturing.

- ✓ Another major investment includes a ₹7,948-crore investment by Elest Private Limited for the manufacture of electric buses and electric trucks and batteries, which has the potential to create over 8,000 jobs

Investment push Highlights of the new Industrial and MSME policies and other initiatives launched by the Chief Minister



Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami releasing the Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy 2021 in Chennai on Tuesday. ■ B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

OBJECTIVES OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY 2021:

- Achieving an annual growth rate of **15%** in the manufacturing sector
- Attracting investments worth **₹10 lakh crore** and create 20 lakh jobs by 2025

OBJECTIVES OF MSME POLICY 2021:

- Attracting new investments worth **₹2 lakh crore** in the sector by 2025
- Creating employment opportunities for **20 lakh people**

- 28 MoUs signed, entailing investments worth **₹28,053 crore with the potential for creating 68,775 jobs**. These investments would be spread across sectors like electric vehicles, wind energy, auto components, city gas and textiles

- Foundation stones laid for four Sipcot industrial parks at Manapparai, Maanallur, Oragadam and Dharmapuri, with the aim of creating one lakh jobs

- Foundation stones laid for six industrial estates of the Tamil Nadu Small Industries

Development Corporation Limited, with the aim of generating 13,300 jobs

- TICEL Bio Park inaugurated in Coimbatore

- Completed projects worth ₹3,469 crore inaugurated by the CM

- ✓ The State has also signed a MoU with the Grasim Industries to establish a paint manufacturing unit at Cheyyar at an investment of Rs 750 crore
- ✓ Another key focus of the new industrial policy is to ensure that industrial clusters emerge across the state and not just restricted around Chennai and a couple of other regions.
- ✓ The policy has increased the number of industrially backward districts in the state to 22, from the earlier 12 districts
- ✓ This will enable industries to avail of special incentives to establish industrial units in the backward districts.
- ✓ Accordingly, new industrial units being established in all these backward districts will now get 50% subsidy on land cost and subsidy in registration fee.

- ✓ Further, the minimum investment needed to avail of the state-level incentive push has been reduced from ₹300 crore to ₹50 crore
- ✓ The criteria for offering capital subsidy have been made flexible and freedom has been given to the industries to structure it themselves.
- ✓ Under the new policy, the capital subsidy will be offered based on investment as well as employment potential as against investment size till now
- ✓ Further, the ceiling on capital subsidy is being enhanced from ₹50 lakh to ₹1.5 crore, besides extending support for listing in SME exchange and raising capital from stock markets.
- ✓ The new MSME policy aims to make Tamil Nadu the most vibrant ecosystem for MSMEs and startups.
- ✓ It is aimed at attracting investments worth ₹2 lakh crore by 2025 and creating jobs for 20 lakh persons.
- ✓ The state's earlier MSME policy was released in 2008.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has around 23.6 lakh registered enterprises and provides employment opportunities to over 1.51 crore people.
- ✓ The state produces over 6,000 products, both for domestic and international markets.
- ✓ The policy further aims to increase the share of exports from the MSMEs by 25%.
- ✓ The Vision 2023 document was unveiled by the former CM J Jayalalithaa government in 2012 with the goal to make Tamil Nadu Asia's most favoured investment destination for MSMEs.
- ✓ To accomplish that goal, the new policy aims to facilitate investment, including FDI, foster culture of entrepreneurship and innovation and strengthen ease of doing business and good governance.
- ✓ To achieve this, the state had established the MSME Trade and Investment Bureau (M-TIPB) in 2019 to provide services to prospective foreign investors in the MSME sector.
- ✓ Under the policy, new MSMEs and start-ups will be exempted from approvals for establishment and operation for three years based on self-certification
- ✓ However, the units should have mandatory approval within one year after the expiry of the three-year period.
- ✓ A new start-up fund will be created, as already indicated in the Tamil Nadu State Start-up and Innovation Policy, 2018.
- ✓ A corpus of ₹500 crore is being created for upgradation and maintenance of Tansidco estates.
- ✓ Following the recommendations of the C. Rangarajan Committee looking into the impact of COVID-19 on the State's economy, the government shall create an industrial ecosystem fund, with a corpus of ₹500 crore, to support small infrastructure projects and ecosystem creation.
- ✓ A venture capital fund will be created with a corpus of ₹500 crore to support entrepreneurs undertaking ventures in the sunrise sectors

- ✓ The government would also allocate ₹1,000 crore for further strengthening the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation Ltd.
- **On February, E-commerce major Amazon – announced its decision to open the first manufacturing line in India in Chennai to produce Fire TV stick devices**
- ✓ The facility will be set up in partnership with Foxconn-owned Cloud Network Technology, an India-based subsidiary of the Taiwanese electronics giant
- ✓ The announcement followed a virtual meeting between Union Minister for Communications and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad and Amazon's Global Senior Vice-President and Country Head for India Amit Agarwal.
- ✓ According to Amazon, the Chennai line will be capable of producing hundreds of thousands of devices every year, starting with the Fire TV line of streaming devices by the end of this year
- ✓ The announcement came on a day when the Tamil Nadu government signed 28 MoUs for projects envisaging investments worth Rs 28,000 crore.

TO START WITH FIRE TV STICK

- Amazon's popular devices include Fire TV Stick, e-book Kindle, and smart speakers Echo
- Amazon also sells products under Amazon Basics, which are largely made in China
- The US e-commerce



giant will make Fire TV Stick in India and may manufacture other devices too, based on local demand

- Desi companies like eyewear firm Lenskart and earphones maker boAt are also looking to manufacture locally

- ✓ Earlier, Amazon had announced to invest US \$1 billion to digitize 10 million small and medium businesses
- ✓ The decision will help Indian businesses sell worldwide, thereby enabling US \$10 billion in cumulative exports, and create an additional one million jobs by 2025
- **The State Government – has announced its decision to rejuvenate Madurantakam tank in Chengalpet**
- ✓ The decision involves the deepening, strengthening the bund and remodelling the spillways of the second largest tank in the state
- ✓ The Government has allocated ₹120.23 crore for the project in anticipation of Nabard assistance.
- ✓ The rejuvenated tank may also augment the drinking water supply to Chennai.
- ✓ After a detailed study, the PWD revised the parameters of existing storage level to 791mcft (million cubic feet) from 530mcft and full tank level to 32.15m from the existing 31.65m.

- ✓ Located along the Chennai-Trichy national highway, the main source of supply to the tank is the Kiliyar river from Vandavasi and Nelvoymaduvu from Uthiramerur taluk.
- **On February 16, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - inaugurated the 'Salem Mathi' mobile app to help women's self-help groups sell their products online**
- ✓ The App will ensure greater visibility and better marketing of products made by self-help groups
- ✓ The app has been uploaded with 2,000 products manufactured by the women.
- ✓ The app could be downloaded from Google Play Store.
- ✓ The CM also inaugurated Thalikku Thangam scheme for the year 2020-21.

STATES

- **On February 16, Kiran Bedi – was removed as the Lieutenant-Governor of Union Territory of Pondicherry**
- ✓ Telangana governor Tamilisai Soundarajan has been given additional charge of the Union territory



- ✓ In another dramatic turnaround, the Congress-led government in the Union Territory lost its majority in the 33-member assembly following the resignation of an MLA
- ✓ The decision to relieve Bedi marks the end of a long-running feud between her and Puducherry chief minister V Narayanasamy.
- ✓ Bedi's removal came a few days after a delegation led by chief minister Narayanasamy called on the President of India and submitted a memorandum urging him to recall Bedi.
- ✓ The delegation accused Bedi of acting in a 'typical autocratic' manner in violation of constitutional provisions and rule of law' and interfering in the day-to-day affairs of the elected government and blocking all welfare and development schemes.
- ✓ Bedi and the elected Congress government headed by Narayanasamy have clashed over several issues ever since she assumed office on May 29, 2016.

NATIONAL

- On February 16, the housing and urban affairs ministry - launched a survey named 'Pey Jal Survekshan' to collect data on drinking water in 10 cities under the Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban).



- ✓ During the survey, data will also be collected on wastewater management and condition of water bodies in the cities.
- ✓ The pilot survey will cover 10 cities — Agra, Badlapur, Bhubaneswar, Churu, Kochi, Madurai, Patiala, Rohtak, Surat and Tumkur.
- ✓ The mission will be monitored through a technology-based platform on which beneficiary response will be monitored.
- ✓ The survey will be conducted in cities to ascertain equitable distribution of water, reuse of wastewater and mapping of water bodies with respect to quantity and quality of water through a challenge process.
- ✓ In this survey, data on drinking water, wastewater management, non-revenue water and condition of three waterbodies in the city will be collected
- ✓ Face-to-face interviews with citizens and municipal officials, on-call interviews, water sample collection and laboratory testing, and field survey for non-revenue water will be undertaken as part of the survey

INTERNATIONAL

- On February 16, France's National Assembly – approved a legislation designed mainly to ban a rise in Islamism in towns and cities, threatening national unity
- ✓ The legislation did not single out any particular religion, but it bans practices such as forced marriage and virginity tests.
- ✓ It empowers the state to close places of worship and religious schools, as well as to ban extremist preachers

- ✓ France's Muslim population is estimated to number about five million people.
 - ✓ The mosques in the country are funded by Turkey, Qatar or Saudi Arabia
 - ✓ President Macron's centrist party supported the bill, with 347 lawmakers voting in favour, 151 against and 65 abstaining.
 - ✓ The text will now be submitted to the Senate, where Macron's party does not hold a majority.
- **On February 16, Australian government – announced to amend draft laws making Google and Facebook pay for news**
- ✓ Accordingly, the publishers would be paid in lump sums rather than per click on news article links.
 - ✓ The legislative changes follow Australian ministers' weekend discussions with Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Sundar Pichai, chief executive of Alphabet Inc and its subsidiary Google.
 - ✓ The conservative government hopes to enact the so-called News Media Bargaining Code before the current session of parliament ends on February 25.
 - ✓ Google and Facebook, which take 81% of online advertising in Australia, have condemned the bill as unworkable.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Chennai-based National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) - will deploy three buoys to monitor and forecast coastal water quality in three locations along the east coast of India by February end.**
- ✓ The buoys are to be deployed on the Chennai, Puducherry and Visakhapatnam coast
 - ✓ Data from the buoys will be used to generate a five-day forecast on water quality through a computer model.
 - ✓ The data will be available for anyone using a smartphone app.
 - ✓ The new water quality buoys will replace the existing one that is off Chennai coast since 2019 for a pilot study
 - ✓ They are bigger in size and are capable of withstanding rough weather conditions including six-metre high waves.
 - ✓ The existing instrument is around 2km off the Marina beach near Cooum and anchored at a depth of more than 10m.
 - ✓ The data from the buoys will help people visiting beaches to know if the water quality is good.
 - ✓ It will also help in monitoring during incidents of oil spill or sudden increase in pollution in the coastal waters
 - ✓ The solar-powered buoys will measure parameters like dissolved oxygen, water temperature, conductivity (salinity), depth, blue-green algae, turbidity, pH and chlorophyll.

- ✓ It will also study weather parameters like atmospheric temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, besides wave speed and direction of speed and direction of currents.

WITH IMPROVED CAPACITY

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 3 buoys will be deployed off east coast by February end to monitor and forecast coastal water quality 		<p>withstand a six-metre high wave and will replace the present one off Chennai coast</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Buoys fitted with sensors will be deployed by city-based NCCR off coast of Chennai, Puducherry and Vishakapatnam 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To measure parameters like dissolved oxygen, pH and turbidity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The buoys, weighing 650kg and measuring 1.75m in diameter can 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Data will be fed automatically into a model to generate coastal water quality forecast
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The forecast will be available for beachgoers and tourists in an app developed by the lab

- ✓ At present, NCCR collects water samples manually in more than 22 locations along the 7,500km Indian coast every month to measure water quality.
- ✓ Labs like INCOIS in Hyderabad have plans to install similar buoys on the west coast.

ECONOMY

- **Cognizant - has set up a \$30 million corpus, named as a retention fund, to hold back top performers and digitally-skilled employees.**
- ✓ The corpus is used when such employees receive offers from competitors.
- ✓ The fund will be used to tackle its high attrition rate
- ✓ The company's annualised attrition rate in the December quarter was 19%, one of the highest among the large IT companies.
- ✓ Under CEO Brian Humphries, who joined in 2019, Cognizant has been undertaking a major restructuring, including getting rid of some businesses.
- ✓ Earlier, Cognizant has increased the workday for its India workforce to nine hours, from eight hours.
- ✓ It has also simultaneously increased the number of paid leaves for employees to 36.

