

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 20, 2024

### TAMIL NADU – BUDGET



- **Vada Chennai Valarchi Thittam** announced for developing North Chennai at an estimated cost of Rs 1,000 crore.
- **The Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme** would be extended to government-aided schools in rural areas for the benefit of around 2.5 lakh students enrolled from classes one to five.
- **The free bus travel scheme for women** would be extended to hilly regions such as Nilgiris, Kodaikanal and Valparai.
- **Kalaignarin Kanavu Illam scheme** has been introduced to make Tamil Nadu 'hut-free' by 2030. A total of Rs 3,500 crore has been earmarked for the project, and eight lakh houses would be built in rural areas.
- **The Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyyar Puthumai Penn scheme** that provides financial assistance of Rs 1000 each month to girl students pursuing higher

education has been extended. Girl students from government-aided Tamil medium schools will also benefit from this scheme.

- **Tamizh Pudhalvan**, has been announced to help boy students from marginalised backgrounds pursue higher education at an outlay of Rs 360 crore.
- The 'Chief Minister's **Thayumanavar scheme**' has also been announced to rescue five lakh families from poverty in the next two years. The budget has allocated Rs 27,922 crore for the purpose.
- A **new scheme Tholkudi** would be introduced to improve the living standards of tribal communities at an estimated cost of Rs 1,000 crore.
- Rs 13,720 crore has been allocated for **Kalaingar Urimai Thogai**, introduced by the Tamil Nadu government in 2023-24 fiscal year.
- Educational expenses including tuition and hostel fees of **transgender students** to be covered by Tamil Nadu government. An additional allocation of Rs 2 crore has been made to the state's Transgender Welfare Board.
- Rs 2 crore to be allocated for development of **Tamil language**.
- Rs 5 crore for **archaeological excavations** in eight locations across Tamil Nadu: Keezhadi, Vembakottai, Porpanaikottai, Keelnamandi, Tirumalapuram, Konkalinagar, Marungur, Chennanur; and four sites outside Tamil Nadu.
- A pilot study will be conducted to **explore deep-sea excavation** at a budget of Rs. 65 lakhs in partnership with the National Institute of Ocean Technology and the Indian Maritime University. This study will focus on the coastal areas of Korkai of Thoothukudi district and Alagankulam of Ramanathapuram district, which were once the ports of the Pandya Civilisation.
- **5,000 water bodies** in Tamil Nadu to be restored through community participation at an estimated cost of Rs 500 crore.
- The Tamil Nadu government has earmarked Rs 3,300 crore for **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREGA) Act**.
- Rs 500 crore additional funds to be allocated for **Singara Chennai project**. Government had already allocated Rs 1,500 crore so far.
- A sum of Rs. 5 crore would be allocated to offer financial assistance to firms which engage in the **development of AI**, machine learning and large language models tailored for Tamil language.
- New '**Thozhi**' hostels to be established for women in Chennai, Coimbatore and Madurai at an estimated cost of Rs 26 crore.
- New classrooms to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 1,000 crore. Of this, 15,000 **smart classes** to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 300 crore.
- A **film city** to be established at Poonamallee near Chennai at a cost of Rs 500 crore.
- **Adyar canal** to be renovated at a cost of Rs. 1500 crore.
- The Tamil Nadu government will set up four Olympic academies at Chennai, Madurai, Trichy and Nilgiris. Rs. 440 crore has been allocated for the Youth welfare and Sports Development.

- Rs 120 crore has been allocated to promote SC/ST entrepreneurs under the **Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme**.
- Rs 10 crore allocated to repair mosques, dargahs. Another Rs 10 crore has been earmarked for repair and renovation of churches in Chennai, Sivagangai and Cuddalore.
- A bill to establish '**Tamil Nadu State Highways**' would be introduced later in this Assembly session.
- **Kalaignar International Convention Centre** to be constructed in Muttukadu in Chennai.
- New Tamil Nadu House in New Delhi named '**Vaigai**' to be established at a cost of Rs 257 crore. The building will follow traditional Dravidian architectural design.
- 10 mini textile parks to be established in Karur, Erode and Virudhunagar at Rs 20 crore
- **500 electric buses** to be acquired by the Tamil Nadu government for a sustainable future.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

### ➤ **INDUS-X Summit**

- ✓ INDUS-X Summit is scheduled to be held on February 20-21, 2024 in New Delhi.



- ✓ The India-U.S. Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) has been at the forefront of expanding bilateral ties in defense innovation.
- ✓ The summit aims to be a pivotal event driving strategic technology partnerships and defense industrial cooperation between India and the USA.

## DEFENCE

### ➤ **Exercise Vayu Shakti-24**

- ✓ Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted 'Exercise Vayu Shakti-24' at the Pokhran range near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, presenting a formidable display of its aerial firepower.



- ✓ The event, attended by the Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, marked a significant demonstration of the IAF's offensive capabilities through a series of meticulously planned aerial manoeuvres and precision strikes.
- ✓ Adhering to this year's theme, 'Lightning Strike from the Sky', the exercise involved over 120 aircraft showcasing the IAF's day and night offensive prowess.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

- **World Day Of Social Justice: February 20**
- ✓ Every year, on the 20th of February, the global community comes together to observe the World Day of Social Justice. It serves as a reminder of the pressing need to address inequality, injustice, and social exclusion around the world.



- ✓ At the core of the World Day of Social Justice is the advocacy for decent work and fair globalization.
- ✓ The theme chosen for the World Day of Social Justice 2024, "Bridging Gaps, Building Alliances," highlights the importance of collaboration and partnership in tackling global challenges.

