MANIDHANAEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA
UNIT – V – CURRENT AFFAIRS
Policies of Tamil Nadu Govt

1. Development of the Dravidian model

- The goal is equal economic development that will be in tune with social justice.
- It has taken root since the days of the Justice Party government [in pre-Independent India].
- TN polity has divided the task into short-term and long-term, and travels with the objective of improving the economy by implementing them within the time frame.

1. Financial planning:

- TN has constituted an Economic Advisory Council comprising internationally renowned economists since there is a need to evolve an economic development to suit the current situation.
- It has emerged out higher as comparatively high levels of human development with economic dynamism.

2. Health and education:

- It sought and ensured opportunity-equalizing policies in the expanding modern sectors through affirmative action policies and investments in education and health.
- Tamil Nadu has been a pioneer in broad-basing entry into school education through a slew of incentives, the noon meal scheme being the most well-known.

3. Social Harmony:

- It also succeeded in building a bloc of lower caste groups under a Dravidian-Tamil identity that subsumed and sought to transcend individual caste identities.
- It has distinct political mobilization against caste-based inequalities in the state.
- Mobilization built an ethos that questioned the privileges of caste elites and the naturalness of merit in a caste society.

2. New Policy for Women 2021

Objectives:

- Improve the nutritional outcomes of adolescents while addressing anemia and underweight by atleast half.
- Bring additional 1 crore women into the SHG fold. Atleast 1,00,000 women enterprises would be formed by graduating from livelihoods through intensive mentoring and extensive networking and handholding through mentors.
- Bridge the Digital gender Gap among women by increased internet accessibility and availability in both urban and rural areas.

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- To facilitate data driven and evidence based policy making, all Departments shall be committed to provide gender disaggregated data annually.

- Decrease dropouts by 10% every year in secondary and by increasing tertiary enrollment rates of girl students by 5% every year.

- Support to at least 1000 women Student researchers every year especially in STEM from amongst disadvantaged sections of society.

- Reach out to 10,000 women to reduce the skill gap with the appropriate technology training to allow for lateral entry at the mid career level - second career entry for women who have quit their career for raising family or mobility issues.

- Enhance Institutional credit access and availability to women in need through establishment of Women's Bank.

- Improve self worth of women through increased confidence levels by training all school and College students in martial arts. All schools, colleges and other institutions shall ensure non-discrimination of gender and move towards gender equality.

- Promote entrepreneurship and innovation, inclusive targeting to handhold and mentor 1 lakh women owned enterprises.

- Increased women's participation in workforce leading to 40% share of state GSDP.

- Provide safe and women friendly public spaces and work spaces including Government Departments with a functional Internal Complaints Committee and Local Complaints Committee with regular third party gender safety audit.

- Ensure filing of FIRs and reporting within 24 hours of the crime incident coming to light.

- Establish a system of Victim support to all cases of abuse that focuses on rehabilitation and identity protection at the first instance without delay to ensure that women do not feel abandoned.

- Make available support systems for women at every 10km radius who are in need of emotional support mechanisms.

- All women Headed Households in Tamil Nadu would be covered under Social security schemes based on their requirement.

- Improve sex ratio at birth in Tamil Nadu the best in India.

- Encourage private, public sector listed companies, quasi government organizations, boards to provide 50% women in leadership positions.

- To encourage women to participate in political space without hindrance a finishing school to learn the basics of polity and various acts and provisions would be set up.
- Strengthen women grievance redressal through a direct phone-in programme with the Hon'ble Chief Minister would be conducted once in six months.

Implementation strategies:

The core focus areas of empowerment would be based on the guiding principles stated above thus optimizing opportunities, leveraging on current strengths, and hinging on collaboration between key stakeholders. The four pillars of empowerment upon which the guiding principles of the policy would be based are:

- Social
- Economic
- Political
- Emotional

1. Social:

Social empowerment of women is to be understood as the process of developing a sense of autonomy and self-confidence, and acting individually and collectively to change social relationships and the institutions and discourses that exclude women especially the poorest of the poor and keep them in poverty.

Gender role deconstruction starts right from an early age wherein parents and teachers play a key role. Women's empowerment and their ability to hold others to account, is strongly influenced by their individual assets (such as land, housing, livestock, savings) and capabilities of all types: human (such as good health and education), social (such as social belonging, a sense of identity, leadership relations) and psychological (self-esteem, self-confidence, the ability to imagine and aspire to a better future). Also important are women's collective assets and capabilities, such as voice, organisation, representation and identity.

Education and Research:

Equal access to education for women and girls will be ensured and initiatives taken to eliminate discrimination, universalize education, eradicate illiteracy, create a gender-sensitive educational system, increase enrolment and retention rates of girls and improve the quality of education to facilitate life long learning as well as development of occupation/vocation/technical skills.

Improving gender parity and reducing the gender gap in secondary and higher education would be a critical area. Sectoral time targets in existing policies will be achieved, with a special focus on girls and women, particularly those belonging to weaker sections including the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward

Classes/Minorities. Gender sensitive curricula would be developed at all levels of educational system in order to reduce and address sex stereotyping that is one of the causes of gender discrimination.

Health, sanitation and nutrition:

Gender inequality and discrimination faced by women and girls puts their health and well-being at risk. Tamil Nadu shall ensure that all women and girls are able to overcome the barriers faced by them in accessing health information and services.

The barriers could include restrictions on mobility; lack of access to decision-making power; lower literacy rates; discriminatory attitudes of communities and healthcare providers; and lack of training and awareness amongst healthcare providers and health systems of the specific health needs and challenges of women and girls.

Inter-sectionality:

All vulnerable, destitute and women belonging to minorities, differently abled, transgender, women headed households, deserted, widows, unattended elderly women shall be accorded priority while planning schemes and disaggregated data shall be furnished by the departments annually.

Elimination of Violence:

Violence adversely affects women's physical, sexual and reproductive, and mental health in domestic environment, public places and Institutions. Intimate partner violence and sexual violence can lead to unintended pregnancies, induced abortions (often conducted in unsafe conditions), and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

Intimate partner violence also increases the likelihood of miscarriage, pre-term births and low birth-weight babies when it occurs during pregnancy. Women subjected to violence are also at a higher risk of depression, anxiety disorders, alcohol use and attempted suicide.

Social protection:

The State shall ensure access to social protection programmes in terms of availability, accessibility and adequacy that reach those most in need.

Tamil Nadu has a high number of single women headed households (13% in urban areas and 15% in rural areas), such as widows, abandoned women, divorced women, spinsters, unmarried mothers. All single and women headed households shall be considered under multiple deprivations category and suitably considered under social protection measures.

Legal:

Legal assistance at Local level to provide legal assistance to the deprived sections of the society at the grassroots level in all Village Panchayat/Town Panchayat/ Municipality /

Corporation level across the State to help to resolve long pending litigations. Eligible cases will be referred to DLSA for further assistance.

Media:

Gender parity in the mass media i.e. print and electronic media, advertising world, film sector and new media shall be promoted by increasing the presence of women by 50% in the editorial positions.

2. Economic:

The important role played by women in secondary and tertiary sectors has been crucial to the development of these sectors. They shall be given comprehensive support in terms of labour legislation, social security and other support services to participate in various industrial sectors.

Skilling:

The State shall support Skill training to Girls in any area of their choice with equal opportunities, financial and accommodation support. These training shall include Personality development and personal transformation to empower them to manage self and business. These will act as finishing schools, honing the skills to suit market requirement.

Employment:

Exclusive job melas for women and girls in specific sectors shall be held and top industries/corporate shall be encouraged to participate and recruit.

Banking and insurance:

The State shall enable women to access the formal banking system with their own or collective collateral and develop a strategy for the financial institutions to address the significant gender gap by removing the constraints for accessing private finance.

Livelihood:

Tamil Nadu shall focus on providing/improving access to physical, social and financial endowment that will help overcome unequal distribution and give opportunities to organize and generate business.

Industry and Startups:

Tamil Nadu to encourage women Startups, it shall ensure that at least one or more women investors be included in the investment group so that the diversity of gender in the decision-making group and that there is a likelihood that women seekers of funds will get a fairer hearing and possibly receive more favourable decisions.

3. Political:

The state shall strive to "establish a society with no place for dominance" a gender neutral society where women shall have equal rights in socio-political, economic and cultural and property.

4. Emotional:

The policy aims to touch upon Psychological or Emotional empowerment of girls and women includes independence, informed decision making ability, and Positive self evolution as well as having ability to self- regulate her own life as an individual and not as a constructed feminine identity of subservience to family or society or infection of imitation.

General Support:

An exclusive website will be launched with all information relevant to women, especially on the opportunities available for women in education, scholarship, Skill training and placements, career/job opportunities, mentoring, concessions and various Government schemes.

An app or technological intervention to enable information and support systems for girl children that will be provided through a life-cycle based approach. Targeted information and interventions are possible when all girl children are tracked as soon as they are delivered in hospitals. They can be provided with requisite linkage with schemes/ programmes. This will be the affirmative action for girl child protection.

Monitoring, Research and Evaluation:

The implementation of the policy shall be monitored on a regular basis. Each strategy shall be converted into actionable points which should be measured and followed up intensely.

Evaluation:

Concurrent evaluation of the policy implementation would be done through a third party and results discussed during the HLWEC.

3. State Policy for Children 2021

A child is any person who has not completed the age of 18 years.

- The principle of "first call for children" in all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private or administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be primary consideration.

- All children have –
  - ✓ The rights irrespective of their place of birth, sex, religion, caste, class, language, and disability, social, economic or any other status without any discrimination;
  - ✓ The right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect, violence, maltreatment and exploitation; and
  - ✓ The right to express their views so that their opinions in all matters concerning them are heard and respected.

- The achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is essential for children's overall development.

Vision:

To ensure holistic development of every child in an enabling safe environment to reach her/his full potential and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals for children.

Mission:

The Government of Tamil Nadu will endeavour to ensure that every child is protected from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation, shall have access to quality health care & education, will be able to freely express his/her views on any issue concerning him/her and to ensure the principle of "Leave no one behind".

Strategic Approach:

Life, Survival, Health and Nutrition:

- Provide high priority to investing in first 1000 days of children, the period between a woman's pregnancy and completion of 2 years that provides an unique window of opportunity to build healthier and more prosperous future. Nutrition, relationships, understanding, socialization, physical, communication and environment in the first 1000 days shape a child's future outcomes particularly child's brain development and ability to grow, learn and thrive.

- Address key determinants of feticide, child mortality and morbidity; with emphasis on health, nutrition, safe potable water and high sanitation standards.

- Bottom-up increased and improved access to information, evidence and services in order to help the community take informed choices on birth, spacing of children and its impact on health.

- Strengthen public health system to work towards an improved delivery of services in terms of Reproductive and Maternal New born Child Health (RMNCH) and nutrition including pre-natal, peri-natal, ante-natal care and safe institutional delivery.

- Afford special measures for improved health care and nutrition, health and nutrition literacy for pregnant women, nursing mothers and adolescent girls using available latest technological advancements.

- Make certain that all children below the age of six have universal and equitable access to quality Early Childhood Care and Development by strengthening anganwadis.

- Continuous improvement in neo-natal care delivery and child health (prevention, treatment, care and management); protect children from all communicable, non-communicable and preventable diseases and provide universal and affordable access to such services.

- Avert HIV infections at birth and make sure that infected children receive appropriate care pathway, nutrition and after-care.
- Encourage and support focused behavior change to improve new born and child care practices at the household and community levels.
- Deliver timely interventions to prevent disabilities (both mental and physical), during, before and after pregnancy in the mother and child.
- Offer services for early detection, treatment and management of disabilities at the pre and post-natal stage.
- Fortify services for management, support and rehabilitation of children with special needs and education for children with disability.
- Restructure child immunization schedules based on emerging needs and intensify universal awareness programs for increased uptake of immunizations.
- Optimize mechanisms for early detection, management and treatment of health issues among children.
- Build on currently available essential maternal and child health services.
- Strengthen access to information, support services essential for physical, mental and reproductive health and development (including healthy lifestyle choices) of children and increased involvement of community.
- Establish mechanisms to increase awareness on physical & mental health and monitoring the health of all children and adolescents, and involvement of community.
- Ratify only child safe products and services for children by enforcing safety standards.
- Promote crèches, day care facilities for children of working, underprivileged or ailing mothers; set-up baby feeding facilities in public places and at work places.
- Build evidence- based research for health innovations.
- Focused interventions in areas of low parameters / standards.
- Ensure adequate food-security and safety is available to all children.
- Ensure adolescent friendly health services.
- Prevent micro-nutrient deficiencies by improving awareness of and access to micro-nutrient rich foods.
- Tracking children from 0 to 18 years including children of migrant labourers, street children, Children in slums, Third gender, Differently Abled Children.

Education:
- Facilitation of the holistic development of children with emphasis on their strengths and empowering them to manage their lives, body and behavior.

- Provision of a safe, secure learning setting that ensures the physical, mental and emotional safety and well-being of the child.
- Access to a formal school within their neighbourhood for all children completing 5 years.
- Increased access to free, equitable, inclusive and quality education in safe schools through reduction of school dropouts at all levels by addressing various barriers to education such as gender and social exclusion, child marriage, child labour, gender and social exclusion, etc.
- Making high quality secondary level education affordable and accessible for all children and thereby, empowering them to reach higher education.
- Building in age appropriate, participatory and child friendly processes of teaching and learning with emphasis on gender equality, value education, life-skills and self-defence.
- Development and sustenance of systems providing quality education to everybody.
- Inclusivity in schools, replete with appropriate infrastructure, adequate trained personnel and special educators for children with special needs and inclusive education system for children with disability and special needs.
- Identify gifted children, especially those belonging to disadvantaged groups and provide them with backing, encouragement and assistance.
- Foster equal opportunity, treatment and participation irrespective of place of birth, sex, religion, caste, health, disability or social, economic or any other status and eliminate discrimination of all forms in schools.
- Engrain a culture of positive discipline with dignity within schools and teachers; strictly forbid corporal punishment or mental harassment of any form within or outside the class.
- Prioritization of access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools to provide inclusive and affordable quality education for all children particularly in situations like pandemic and natural or human made disaster.
- Digital education to all children that is safe, enjoyable and age appropriate.
- Ensuring and maintenance of quality of standards of schools and child care institutions by building adequate infrastructure including science labs, computer labs, libraries, clean functional toilets, provision of safe potable water and hygienic environment.
- Provision of a gamut of career choices through counselling, vocational guidance and training options to all children in schools and also a special focus to school dropouts.

- Develop, review and sustain age-specific initiatives for safe spaces for play, sports, recreation, leisure, traditional and modern sports, cultural and scientific activities in neighbourhoods, schools and other institutions to develop children's innate potential.

- Create a literate environment throughout the state by improving adult literacy and inculcation of reading habits among children by upgrading locally accessible public libraries in all panchayats and school libraries.

- Make schools free from alcohol, tobacco and all narcotic substances.

- Liaison with local governments and civil society organizations to map the gaps in availability and relevance of educational services.

- Tracking of children schools – particularly dropouts and the causes of it.

- Strengthen School Management Committees to ensure free, inclusive, equitable and quality education in safe schools for all children.

- Introduce Constitutional Rights to all children as part of regular school curriculum to promote them as responsible citizens.

- Strengthen community based mechanisms, multi-sectoral collaboration, partnerships and convergence, working with local bodies and civil society organisations.

- Identify the children of migrant workers, who are eligible for schooling in each area; Take all efforts to continue their studies and provide opportunities for continuing education in their mother tongue; support them by all means to continue their studies without any barrier.

Protection:

- Strengthen and sustain community based mechanisms to protect children from all forms of abuse (physical, emotional, sexual, neglect, denial and online), discrimination, exploitation, violence or any other activity that will harm them or affect their care, protection and overall development.

- Government of Tamil Nadu affirms its commitment towards "Zero Tolerance to any form of violence against children" and provide equal importance to protection of children as well as prevention of all forms of violence against children.

- Introduce and adopt child protection policy in all panchayats and urban bodies for creating child safe spaces in whole State of Tamil Nadu.

- Introduce child safeguarding policy in all schools to make all schools safe for children.

- Form Internal Complaints Committee under POSH Act in all schools.

- Strengthen existing child protection systems particularly Village Level Child Protection Committee (VLCPC) and Neighborhood Child Protection Committee (NCPC).

- Awareness campaigns on all forms of violence against children, its negative impact on children, laws/institutions to be accessed/ approached for redressal, etc. through all forms of media such as print, electronic and social media.

- At all times, ensure that the rights and dignity of all children are upheld (irrespective of sex, religion, language, caste, disability, social and economic background).

- Create safe, respectful caring, child-friendly public, learning, media and online spaces.

- Employ special measures to ensure the rights and entitlements of children in need of special protection.

- Strengthen Family care / Alternative care and consider institutionalization as the last resort and measure.

- Implement highest standards of safety and security within all child care institutions.

- Build a preventive, responsive child protection system; promote effective enforcement of legislation and administrative measures against all forms of abuse, neglect, discrimination, exploitation.

- Strengthen child-protection structures and schemes so that they are equipped and competent to fulfill the needs of children particularly children with special needs.

- Improve awareness of children on available services and systems for their protection.

- Leverage multi-sectoral collaboration, plan and commitment of various stakeholders for a synchronized and effective child protection system.

- Evolve village, block, district, state-level mechanisms to identify, intervene with and resolve all issues related to children.

- Upgrade rehabilitation services under the child protection system with special focus on mental health and psycho-social support.

- Ensure privacy of children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law; maintain data confidentiality.

- Reinforce readiness of data repository and data management systems to provide real-time data to enhance monitoring, evaluation and decision making.

- Create family strengthening services to prevent entry and re-entry of children into institutions.

- Augment community awareness by creating appropriate IEC materials specific to child protection and development.
- Prevent re-victimization of children coming into the child-protection network.
- Strengthen after-care services for children leaving institutional care till they become self-reliant and independent.
- Conduct periodical appraisals, research and social audits to enhance decision making in child protection policy formulations.
- Build and enable a disaster and emergency management system for the sole purpose of protecting children.
- Promote and reinforce redressal mechanisms for safe guarding child rights at different levels.

Participation:

- Ensuring that children are apprised of their rights, provided with prospects to develop their skills, build on their aspirations and express their views, in accordance with their age, maturity and capacities.
- Promote linkages and strengthen platforms for children to express their opinions and needs.
- Building opportunities for children to engage in issues of concern to them.
- Promote and strengthen respect for the views of the child, especially those of girl children.
- Establishing benchmarks to measure the extent of children's participation in the family, schools and community is being realized, and backing these up with evidence-based research and independent valuations.
- Building a strong partnership with CSOs, INGOs / NGOs, Networks, Corporates and Academic institutions by forming a "Civil Society Support Group for children for consultations and advisory support".
- Strengthening of local bodies, community based organisations, inter-departmental convergence and coordination to consolidate multi-sectoral actions.
- Building a strong sustainable model of programming for children based on Tamil Nadu State Policy for Children for a stronger equity-focused approach by identifying the most deprived children, investing in new proven and cost-effective interventions, overcoming bottlenecks and partnering with International and National Organisations and communities.
- Creation of Bala Sabhas in all Gram Panchayats where all children in the age group of 12-18 are members.

- Bala Sabhas to meet at least four times in a year as Gram Sabha, pass resolutions on matters related to children and submit it to Gram Sabha to take appropriate action by affirming the resolutions passed in Bala Sabha.
- Strengthening the existing systems
- Establishing proper systems to monitor the implementation of the policy measures
- Convergence of action between all relevant departments
- Creating awareness among children and all stakeholders about this policy and the Government of Tamil Nadu's commitment to the cause of children.
- Allocating adequate budget in proportion to the child population of the State and that enables to fulfill the promises of the Government of Tamil Nadu to all children particularly from vulnerable communities and girls.
- Harnessing technological advancements to the optimum level to realize its commitments to all children of the state.

4. TN R&D Policy 2022

Research & Development (R&D) helps in innovating and developing new technology and knowledge, which leads to an increase in productivity and economic growth globally in the long run. Tamil Nadu is a manufacturing hub, the R&D is mainly driven by the need of an industry. It is ranked among the top 3 states in India for R&D innovation and first in human capital by India Innovation Index. It is one of the few states which has more female researchers than male and accounts for 9% share, the second highest state for R&D expenditure in the country.

Need & Scope of R&D Policies in Tamil Nadu:

Tamil Nadu's economy to boost USD 1 Trillion by end of this decade. This massive goal, although comforted by the finance minister as an achievable one, requires a lot of investment in research and development. Research and development is the stem of most thriving economies. It is therefore a natural trajectory that Tamil Nadu may choose to take and invest more in R&D. Other factors that encourage R&D in TN are to increase the value chain and capitalise the economic opportunities created by the manufacturing sector. To create a better competitive ecosystem for R&D nationally and globally along with increasing the job opportunities for more scientists. A comprehensive approach is required to encourage more R&D services in the state. This approach will concentrate on shifting from a compartmental economy to a unified economy driven by the manufacturing and services sector.

Key Objectives:

The main objective of the new Tamil Nadu R&D Policy 2022 is to transform Tamil Nadu into a knowledge-based economy and increase private sector R&D expenditure

by 2030. In a broader sense, it will increase the inputs including the appointment of new researchers and scientists in both government and private sectors and output for innovation such as patents and publications. Highlighting the benefits for the development side, it will be used for creating an ecosystem of research parks, research centres and innovation hubs. The policy promotes R&D in the private sector by targeting the existing R&D performing firms in both the manufacturing and service sectors.

The main reason for boosting private R&D is because it will increase the competitiveness of their products and services and innovation is inherent to their growth. These reasons will support the business initiatives to establish and expand R&D Centres, General Capability Centres (GCCs) through various incentives.

Eligibility Criteria:

The GCCs and R&D firms should fulfil the following eligibility criteria for receiving the incentive, i) must have a minimum of Rs 50 Crores(INR) in fixed assets for a period of 4 years and having at least 50 people in employment, ii) Clearly demarcated facilities in or outside the Projects and iii) must use R&D products in Tamil Nadu. Another eligibility criteria for receiving a special package incentive states that investment made from 1st April 2022 will be considered for availing incentives.

Fiscal Incentives:

The special package incentives can be claimed for the following;

1. **Land Cost Incentive:** R&D projects shall be given 50% of the cost of purchase or lease of land for upto 20 acre, with Rs 5 million/acre. This can also be used as reimbursement after starting the project

2. **R&D Training Incentive:** Training incentive can be availed for 12 months for Rs 10,000 per person per month for the residents of Tamil Nadu. The employees should be engaged in core R&D and have qualifications in technology/sciences and a work experience of 7 years, or a post-graduate degree in technology/sciences and a work experience of 5 years, or a doctorate in sciences/technology.

3. **Quality Certification Incentive:** Projects obtaining quality certification (ISO, ISI, BIS, FPO, BEE, AGMARK) or any other national/international certificates will be claiming a subsidy of 50% of the total cost incurred for obtaining the certification and limited to Rs 10 million for the period of investment.

4. **Intellectual Property Incentive:** Reimbursement of 50% of expenditure to maximum of Rs 10 million can be claimed as in-house R&D for intellectual property and upto Rs 5 crore for standalone R&D assets.

5. **Standard Incentive:** Another eligibility for standard incentive will be electricity tax exemption for 5 years, stamp duty exemption, and green industry incentives of up to Rs. 10 million. In house R&D will not be eligible for this incentive because this is applicable for industrial units .

6. **SGST Refund:** The R&D project can also claim SGST refund on capital goods.

Additional incentives will include:

1. **Special Capital subsidy:** This incentive states that the R&D firms and GCCs rely on imports of specialized equipment which is used for R&D activities. A special capital subsidy is provided for the above quality research which includes 25% on Eligible Fixed asset (EFA)and shall be distributed in equal instalments of over 10 years from the date of purchase of land, machinery and equipment ,or Rs. 25 million, whichever is lesser.

2. **Innovation lab Incentive:** Innovation labs can claim 50% of the EFA as a reimbursement up to Rs 10 million provided the labs are accredited as per NABL, ISO certified.

3. **License Cost Incentive:** The cost incurred on proprietary software license is one of the major expenditures for R&D firms and GCCs. Hence 50% of the expenditure on purchase of specialized software license within 4 years of the investment period is subject to Rs 2.5 million.

4. **Product testing and prototyping Incentive:** Prototyping stage is very crucial which helps in identifying errors before commercialization. Hence R&D centres and GCCs are provided with 25% of the EFA, subject to a ceiling of Rs 10 million.

5. **Startups Incentives:** Tamil Nadu startup and Innovation Mission (TANSIM) has a target to establish 10,000 start-ups in TN by 2026. Hence a grant of Rs 1 million is offered to start-ups.

Governing Bodies:

The Tamil Nadu R&D Policy 2022 will be governed by Tamil Nadu R&D mission, a Section 8 company established by the Government of Tamil Nadu. They will act as a facilitator in enabling interactions between academia and industry for building necessary linkages. R&D mission will also assist the Government of Tamil Nadu in R&D procurement programmes and also in monitoring and evaluating the impact of R&D projects in the state. It will create a framework for monitoring and tracking the innovation and R&D activities in the state. They also act as implementing agencies for the policy. Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy, 2021 serves as a recommendatory body to the Cabinet for sanction of incentives and SIPCOT shall be the disbursal agency for all incentives. Operational guidelines and clarification may be issued from time to time.

Destination of FDIs:

The Tamil Nadu R&D Policy 2022 is expected to boost Tamil Nadu's image as a interesting destination for many FDIs as well. Tamil Nadu is a top investment destination in India for many FDIs due to the advanced infrastructure and location advantages that it brings. The FDI in R&D will also enhance the quality of R&D investment and promote innovations. The design, development and testing component in R&D will make the foreign products suitable to the Indian environment. According to an investment location comparison tool, Chennai emerged as the economical location for electronic R&D, with an estimated annual operating costs of $1.24 million for a 50-person R&D centre. The doubling of R&D expenditure policy in Tamil Nadu will increase innovations and research which indeed will attract many foreign investments.

About SAS Partners:

SAS Partners Corporate Advisors, a corporate advisory organisation based in Tamil Nadu helping companies in setting up their business in India and achieving their goals. We have a strong track road of associating with numerous domestic as well as international businesses in establishing their successful presence in India.

5. **Tamil Nadu FinTech Policy**

The Tamil Nadu FinTech Policy 2021 has set a vision to transform the State into a leading global destination for fintech firms by 2025. The State government is cognisant of the roles essayed by different fintech stakeholders and intends to support and nurture them by providing a customised set of incentives for each, said the policy released by Chief Minister MK Stalin on Tuesday at the Investment Conclave held in Coimbatore. Fintech is an emerging sector that the Tamil Nadu government is strongly promoting. It has already-kick started the implementation of fintech city in Chennai at a cost of ₹165 crore.

The policy seeks to support fintech start-ups in multiple ways including reimbursing 75 per cent of operational expenses and 100 per cent of SGST for three years apart from repayment of costs incurred for training and marketing.

Regionally balanced

The government seeks to promote regionally balanced development in the State by providing higher incentives for firms setting up in Tier 2 and 3 cities. Incentive limits for fintech firms in Tier 3 cities shall be double that of those in a Tier 1 city while those setting up in a Tier 2 city shall have limits increased to 1.5 times of that of Tier 1 cities.

Funding avenues

In addition to supporting fintech start-ups and large firms venturing into the sector, the State government will support angel funds, private equity, venture capital funds and incubators.

Fintech start-ups now have multiple funding avenues including Tamil Nadu StartUp Seed Grants, Tamil Nadu Emerging Sector Seed Fund, Digital Accelerator under *Yaadhum Oorae* and State Innovation Fund.

Srivats Ram, President, Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said, "We believe that this could be a driver for growth and higher value-added employment generation for the State as we have the necessary ingredients to build a FinTech ecosystem."

Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Krea University, and former CMD of Cognizant India, said, "The policy lays great stress on ensuring that this opportunity expands to Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities by creating a hub-and-spoke model for inclusive growth. Given the high levels of urbanisation in the State and availability of technology and finance talent across the State, having dedicated labs in neo-TIDEL parks will enable distributed innovation and entrepreneurship and well-rounded growth across the State."

6. **Tamil Nadu Export Promotion Strategy 2021**

The Tamil Nadu Export Promotion Strategy 2021 (EPS 2021) was released on Wednesday by Chief Minister MK Stalin with an aim to increase exports from the State to $100 billion by 2030 from the current $26 billion. This is in alignment with the State's target of becoming a $1 trillion economy by 2030. Its GDP was $300 billion in 2020-21. EPS 2021 says that the State's strengths in exports and its established infrastructure for exports serve a 'bedrock' for attracting investors to the State. This, in turn, acts as a catalyst for trade. There is a need for an export promotion strategy to focus on export diversification and export dispersion - identifying districts as export hubs.

The State's export basket is highly diversified with the top ten products contributing 70 per cent of the export share. The State, according to studies, has an estimated untapped export potential of ₹1.6 lakh crore.

To encourage exporters, the State government's approach will be along the channels to promote dispersion of export hubs in the State and diversification of the State's export basket. It will be augmented by export promotion activities. The measures would include both soft and hard interventions such as marketing assistance, annual export awards, policy support and infrastructure development. The State has also identified textiles, automotive, leather, electronics & electrical equipment, general machinery and food processing as export champion sectors with interventions for each sector, says the EPS 2021 released at the Tamil Nadu Exports Conclave.

Economic employment enclaves

The government aims to undertake a balanced regional development in the State through a mix of infrastructure upgradation in existing export hubs and the development of new economic employment enclaves. The government in a coordinated effort with various departments, including highways and ports, transport, energy, housing and urban development, will provide common infrastructure and utilities in these enclaves and ensure they have 'excellent' infrastructure connectivity.

In the first phase, two such enclaves will be set up-at Manellore (6,000 acres) and Thoothukudi (5,000 acres) - by the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu on the lines of globally recognised eco-industrial park frameworks. They will be designed to improve the socio, economic and environmental performance of the residential manufacturing units.

The enclaves will be demarcated regions with the nearest district boundaries at a distance of 60 km from the key export gateway. They will have industrial parks with an area of at least 5,000 acres with an annual export of ₹10,000 crore and employment potential of 1 lakh jobs.

Export hubs

The State will strengthen the export hubs in places like Chennai, Kanchipuram, Hosur, Tirupur, Karur, Madurai, Ambur, Thoothukudi and Pollachi, by supporting infrastructure development. Each hub will be eligible for reimbursement of 25 per cent of the cost of setting up export-related common infrastructure projects or infrastructure projects servicing export-oriented industrial clusters like industrial housing, skilling centres and testing centres with a ceiling of ₹10 crore per export hub.

Export diversification

Export organisations that achieve the threshold level of value-addition creating new/additional export capacities on or after January 1, 2021, will be eligible for value-added payroll assistance in the form of reimbursement of 5 per cent of annual payroll cost for employees for a period of three years in proportion to the value addition (ceiling of ₹1.8 crore per annum). A reimbursement of 50 per cent cost of quality certifications like ISO that are required specifically for exports up to a cost of ₹2 crore will be provided. The State will set up an exports portal to provide a comprehensive solution for queries and grievances of exporters, the EPS 2021 said.

Stalin in his speech said that while Made in India products are already available across the world, it is time now that products under the brand Made in Tamil Nadu should also be available globally.

7. Tamilnadu Bio Science Development Policy 2022

The Tamil Nadu government on Monday released two major policies—Research & Development Policy 2022 and Life Sciences Promotion Policy 2022. The State government has set a goal to double R&D expenditure from the government, higher education, and private sector by 2030, attracting ₹20,000 crore of investment in the Life Sciences and generating 50,000 jobs in the sector in the State.

Chief Minister MK Stalin released the policies at the Tamil Nadu Investors' First Port of Call-Investment Conclave held on Monday.

The Policy will provide a special package for R&D centres and Global Captive Centres that will include a special capital subsidy; an innovation lab incentive; a subsidy for software licence; a subsidy for product testing and prototyping facilities; and a training subsidy.

It aims to increase the inputs to R&D, including the number of researchers and scientists in both government and private sectors. The policy's aim is also to increase innovation outputs such as patents and publications and develop a synergetic innovation ecosystem of research parks, research centres, Centres of Excellence and innovation hubs, says the policy.

On interventions, the policy aims at strengthening the knowledge infrastructure. This includes innovation clusters, dedicated hi-tech corridors along with industrial corridors, knowledge cities and research parks.

On enhancing human capital, the policy says technology transfer offices should be set up for capacity building in technical colleges and universities.

The Life Sciences Policy says that the special package of incentives for life sciences will include the incentives applicable to the Sunrise sectors under TNIP 2021. The policy will also include incentives like overseas training subsidies and anchor unit subsidies.

The policy's mission is to transform the State into the most preferred destination for researchers in biologics, biosimilars, and medical technology. The initiative also aims to improve the ease of doing business for life sciences firms.

It aims to strengthen the industrial ecosystem for four broad segments: bio-technology and bio-services; pharma and nutraceutical industries; medical devices and medical textiles.

8. Tamilnadu Electric Vehicle Policy 2019

To promote electric vehicle adoption in Tamil Nadu, the Tamil Nadu government has announced Electric Vehicle Policy 2019, which exempts all battery-operated Vehicles (electric vehicles) from motor vehicle taxes in the state. The Tamil Nadu government will focus on policy interventions aimed at promoting EV manufacturing as well as EV marketing in the state.

MANIDHANAEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA
UNIT – V – CURRENT AFFAIRS

To promote investment in electric vehicle manufacturing, EV battery manufacturing or assembly and EV charging infrastructure manufacturing, and equipment manufacturing enterprises, incentives, and concessions will be given by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Further, it is envisaged that the network and dissemination effects will lead to initial market creation through demand-side incentives, and the creation of charging infrastructure will promote a culture of EV usage in the state. The vision of the state for each class of vehicles will be as follows.

Incentives on the Purchase of Electric Two Wheeler

- 100% road tax exemption will be provided till 30.12.2022.
- Waiver on Registration charges/fees will be done as per Government of India's notification.

Incentives on the Electric Auto-Rickshaws

- An Open Permit System will apply to approved e-Auto Permits to be issued. The list of approved e-autos will be notified by the Department of Transport. The following further incentives will be offered:
- Auto Rickshaw permit fees will be waived for e-autos till 30.12.2022.
- 100% Road Tax exemption for e-autos till 30.12.2022.
- Waiver on Registration charges/fees will be done as per Government of India's notification.

EV Incentives for Transport Vehicles Such as Taxi, Tourist Cars, etc.

- Taxi permit fees will be waived for Electric Transport Vehicles till 30.12.2022. ii) 100% Road Tax exemption for all Electric Transport Vehicles till 30.12.2022.
- Waiver on Registration charges/ fees will be done as per Government of India's notification.
- STUs will be provided with subsidy to enable purchase of EV buses.

Incentives for Light Goods Carriers (including E-Three Wheeler)

- There will be no requirement of permit for the three-wheeler goods, e-carriers as well as electric Light Goods carrier.
- %100Road Tax exemption for all e-carriers registered till 30.12.2022.
- Waiver on Registration charges/fees will be done as per Government of India's notification.

Incentives for Private Cars by Tamil Nadu Government

- Private car owners shall be encouraged to switch over to electric cars.
- Waiver on Registration charges/fees will be done as per Government of India's notification.
- Road tax exemption will be enhanced from 50% to 100% till 30.12.2022.

EV Incentives and Support for Charging Stations

Experience in other cities around the world shows that the availability of charging stations is a major driver for EV adoption. The Tamil Nadu EV policy aims to create an enabling environment for providing private and public charging infrastructure in the state. In this regard, the State Government is committed to:

- The State will invest in setting up charging stations, with the active participation of public sector units including TANGEDCO and private players.
- The Government will develop schemes with appropriate capital subsidy to enable private operators to set up public charging stations.
- Provision for charging stations will be made in commercial buildings such as hotels, shopping malls, cinema halls, apartments, etc.
- The Government will take effort to set up 3*3 Grid charging stations in Chennai, Coimbatore, Trichy, Madurai, Salem and Tirunelveli.
- One charging station will be set up at 25 km intervals on both sides of NHAI and State Highways.

Highlights:

- Electrify 5% of buses every year by 2030, and convert shared mobility fleets,
- Institutional vehicles, and e-commerce delivery and logistics vehicles to EVs by 2030.
- Convert all auto-rickshaws in six major cities to EVs within a span of 10 years.
- Establish venture capital and business Incubation service
- Hubs to encourage electric vehicle start-ups.
- EV-related and charging Infrastructure manufacturing units will
- Receive 100% exemption on electricity tax till 2025.

9. Tamilnadu Industrial Policy 2021

The State Cabinet meeting which was chaired by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Edappadi K Palaniswami, cleared the 34 major investment proposals with a total investment of Rs 52,257 crore.

Highlights

- These new Industrial Policy have the potential to create 93,935 jobs.
- These investments will be done in the sectors including automobiles & auto components, electronics, solar cell manufacturing and including electric vehicles.
- The Cabinet also cleared the Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy, 2021.
- These incentive packages have been formulated in such a way that it will suit the requirement of each investor.
- Some of the investment policy that cabinet cleared includes

- ○ Rs 5,763 crore-worth mobile phone components manufacturing unit by Tata Electronics in Krishnagiri district. It has the potential to create 18,250 jobs.
- ○ Rs 4,629 crore-worth investments by SunEdison that produce solar PV models. It has the potential to create 5,397 jobs.
- ○ Rs 2,500 crore worth lithium-ion batteries manufacturing plant in Tiruvallur district by Lucas TVS. It has the potential to create 3,500 jobs.

Industrial Policy of Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu has always been the forefront of economic growth in India. The Government of Tamil Nadu has made significant growth in the field of automobiles, textile, engineering, Information Technology, leather, electric hardware and hi-technology industries over time. To maintain the pace the Government has formulated Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy which the aim of providing the necessary infrastructure in order to ensure the sustained industrialisation in Tamil Nadu.

Objectives

- Obtaining boost the average growth rate of manufacturing sector.
- Achieving the sustainable industrial development.
- Providing employment opportunities in the state.
- Enhance the growth of high technology (Hi-Technology) industries such as aerospace and nanotechnology.

10. Tamilnadu MSME Policy 2021

The CM also unveiled new MSME (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) Policy 2021 to provide a vital environment for MSMEs/startups. In this regard, the state government already set aside Rs.500 crore for upgradation and maintenance of Tamilnadu Small Industries Development Corporation Limited (TANSIDCO) estates.

Policy Target:

To attract new investments worth Rs 2-lakh crore by 2025

Key Points:

- Several concessions including land at 50% discounted price, will be provided to the entrepreneurs starting ventures in the 22 industrially backward districts.
- The MSMEs capital subsidy will be increased to Rs 1.5 crore from the present Rs 50 lakh
- New MSMEs and start-ups will be exempted from approvals for establishment and operation for a period of three years based on self-certification. It is on the condition that the unit should have mandatory approval within a period of one year from the expiry of the 3-year period.

- The new policy has also enhanced ceiling for various subsidies provided to MSMEs plug & play facilities, plots and sheds will be developed and made available to them on short term lease.
- TN signs 28 MoUs worth Rs 28,053 crore

The state government of TN signed a total of 28 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with a cumulative investment of Rs 28,053 crores across various sectors, including Electric Vehicles, Wind Energy, Auto Components, City Gas, Textiles etc. These MoUs will generate employment for 68,775 persons.

Major Investors

Elest Private Limited:

The state government has inked MoU with Elest Private Limited under which the latter will make investments of Rs 7,948 crore. Elest will be responsible for the manufacturing of cell, battery, E-bus and E-truck which aims to provide employment to 8,081 people.

Tata Electronics:

- As a part of MoU, Rs 4,684 crore will be invested by Tata Electronics in TN's Krishnagiri to make mechanical enclosures for mobile phones. It will create job opportunities for 18,250 people.
- In this regard, Tata Electronics has been allotted 500 acre by TIDCO.

AG & P:

Atlantic, Gulf & Pacific Company (AG&P), a downstream gas and LNG logistics company, signed MoU with TN Government for the development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) networks to supply natural gas across six districts of Tamil Nadu. The company will invest Rs 2,430 crore over the next eight years.

- The new CGD infrastructure will be developed under AG&P's CGD brand in India - AG&P Pratham.
- It will deliver uninterrupted supply of PNG (Piped Natural Gas) to households, commercial and industrial customers, and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) depots and stations for 24x7 access to CNG for vehicles.

Ampere Electric:

Ampere Electric, the electric-mobility arm of Greaves Cotton, will set up a manufacturing plant at Ranipet in TN to invest Rs 700 cr over 10 years.

Sun Edison:

SunEdison also signed an MoU under which it will invest Rs 1,423 crore in the state.

Other major Investments under MoUs:

ELEST – Rs 7,948 crore (8,081 persons); AG&P – Rs 2,430 crore (7,000 persons); Netmagic/NTT – Rs 1,377 crore (100 persons); Nordex Acciona – Rs 1,200 crore

(3,000 persons); TVS Tyres – Rs 1,000 crore (1,000 persons); Valeo – Rs 830 crore (2,400 persons); Grasim Industries – Rs 750 crore (300 persons) and Ampere – Rs 700 crore (1,459 persons).

CM inaugurated 8 completed projects worth Rs 3,377 crores:

The CM also inaugurated eight completed projects worth Rs 3,377 crores, which can create employment for 7,139 persons.

- These projects include a four-wheeler manufacturing unit by France-based PCA
- Automobiles in Tiruvallur, and AG&P's CNG Mother Station at Ramanathapuram.
- He also dedicated the state's recently launched first City Gate Station in Ramanathapuram District.

Laying of foundation stone:

- The CM also laid the foundation for 10 new industrial parks.
- These include foundation stone for the formation of four new Industrial Parks of SIPCOT at Manapparai, Maanallu, Oragadam, and Dharmapuri.
- These parks will cater to the requirements of the automobile and auto component sector, food processing, general engineering industries, E-vehicle manufacturing, and Textiles sector by providing employment opportunities for more than one lakh persons.
- The rest foundation stones were laid for six industrial estates of TANSIDCO in various districts that would help generate employment to 13,300 people

Additional Info:

- TN has attracted a total investment of Rs 6.85 lakh crore in ten year period.
- In 2020, the state unveiled the Tamil Nadu Electronics Hardware Manufacturing Policy, 2020, and has set an ambitious target to increase electronics industry output to $100

11. **Tamil Nadu State Draft Policy for Senior Citizens, 2022**

   Vision

   To serve the senior citizens of the state in a holistic manner thus enabling them to live a safe, healthy, active and a dignified life. And to promote an age friendly society through public and private partnerships and enhance the quality of life of the elderly in Tamil Nadu.

   Focus areas of the policy

   - Health and Nutrition
   - Social Security Schemes
   - Livelihood/ Income Security
   - Housing and Environment

- Safety and Security
- Institutional Care
- Awareness and Education
- Research and Documentation
- Disaster Management and Mitigation
- Directorate for the Welfare of Senior Citizens

1. Establishment of geriatric care in all medical colleges and district government hospitals

i.   The State shall establish geriatric department in all district government hospitals/medical colleges. Exclusive queue for senior citizens in outpatient, laboratory and pharmacy must be practiced in all government hospitals and private hospitals.

ii.   The State shall make it mandatory for all senior citizens being admitted in hospital to go through a comprehensive geriatric assessment by a trained professional.

iii. The State shall endeavor to establish and increase the number of seats in Doctor of Medicine (MD) Geriatrics postgraduate course in all Government medical colleges. The State shall make it mandatory for the private medical colleges to follow the same.

iv.   The State shall make it mandatory to include geriatrics in the curriculum of undergraduate medical course (MBBS), nursing and paramedical courses.

v.   The State shall encourage to utilise the existing National Centre for Ageing in the King Institute Campus, Guindy as a centre of excellence for elderly care.

2. Establishment of specialized centres for the elderly – geriatric day care centre, mental health centre, palliative care centre, dementia care centre, rehabilitation centre for differently abled elders and naturopathy and yoga centre in rural and urban areas

i.   The State shall appoint a multidisciplinary team, which includes geriatrician/medical doctor, nurse, paramedical, professional social worker, physiotherapist, psychologist, psychiatrist, naturopathist and dietician, and provide training for the effective functioning of the centres to meet the holistic needs of the elderly.

ii.   The State shall develop new guidelines on managing palliative care centre, geriatric day care centre, mental health centre, dementia care centre and rehabilitation centre for the differently abled for both public and private care centres.

iii. The State shall ensure doctors and health staff in Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs) to be equipped for providing treatment and counselling for patients with mental health and mental illness issues. A therapeutic team should be trained to identify Dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, depression in the early stages.

iv. The State shall ensure access to aids and appliances for the differently abled senior citizens.

3. Universal and equal access to healthcare services for senior citizens

i. The State shall develop a public private partnership to conduct regular medical camps focusing on general health, hearing impairment and vision related problems/vision restoration for early screening, diagnosis, and treatment.

ii. The State shall provide a comprehensive health insurance specifically for the elderly above 60yrs of age facilitated through the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs).

iii. The National Health Insurance Scheme provided by the Government of Tamil Nadu can be extended to the parents as 'dependents' of the employees apart from their family members by deducting additional premium from their salary.

iv. The State shall intensify the services of "Makkal Thedi Maruthuvam" for the elderly to ensure delivery of essential healthcare at their doorstep.

v. The State shall provide the monthly medicines/adult diapers for chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, renal and cardiac diseases and cancer and other non-communicable diseases through the "Makkal Thedi Maruthuvam" scheme.

vi. The State shall provide need-based assistive devices to senior citizens for enhancing their mobility and active daily living (Free for elders in the BPL category and subsidised amount for others) in partnership with the private sector.

vii. The State shall initiate an adult vaccination protocol that would be provided in all Government hospitals free of cost.

4. Introduction of new scheme - Integrated Geriatric Management Scheme (IGMS)

The State shall introduce a new scheme IGMS (similar to ICDS) to provide health and nutrition services by utilising the existing anganwadi centres/noon meal centres. The new scheme aims to improve the nutritional and health status through distribution of medicines and nutritious meals (noon meal scheme, meals on wheels services), awareness, and administration of vaccines (pneumococcal and flu vaccines) through multipurpose health workers/village Health Nurses, regular health checkups and referral services.

5. Special ration for elders

i. The State shall provide special nutrition-based ration package for elders through the public distribution system.

ii. The State shall prioritise to issue ration cards to elders who are single.

6. Provision of Elder Card to all senior citizens

i. The State shall provide universal elder card to all senior citizens to get benefits on social entitlements, insurance and medical expenses, public transportation, and entry into recreational places.

ii. The State shall permit the use of the elder card to access IGMS and claim the special ration package for elders in ration shops.

iii. The State shall make it mandatory for all Government and private sectors to give priority and maintain a separate access exclusively for senior citizens for provision of seamless services.

Social Security Schemes

i. Revision of eligibility criteria for old age pension
ii. Simplification of the application process
iii. Increase of old age pension
iv. Public distribution system
v. Specialised Camps

Livelihood/ Income Security

i. Ensuring regular source of income for active elderly through Livelihood Activities
ii. Ensuring Vulnerability Reduction and Livelihood Promotions through developing institutional platforms
iii. Formation and strengthening of Elders Self Help Groups
iv. Enabling elders to be financially secure
v. Establish market linkages for products manufactured by Senior Citizens

Housing and Environment

i. Ensuring access to housing, essential infrastructure facilities and public spaces
ii. Establishment of transit shelters for the senior citizens in homeless situation

Safety and Security

i. Enforcement of punishments for elder abuse
ii. Establishment of rescue/rehabilitation centre for victims of abuse
iii. Policing
iv. Legal provision
v. Baseline Assessment

Institutional Care

Establishment of residential old age homes – in rural and urban areas (non-profit and commercial)

Awareness and education

i.   Develop new curriculum in schools, colleges, and universities
ii. Developing Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials
iii. Intergenerational bonding (IGB)
iv. Observance of International days related to elderly
v.   Awareness and education through mass communication – print media/broadcasting media/digital media/social media (TV/radio broadcast, flyers, digital displays and advertisements in parks, malls, train and bus stations and social media)
vi. Ensuring Access to Information
vii. Adult Education
viii. Senior Citizens in Media
ix. Advocacy

Research and Documentation

Disaster Management and Mitigation

- Mitigation measures
- Management/relief measures
- Restoration and Rehabilitation measures

Establishment of structures to implement the policy

- Directorate for the Welfare of Senior Citizens

12. Tamil Nadu Data Policy 2022

The Government of Tamil Nadu have committed to evidence-based approach to policy making.Though the data collected by different departments have made its way through OGD initiative to external stakeholders to some extent, the original data which is richer and has beneficiary level information has not been used much by the Government.

There is tremendous scope for use of this richer data for enabling data-driven decision and policy making. This data hasn't been useable due to various reasons. Firstly, data has resided in silos in individual departments. Secondly, departments have been collecting data in a non-standardized manner.Thirdly, the departments vary in the extent of e-governance and hence its data may or may not be digital.

This data policy solves the first challenge by providing a framework of sharing and use of sensitive data for public good.

Objectives

- Guiding Principles

- Openness
- Privacy
- Ethics and Equity
- Flexibility
- Transparency
- Legal Conformity
- Protection of Intellectual Property
- Interoperability and Standards
- Quality
- Security
- Accountability and Formal Responsibility
- Sustainability
- Usability

13. Tamil Nadu Blockchain Policy 2020

Governments can play an important role as a regulator as well as a consumer of Blockchain technology. Several governments around the world, notably Estonia, Georgia and Singapore1, have introduced Blockchain Technology in governance. The Government of India and a number of State Governments in India are planning to implement this Technology for improving governance. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India has highlighted the Blockchain technology as an important tool for bringing in transparency and efficiency to Government processes2. Several State Governments have carried out proof of concept implementations in areas like land registration, healthcare and digital identity. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has taken the Leadership in using this Technology and has announced the creation of Tamil Nadu State-wide Blockchain Backbone for delivering secure and efficient services to the people of Tamil Nadu3. The Government believes that this technology will enable them to enhance the quality of the services provide to citizens as well as bring in more efficiency and transparency to Government processes. While using Blockchain Technology it is also to be kept in mind that a wise selection of use cases is made and this technology is applied only when there is a clear advantage made out.

This Policy is a guide for the path ahead in using Blockchain technology within the State of Tamil Nadu.

Blockchain in e-Governance

As a network technology that promises interoperability, transparency and immutability Blockchain has numerous end-benefi ts for governments. It can be harnessed for providing accountable and efficienct governance to our citizens. Consider the following areas where Blockchain can have a sizeable impact.

- Government processes require multiple departments to work together to provide a service to the citizen. Seamless data exchange between departments is critical to provide efficienct service delivery. Smart contract enabled workfl ows and shared ledgers can track inter-departmental processes, bring in accountability and enforce data security and ownership.

- Blockchain can be used as a source of authentication and verifi cation for all the information and data produced by government departments.

- Blockchain can enable authorities to verify the authenticity of documents by comparing the physical document copy against a version stored in a Blockchain. Storing the digital copy of the document in a Blockchain instead of a centralized server makes it more secure and immune to tampering.

- Blockchain can also be used to build better supply chains for government, exchanging encrypted inter-department communication, and maintaining health records for citizens and so on.

The end goal in all these cases is providing better services to citizens. This document provides guidance for leveraging Blockchain to accomplish this for the residents of Tamil Nadu.

Goals & Objectives of the Policy

- To make Tamil Nadu a global leader in Blockchain Technology.

- Provide faster, efficienct, secure and transparent delivery of services to the people of Tamil Nadu by building new e-Governance Blockchain applications and to augment existing Governance workfl ows and processes with Blockchain.

- To generate awareness and understanding about Blockchain technology in executives and senior offi cers of Tamil Nadu Government to promote adoption of the technology.

- Provide new opportunities to people of Tamil Nadu and organizations of Tamil Nadu and help create a thriving ecosystem including Blockchain entrepreneurs and community development.

- To promote and encourage mass adoption and implementation of Blockchain Technology in the State of Tamil Nadu across Government and industries.

Primary objectives

- To create a set of standards and guidelines to be followed by all Tamil Nadu Government Blockchain implementations to ensure enhanced interoperability, security, privacy and uniformity in technology stack across government departments.

- To build a mature and self-sustaining Blockchain community to aid the growth of Blockchain technology in the state of Tamil Nadu.

- To build a regulatory sandbox that can be used for building and deploying Blockchain applications.
- Creating an oversight mechanism for ensuring successful rollout, adoption and implementation of the Blockchain policy of Tamil Nadu.

Applicability of the Policy

- Any authority or body in Tamil Nadu, established or constituted under any central or state law and owned or controlled by the Government of Tamil Nadu or which receives any aid directly or indirectly from the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- Any organizational body such as cooperatives, trusts, societies, public sector undertakings and boards, whose composition and administration is controlled by the Government of Tamil Nadu or whose functions are of public interest for Tamil Nadu or whose offi cers or offi ce bearers are appointed by the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- Partnerships and joint venture Companies of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Implementation Strategy

- Envisioning a high-level design for building a common Blockchain Network for e-Governance Blockchain projects in Tamil Nadu.
- Use case selection and prioritization for Blockchain in e-Governance.
- Establishing standards and guidelines for designing, developing, and deploying Blockchain applications for e-Governance and for applications using the Tamil Nadu State Blockchain Backbone and implementing them.
- Laying out a plan for Blockchain capacity building within Tamil Nadu for Government Executives and Officers.
- Encouraging industry wide adoption by encouraging cross-Industry and cross-academia collaborations through a Forum for Blockchain Ecosystem Development.
- Building a regulatory sandbox for blockchain applications.
- Designing an oversight mechanism for implementing the Blockchain Policy.

Tamil Nadu State-wide Blockchain Backbone

The policy recommends building a Blockchain Backbone infrastructure (network) for the state of Tamil Nadu. This infrastructure would funtion as the single source of truth and trust anchor for all government processes and data. This Blockchain Backbone would be used by the State of Tamil Nadu for reimagining governance and for encouraging adoption of Blockchain within the State. Following are some of the design recommendation for this network.

i. This infrastructure would be a hybrid blockchain platform hosted in state data centres, or on cloud or on-premise and would include participation from multiple stakeholders. It would be leveraged for building better G2G (Government to Government) and G2C (Government to Citizen) work fl ows and applications that will improve the lives of the residents of Tamil Nadu.

ii. The Blockchain stack would have a modular architecture with modular components that can be used to build applications and workfl ows, signifi cantly reducing the go-to-market time and cost for application development.

iii. The platform would be capable of creating and deploying blockchain applications for all government departments and public sector enterprises of Tamil Nadu.

iv. The seed nodes of the network (Initial nodes) shall be created and hosted by TNeGA. As new applications are deployed to production, the respective user department shall setup nodes on the peer to peer network to access their applications and secure the network from unauthorized modifi cations.

v. The infrastructure would work in a BaaS (Blockchain-as-a-Service) mode. Government would support stakeholders who choose to forgo hosting a Blockchain Backbone node. These stakeholders can use Application Programming Interface (API) to connect to the Blockchain Network and build applications. This will help reduce their overhead and enable numerous players to quickly get onboarded on the platform and start using it. Government may charge users for accessing and submitting transactions to the network.

vi. To ensure sanctity and accuracy of data captured on the Blockchain, data added to the infrastructure needs to be cleaned, de-duplicated and processed before submitting it to the Blockchain.

vii. The platform would have a modular, evolving, and open architecture which would provide access to other third parties and interoperate with other Blockchain networks if required.

Use Case Selection and Prioritization

For Blockchain Technology to be successfully adopted in Tamil Nadu, Government of Tamil Nadu would select and prioritize the use cases for Blockchain implementation. The Government would prioritize the areas of Governance where Blockchain will have a signifi cant positive impact. Initially following areas would be taken up for blockchain Implementation.

- Data integrity and audit trails for government data and documents including inter and intra-organizational data and fi les and certifi cates, receipts, licenses,

identifi cation documents, blueprints etc. generated from the e-Sevai platform and other TN government portals.

- Securing academic records, certifi cates, degrees and diplomas and providing a secure and trusted workfl ow for verifi cation of these records by authorities and other stakeholders.

- Creating a portable digital identity and implementing privacy protection for residents of Tamil Nadu.

- Securing TN government websites and portals from cyber security threats and unauthorized modifi cations using Blockchain technology.

- Securing land registration transactions and enabling cross-departmental workfl ows for land mutation.

- Tracking agriculture produce and increasing profi tability for farmers.

- Creating a secure healthcare platform that caters to all the residents of Tamil Nadu.

- Blockchain enabled platforms for seamless distribution of benefi ts to residents of Tamil Nadu.

14. Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence 2020

Recent years have seen a proliferation of AI-based solutions in all spheres of life. These solutions promise to automate mundane and dangerous tasks, solve problems hitherto unsolved by conventional means and thus create new growth opportunities in terms of products and solutions. As a consequence, AI is estimated to boost India's annual growth rate by 2035. A report of McKinsey Global Institute estimates AI contribution to global economy at US $13 trillion by 2030 (Bughin, 2018). The same report estimates that about 70% companies would be using AI by 2030.

While AI has become the new Buzzword, its defi nition is continuously evolving. There has been unprecedented growth and maturity in the area of AI in the last decade. We already have autonomous driverless cars, delivery drones, voice-based personal assistants dexterous and intelligent humanoid robots and AI-based diagnostics of medical images.

In contrast to the Natural Intelligence inherent in humans and animals, AI refers to the collection of Technologies that equip machines with higher levels of intelligence to perform various tasks such as perceiving, learning, problem-solving and decision making. It refers to the ability of a computer or a computer-enabled robotic system to process information and produce outcomes in a manner similar to that of the thought process of humans in learning, decision making and problem solving (Assocham India and PWC, 2017).

Characteristics

i.   Learning from experience

ii.   Knowledge - based and rule - based reasoning

iii. Image recognition

iv.   Complex problem solving with uncertainty

v.   Natural Language Understanding

vi.   Problem solving with alternate prospective.

Goals

i.   To make AI inclusive, free of bias, fair, equitable, ethical and transparent.

ii.   To encourage fast, efficienct, secure and transparent public service delivery with help of AI driven e-Governance applications.

iii. To augment and improve existing Governance workfl ows and processes with help of Artifi cial Intelligence.

iv.   To build awareness and help adoption of Artifi cial Intelligence (AI) in all three branches of Government, namely the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive.

v.   To encourage research and development in Artifi cial Intelligence by the academia, start-ups, private and public enterprises.

vi.   To nurture an ecosystem of easy and open data access to foster innovation in AI.

Objectives

i.   To provide a framework for inclusive, safe & ethical use of Artifi cial Intelligence in Government domain and to build fairness, equity, transparency and trust in AI assisted decision making systems.

ii.   To establish guidelines for the evaluation of an AI Systems before it's rolled out for Public use.

iii. To build a mature and self-sustaining Artifi cial Intelligence community to aid the growth of Artifi cial Intelligence in Tamil Nadu and to train and skill people in Tamil Nadu in Artifi cial Intelligence.

iv.   To provide access to Open Data, Data Models, and Computing Resources.

v.   To build a regulatory sandbox that can be used for researching, building and deploying Artifi cial Intelligence based applications by Start-ups, Private and Public Enterprises, and Academia.

vi.   To promote investments in AI R&D in Tamil Nadu.

The Need for a Safe & Ethical Artifi cial Intelligence Policy

1. Discreetness

AI Systems are developed in a discreet manner, where hundreds of thousands of individual coders from across the world experiment and create new algorithms and techniques every second. Many of them are anonymous and make their code freely available and shareable on platforms like GitHub. Hence it is almost impossible to pin the responsibility of a

particular AI module onto an identifi able individual or organisation. If we include other players in the AI Market Ecosystem – the seller, the buyer, the insurer and the product developer – this problem becomes immensely complex to analyse.

2. Diffusiveness

These systems and algorithms get diffused across geographies, and often many complex and very powerful AI algorithms are developed with cross-national short-term collaboration.

3. Discreteness

AI system components can be designed at different places at different points of time without conscious co-ordination. This creates significant complexities during analysis of an AI System for factors such as risk and public safety.

4. Opacity

The inner workings of an AI-based System may be a black-box for policy makers due to its being kept secret for competitive reasons. Again, the essential decision-making processes of some algorithms like deep learning are not explainable by their very nature. The difficulty in understanding the working of AI Systems and Interpretation of their results does not inspire confidence in Policy Makers. This information asymmetry public policy response to AI is an uphill battle.

15. Tamil Nadu State Youth Policy

Vision

To shape the future of the state by empowering every youth in the state to become a responsible and participating citizen to drive a new era of development, growth and productivity by ensuring equity and equality in all spheres of life, thereby stimulating and facilitating self actualization and enabling the youth to realize their dreams of attaining heights of excellence in their endeavor towards holistic progress.

Objectives

1. To evolve a comprehensive integrated approach towards physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, socio-cultural, political and economic development of the youth.
2. To create adequate opportunities for life skill development.
3. To instill the importance of family, social and moral values in the youth.
4. To provide career guidance and counseling for an ideal occupation and sustenance.
5. To facilitate acquisition of skills for employability.
6. To develop the spirit of entrepreneurship amongst youth, offer training and hand-holding services for setting up their own enterprises.
7. To inspire the youth to pursue lifelong learning.

8.   To promote inclination towards a balanced lifestyle based on physical and mental wellbeing.

9.   To sensitize the youth on gender justice, equality and equity.

10. To advocate ecological sustainability through sensitization and participation of youth.

11. To support effective participation of youth in local governance.

12. To enable contribution of youth to community wellbeing.

Definition of Youth

The National Youth Policy 2003 covered the age group of 13-35 years. The National Youth Policy 2014 recommends the age group of the youth to be 15-29 years. Age classification of the United Nations Organization (UNO) for youth is 15-24 years. The Commonwealth of Nations has categorized 16-24 age group as youth. The Tamil Nadu State Youth Policy covers the age group of 15- 35 years. They have been further segregated into 3 groups: 15-21, 22-28 and 29- 35 years.

Strategy

1. Enabling Knowledge Dissemination and Civic Participation

i.   Create an Enabling Environment for Engagement with Youth

ii. Create a Mechanism of Governance that Youth Can Leverage Through Participation in Community Affairs

iii. Promote Youth Engagement in Urban Governance

2. Action on Thrust Areas

i.   Fostering Values and Culture to Inculcate the Spirit of Unity and Equality

ii.   Facilitating Maximum Access to Formal Education and Promoting Opportunities for Non-Formal and Lifelong Learning

iii. Developing the Attitude and Skills for Employment by Providing Training and Creating More Avenue

iv.   Creating Health Awareness amongst Youth Towards Their Holistic Well-being

v.   Encouraging Youth to Involve in Sports and Recreational Activities in their Neighborhood by Strengthening and Creating Infrastructure

vi.   Sensitizing the Youth towards Human Rights, Gender Equality and Equity

vii. Encouraging Youth to Participate in Local Governance and Manage Local Community Needs

viii. Involving Youth in Issues Related to Conservation and Preservation of Environment / Heritage

ix.   Globalization and Technology

3. Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

The State Government will initiate a mid-term evaluation and a final evaluation during the policy period of over 5 years.

16. Tamil Nadu Food Processing Policy - 2018

Vision

To steer Tamil Nadu as the premier food processing hub of India by harnessing its production strength, deep industrial culture, skilled manpower, favourable agro-climatic conditions and excellent connectivity. To capitalize on rich and diverse food production base of the State and to provide fillip to this sector.

Policy Targets and Objectives

i.   Focus on Crop/Commodity based Farming Clusters and to enable a planned and focused approach to cater to the Food Processing Industry.

ii.   To reduce wastage, increase value addition, ensure better price for farmers while ensuring availability of affordable and quality produce to consumers.

iii. To identify and bridge the infrastructure gap besides promoting innovations, Research & Development and Technology Upgradation especially in Food Packaging, Food Testing and Quality.

iv.   To enhance raw material availability, facilitate ease of procurement by processors and to encourage farmers to grow more remunerative crops.

v.   To promote processing and create adequate infrastructure facilities by active involvement of Private Sector, Cooperatives as well as Public-Private Participation, adopt state-of-the-art technology and innovation to make food processing industry competitive and establish institutions and procedures to ensure traceability, food safety and quality assurance.

vi.   To generate employment opportunities in the Agro and Food Processing Sector.

vii. To make Tamil Nadu a preferred destination for food processing industries and attract new investments.

17. Tamil Nadu Cyber Security Policy 2020

i.   The Cyber Security Policy will define the overall scope of the cybersecurity-related agencies in the state through the formation of Security Architecture Framework of Tamil Nadu.

ii.   It has been drafted by ELCOT (Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Ltd) in association with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

iii. The security policies of each department will follow the Guidelines and Best Practices under this policy.

iv.   Under this policy, there will be a procurement policy to create and maintain testing infrastructure and facilities for IT Security, e-Mail and e-Mail Retention

Policy. They will also form a social media policy to determine how government departments and its employees conduct themselves in the Web.

18. Tamil Nadu Vision 2023

Salient Features

i. Increase in Per capita income to Rs.450,000

ii. Provide piped and pressurised water to all citizens

iii. Eradicate slums by building 2.5 million affordable homes

iv. Achieving universal secondary education

v. Developing high-speed highways

vi. Creating a second green revolution

vii. Developing 10 world class cities in the state.

viii. 20,000 MW of additional power generation capacity in 10 years

Highlights of Vision

1. Tamil Nadu as most economically prosperous states by 2023

2. Inclusive growth - including employment for all.

3. Highest Human Development Index (HDI) among all States of India

4. Best infrastructure services in India in terms of universal access to housing, water & sanitation, energy, transportation, irrigation, connectivity, healthcare, and education.

5. To make Tamil Nadu as one of the top three preferred investment destinations in Asia and the most preferred in India with a reputation for efficiency and competitiveness.

6. To make Tamilnadu as innovation hub and knowledge capital of India

7. Preserve and care for ecology and heritage.

8. Transparent governance that ensures progress, security, and equal opportunity to all people.

9. By 2023, it will become the most economically prosperous state in India. Current per capita income will rise six-fold and, in 11 years, be on par with upper-middle income countries globally.

10. Tamil Nadu will express inclusive growth rate. As a poverty free state, job seekers will be given lucrative opportunities.

11. Tamil Nadu will be the leading state of India in terms of social development. Among the states in India, the state has the highest HR index.

12. Tamil Nadu will provide the best infrastructural services in India in housing, drinking water, sanitation, energy, transport, irrigation, connectivity, health and education.

13. Tamil Nadu will be among the top three preferred investment destinations in Asia. Especially, it will be the most preferred state in India.

14. In India, Tamil Nadu is considered to be the center of innovation and intellectual capital.

15. Tamil Nadu will ensure peace, security and prosperity for all citizens and businesses. India will be linked with other states and the world through free movement, exchange of ideas and trade.

16. Tamil Nadu will protect and focus on its environment and heritage.

17. Tamil Nadu will take measures to protect the state and its people from natural calamities, economic downturns and other human-induced instability.

18. Tamil Nadu will adopt a transparent and responsive culture in governance. Security and equal opportunity will be ensured for all.

19. **Tamil Nadu Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Corporation**

In a nationwide programme to take the third eye to the sky, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has called for more effective utilisation of drone applications and urged the Ministry of Home Affairs to deploy unmanned aerial vehicles for surveillance, situational analysis, crime control, VVIP security, disaster management, etc.

What is Drone or Unmanned Aerial Vehicle?

1. An unmanned aerial vehicle, commonly known as a drone, is an aircraft without any human pilot, crew or passengers on board.

2. UAVs are a component of an unmanned aircraft system, which include additionally a ground-based controller and a system of communications with the UAV.

3. Drones have been divided into five categories based on their weight (existing rules)-Nano: Less than or equal to 250 grams, Micro: From 250 grams to 2kg, Small: From 2 kg to 25kg, Medium: From 25kg to 150kg, Large: Greater than 150kg.

Drone Rules 2021

The central government notified the Drone Rules 2021 with following feature:

1. Abolish the need for various approvals, including certificate of conformance, certificate of maintenance, import clearance, acceptance of existing drones, operator permit, authorisation of R&D organisation and student remote pilot licence.

2. It shall be developed as a user-friendly single-window system. There will be minimal human interface and most permissions will be self-generated.

3. The draft rules reduced the airport perimeter from 45 km to 12 km.

4. The rules state that no flight permissions would be required to fly upto 400 feet in green zones and up to 200 feet in the area between 8 and 12 km from the airport perimeter.

5. No pilot licence would be needed for micro drones for non-commercial use, nano drones and for R&D organisations.

6. There would be no restriction on drone operations by foreign-owned companies registered in India.

7. The Ministry will also facilitate development of drone corridors for cargo deliveries and a drone promotion council will be set up to facilitate a business-friendly regulatory regime.

8. The draft rule also provides for safety features such as real-time tracking beacon, and geo-fencing, which are expected to be notified in future and a six-month lead time will be provided for compliance.

9. Coverage of drones under Drone Rules, 2021 increased from 300 kg to 500 kg. This will cover drone taxis also.

Application Areas of Drones:

1. Aerial Photography: Drones are now being used to capture footage that would otherwise require expensive helicopters and cranes. Furthermore, journalists are considering the use of drones for collecting footage and information in live broadcasts.

2. Shipping and Delivery: Major companies like Amazon, UPS, and DHL are in favour of drone delivery. Drones could save a lot of manpower and shift unnecessary road traffic to the sky. Recently Vaccines were delivered through drones

3. Geographic Mapping: Available to amateurs and professionals, drones can acquire very high-resolution data and download imagery in difficult to reach locations like coastlines, mountaintops, and islands.

4. Disaster Management: Drones provide quick means, after a natural or man-made disaster, to gather information and navigate debris and rubble to look for injured victims. Its high definition cameras, sensors, radars and small size give rescue teams access to a higher field of view

5. Precision Agriculture:.The infrared sensors in drones can be tuned to detect crop health, enabling farmers to react and improve crop conditions locally, with inputs of fertilizer or insecticides. It also improves management and leads to better yield of the crops.

6. Search and Rescue: Presence of thermal sensors gives drones night vision and makes them a powerful tool for surveillance. Drones are able to discover the location of

lost persons and unfortunate victims, especially in harsh conditions or challenging terrains.

7. Weather Forecast: Drones are being developed to monitor dangerous and unpredictable weather. Since they are cheap and unmanned, drones can be sent into hurricanes and tornadoes, so that scientists and weather forecasters acquire new insights into their behavior and trajectory.

8. Law Enforcement: Drones are also used for maintaining the law. They help with the surveillance of large crowds and ensure public safety. They assist in monitoring criminal and illegal activities. In fact, fire investigations, smugglers of migrants, and illegal transportation of drugs via coastlines, are monitored by the border patrol with the help of drones.

Risks associated with drone's technology:

1. The expected rise in the use of drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for a host of different applications may leave operators exposed to a whole new set of risks, including third-party damage or injury and liability.

2. One of the biggest risks, it said, was from radio frequency interference, resulting in loss of control, and, in the worst cases, fatalities.

3. With the ability to collect massive amounts of unsolicited data, UAVs present an enormous threat to individual privacy and a significant challenge for insurance carriers,

4. The issue is the application of these vehicles in urban areas where the risk of damage to properties and individuals is much greater than it would be in rural parts.

5. Use of drones by terrorists causes a disproportionate psychological effect on people as well as on security personnel. Ex last year attack on India's air force station in Jammu.

6. We all know that if technology brings ease of life and security, then it also brings risks with it. So we have to use it in effective way. In this regard, the new Drone Rules usher in a landmark moment for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle sector in India. The rules are based on the premise of trust and self-certification. Approvals, compliance requirements and entry barriers have been significantly reduced.

7. These Rules will tremendously help start-ups and our youth working in this sector. It will open up new possibilities for innovation & business. It will help leverage India's strengths in innovation, technology & engineering to make India a drone hub.