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FEBRUARY – 2020

TAMIL NADU

1) **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TAMIL NADU BUDGET 2020-2021:**

PRESENTED BY: Deputy Chief Minister Mr. O. Paneerselvam

PRESENTED ON: 14 – 02 – 2020

Every Year on **24th February**, birth anniversary of the late chief minister J Jayalalithaa will be celebrated as the **“STATE GIRL CHILD PROTECTION DAY”**

- Tamil Nadu’s economy grew at 8.17 per cent in 2018-19.
- In 2019-20, growth is projected to be 7.27 per cent,
- Which is significantly higher than the projected all India growth rate of 5 per cent.

Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) will establish **‘Amma Green Gramam’** as **sustainable energy villages with mini rural renewable energy parks each with a capacity of 5 MW.**

The Tamil Nadu Solar Energy Policy 2019 that was recently unveiled by the Hon’ble Chief Minister, will increase the **solar power generation capacity of the State to 9,000 MW by 2023.**

Kadaladi Ultra Mega Solar Photovoltaic Park Power Project with a capacity of **500 MW at a cost of Rs.2,350 crore.**

A new **Tamil Nadu State Child Policy** is under formulation and will be launched shortly.

The Chief Minister has sanctioned an amount of Rs.12.21 crore for the **establishment of a world class new site museum at Keeladi**

The Chief Minister Declare the **Cauvery Delta Region as a “Protected Special Agricultural Zone (PSAZ)”** - The protected zone will include **Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam districts and delta regions of Trichy, Ariyalur, Cuddalore and Pudukkottai**

Tamil Nadu securing the **first rank amongst 18 biggest States** in the composite ranking in the **Good Governance Index** released by Government of India on December 25, 2019.

The Government will launch the **‘Uzhavar–Aluvalar Thodarbu Thittam’** to ensure closer interface of department officials with farmers

- The Government will launch the **Tamil Nadu Road Safety Mission**, to co-ordinate the efforts of different departments and agencies to achieve the goal of **‘Road accident-free Tamil Nadu’**
- Road safety cells will be created in Chennai, Madurai and Coimbatore Corporations.



The Chief Minister launched the **Tamil Nadu Water Resources Conservation and Augmentation Mission** as a people's movement.

The Government has obtained the environmental clearance for the **Athikadavu - Avinashi irrigation scheme**. A sum of Rs.500 crore is provided in the Budget Estimates 2020-21 for this project.

The Government will launch a new five year '**Chief Minister's Rural Self Sufficiency Development Programme**' for the rural development

Erode, Vellore and Hosur has been selected for the "**Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Project**"

- 2) Chief Minister released the book about his three year achievements namely "**Coffee Table Book**"
- 3) For the Farmer's welfare, "**NADANTHAI VAZHI CAVERY SCHEME**" has been launched to Restoration of Cavery River and its tributary
- 4) **Sahitya Akademi Prize 2019 for her Tamil translation:**

KV Jeyasri

Work: "Nilam Poothu Malarantha Naal"

- 5) **Girl Child Protection Scheme, 2020** was launched by the chief minister on 26th February 2020
- 6) The **2nd International Airport** in chennai was planned to set up in **Parathoor near Kancheepuram district**.
- 7) **Tamil Nadu Polymer Industries Park** will planned to set up at **Ponneri, Thiruvalluvar district**.
- 8) The '**kumbhabhishekam**' (consecration) of the **1,010-year-old Brihadeeswarar Temple** or the Big Temple is being held at Thanjavur.
- 9) **Coimbatore** based social entrepreneur, **Arunachalam Muruganantham** has obtained the patent rights for the low-cost sanitary pad-making machine
- 10) **Poompuhar, a port city in Tamil Nadu**, submerged under Sea 1000 years ago is being digitally reconstructed under Indian Digital Heritage project.



- 11) **Tamil Nadu and Puducherry have strongly objected to Karnataka's bid** to seek approval for the Mokedatu dam project at the 5th Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) meeting in New Delhi.
- 12) **Tamil Nadu government** has won **four SKOCH awards** for its excellence in implementing various agricultural programmes in the State.
- 13) Tamil Nadu has launched the Central government's **"ONE NATION, ONE RATION CARD"** scheme in **Tuticorin and Tirunelveli districts** of the State on 1st February 2020 as a pilot project.
- 14) Chief Minister inaugurated **a new cricket stadium in Kariveppilapatti near Thalaivasal** in Salem district on 9th February 2020.
- 15) Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the **Advanced Institute for Integrated Research on Livestock and Animal Sciences** on 9th February 2020 at **Thalaivasal** in Salem district.
- 16) Chief Minister laid the foundation of the **new centralised kitchen of Akshaya Patra** Foundation's – **"BREAKFAST SCHEME" (KAALAI UNAVU THITTAM)** for Chennai Corporation Schools on 15th February 2020



NATIONAL

- 1) **Donald Trump visited India** becoming first US President to come to India on a stand-alone visit in the seven decades of Indo-US diplomatic ties. ***‘Namaste Trump’ event was organised on the lines of ‘Howdy, Modi!’ held in Houston last year.***
- 2) **Kerala** has declared the ***novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection a State calamity***
- 3) The **Kashi Mahakal Express** is the India’s third corporate train after the two Tejas Express trains between Delhi-Lucknow and Mumbai-Ahmedabad
- 4) **Manipur** has launched an online portal for the ***travellers to seek Inner Line Permits.***
- 5) The Union government has constituted the ***Delimitation Commission for the purpose of delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies*** in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland.
- 6) Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, approved scheme ***“Formation and Promotion of Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)”***.
- 7) Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs launched two Assessment Frameworks, viz. ***Ease of Living Index (EoLI) and Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2019.***
- 8) The Union Cabinet has given its approval for setting up a ***Major Port at Vadhavan***, located about 190 km north of JNPT in Maharashtra.
- 9) The Government of India has placed the draft ***“Visionary Perspective Plan (2020-2030) for the conservation of avian diversity, their ecosystems, habitats and landscapes in the country”*** in public domain
- 10) **Arunachal Pradesh** government is planning to build a highway named ***East-West Industrial Corridor*** which includes a 40-km elevated stretch through the core areas of Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR).
- 11) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) aims to set up Ultra ***Mega Renewable Energy (RE) Parks*** with a capacity of a total of ***50 GW in Gujarat and Rajasthan.***



- 12) **Facebook** launched the '**We Think Digital**' programme in partnership with the National Commission for Women (NCW) and Cyber Peace Foundation **to provide digital literacy training to 1,00,000 women across seven states.**
- 13) **Kerala** plans to set up a **Mahatma Gandhi Smriti Museum at Payyanur**, situated on the banks of the Perumba River in Kerala's Kannur district.
- 14) **Demand to put reservation provisions** for schedule caste, schedule tribe and other backward classes under 9th schedule of constitution.
- 15) **Himachal Pradesh** became the first state in the country to have **100% LPG gas coverage**
- 16) **The Election Commission of India** has been awarded '**Silver**' for **Excellence in Government Process re-engineering for digital transformation** for the year 2019-20. The award was given in recognition of **ERONET**.
- 17) Assam's Welfare of Minorities and Development Department has announced plans to hold a census of four communities broadly known as "**Assamese Muslims**" — **Goriya, Moriya, Deshi, and Julha.**
- 18) **Maharashtra government** has announced **five - day working week** for its officers and employees from **29th February 2020.**
- 19) A '**fruit train**', said to be the first of its kind in the country, was recently flagged off from **Tadipatri Railway Station in Andhra Pradesh.**
- 20) **Kerala** will impose a **ban on the sale of compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) and incandescent (filament) bulbs** from November 2020.
- 21) **Kerala government** has proposed to set up a **Vigilance Wing in the Health Department** to monitor private practice by doctors and crackdown on quackery.
- 22) **Odisha government** has recently launched **a virtual police station** to provide more comfort and ease to its citizens in registering complaints
- 23) **Karnataka government** announced the launch of **a new doorstep delivery scheme "Janasevaka scheme"**
- 24) **Andhra Pradesh government** inaugurated the **first Disha Police Station in Rajamahendravaram**



- 25) The India's **first intercity electric bus service between Mumbai and Pune** was started on 14th February 2020.

INTERNATIONAL

- 1) **Britain** has officially left the European Union (EU) on 31st January 2020 and has **become the first country to leave the 28-member bloc**.
- 2) **India and Myanmar** signed number of agreements with a focus on **socio-economic development** of Myanmar during the State Visit of the President of Myanmar to India.
- 3) **Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC):**
 - It is the intervention where babies are placed in skin-to-skin contact with their mothers and exclusively breast fed.
 - It has been recommended worldwide for stable low-birth weight new borns.
 - **WHO** recommends that it be continued till baby attains a weight of 2.5 kg or till babies wriggle out
- 4) The US has approved the sale of an **Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) to India**
- 5) The major **locust attacks** have been observed in several countries in western and southern Asia and in eastern Africa.
- 6) Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has declared **a national emergency in the country because of the massive locusts** attack damaging the entire crops in the Punjab province of Pakistan
- 7) **India and Maldives** signed MoUs for establishing the **Addu Tourism zone in five islands of Addu atoll**.
- 8) **UK** has launched the **new points-based immigration system**, which intends to change the way migrants will come to the UK to work, study, visit or join their family.



ECONOMICS

- 1) The finance minister has introduced **“THE DIRECT TAX VIVAD SE VISHWAS BILL, 2020”** in the Lok Sabha *to give effect to the Budget announcement to resolve direct tax disputes.*
- 2) The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** released the World Economic Outlook report depicting *India as the 5th largest economy in the world.*
- 3) **The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** allowed *100% FDI in insurance intermediaries through the automatic route.*
- 4) **A Dutch government’s** proposal to build two mega dams *to separate the North Sea from the Atlantic Sea*
- 5) **Ease (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) 3.0** reform agenda aims at *providing smart, tech-enabled public sector banking for aspiring India*
- 6) **NITI Aayog** will launch *National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP) in 2021*
- 7) **The Reserve Bank of India** announced that it will *create a Digital Payment Index by July 2020.*

SPORTS

- 1) After **Srinivas Gowda** created a storm by covering **100 metres in 9.55 seconds**, another Kambala runner Nishant Shetty has now overtaken the former by completing the same distance in 9.51 seconds.
- 2) The *flame-throated bulbul, also called the Rubigula*, was chosen as the **mascot of the 36th National Games** to be held in Goa because it is the State bird
- 3) **P.V. Sindhu and Mary Kom** are among the 5 nominees for the inaugural **BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award**



SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

SUMMITS / CONFERENCES	PURPOSE / THEME / OUTCOME	PLACE / By
13th Conference of Parties (CoP)	THEME: "Migratory species connect the planet and together we welcome them home"	Gandhinagar, India
RAISE 2020 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020'	India's first Artificial Intelligence summit to be organized by the Government in partnership with the industry and the academia.	New Delhi
International conference on standardisation of Diagnosis and Terminologies in AYUSH (ICoSDiTAUS-2020)	New Delhi Declaration on Collection and Classification of Traditional Medicine (TM) Diagnostic Data	New Delhi
G20 meeting	THEME: "Realizing Opportunities of the 21 st Century for All"	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
International Judicial Conference 2020	THEME: "Judiciary and the Changing World"	New Delhi
11th DefExpo	The exhibition aims at making India a technological power house through initiatives such as Start-up India, Skill India and Make in India.	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

SCHEMES / YOJANAS

SCHEMES / YOJANAS	PURPOSE / Why in News?	MINISTRY / CABINET / STATE
School Health Programme under Ayushman Bharat - Health & Wellness Centres	Centres that will teach skills ranging from emotional wellbeing, mental health, interpersonal relationships to values and maintaining healthy lifestyle.	The Union Government



INDICES

INDEX	PURPOSE / RELEASED BY	INDIA's / Tamil Nadu's RANKING	TOP RANKING
FINANCIAL SECRECY INDEX (FSI) 2020	Tax Justice Network	47	Cayman Island
INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INDEX 2020	US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC).	40	USA
World Air Quality Report 2019	The pollution tracker IQAir and Greenpeace	5 th – India (5 th Polluted country)	Bangladesh – (Most Polluted country)

MILITARY EXERCISES

EXERCISE NAME	HELD BETWEEN	TYPE OF EXERCISE	HELD AT
SAMPRITI - IX	India and Bangladesh	Joint military exercise	Meghalaya
Indradhanush – V 2020	India and United Kingdom	Joint air force exercise	Uttar Pradesh
Ajeya Warrior - 2020	India and United Kingdom	Joint military exercise	United Kingdom

FESTIVALS

S.No.	FESTIVAL	STATE
1.	Kinnow Festival	Punjab



DEFENCE & SPACE

DEFENCE & SPACE	PURPOSE	COUNTRY / STATE / ORGANIZATION
PRANASH MISSILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Surface – to – surface ballistic missile ✓ Range: 200Km ✓ one of the cheapest missiles in the world in its range category 	DRDO
GISAT - 1 Satellite	a new earth observation satellite will launch in the 1 st week of march	ISRO
INSIGHT MISSION	InSight mission detected quakes and magnetic pulses on the planet Mars.	NASA
VOYAGER – 2	Voyager 2 is now 11.5 billion miles from the Earth and, at that distance, light takes 17 hours to reach it or for messages from it to reach mission control on Earth.	NASA
Light Combat Helicopters production centre	LCH is a 5.5-tonne class multi-role combat helicopter designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautical limited (HAL)	Bengaluru
2020 CD3, “mini-moon” or the planet’s “second moon”	It is actually an asteroid, about the size of a car; its diameter is about 1.9-3.5 m. It is called a Temporarily Captured Object (TCO).	
Ra'ad-II Missile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pakistan conducted a successful flight test of the air launched nuclear-capable cruise missile. ➤ It has a range of 600 km. 	Pakistan
Artemis Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is NASA’s next mission to the Moon ➤ To measure what happens when the Sun’s radiation hits our rocky moon, where there is no magnetic field to protect it. ➤ NASA will land the first woman and next man on the Moon by 2024 	NASA



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SPECIES / NEW DISCOVERIES	TYPE / PURPOSE	PLACE / BY
Henneguya salminicola	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ An animal fewer than 10-celled microscopic parasite that lives in salmon muscle, called Henneguya salminicola. ➤ A non-oxygen breathing animal 	
National Mission on Quantum Technologies & Applications (NM-QTA).	The largest ever science mission	The Union government announced in 2020 Budget
Genome India Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A genome is the entire DNA, or sequence of genes, in a cell. Simply put, the genome is divided into chromosomes, chromosomes contain genes, and genes are made of DNA. ➤ Each genome has approximately 3.2 billion DNA base pairs. 	The Union government
SUTRA PIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Scientific Utilisation Through Research Augmentation - Prime Products From Indigenous Cows (SUTRA PIC) ➤ To develop products as well as improve the genetic quality of indigenous cattle breeds. 	The Union government
	The Union Ministry of Health has notified that starting from April 1, 2020, all medical equipment would qualify as “drugs” under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.	
Market Intelligence and Early Warning System (MIEWS) portal	Provide ‘real time monitoring’ of prices of tomato, onion and potato (TOP) and for simultaneously generating alerts for intervention under the terms of the Operation Greens (OG) scheme.	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Yongle Blue Hole (YBH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Carbon more than 8,000 years old lies deep inside a yawning sinkhole in the South China Sea. ➤ Deepest known marine cavern 	Xisha Islands of the South China Sea

Craspedotropis gretathunbergae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is a new species of land snail discovered recently. ➤ It is named in honour of Swedish climate activist Greta 	
Cyrtodactylus urbanus / Urban bent-toed gecko	A new species of lizard	Guwahati, Assam
Muktoshri-arsenic-resistant Rice	West Bengal government's rice research centre has come up with a new variety of rice called Muktoshri that can be grown in arsenic prone areas.	West Bengal
Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)	To address the need for building shared, professionally managed and strong S&T infrastructure in the country which is readily accessible to academia, start-ups, manufacturing, industry and R&D labs etc.	Department of Science & Technology

AWARDS

AWARDS / PRIZES	PERSON / ORGANIZATION
Tyler Prize 2020	Pavan Sukhdev

WOMEN IN NEWS

Christina Koch	Longest Spaceflight by a Woman - NASA astronaut Christina Koch landed on the Earth on 6 th February 2020 after a record stay of 328 days on the International Space Station.
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IMPORTANT DAYS

DAYS	EVENTS	THEMES/ SIGNIFICANCE
February 2	World Wetlands Day	THEME: Wetlands and Biodiversity
February 4	World Cancer Day	THEME: I am and I will
February 6	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation	
February 10	World Pulses Day	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to recognize the importance of pulses as a global food
	National Deworming Day	The National Deworming Day is a single fixed-day approach to treating intestinal worm infections in all children aged 1- 19 years.
February 11	International Day of Women and Girls in Science.	THEME: Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth
	Safer Internet Day	THEME: Together for a better internet
February 13	World Radio Day	THEME: Radio and Diversity
February 19	Soil Health Card Day	Soil Health Card helps farmers to increase crop production by using a balanced amount of fertilizers.
February 21	International Mother Language Day	THEME: Languages without borders
February 28	National Science Day	THEME: Women in science

