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JANUARY – 2019

IMPORTANT TOPICS

- 1) **THIRUVALLUVAR AWARDS 2019**
- 2) **Justice C. Raghavan Committee**
- 3) **Namma Chennai App**
- 4) **Biodiversity Monitoring Committee in Tamil Nadu**
- 5) **ROADEO**
- 6) **Mohan Reddy Committee**
- 7) **Indian Bridge Management System**
- 8) **Important functions performed by NALSA**
- 9) **Monuments of national importance in 2018**
- 10) **Objectives of 106th 'Indian Science Congress**
- 11) **National Bamboo Mission**
- 12) **Gold Monetization scheme**
- 13) **Hunar Haats**
- 14) **Operation Sagar Rani**
- 15) **Saksham 2019**
- 16) **12 National Biodiversity targets of India**
- 17) **Space activities bill 2017**
- 18) **Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2018**
- 19) **National Policy for domestic workers**
- 20) **DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2018**
- 21) **Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2018**
- 22) **Right to Disconnect Bill 2018**
- 23) **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (2018-2023)**
- 24) **Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation policy 2018-2023**
- 25) **Union Interim Budget 2019 – 2020**
- 26) **Tamil Nadu Aerospace & Defence Industrial Policy 2019**
- 27) **TAMIL NADU SOLAR ENERGY POLICY 2019**

JANUARY- 2019

3 MARK QUESTIONS

1) Who are the recipients of THIRUVALLUVAR AWARDS 2019?

| AWARDS | RECIPIENTS |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Kamarajar Award | Pazha Nedumaran |
| Periyar Award | C Ponnaiyan |
| Ke. Aa. Pe Viswanatham Award | Soolur Kalaiipithan |
| Bharathidasan Award | Poet Thiyaroo |
| Thiru.Vi.Ka Award | Dr K Ganesan |
| Bharathiyar Award | M Bharathi Sugumaran |
| Perarignar Anna Award | M Aikkan |
| Ambedkar Award | C Ramaguru |
| Thiruvalluvar Award | MG Anwar Batcha |

2) Why Justice C. Raghavan Committee formed recently?

- Conduct Avaniyapuram Jallikattu on 15th January 2019
- Madras High court Madurai Bench appointed
- 24 member committee
- Advocates Saravanan, Dilip and Anand are the organising members of the committee

3) Write the significance of “Namma Chennai App”

- Online payment of Property Tax
- View the status of property tax and trade licenses.
- Procure birth and death certificates
- Greater Chennai Corporation lauched the app

4) Explain about the Biodiversity Monitoring Committe in Tamil Nadu.

- 1049 Biodiversity Monitoring Committees in TN
- Formed: Block and Urban levels
- TN Biodiversity board prepared and released the list of biodiversity heritage sites.

- d. Committee monitor and record the natural resources in the state is known as People's Biodiversity Register

5) What is ROADEO?

- a. Chennai Traffic Police has inducted a road safety robot named ROADEO
- b. Help police in traffic management and assist pedestrians in Chennai roads.
- c. These robots can be integrated with the traffic signals, as well as can be operated manually, through a Bluetooth app
- d. Robot has two hands to interact with the people and show traffic signs and highly expressive eyes to show important messages.
- e. With the induction of ROADEO, Chennai is the second city after Mumbai to deploy robots in traffic management.

6) Why Mohan Reddy Committee was constituted recently?

- a. The committee was appointed to come up with a medium and short-term perspective plan for expansion in engineering education.
- b. Stop setting up new colleges from 2020 and review the creation of new capacity every two years after that
- c. For approving additional seats in existing institutions, the AICTE should only give approvals based on the capacity utilisation of concerned institute

7) What is Indian Bridge Management System?

- a. IBMS crates an inventory of all bridges in the country
- b. Rate their structural condition so that timely repair and rehabilitation work can be carried out based on the criticality of the structure.
- c. IBMS is the largest platform in the world owned by a single owner, with database that could exceed 1,50,000 bridge structures.
- d. So far 1,15,000 bridges have been inventorized, of which 85,000 are culverts and the rest are bridges.

8) List out the important functions performed by NALSA.

- a. NALSA organises Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes.
- b. NALSA identifies specific categories of the marginalised and excluded groups and formulates various schemes for the implementation of preventive and strategic legal service programmes.
- c. Services provided by the agency include free legal aid in civil and criminal matters for the poor and marginalised people who cannot afford the services of a lawyer in any court or tribunal.
- d. Free legal services include provision of aid and advice to beneficiaries to access the benefits under the welfare statutes and schemes and to ensure access to justice in any other manner.

9) Mention the six monuments declared as Monuments of national importance in 2018.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Old High Court Building in Nagpur | Maharashtra |
| Haveli of Agha Khan | Agra |
| Haveli of Hathi Khana | Agra |
| Neemrana Baori | Rajasthan |
| Group of Temples at Ranipur Jharail | Odisha |
| Vishnu Temple in Kotali | Uttarkhand |

10) Write the objectives of 106th 'Indian Science Congress.

- a. Advance and promote the cause of science in India.
- b. Publish such proceedings, journals, transactions and other publications as may be considered desirable.
- c. Secure and manage funds and endowments for the promotion of Science including the rights of disposing of or selling all or any portion of the properties of the Association.
- d. To do and perform any or all other acts, matters and things as are conducive to, or incidental to, or necessary for, the above objects.

11) State National Bamboo Mission.

- a. Sub-scheme of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) under the umbrella scheme Krishonnati Yojana
- b. The Mission envisages promoting holistic growth of bamboo sector by adopting area-based, regionally differentiated strategy and to increase the area under bamboo cultivation and marketing.
- c. Aims to inter-alia supplement farm income of farmers with focus on the development of complete value chain of bamboo sector linking growers with industry.

12) What are the key features of Gold Monetization scheme?

- a. The persons can open Gold Saving Account in designated banks and anyone can deposit physical gold via BIS certified collection, purity testing centres (CPTCs). The minimum amount of gold thus deposited is 30 gms, no upper limit.
- b. The gold is deposited for short term (1-3 years), medium term (5-7 years) and long term (12-15 years).
- c. On maturity, one can get back the cash / physical gold for short term deposits and cash only for long term deposits.
- d. The scheme allows banks customers to deposit their idle gold holdings for a fixed period in return for interest in the range of 2.25 per cent to 2.50 per cent.

13) What are Hunar Haats?

- a. Hunar Haats are organised by Ministry of Minority Affairs under USTTAD (*Upgrading the Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development*) scheme.
- b. Aims at preserving & promoting the rich heritage of the traditional arts & crafts of the Minority communities
- c. It envisages at boosting the skill of craftsmen, weavers and artisans who are already engaged in the traditional ancestral work.

14) Why Operation Sagar Rani was in recently?

- a. In June 2018, Kerala food safety department officials seized nearly 9,600 kg of fish preserved in formalin at a border check post in Kollam district.
- b. The seized fish included 7,000 kg of prawns and 2,600 kg of other species.
- c. The seizure was part of 'Operation Sagar Rani' launched by the state.

15) What is Saksham 2019?

- a. Saksham (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav) is an annual flagship event of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
- b. Saksham actively involves the Oil & Gas PSUs along with other stakeholders like State Governments,
- c. Create focused attention on fuel conservation through people centric activities
- d. Sensitize the masses about the conservation and efficient use of petroleum products leading to better health and environment

8 MARK QUESTIONS

1) What are the 12 National Biodiversity targets of India?

- a. By 2020, a significant proportion of the country's population, especially the youth, is aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.
- b. By 2020, values of biodiversity are integrated into national and state planning processes, development programmes and poverty alleviation strategies.
- c. Strategies for reducing the rate of degradation, fragmentation and loss of all natural habitats are finalized and actions put in place by 2020 for environmental amelioration and human well-being.
- d. By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and strategies to manage them developed so that populations of prioritized invasive alien species are managed.
- e. By 2020, measures are adopted for sustainable management of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.
- f. Ecologically representative areas under terrestrial and inland water, and also coastal and marine zones, especially those of particular importance for species, biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved effectively and equitably, based on protected area designation and management and other area-based conservation measures and are integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes, covering over 20% of the geographic area of the country, by 2020.
- g. By 2020, genetic diversity of cultivated plants, farm livestock, and their wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.
- h. By 2020, ecosystem services, especially those relating to water, human health, livelihoods and well-being, are enumerated and measures to safeguard them are identified, taking into account the needs of women and local communities, particularly the poor and vulnerable sections.
- i. By 2015, Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization as per the Nagoya Protocol are operational, consistent with national legislation.

- j. By 2020, an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity action plan is made operational at different levels of governance.
- k. By 2020, national initiatives using communities' traditional knowledge relating to biodiversity are strengthened, with the view to protecting this knowledge in accordance with national legislation and international obligations.
- l. By 2020, opportunities to increase the availability of financial, human and technical resources to facilitate effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the national targets are identified and the Strategy for Resource Mobilization is adopted.

2) Write about the Features of Space activities bill 2017.

- a. It is a proposed Bill to promote and regulate the space activities of India.
- b. The new Bill encourages the participation of non-governmental/private sector agencies in space activities in India under the guidance and authorisation of the government through the Department of Space.
- c. The provisions of this Act shall apply to every citizen of India and to all sectors engaged in any space activity in India or outside India.
- d. A non-transferable licence shall be provided by the Central Government to any person carrying out commercial space activity.
- e. The Central Government will formulate the appropriate mechanism for licensing, eligibility criteria, and fees for licence.
- f. The government will maintain a register of all space objects (any object launched or intended to be launched around the earth) and develop more space activity plans for the country.
- g. It will provide professional and technical support for commercial space activity and regulate the procedures for conduct and operation of space activity.
- h. It will ensure safety requirements and supervise the conduct of every space activity of India and investigate any incident or accident in connection with the operation of a space activity.

- i. It will share details about the pricing of products created by space activity and technology with any person or any agency in a prescribed manner.
- j. If any person undertakes any commercial space activity without authorisation they shall be punished with imprisonment up to 3 years or fined more than ₹1 crore or both.

3) Examine the Key features of the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

- a. **Offline verification of Aadhaar number holder:** The Bill allows 'offline verification' of an individual's identity, without authentication, through modes specified by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) by regulations.
- b. **Voluntary use of Aadhaar to verify identity:** The Bill states that an individual may voluntarily use his Aadhaar number to establish his identity, by authentication or offline verification.
- c. **Entities using Aadhaar:** An entity may be allowed to perform authentication through Aadhaar, if the UIDAI is satisfied that it is (i) compliant with certain standards of privacy and security, or (ii) permitted by law, or (iii) seeking authentication for a purpose specified by the central government in the interest of the State.
- d. **Aadhaar number of children:** The Bill specifies that at the time of enrolling a child to obtain an Aadhaar number, the enrolling agency shall seek the consent of his parent or guardian. The agency must inform the parent or guardian of (i) the manner in which the information will be used, (ii) the recipients with whom it will be shared, and (iii) their right to access the information. After attaining eighteen years of age, the child may apply for cancellation of his Aadhaar.
- e. **Disclosure of information in certain cases:** Under the Act, restrictions on security and confidentiality of Aadhaar related information do not apply in case the disclosure is pursuant to an order of a District Court (or above).
- f. **UIDAI Fund:** Under the Act, all fees and revenue collected by the UIDAI shall be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India. The Bill removes this provision, and creates the Unique Identification Authority of India Fund.
- g. **Complaints:** The Bill allows the individual to register complaints in certain cases, including impersonation or disclosure of their identity. The Bill defines the Aadhaar ecosystem to include

enrolling agencies, requesting agencies, and offline verification-seeking entities.

- h. Penalties:** Under the Bill, the UIDAI may initiate a complaint against an entity in the Aadhaar ecosystem for failure to (i) comply with the Act or the UIDAI's directions, and (ii) furnish information required by the UIDAI. Adjudicating Officers appointed by the UIDAI shall decide such matters, and may impose penalties up to one crore rupees on such entities.

4) Explain the National Policy for domestic workers.

- a. Its aim is to protect the domestic workers from abuse, harassment, violence and guarantee them rights in the matter of social security and minimum wages.
- b. The policy also includes social security cover and provisions against sexual harassment and bonded labour.
- c. It is a national policy for all kinds of household helps, under which payment of wages will be made to the board under fixed slab rates and the central board/trust will be managed by all stakeholders.
- d. The policy intends to set up an institutional mechanism to social security cover, fair terms of employment, grievance redressal and dispute resolution.
- e. It provides for recognising domestic workers as a worker with the right to register themselves with state labour department or any other suitable mechanism.
- f. The policy will also promote the rights for them to organise and form their own unions/associations and affiliate with other unions/associations.
- g. It will also provide for model contract of employment with well-defined period of work and rest.
- h. It also aims to regulate the recruitment and placement agencies by respective governments through formulation of a policy.
- i. It will also have a tripartite implementation committee at centre, state and district levels.

- j. It will also clearly define various terms such as part time workers, full time workers, live in workers, employers and private placement agencies.

5) Discuss about the DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2018.

- a. Allows regulated use of DNA technology to establish the identity of certain defined categories of persons, including offenders, suspects, and undertrials.
- b. By providing for the mandatory accreditation and regulation of DNA laboratories, the Bill seeks to ensure that with the proposed expanded use of this technology in the country.
- c. There is also the assurance that the DNA test results are reliable and the data remain protected from misuse or abuse in terms of the privacy rights of our citizens.
- d. As per the Bill, national and regional DNA data banks will be set up for maintaining a national database for identification of victims, suspects in cases, undertrials, missing persons and unidentified human remains.
- e. Punishment: According to it, those leaking the DNA profile information to people or entities who are not entitled to have it, will be punished with a jail term of up to three years and a fine of up to Rs. 1 lakh. Similar, punishment has also been provided for those who seek the information on DNA profiles illegally.
- f. Usage: As per the bill, all DNA data, including DNA profiles, DNA samples and records, will only be used for identification of the person and not for “any other purpose”.
- g. The bill’s provisions will enable the cross-matching between persons who have been reported missing on the one hand and unidentified dead bodies found in various parts of the country on the other, and also for establishing the identity of victims in mass disasters.
- h. The Bill establishes a DNA Regulatory Board to accredit the DNA laboratories that analyse DNA samples to establish the identity of an individual.

6) Explain the following.

a) Bring out the significance of Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2018

- a. Seeks to remove leprosy as a ground for divorce
- b. The Bill is meant to provide for the integration of leprosy patients into the mainstream.
- c. It is in keeping with the UN General Assembly Resolution of 2010 on the 'Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members'
- d. The proposed law follows a National Human Rights Commission recommendation a decade ago to introduce amendments in personal laws and other statutes.

b) State the importance the Right to Disconnect Bill 2018.

- a. Bill aims at "reducing stress and ease tension between an employee's personal and professional life."
- b. The Bill gives employees the right to not respond to calls or any kind of communications from the employers after office hours.
- c. The Bill requires the setting up of an Employee Welfare Authority, which will publish reports related to the impact employees have from prolonged use of digital tools beyond office hours and it will also create a charter defining employee-employer negotiation.
- d. According to the Bill, "Companies with more than 10 employees would periodically negotiate specific terms with their workers, publish their own charter, and create an Employee Welfare Committee consisting of representatives of the company's workforce."

7) Explain National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (2018-2023)

- a. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has drafted the plan
- b. Employ a multi-pronged strategy involving education, de-addiction and rehabilitation of affected individuals and their families to address the issue.
- c. Focus on preventive education, awareness generation, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent

people, besides training and capacity-building of service providers through the collaborative efforts of the Centre, state and NGOs.

- d. Coordination with implementing agencies for controlling the sale of sedatives, painkillers and muscle relaxant drugs, holding awareness generation programmes and checking online sale of drugs by stringent monitoring by the cyber cell are proposed under the Action Plan.
- e. Awareness generation through social, print, digital and online media, and engagement of celebrities, besides strengthening the national toll-free helpline for drug prevention
- f. The Action Plan calls for persuading principals, directors, vice chancellors of educational institutions to ensure that no drugs are sold within/nearby the campus.
- g. Increase community participation and public cooperation in the reduction of demand by involving Panchayati Raj institutions, Urban Local Bodies, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and other local groups like Mahila Mandals, self-help groups etc to tackle the menace of drugs.
- h. A steering committee would be constituted under the chairmanship of the secretary, Social Justice Ministry, and with representatives from several other Ministries to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan.

30 MARK QUESTIONS

1) **Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation policy 2018-2023 – Elaborate**

Released by: *Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department*

Goal: “Tamil Nadu Vision 2023” goal of attaining a **GSDP** growth at a sustained pace of **11% per annum** for the coming years.

Aim:

- 1) Make Tamil Nadu a Global Innovation Hub and the most preferred destination for startups by 2023.
- 2) Provide an enabling, innovative ecosystem in the State.
- 3) Implementation of the policy will enable the State to emerge as the “Knowledge Capital” and “Innovation Hub” of the country.
- 4) It will also attract entrepreneurs and investors across the globe.

Nodal Agency:

- 1) *Entrepreneurship Development and Innovation Institute (EDII)* shall act as nodal agency to promote and facilitate startups in the State.

Creating conducive ecosystem for encouraging entrepreneurship and innovations:

- 1) Tamil Nadu is well endowed with science and engineering talent pool.
- 2) This indigenous intellectual capital would be strengthened and leveraged to create entrepreneurial ventures through the following plan of action:

(i) Ease of doing business:

- 1) A ‘One-Stop-Shop’ guided by a portal and ably supported by a help-desk will be set up to facilitate registration, compliances and certification.
- 2) TANSIM will recognise a Start-step or Startup within 10 days from receipt of online application.
- 3) Online time bound grievance redressal mechanism for startups.

(ii) Policy simplification:

- 1) Existing labour laws and technical regulations will be reviewed and simplified.

- 2) Self-certification to be accepted from startups where there are no technical regulations which need to be complied with, such as compliance with EPFO, ESIC, Minimum Wages, Bonus, Gratuity etc.
- 3) Third Party Certification alone will be required where technical regulations had to be complied with such as Boilers Act, Factories Act, the Tamil Nadu Lifts Act, etc.

(iii) Grants:

- 1) TANSIM will conduct outreach programmes in partnership with reputed agencies, colleges, Incubators and approved private entities across the State.
- 2) Academic Institutions will be assisted in tapping research grants from BIRAC, DST/NSTEDB, CSIR, DEITY and GITA in collaboration with industry, generating product/process innovations.
- 3) Corporate groups, CPSUs and SPSUs will be motivated to fund Incubators and startup programmes using CSR regulations in force.
- 4) State Government will work with SLBC and leading banks to reposition few Bank branches in district headquarters as Startup & MSME support branches.
- 5) Orientation programme will be organised to sensitise the Managers. TANSIM shall facilitate startups in marketing and R&D activities.

Supporting social entrepreneurship for a positive social impact and inclusion:

- 1) Tamil Nadu is a welfare State and social inclusion has been one of the key factors for its sustained growth
- 2) There is always a need to provide an equitable platform for women, economically disenfranchised, differently-abled and transgender for greater social stability.

Government of Tamil Nadu aims to offer the following support:

- 1) The Mission shall extend additional support for startups that are eco-friendly green startups.
- 2) The Mission shall provide special focus to the startups creating Social Impact in areas like water, waste management, health, food, education, climate change, etc. by dedicating a portion of the venture fund.

- 3) Mission shall encourage student participation in social impact centric activities.
- 4) The Mission shall encourage rural entrepreneurship through venture funding and support rural-based startups and Incubators.
- 5) The Mission will organise Grand Challenges on specific social, rural and environmental problems under hackathon programme.
- 6) Selected innovative solutions shall be awarded an initial grant and follow-on funding for piloting the idea.
- 7) The Government will create a mechanism to adopt technologies/models developed by rural/social entrepreneurs.

Women:

- 1) Prioritize by and for women startups.
- 2) Training and sensitization programmes for women entrepreneurs.
- 3) Startups with a women founders or co-founders shall be supported for product development and marketing/publicity/participation in fairs and exhibitions.
- 4) Priority in allotment of industrial plots in industrial estates for women startups.
- 5) Support for setting up crèche in startups/incubators/co-working spaces with more than 50 employees.
- 6) Startups addressing issues related to women shall also be eligible for the above support.

Transgender:

- 1) Promote and assist startups where the founder or co-founder is transgender.
- 2) Training and sensitization programmes on entrepreneurship for transgender entrepreneurs.
- 3) Support under the New Entrepreneur-cum-Enterprise Development Scheme (NEEDs)
- 4) Priority in procurement & marketing assistance
- 5) Startups focusing on transgender empowerment shall also be eligible for the above support

Differently-abled:

- 1) Promote and assist startups where the founder or co-founder is differently-abled
- 2) Training and sensitization programmes on entrepreneurship for differently-abled entrepreneurs
- 3) Priority in procurement & marketing assistance
- 4) Startups working in the field of differently-abled shall also be eligible for support

EXCLUSIONS:

- 1) Formed by a demerger or reconstitution of a business already in existence.
- 2) A subsidiary of a firm in the State, except subsidiary of a startup itself which also qualifies as startup and the combined entity also satisfies the startup criteria.
- 3) A franchisee of an existing business in the State
- 4) Promoted or sponsored by or related to an Industrial group in the State whose group turnover exceeds Rs. 300 crore
- 5) The holding company deriving more than 50% of its income from investments and loans

IMPLEMENTATION:

- 1) Operational guidelines and clarifications will be issued from time to time.
- 2) The performance of this policy will be reviewed by the TANSIL every six months based on KPIs to be fixed by the council.
- 3) Among other metrics, the Compass World Ecosystem Ranking methodology would be used to benchmark cities like Chennai and Coimbatore.
- 4) The Mission will also arrange for annual evaluation of the policy and the report shall be placed before the State Startup and Innovation Council for review and direction.
- 5) This Policy is valid for a period of 5 years from the date of its notification or till a new policy is formulated.

- 6) However, amendments in this policy could be made with the approval of the Cabinet without affecting the beneficiaries already covered under the policy.
- 7) The policy shall be reviewed every five years.

2) Discuss briefly about Union Interim Budget 2019 – 2020:

- (i) According to **Article 112** of the Indian Constitution, it is a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the government for that particular year.
- (ii) It is also referred to as the **Annual Financial Statement**.
- (iii) It is broadly classified into 2 segments - Revenue Budget & Capital Budget.
- (iv) The budget provides for 3 sets of data:
 - a. Actual data of the preceding year
 - b. Provisional data of the current year
 - c. Budgetary estimates of the following year

Ten dimensions of Vision for India of 2030:

India would be a modern, technology driven, high growth, equitable and transparent society

- (i) **Ease of Living:** Build physical as well as social infrastructure.
- (ii) **Digital India:** Digitize government processes with leaders from youth.
- (iii) **Pollution free India:** Revolution in transportation with Electric Vehicles and focus on Renewables.
- (iv) **Rural Industrialisation:** Modern digital technologies to generate massive employment.
- (v) **Water Resources:** Clean Rivers, safe drinking water and efficient use of water through micro-irrigation.
- (vi) **Coastline potential:** Scaling up of Sagarmala and powering India's development and growth through Coastline and Ocean waters.

- (vii) **Space programme:** Gaganyaan, India becoming the launch-pad of satellites for the World and placing an Indian astronaut into space by 2022.
- (viii) **Food Security:** Self-sufficiency in food, exporting to the world to meet their food needs and producing food in the most organic way.
- (ix) **Healthy India:** Through Ayushman Bharat with women having equal rights and concern for their safety and empowerment.
- (x) **Governance:** Minimum Government Maximum Governance with proactive and responsible bureaucracy.

New Initiatives under Interim Budget 2019-20

1) Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMman Nidhi (PM-KISAN):

- (i) **Objective:**
 - a. Assistance to the small and marginal farmers with an assured supplemental income
 - b. Assistance to meet farmers emergent needs especially before the harvest season
- (ii) **Support:** Provide direct income support at the rate of Rs. 6,000 per year.
- (iii) **Beneficiaries:** Vulnerable landholding farmer families, having cultivable land upto 2 hectares.
- (iv) **Funding:** Fully funded by Government of India.
- (v) **Budget Outlay:**
 - a. Annual expenditure of Rs.75,000 crore for the FY 2019-20.
 - b. Allocation of Rs.20,000 crore in the Revised Estimates of FY 2018-19.
- (vi) **Transfer system:** Direct transfer into the bank accounts of beneficiary farmers, in three equal installments of Rs. 2,000 each.

2) Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog:

- (i) **Objective:**
 - a. Upscale sustainable genetic upgradation of cow resources

b. Enhance production and productivity of cows

(ii) **Function:** Look after effective implementation of laws and welfare schemes for cows

3) Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan:

(i) **Objective:** Provide unorganized sector workers a comprehensive social security coverage for their old age.

(ii) **Beneficiaries:** Unorganized sector workers with monthly income upto Rs. 15,000.

(iii) **Features:**

a. Assured monthly pension of Rs. 3,000 from the age of 60 years

b. Worker joining yojana at the age of 29 years will have to contribute only Rs. 100 per month till the age of 60 years.

c. Worker joining the pension yojana at 18 years, will have to contribute Rs. 55 per month.

d. Government will deposit equal matching share in the pension account of the worker every month.

(iv) **Funding:** Funded by GoI with an outlay of Rs. 500 crore for the Scheme.

4) Welfare Development Board:

a. **Objective:**

i. Implement welfare and development programmes for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities.

ii. It will be set up under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

b. **Function:**

i. Frame special strategies for the benefit of the hard-to-reach De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities.

ii. Committee under NITI Aayog to be set up to complete the task of identifying De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities not yet formally classified

c. **About the communities:**

- i. These communities are hard to reach, less visible, and therefore, frequently left-out.
- ii. The Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities move from place to place in search of a livelihood.
- iii. The Renke Commission and the Idate Commission have identified and listed these communities.

5) National Programme on Artificial Intelligence:

i. Objective:

- a. To take the benefits of Artificial Intelligence and related technologies to the people
- b. National Centre on Artificial Intelligence will be established as a hub along with Centres of Excellence.
- c. Nine priority areas have been identified.
- d. National Artificial Intelligence portal to be developed to support the programme.

6) Department for Promotion of Industries and Internal Trade:

- a. The subject of “promotion of internal trade including retail trading and welfare of traders, and their employees” assigned to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.
- b. So, the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion will be renamed as the Department for Promotion of Industries and Internal Trade.

7) Department of Fisheries:

- a. The Government has decided to create a separate Department of Fisheries.
- b. **Objective:** Provide sustained and focused attention towards development of fisheries sector.

Other Benefits:

- a. 2% interest subvention to the farmers pursuing the activities of animal husbandry and fisheries, who avail loan through Kisan Credit Card.
- b. Additional 3% interest subvention in case of timely repayment of loan.

- c. Interest subvention of 2% during disaster will now be provided for the entire period of re-schedulement of loan.

8) Reforms in stamp duty:

- a. Amendments proposed to streamline the system.
- b. Stamp duties would be levied on one instrument relating to one transaction and get collected at one place through the Stock Exchanges.
- c. The duty so collected will be shared with the State Governments seamlessly on the basis of domicile of buying client.

9) Strengthening MSMEs:

- a. 2% interest subvention on an incremental loan of Rs 1 crore for GST registered SMEs.
- b. Atleast 3% of the 25% sourcing for the Government undertakings to be from women owned SMEs.

Important Budgetary Allocations:

- a. Defence budget to cross Rs 3,00,000 crore for the first time ever.
- b. Allocation to North East to be increased by 21% over 2019-19 BE.
- c. Allocation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to be increased by 35.6% and 28% respectively over 2018-19 BE.
- d. Allocations for Centrally Sponsored Schemes significantly increased over RE 2018-19.
- e. Capital support of Rs.64,587 crore proposed for Railways.

Other Developments on existing initiatives:

- a. Rashtriya Gokul Mission: Outlay increased to Rs 750 crore for the current year.
- b. MGNREGA: Rs. 60, 000 crore allocation for BE 2019-20.
- c. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is being allocated Rs.19,000 crore in BE 2019-20.
- d. Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)- Allocation increased from Rs.23,357 crore in RE 2018-19 to Rs.27,584 crore in BE 2019-20.
- e. National Education Mission: Allocation increased by about 20% to Rs. 38,572 crore in BE 2019-20

Fiscal Programme:

1. **Direct Tax:** It is expected that direct taxes would be 6.6 % of GDP at the end of 2019-20.
 - a. **Income Tax:** While existing rates of income tax will continue, income upto Rs. 5 lakh exempted from Income Tax.
 - b. **Beneficiaries:** Middle class and small taxpayers, small business, small traders, salary earners, pensioners and senior citizens.
 - c. **Achievements:** Increase in direct tax collections from Rs. 6.38 Lakh crore in 2013-14 to Rs. 12 Lakh crore this year. 80% growth in tax base

2. **Fiscal Deficit:**
 - a. The Fiscal Deficit (FD) of the year 2019-20 is estimated to be 3.4% of GDP.
 - b. FD has been brought down to 3.4% in 2018-19 RE from the high of almost 6% seven years ago.
 - c. FRBM Act prescribes
 - (i) Debt to GDP ratio of the Government of India - 40% by 2024-25.
 - (ii) Fiscal Deficit – 3% to be achieved by 2020-21.
 - d. So, government to focus on debt consolidation along with fiscal deficit consolidation programme.

- C. Other Important facts and analysis:**
 - a. **Macro-Economic Framework Statement**
 - b. **Revenue deficit** in 2018-19 was budgeted at 2.2% of the GDP.
 - c. **Current Account Deficit** widened to 2.7 % of GDP in first half of the 2018-19.
 - d. **Medium Term Fiscal Policy cum Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement**
 - 1) The main focus in 2019-20 will be to put fiscal deficit on track as per FRBM Act by,
 - 2) Improving the expenditure efficiency.
 - 3) Improving tax collections.
 - e. **Gross Tax Revenue** is expected to grow by 13.5% over RE 2018-19.
 - f. **Direct taxes** are expected to increase by 15 % over RE 2018-19.

- g. **Indirect taxes** are expected show an increase of 11.8 % over RE 2018-19. The increase is mainly on account of improvement in GST collections anticipated in 2019-20. The total rise in expenditure is attributed to
- 1) Low inflation
 - 2) Increased support to agricultural sector
 - 3) Increased interest payments
 - 4) Spending on internal security
- h. **Non-Debt capital receipts on capital side** shows an increase for BE 2019-20 due to disinvestment proceeds.
- i. **Total net borrowings** in 2019-20 are projected to increase by 11% over RE 2018-19.
- j. **Average inflation** has been brought down to 4.6% over last five years. In December 2018 was down to 2.19% only.

Disinvestment target of 80,000 crore is expected to be achieved and a target of Rs 90,000 crore set for 2019-20.

3) Write an essay on Tamil Nadu Aerospace & Defence Industrial Policy 2019.

Tamil Nadu – The Economic Power House of India

Preamble:

- a) India is fast emerging as a major defence and aerospace market, fuelled by the increasing defence spending and a booming commercial aviation market.
- b) Aerospace and Defence Industries include units involved in designing, testing, developing, manufacturing and servicing of commercial and military aircrafts, missiles, space crafts, defence systems, space exploration systems, etc.

Objective of the Policy:

- a) create an end-to-end ecosystem for Aerospace sector development covering design, engineering and manufacturing of aircraft for civil and defence sector

- b) To attract an estimated investment of about 5 Billion UDS in 5 years period and an estimated investment of about 10 Billion USD in 10 years period in Aerospace and Defence sector
- c) To generate direct & indirect employment opportunities to around one lakh persons in 10 years
- d) To harness Tamil Nadu's inherent strengths in automotive manufacturing sector for exploring opportunities in Aerospace and Defence manufacturing
- e) To create a global workforce for high-end manufacturing by establishing Centre of Excellence, R & D and skill development institutions and
- f) To attract global OEMs and Tier 1 suppliers and Indian majors as anchor units in the State by providing required facilitation and support.

Support for building the Aerospace and Defence Industry in Driven Eco-System:

Augmenting and Creating the Industrial Infrastructure

- a) The Government will adopt a cluster development approach in building the aerospace and defence manufacturing eco-system by creating required physical infrastructure.
- b) The Government through TIDCO/SIPCOST will establish Aerospace and Defence Parks
- c) The Government will facilitate development of aerospace and defence clusters in the potential locations of the State viz, Chennai, Coimbatore, Kancheepuram, Krishnagiri, Salem and Trichy Districts
- d) The Government will provide a special incentive package of assistance of reclusters and equity support for promoting the Aerospace/Defence Parks.
- e) The Government will facilitate improve the rail road air connectivity to the Aerospace Defence Parks Clusters.

Create Human Resource with Relevant Talent & Skills

- a) Talent and different skill sets are the key resource for Aerospace and Defence industry.

- b) The Government of Tamil Nadu will facilitate the augmentation of the quality and quantity of talent in the State and provide opportunities for Polytechnics/Engineering Colleges, Flying training schools

Innovation, Research & Development

- a) Sustained growth in Aerospace & Defence sector demands strong R&D base and close Academia-Industry interaction.
- b) Innovative technologies and ideas are to be incubated in the academic institutions and R&D laboratories.
- c) The Government will facilitate in setting up of Aerospace & Defence Research facilities in the State.
- d) The Government will encourage the industry to set up and adopt labs in the existing institutes for specific research initiative.
- e) The Government will assist in bringing R&D Co-operation with international and national organizations.

Development of Defence Industrial Corridors

- a) Government of India in the Budget 2018-19 has announced that a Defence Industrial Production Corridor will be developed in Tamil Nadu.
- b) In Tamil Nadu, numerous industrial units in the form of clusters are operating in Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, Salem and Hosur catering to Defence PSUs and services.
- c) State Government will provide all support and facilitation to the MoD for establishing the Defence Industrial Production Corridor to attract more investments and generate employment in the State.

Incentives & Concessions for Aerospace & Defence Manufacturing Sector

Aerospace & Defence sector industries will be eligible for following incentives and concessions under this policy:

- a) Anchor Unit Subsidy
- b) Subsidy for Skill Development
- c) Subsidy for Certification Process

- d) Subsidy for Allotment of Land
- e) Capital Subsidy for Units
- f) Capital Subsidy for Development of Aerospace & Defence Industrial Parks
- g) Aircraft Maintenance, Repair and Overhauling (MRO) facilities
- h) Electricity Tax Exemption
- i) Stamp duty concession
- j) Environmental Protection Infrastructure Subsidy
- k) Structured Package of Incentives
 - l) Labour Sector Initiative
 - m) Implementation of Incentives
 - n) Single Window Clearance Mechanism

4) TAMIL NADU SOLAR ENERGY POLICY 2019 – Elaborate

Introduction:

- a. The Special Report on Global Warming by the Intergovernmental panel for Climate Change (IPCC) estimates the impact of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-Industrial levels.
- b. One of the key messages that comes out strongly from this report is that the world is already seeing the consequence of 1°C of global warming through more extreme weather, rising sea levels and diminishing Arctic Sea ice.
- c. The report states that under emissions in line with current pledges under the Paris Agreement global warming is expected to surpass 1.5°C.
- d. Even if they are supplemented with very challenging increases in the scale and ambition of mitigation after 2030

Preamble:

- a. Government of Tamil Nadu has an unwavering commitment to the Directive Principle of the State Policy enshrined in Article 48.A of the Constitution, which stipulates that “the State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment”.

- b. It was out of this commitment that the Government issued the Tamil Nadu Solar Policy 2012, which was the first comprehensive solar energy policy in the country.
- c. Tamil Nadu Solar Energy Policy 2019 intends to create a framework that enables an accelerated development of solar energy in the State.

Tamil Nadu Solar Energy Vision:

- a. Solar Energy will be a major contributor to a sustainable energy future for Tamil Nadu.
- b. Solar energy development will provide green jobs to a significant number of the State's workforce.
- c. Solar energy will become available, accessible and affordable to all citizens of Tamil Nadu.
- d. Solar energy generation will significantly contribute to reducing the carbon and water footprint of the State's energy sector
- e. Tamil Nadu will be an international climate leader for emerging economies by 2023.

Solar Energy Policy Objectives:

- a. Clear and transparent policy governance.
- b. Establishing an eco-system that translates the solar energy vision into enabling policy systems and processes.
- c. Use regulatory mechanisms to ensure that Tamil Nadu will achieve, or exceed, the solar energy portfolio obligations as may be determined by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) from time to time.
- d. In accordance with regulations, facilitate open access to the public electricity grid and thereby create opportunities for grid-connected distributed generation of solar power.
- e. Encourage and incentivise electricity consumer to set up solar energy systems.
- f. Establish a 'Single Window System' for technical Support, funding support and project clearance through cooperation between the concerned Government departments.

- g. Encourage public-private partnerships and joint ventures to mobilize investments in solar energy projects, manufacturing facilities, research, and technology development.
- h. Facilitate 'Ease of Doing Business' in the solar energy sector.
- i. Create an investment-friendly environment that provides opportunities for private individuals, companies, local bodies, generation of solar energy, particularly for the electricity consumer to become a "Prosumer" (a producer-consumer).
- j. Create a win-win situation for all stakeholders.
- k. Create a road map to achieve the objective of the "National Renewable Energy Policy" to be issued by the Central government.

Solar Energy Targets:

- a. Tamil Nadu will have an installed solar energy generation capacity of 9,000 MW by 2023. Of this target, 40% will be earmarked for consumer category solar energy systems.
- b. Target for subsequent years will be set by the Government of Tamil Nadu through notifications under this policy.

Solar Energy Implementation Models:

Solar energy systems may be implemented with the following models:

Upfront ownership: The purchaser of the solar system pays the supplier for the capital cost and takes ownership of the solar system.

Deferred ownership: The solar system is installed and operated by the supplier. The purchaser makes system performance-based payments to the supplier or leases the system from the supplier. System ownership is transferred to the purchaser on a mutually agreed date or is triggered by a mutually agreed event.

Solar Energy Programs:

- a. Building by-laws and ECBC (Energy Conservation Building Code) Compliance.
- b. The Government will introduce a policy to promote electric vehicles, and solar energy powered charging facilities.

- c. All public buildings, defined as per Tamil Nadu Public Buildings (Licensing) Act, will be encouraged to install solar energy system, both photovoltaic and thermal.
- d. Corporations, municipalities and local urban bodies will be encouraged to use solar PV energy based street lights and water supply installations.
- e. Solar thermal for the residential, institutional and commercial segments will be promoted.
- f. Solar thermal applications for industrial use, including concentrated solar power (CSP) will be promoted.

Incentives:

- a. Consumer category solar energy will be exempted from electricity tax for two years from the date of this policy.
- b. Suitable incentive schemes will be designed to promote solar energy generation in the agricultural sector. This may include incentives to farmers.

Grid Connectivity and Energy Evacuation:

- a. For consumer category solar PV systems, the system capacity at the service connection point shall not exceed 100% of the sanctioned load of the service connection.
- b. The maximum cumulative solar PV capacity at distribution transformer level may be reviewed and determined by TNERC from time to time to enable optimal solar energy penetration.

Awareness Creation, Education and Capacity Building:

- a. All public and private schools are encouraged to introduce a curriculum on energy and environment into their syllabus.
- b. State government Department and State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) will be encouraged to participate in annual solar energy and energy conservation training programs organized by TEDA and other agencies.
- c. All higher education institutions are encouraged to host and annual energy and environment day to create awareness about climate change and the benefits of renewable energy as a climate change mitigation strategy.

Solar Energy Research:

- a. Tamil Nadu will facilitate and support research in the solar energy sector. TEDA, in collaboration with other Government Department, will constitute a Solar Energy Research Fund (SERF).
- b. Tamil Nadu will closely collaborate with multi-lateral agencies to advance solar energy research and development in the State.

Role of the State Agencies:

- a. TEDA shall take the lead in launching this Solar Energy Policy with the use of media, public relations, billboards, advertisements, websites, and more.
- b. TEDA will lead a comprehensive information and awareness creation effort in order to promote solar energy in the State.
- c. TEDA / TANGEDCO will network and coordinate with national and international institutions that are leaders in the solar energy sector in order to promote and enhance collaboration and joint R & D Projects.
- d. TANGEDCO will design and facilitate the development of innovative solar energy projects in various modes including public, private public-private partnership and build-own-operate-transfer (BOOT) modes.
- e. TEDA will advise TANGEDCO on these projects.
- f. TANGEDCO will also initiate Energy Storage Projects / Solar Parks / Floating Solar parks either on its own or as Joint Venture (JV) initiatives in collaboration with Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).

Operative Period:

- a. The policy shall come into effect on 04.02.2019 and shall remain valid until superseded or modified by another policy.
- b. The Government will review the implementation of this policy annually to evaluate the actual results against policy objectives.