

CHINMAYA ACADEMY FOR CIVIL SERVICES

CURRENT AFFAIRS

DATE: 26 /06/2024



TAMILNADU

1.Budget Allocation for SC/ST Welfare- Tamilnadu

• Land Purchase Scheme for SC/ST Women:

- ✓ ₹20 crore allocated for landless SC/ST women agricultural laborers.
- ✓ Maximum subsidy: ₹5 lakh or 50% of land value per eligible candidate.

• Housing for Tribal Communities:

- ✓ ₹70 crore to build 4,500 housing units for tribal communities without houses.
- ✓ ₹50 crore for building approach roads in tribal neighborhoods.

Educational Facilities and Support

• Hostels for SC/ST Students:

✓ Hostels with modern facilities in Sivaganga, Erode, Virudhunagar, and

Cuddalore districts.

- ✓ Cost: ₹15 crore.
- Centralized Kitchen under 'Amudha Surabi' Scheme:
 - ✓ Locations: Tiruchi, Madurai, and Coimbatore.
 - ✓ Beneficiaries: Around 3,000 students.
 - ✓ Cost: ₹9 crore.

Cultural and Lifestyle Support

- Lifestyle Festival:
 - ✓ Celebrating the culture, traditions, and literary works of SCs and STs.
 - ✓ Cost: ₹3 crore.
- Essential Accessories for Hostel Students:

- ✓ Distribution of bedsheets and other essentials.
- ✓ Beneficiaries: Around 10,000 students.
- ✓ Cost: ₹4 crore.

Infrastructure and Skill Development

- Refurbishing Tribal Boarding Schools:
 - ✓ Improvements based on the demands and needs of students.
 - ✓ Schemes to develop unique talents in schools and college hostels.

• Skill Vouchers for SC/ST Students:

- ✓ Total: ₹41 lakh.
- ✓ For students excelling in higher education.

• Increased Financial Assistance for Higher Education:

- ✓ Additional 400 students to be supported.
- ✓ Total beneficiaries increased to 2,000 students.
- ✓ Cost: ₹4 crore.

2. Chief Minister's Road Development Programme (CMRDP)

- Road Widening Projects:
 - ✓ Four-Lane Roads: Over 200 km.
 - ✓ Two-Lane Roads: 550 km.

• Key Road Connections:

- ✓ Avinashi to Mettupalayam
- ✓ Erode to Karur
- ✓ Ramanathapuram to Melur through Sivaganga
- Ring Roads and Bypass Projects:
 - ✓ Target Towns: Tenkasi, Arcot, Tirunelveli, Bodinayakanur.
 - ✓ Connectivity: Rajapalayam new bus stand to Government Hospital.

✓ Budget: ₹321 crore.

• Panchayat Road Upgradation:

- Upgradation: 600 km of panchayat roads and panchayat union roads to other district roads.
- ✓ Budget: ₹680 crore.

• Infrastructure Enhancements:

- Foot Overbridges with Escalators: Locations: Near Velachery railway station and at Koyambedu.
- ✓ Overbridge for Pallikaranai Marsh Conservation:
- ✓ Connectivity: Kamakshi Hospital to Thoraipakkam.

• Proposed Road Overbridge:

- ✓ Connectivity: Tambaram to Chengalpattu (27 km).
- ✓ Status: Discussions with the Union government.

• Road Safety Measures:

- ✓ Objective: Reducing fatal road accidents.
- ✓ Focus Areas: Identifying black spots and improving road junctions.
- ✓ Budget: ₹300 crore.
- Environmental and Conservation Initiatives: Tree Plantation: Alongside highways.
- Detailed Project Reports (DPRs):
 - ✓ New Project: Connecting Manalmedu in Mayiladuthurai district with

Sethiyathope in Cuddalore district.

3. Tamilnadu Government's Measures to Address Killings Related to

Inter-Caste Marriages:

• Legislative Approach:

- ✓ No New Legislation: Tamilnadu Chief Minister emphasized expediting legal processes under existing laws rather than enacting new legislation.
- Relevant Laws:
 - Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
 - ✓ Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).
 - ✓ Indian Penal Code (IPC).
 - ✓ (Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954)

• Legal and Enforcement Actions:

Special Public Prosecutors: Appointment to expedite cases of crimes related

to inter-caste marriages.

Investigation Officers:

- ✓ Normally a sub-inspector (per CrPC).
- Proposal to appoint Deputy Superintendents of Police to give more importance to such cases.
- Recent Incident:
 - ✓ Tirunelveli attack on CPI (M) office for arranging an inter-caste marriage.
 - ✓ 14 persons arrested, including 7 women.
 - ✓ SC/ST Act invoked due to prima facie evidence of caste atrocity.
- Government Commitment and Actions:

District-Level Committees: Review of committees dealing with inter-caste marriage issues.

Dravidian Movement: Commitment to social justice, supporting inter-caste marriages, women's education, and equality.

- Socio-Economic Perspective:
 - Economic Development: Emphasis on reducing such crimes through socio-economic progress.
 - Women's Education and Employment: Advancement in these areas seen as critical in mitigating regressive social crimes.
- Notable Cases:
 - ✓ Gokulraj Murder Case: Reference to the Namakkal case where culprits were sentenced, highlighting the government's efforts to secure justice.

NATIONAL - INDIA

4. Implementation of New Criminal Laws and eSakshya Application

- New Criminal Laws:
 - ✓ Effective Date: July 1.2024
- Replacements:
 - ✓ Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS): Replaces Indian Penal Code, 1860.
 - ✓ Bharatiya Sakshya (BS): Replaces Indian Evidence Act, 1872.
 - Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS): Replaces Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.
- eSakshya Mobile Application:
 - Purpose: Assist police in recording scenes of crime, search, and seizure.
 - ✓ Features:
 - i. **e-Evidence Recording**: Maximum of four minutes per recording.

- ii. Multiple Files: Can be uploaded per FIR.
- iii. Selfie Upload: Police officials must upload a selfie after procedure completion.
- iv. Cloud-Based Platform: Files are uploaded to a cloud-based platform.
- v. Development: By National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- vi. **Availability**: For all police stations registering and downloading the app.

✓ BNSS Mandates:

- i. Audiovisual Recording: Compulsory for search and seizure.
- ii. Forensic Examination: Mandatory for offenses attracting seven years or more punishment.

• Resource Challenges:

- ✓ Procurement Costs: Expensive hardware and cloud space.
- ✓ State Resources: Many states lack sufficient resources.

Connectivity Options:

- Offline Recording: Use personal devices, generate hash value, and upload from police station.
- ✓ Direct Upload: Requires good Internet speed.

• Chain of Evidence Concerns:

- Procedural Integrity: Ensuring the sanctity of evidence submission is crucial.
- ✓ Forensic Evidence: Must maintain a strict chain of command to avoid procedural infirmities and ensure convictions.
- Conviction Rate Impact:
 - ✓ Uniformity in Investigations: Expected to increase the conviction rate.

5. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) - Revamp:

• Scheme Overview:

- ✓ Objective: Enable affordable housing for urban poor.
- ✓ Launch Year: 2015.
- ✓ Extension: Till December 2024.
- ✓ Target Groups: Urban poor, middle-income groups, and slum dwellers.
- ✓ Goal: Ensure house for all eligible urban households.

• Revamp Focus:

- ✓ Learnings from Past 9 Years: Incorporate new features based on operational experiences.
- Beneficiary Outreach: Focus on eliminating delays in reaching beneficiaries.

• Ministry Initiatives:

✓ Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (2023-24, 2022-23):

Scheme to support states.

✓ Urban Planning Incentives: Incentivize states to improve and speed up the basic urban planning ecosystem in cities.

6. iDEX for Miniaturised Satellites:

• Overview of iDEX:

- ✓ Full Form: Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX).
- ✓ Purpose: Platform to foster innovation and technology development in defense and aerospace sectors.
- ✓ Initiative: Launched by the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

- Focus on Miniaturised Satellites:
 - ✓ Objective: Encourage development of miniaturised satellites for defense applications.
 - ✓ Size: Typically small, often weighing less than 500 kg (microsatellites) or even less than 10 kg (nanosatellites).
 - ✓ Technology: Utilizes miniaturised components and advanced electronics.
 - ✓ Cost: Generally more cost-effective compared to traditional satellites.
 - ✓ Benefits:
 - i. Enhanced surveillance capabilities.
 - ii. Improved communication systems.
 - **iii.** Cost-effective and rapid deployment.

Key Features:

- ✓ Innovation Support: Provides funding, mentorship, and resources to startups and MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises).
- Collaboration: Facilitates partnerships between industry, academia, and government entities.
- Implementation Strategy:
 - Challenges and Competitions: Organizes innovation challenges to identify and support promising technologies.
 - ✓ Funding: Grants and financial assistance for prototype development and testing.
 - ✓ Testing Facilities: Access to defense testing facilities and infrastructure for validation.
- Strategic Importance:

- National Security: Strengthens India's defense capabilities through advanced technology.
- Indigenization: Promotes self-reliance in defense technology and reduces dependency on imports.
- ✓ Economic Impact: Boosts the domestic defense manufacturing sector and creates high-tech job opportunities.
- Recent Developments:
 - Successful Prototypes: A number of innovative solutions have been developed under the **iDEX program**.
 - ✓ Future Prospects: Continuous focus on emerging technologies like miniaturised satellites to address evolving defense needs.

7.Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP)

Scheme

Objective:

- Purpose: To refund duties and taxes incurred by exporters on exported products.
- Implementation: Introduced to replace the earlier Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) to comply with WTO norms.

Features:

- Refund Mechanism: Provides reimbursement for various central, state, and local duties and taxes which were not refunded earlier.
- Sector Inclusion: Covers all sectors and products, aiming to boost exports across industries.
- Rebate Rates: Rates are fixed based on average incidence of duties and taxes, with detailed guidelines for calculation.

Implementation Strategy:

- Phased Rollout: Implemented gradually across different sectors and products to ensure smooth transition from MEIS.
- Customs Automation: Integration with customs systems to streamline refund processes.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Regular review to adjust rebate rates and ensure effectiveness.

Benefits:

- **Enhanced Competitiveness**: Reduces export costs, making Indian products more competitive in global markets.
- **Boost to Manufacturing**: Encourages domestic manufacturing and value addition by reducing embedded taxes.
- **Export Promotion**: Supports exporters in expanding their market reach and increasing export volumes.

Challenges and Considerations:

- Complexity: Ensuring accurate calculation and verification of refund claims.
- Financial Impact: Budgetary considerations for the government due to potential revenue loss.
- Compliance: Ensuring exporters adhere to guidelines and utilize benefits appropriately.

Global Trade Context:

• WTO Compliance: Aligns with WTO norms on export subsidies and trade facilitation measures.

• Competitive Edge: Positions India as a competitive player in global trade by removing export-related bottlenecks.

Future Prospects:

- Continued Support: Likely to evolve with changing export dynamics and global trade policies.
- Sectoral Focus: Potential for sector-specific enhancements based on export performance and strategic priorities.

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