

P2. NATIONAL



Jharkhand Recruitment Protests - Protests by Jharkhand’s students and job aspirants reflect accumulated dissatisfaction over alleged recruitment irregularities, examination cancellations and delays

P3. NATIONAL



Meghalaya’s district council okays amendments to bar non-tribals from polls- The Garo Hills developments highlight the interaction between tribal self-governance, electoral eligibility, constitutional autonomy and State-level administration.

P4. CONTOURS



How personality cults derail democracy
- Personality cults can weaken democratic citizenship by replacing institutional accountability, scepticism and participation with political devotion making the health of a republic increasingly dependent on individual leaders rather than durable democratic institutions.

P7. WORLD



Over 100 killed as powerful earthquake strikes Colombia - The Colombia earthquake highlights how major seismic events can trigger casualties, structural collapse, aftershock risks and infrastructure disruption, requiring coordinated search-and-rescue, emergency funding and recovery support.

Editor’s Note

In this edition of the Pala Civil Times, we explore diverse dimensions of governance and public policy, ranging from India’s constitutional framework for tribal self-governance to the management of disasters in an increasingly risk-prone world. The national pages examine the latest developments in the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council, highlighting the balance between tribal autonomy, electoral representation and constitutional oversight. We also examine the Jharkhand recruitment protests and the systemic concerns over examination integrity, institutional accountability and growing youth discontent. Moving further into the democratic sphere, we analyse how personality cults can weaken political scrutiny, citizen participation and institutional accountability. The decoded editorials focus on two significant governance challenges: building a comprehensive nursing professional registry for better workforce planning and healthcare governance, and managing the constitutional, federal and democratic implications of the forthcoming delimitation exercise. The world page examines major disasters in Canada and Colombia, highlighting the challenges of rapid wildfire and earthquake response. Together, these themes encourage students to develop a broader, interconnected understanding of governance, public institutions and disaster management.

Editorials Decoded

THE HINDU Case for consensus Effective registration of healthcare professionals requires an integrated and continuously updated system that combines credential verification, professional mobility, workforce planning, patient safety and emergency deployment.	THE HINDU Tracking nursing Effective registration of healthcare professionals requires an integrated and continuously updated system that combines credential verification, professional mobility, workforce planning, patient safety and emergency deployment.
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Jharkhand Protests: Examination Governance and Youth Discontent

The ongoing protests by students and job aspirants in Jharkhand have emerged from allegations of irregularities in government recruitment examinations and growing dissatisfaction with the reliability of the recruitment system. The immediate demands include cancellation of the JSSC-CGL examination and a CBI investigation into alleged irregularities. However, the protests reflect a wider problem: repeated examination-related controversies can impose prolonged uncertainty on aspirants, undermine confidence in recruitment institutions and intensify youth dissatisfaction with employment opportunities.

Immediate Context and Major Demands

Indefinite protest: Students and job aspirants have been on strike for 17 days, with a continuing sit-in at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium.

JSSC-CGL: Protesters demand cancellation of the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission-Combined Graduate Level examination.

Investigation: Protesters seek a CBI investigation into alleged recruitment irregularities, citing lack of trust in State authorities.

Recent cancellations: The State government agreed to cancel three examinations, including the preliminary examination of the 14th JPSC Combined Civil Services.

JPSC probe: Former JPSC chairman L. Khiantge, who resigned after the State CID took over the investigation, was arrested in connection with the probe.

From Examination Disputes to Systemic Discontent

Repeated disruptions: Aspirants describe recurring examination irregularities, cancellations and alleged paper leaks as a continuing source of uncertainty.

Time costs: Repeated attempts and cancelled examinations can extend preparation periods and create uncertainty over career timelines.

Institutional trust: Demands for a CBI probe reflect the protesters' stated lack of confidence in State-level investigations.

Employment pressure: Government examinations are viewed by many aspirants as a critical pathway to employment, making procedural failures particularly consequential.

Accumulated frustration: The protests have therefore moved beyond an individual examination to demands for broader recruitment-system reforms.

Governance Challenges

Credibility: Recruitment institutions need processes that aspirants can regard as reliable, predictable and fair.

Accountability: Allegations of examination irregularities require credible investigation and responsibility for identified failures.

Communication: Clear and timely decisions regarding cancellations, investigations and future examinations can reduce prolonged uncertainty.

Protest management: The use of barricades, tear gas, water cannons and lathi-charge during the Assembly march intensified tensions and grievances.

Institutional reform: Sustained reform of examination procedures, combined with accountability and greater public confidence, is necessary to prevent recurring recruitment controversies from becoming wider youth discontent.



Way Forward

The Jharkhand protests demonstrate how weaknesses in public recruitment can develop into a broader governance and youth-employment issue. Lasting resolution requires credible institutions, transparent procedures, accountability and predictable examinations. Restoring trust between recruitment authorities and aspirants is essential for ensuring that public employment examinations function as fair and dependable avenues of opportunity.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. In the integrity index of Transparency International, India stands very low. Discuss briefly the legal, political, social and cultural factors that have caused the decline of public morality in India. (GS II – 2016)

RELEVANCE GS II : Transparency and accountability

Meghalaya's district council okays amendments to bar non-tribals from polls

The recent Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) decision to create a separate electoral roll and restrict electoral participation to eligible Scheduled Tribes highlights the continuing importance of balancing tribal self-governance, electoral representation and constitutional safeguards.

Constitutional Framework

Article 244(2): Applies the Sixth Schedule to tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. The Sixth Schedule specifically governs tribal areas in these four northeastern States.

Autonomous districts: Tribal areas are constituted as autonomous districts, but remain within the executive authority of the State.

District Councils: Each council has 30 members—26 elected and 4 nominated by the Governor; elected members normally serve five years.

Governor's role: The Governor can organise or reorganise autonomous districts and regions, and has specified powers concerning councils and their administration.

Regional Councils: Where different tribes exist within an autonomous district, the Governor may divide it into autonomous regions, each having a separate regional council.

Latest Context

Separate electoral roll: GHADC approved amendments to Rules 128 and 129 to establish a distinct electoral roll for its elections instead of using the Assembly electoral roll.

Eligibility: Under the amended rules, only persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes recognised by Meghalaya and fulfilling prescribed conditions can enter the GHADC electoral roll.

Election contestation: The council had earlier introduced Scheduled Tribe status as an eligibility criterion for contesting GHADC elections.

Recent conflict: The developments followed violence after an earlier notification sought to bar non-tribals from contesting GHADC elections; the Meghalaya High Court cancelled the notification, and the State postponed the election.

RELEVANCE

GS II : Federalism and decentralisation



Powers, Functions & Governance Significance

Law-making: District and regional councils can make laws on specified matters including land, forests, shifting cultivation, village administration, inheritance, marriage and divorce, and social customs; such laws require Governor's assent.

Justice: Councils can establish village councils/courts for disputes between tribes while staying within High Court jurisdiction.

Development: Councils may establish or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries and roads.

Revenue: Councils can assess and collect land revenue and impose specified taxes within their jurisdictions.

Economic regulation: Councils can regulate money lending and trading by non-tribals, with the required Governor's assent.

Legislative protection: Parliamentary and State legislative laws may apply to autonomous districts with specified modifications and exceptions.

The GHADC developments demonstrate that autonomy is not limited to administrative powers; questions of electoral participation and representation can also become central to tribal self-governance. The challenge is to protect legitimate tribal interests while ensuring that the functioning of autonomous councils remains consistent with constitutional processes.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. The provisions in the Fifth Schedule and Sixth Schedule in the Constitution of India are made in order to (2015)

- (a) protect the interests of Scheduled Tribes
- (b) determine the boundaries between states
- (c) determine the powers, authorities, and responsibilities of Panchayats
- (d) protect the interests of all the border States

How personality cults derail democracy

A personality cult emerges when political admiration develops into excessive devotion to an individual, transforming a leader from a political representative into an object of public worship. The danger lies not merely in authoritarian rule but in the gradual weakening of democratic habits such as scepticism, argument, participation and accountability. Jawaharlal Nehru, writing anonymously in 1937, and B.R. Ambedkar in 1949 both warned against political hero-worship. Their concern was that excessive dependence on individuals could leave democratic society “stunted” and ultimately weaken republican institutions.

Personality Cults: Core Features

Political devotion: Admiration becomes excessive loyalty, reducing the willingness to question a leader.

Messianic leadership: Leaders are portrayed as extraordinary individuals capable of solving complex national problems single-handedly.

Spectator politics: Social media and political theatre can turn citizens from participants into spectators of charismatic leadership.

Institutional displacement: Personalities begin to overshadow institutions, procedures and collective decision-making.

Outsourced judgement: Citizens may substitute admiration for independent political judgement and equate loyalty to a leader with patriotism.

Indispensable leader: The republic's principle that institutions matter more than personalities is weakened when national progress becomes associated with one individual.

Personality Cults and the Erosion of Democratic Citizenship

Reduced scrutiny: Political devotion can weaken citizens' willingness to question authority and demand accountability.

Declining participation: Dependence on a charismatic figure can discourage the active exercise of citizenship.

Power concentration: Celebrating leaders who bend institutions or rules can normalise excessive concentration of power.

Democratic stagnation: The danger is not only dictatorship but a “stunted” democracy in which citizens lose the habits necessary for democratic growth.

Mythmaking: National aspirations and anxieties can become concentrated around individuals, creating messianic leader aura.

Institutional dependence: A healthy republic must be capable of renewing itself without becoming dependent on extraordinary personalities.

RELEVANCE

GS II : Accountability and democratic governance

Democratic Safeguards

Cultivate scepticism: Democratic citizenship requires citizens willing to question leaders and distrust excessive concentrations of power.

Prioritise accountability: Political loyalty must not displace scrutiny; public authority should remain answerable to institutions and citizens.

Strengthen participation: Citizens should remain active participants in republican life rather than passive spectators of political personalities.

Separate patriotism from personality: Loyalty to the nation should not be equated with loyalty to an individual leader.

Respect institutional limits: Political leadership can provide vision, but durable democracy requires institutions capable of constraining personal power.

Preserve collective responsibility: National progress should be understood as the product of the contributions of millions rather than the achievement of singular heroes.

Way Forward

The central danger of personality cults is their capacity to transform democracy from a system of citizen participation and institutional accountability into a relationship of political devotion. Leaders may inspire societies, but democratic resilience ultimately rests on citizens who question, participate and hold power accountable. A strong republic therefore requires not only visionary leaders but also strong institutions and sceptical citizens.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



- Q. Democracy's superior virtue lies in the fact that it calls into activity (2017)
- the intelligence and character of ordinary men and women.
 - the methods for strengthening executive leadership.
 - a superior individual with dynamism and vision.
 - a band of dedicated party workers

Case for consensus (The Hindu : 11-08-2026)

Delimitation is the process of reallocating Lok Sabha seats among States and redrawing individual constituencies within States according to population. The forthcoming exercise is significant because the population benchmark is expected to shift from the 1971 Census to the first Census conducted after 2026, i.e. the 2027 Census. This could alter the balance of representation between States, particularly between southern and Hindi-speaking States. The central challenge is to reconcile “one person, one vote, one value” with federal concerns and population stabilisation.

Constitutional Framework and Delimitation Process

Existing basis: Articles 81 and 82 provide for seat reallocation among States and constituency delimitation after the first Census conducted after 2026.

Amendment requirement: A fresh delimitation itself does not require a Constitutional amendment; amendment is required only to alter the existing constitutional provisions governing delimitation.

Three-stage sequence: After 2027 Census data, the process envisages State-wise seat reallocation, constituency redrawing and women’s reservation.

Current distribution: *The existing 543 Lok Sabha seats are allocated among States based on 1971 Census population.* The last inter-State reallocation occurred in 1973.

Constitutional ceiling: The existing maximum is 550 Lok Sabha seats, while a proposed amendment seeks to increase it to 850.

2027 Census & Emerging Representation

Seat redistribution in States: Moving from 1971 to 2027 population figures is likely to increase representation of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan while reducing the southern States’ share.

Constituency inequality: An MP represented roughly 4–5 lakh electors in 1967; today, the figure is about 14 lakh in Kerala and 19 lakh in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Population stabilisation: Decisions in 1976 and 2001 avoided penalising States that had stabilised their populations, producing present variations in constituency size.

Past experience: The 2002 delimitation exercise followed the 2001 Census, was implemented in 2008, and was used for the 2009 elections; it did not reallocate seats among States.

Women’s reservation: In the envisaged sequence, one-third of Lok Sabha seats nationally and within each State would be reserved for women alongside the Census-linked process.

RELEVANCE GS II : Electoral reforms and democratic governance

Federal Balance, Democratic Equality and Governance Challenges

Core tension: Delimitation must balance federalism, which protects the representation of States, with democratic equality, reflected in “one person, one vote, one value.”

Political consensus: Given its far-reaching impact on representation, delimitation requires wide political and stakeholder consultation, rather than merely securing the required parliamentary majority.

Transparency: Circulating proposals and obtaining feedback, including through an all-party meeting, can reduce uncertainty and build legitimacy.

Gerrymandering: Equal-sized constituencies alone cannot ensure equal electoral value; “cracking” can disperse a party’s supporters across constituencies, while “packing” can concentrate them in a few constituencies.

Implementation challenge: Since past delimitation took several years, completing the next exercise before the 2029 Lok Sabha election is uncertain; it could extend into the next Lok Sabha.

Way Forward

A population-based redistribution can strengthen numerical equality while simultaneously raising concerns for States that have stabilised population growth. The way forward lies in transparent proposals, broad consultation and consensus-building.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. How many Delimitation Commissions have been constituted by the Government of India till December 2023?

- (a) One
- (b) Two
- (c) Three
- (d) Four

Tracking nursing (The Hindu : 11-08-2026)

Registration of healthcare professionals provides the institutional basis for verifying qualifications, maintaining professional records and regulating access to healthcare practice. In India, the **Nurses Registration and Tracking System (NRTS)** was created to establish a live national registry and streamline registration-related services. However, only 14.24 lakh of 46.02 lakh registered nursing personnel have been enrolled, leaving a large majority outside the national system. This fragmentation affects professional mobility, workforce planning, credential verification, patient safety and emergency deployment.

Institutional Framework and Functions

NRTS: Developed by the Indian Nursing Council with NIC, it aims to maintain a live national register of nursing personnel.

Coverage: The registered workforce includes ANMs, RN & RMs and LHV.

Services: The platform is intended to support primary registration, renewal, reciprocal registration and higher-qualification registration.

National identity: Enrolled nurses can receive a National Unique Identity (NUID) card and nurse passbook, subject to State-level verification.

State role: Primary registration remains with State Nursing Registration Councils, making their cooperation essential for complete national integration.



Current Status and Regional Variation

Incomplete enrolment: Only 14.24 lakh of 46.02 lakh registered nursing personnel are enrolled, leaving 31.78 lakh outside the national system.

Low-performing States: Karnataka enrolled about 82,000 of 5.58 lakh, Tamil Nadu 57,000 of 4.76 lakh, and Andhra Pradesh 92,000 of 4.52 lakh.

Kerala: About 1.5 lakh of 4.2 lakh registered personnel have been enrolled.

Higher enrolment: Bihar enrolled 62,020 of 62,591 personnel, while Jharkhand enrolled about 90%.

Professional mobility: Incomplete registration has delayed NOCs, inter-State registration and overseas credential verification, affecting employment opportunities.

RELEVANCE

GS II : Governance and institutional mechanisms

Governance Challenges and Significance

Federal fragmentation: State councils retain primary registration responsibilities, while some reportedly continue parallel systems instead of fully migrating to the central platform.

Workforce planning: Without a live registry showing the number, location and specialisations of nurses, apparent shortages or surpluses may distort healthcare-resource deployment.

Patient safety: Fragmented records can facilitate practice using unverified, fraudulent or revoked credentials, creating risks for patients.

Emergency preparedness: A live registry can help authorities identify and rapidly mobilise specialised nursing personnel during disease outbreaks and natural disasters.

Integration imperative: Completing enrolment, strengthening accountability and integrating State systems are necessary to make national registration effective.

Way Forward

A national healthcare workforce registry is valuable only when it is comprehensive, current and interoperable with State-level systems. The NRTS experience demonstrates that digitisation alone cannot resolve institutional fragmentation. Completing enrolment, ensuring cooperation between State councils and the national system, and maintaining accurate professional credentials can improve workforce planning, professional mobility, patient safety and emergency response. A genuinely live and unified registry would therefore strengthen both healthcare governance and the effective utilisation of India's nursing workforce.

PYQ Compass
 UPSC questions previously asked from
 the themes discussed on this page.



Q. "Besides being a moral imperative of a Welfare State, primary health structure is a necessary precondition for sustainable development." Analyse. (GSII -2021)

WORLD

Over 100 killed as powerful earthquake strikes Colombia

7.4-magnitude earthquake struck Colombia, causing extensive damage across several western cities and killing at least 111 people, while injuring 87 others.

Characteristics and Immediate Impact

Magnitude: The earthquake measured 7.4, making it Colombia's highest-magnitude earthquake in the last decade.

Epicentre: The U.S. Geological Survey placed the epicentre near San Jose Del Palmar, about 400 km west of Bogotá.

Affected region: More than 20 municipalities were affected, particularly across western Colombia.

Casualties: At least 111 people were killed and 87 injured, with hundreds of buildings reportedly collapsing.

Aftershocks: Two aftershocks of 2.8 and 4.8 magnitude were recorded, creating continuing concerns for affected populations and rescue teams.

Cross-border effects: Tremors were felt in Ecuador and Panama, although minimal damage was reported there.

Disaster Response

Emergency declaration: Colombia's President declared an emergency to expedite funding for earthquake recovery.

Rescue operations: Residents and rescue workers searched through collapsed structures for trapped people and survivors.

Urban disruption: Cities including *Pereira, Quibdo, Cali and Manizales* suffered significant impacts.

Transport disruption: Flights were suspended at airports including Manizales, Quibdo, Armenia, Cartago, Buenaventura and Pereira.

Satellite support: The European Union mobilised Copernicus satellite services to support rescue operations.

Wildfire in western Canada forces over 20,000 evacuations

The Bald Range wildfire in British Columbia, Canada, expanded rapidly under strong winds, forcing the overnight evacuation of more than 20,000 people and causing significant property losses.

Characteristics and Immediate Impact

Rapid expansion: Strong winds caused the Bald Range wildfire to grow rapidly and push flames towards the Summerland area.

Mass evacuation: More than 20,000 people were evacuated overnight as the fire threatened surrounding communities.

Property losses: Significant property damage was reported.

Provincial scale: British Columbia reported 102 active wildfires, with nearly half classified as out of control.



Emergency Response and Present Situation

State of emergency: British Columbia authorities declared a state of emergency to facilitate an enhanced response to the wildfire situation.

Air evacuation: Air evacuations were initiated for people who remained isolated behind the fire perimeter.

Emergency management: The provincial Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness formally declared the emergency.

Community disruption: The rapid spread of the fire affected communities across the surrounding valleys and forced large-scale displacement.

Changing conditions: Rapidly shifting fire conditions complicated evacuation and increased the possibility of residents becoming trapped.

Multiple fires: The presence of 102 active fires indicates that emergency authorities were dealing with a wider provincial wildfire.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. What is disaster resilience? How is it determined? Describe various elements of a resilience framework. Also mention the global targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030). (GS III – 2025)

RELEVANCE

GS III : Disaster Management

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. How many Delimitation Commissions have been constituted by the Government of India till December 2023?

- (a) One
- (b) Two
- (c) Three
- (d) Four

Ans : d

Delimitation literally means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body. The job of delimitation is assigned to a high power body. Such a body is known as Delimitation Commission or a Boundary Commission. In India, such Delimitation Commissions have been constituted 4 times – in 1952 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952, in 1963 under Delimitation Commission Act, 1962, in 1973 under Delimitation Act, 1972 and in 2002 under Delimitation Act, 2002. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

The Delimitation Commission in India is a high power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court. These orders come into force on a date to be specified by the President of India in this behalf. The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but no modifications are permissible therein by them.

Q. Democracy's superior virtue lies in the fact that it calls into activity (2017)

- (a) the intelligence and character of ordinary men and women.
- (b) the methods for strengthening executive leadership.
- (c) a superior individual with dynamism and vision.
- (d) a band of dedicated party workers

Ans : a

Democracy empowers individuals by giving them the right to participate in decision-making processes, ensuring collective wisdom. It encourages citizens to express their views, exercise their rights, and fulfill their responsibilities, thereby fostering active engagement. This system values the intelligence, character, and judgment of ordinary people, emphasizing equality and inclusivity. By promoting dialogue, debate, and deliberation, democracy enhances individual and societal growth. It is not reliant on a single leader or group but on the collective effort of its citizens, making it a system rooted in accountability, representation, and the will of the people.

Q. The provisions in the Fifth Schedule and Sixth Schedule in the Constitution of India are made in order to (2015)

- (a) protect the interests of Scheduled Tribes
- (b) determine the boundaries between states
- (c) determine the powers, authorities, and responsibilities of Panchayats
- (d) protect the interests of all the border States

Ans : a

The Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Constitution are designed to protect the interests of Scheduled Tribes. The Fifth Schedule provides for the administration and governance of Scheduled Areas in states other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram. The Sixth Schedule deals with the autonomous administration of tribal areas in these four states, granting them autonomy in legislative, executive, and judicial matters to safeguard their cultural, economic, and political rights.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q. With reference to the forthcoming delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies, consider the following statements:

A fresh delimitation can be triggered under the existing constitutional provisions after publication of the 2027 Census data.

A Constitutional amendment is mandatory for conducting any fresh delimitation.

The forthcoming exercise can involve both reallocation of Lok Sabha seats among States and redrawing of constituencies within States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a) 1 and 3 only

Fresh delimitation follows the 2027 Census. A constitutional amendment is needed only to alter existing provisions.

Q. Why is a comprehensive national registry of healthcare professionals important? It can improve healthcare workforce planning by showing the availability and location of professionals.

It can facilitate verification of professional credentials and reduce risks associated with fraudulent credentials.

It can help authorities identify and mobilise specialised personnel during public health emergencies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d) 1, 2 and 3

A comprehensive registry supports workforce planning, credential verification, and emergency personnel mobilisation.

Q. Which one of the following best captures the central democratic concern associated with political hero-worship in the given context?

- a) It necessarily prevents individuals from becoming popular political leaders.
- b) It can encourage citizens to substitute personal loyalty for scrutiny, participation and institutional accountability.
- c) It eliminates the need for political institutions by transferring all authority to citizens.
- d) It ensures that political decisions are always made through consensus.

Answer: b) It can encourage citizens to substitute personal loyalty for scrutiny, participation and institutional accountability.

Political hero-worship becomes a democratic concern when excessive devotion to a leader weakens citizens' willingness to question authority, scrutinise decisions and demand accountability. It can shift political participation from active citizenship towards passive loyalty, allowing personalities to overshadow institutions and weakening the democratic principles of participation, institutional restraint and responsible governance.

Tamil Thai Vazhthu

Tamil Thai Vazhthu, meaning an invocation to Mother Tamil, is the State Song of Tamil Nadu and is traditionally rendered at the beginning of official functions in the State. The song is derived from the prefatory verse (paayiram) of Manonmaniam, a verse-drama written by P. Sundaram Pillai, and begins with the famous line “Neeradum Kadaludutha”.

Literary Origin OF Tamil Thai Vazhthu

- The origins of Tamil Thai Vazhthu lie in P. Sundaram Pillai's Manonmaniam, a Tamil verse-drama whose original publication dates to 1892.
- The prefatory portion of the work contained verses invoking the Goddess of Tamil and included references comparing the enduring vitality of Tamil with Sanskrit.
- The original text contained the line referring to “Dravida”, which later became significant in debates surrounding the rendering of the State Song.
- The work was dedicated to Robert Harvey, Professor and Head of the Department of Philosophy at Maharaja's College, Thiruvananthapuram, where Sundaram Pillai served as a professor of philosophy for more than 15 years.
- Manonmaniam also had literary roots beyond Tamil literature, with the material drawing upon Lord Lytton's The Secret Way, associated with The Lost Tales of Miletus.

How did it become Tamil Nadu's official invocation?

- The Tamil Nadu Government decided in 1970 to select a common invocation that would have no religious or sectarian association.
- An order issued by Chief Secretary E.P. Royappa on June 17, 1970 selected six lines from Sundaram Pillai's Manonmaniam for use as the official prayer song.
- The order directed government departments, local bodies and educational institutions to render the song at the commencement of functions.
- The Tamil Nadu Government subsequently formally recognised Tamil Thai Vazhthu as the State Song on December 12, 2021.
- The 2021 order also directed that it should be rendered first at official events.



The Song and Its Rendering

- The selected portion of Sundaram Pillai's work consists of six lines.
- The song begins with “Neeradum Kadaludutha”, an invocation celebrating Tamil and the Tamil land.
- The original literary text contained the expression “Thekkanamum Athil Sirantha Dravida Nal Thirunadum”, containing the term Dravida.
- There has been variation in the ordering of lines between the government order and the later recorded version of the song.
- According to the material provided, the government order placed the line referring to “Dravida Nal Thirunadum” after another line, whereas during recording the order was changed and the Dravida line was rendered first.

Who Composed the Music?

- The music for the officially rendered version was composed by **M.S. Viswanathan**.
- The recording was made with playback singers **T.M. Soundararajan and P. Susheela**.
- Sundaram Pillai and the Dravidian Intellectual Tradition
- P. Sundaram Pillai is regarded as an important early figure in the intellectual history associated with Dravidian thought.
- His intellectual legacy has acquired significance in Tamil linguistic and cultural discourse.
- The establishment of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University in Tirunelveli further reflects his lasting cultural and academic legacy.