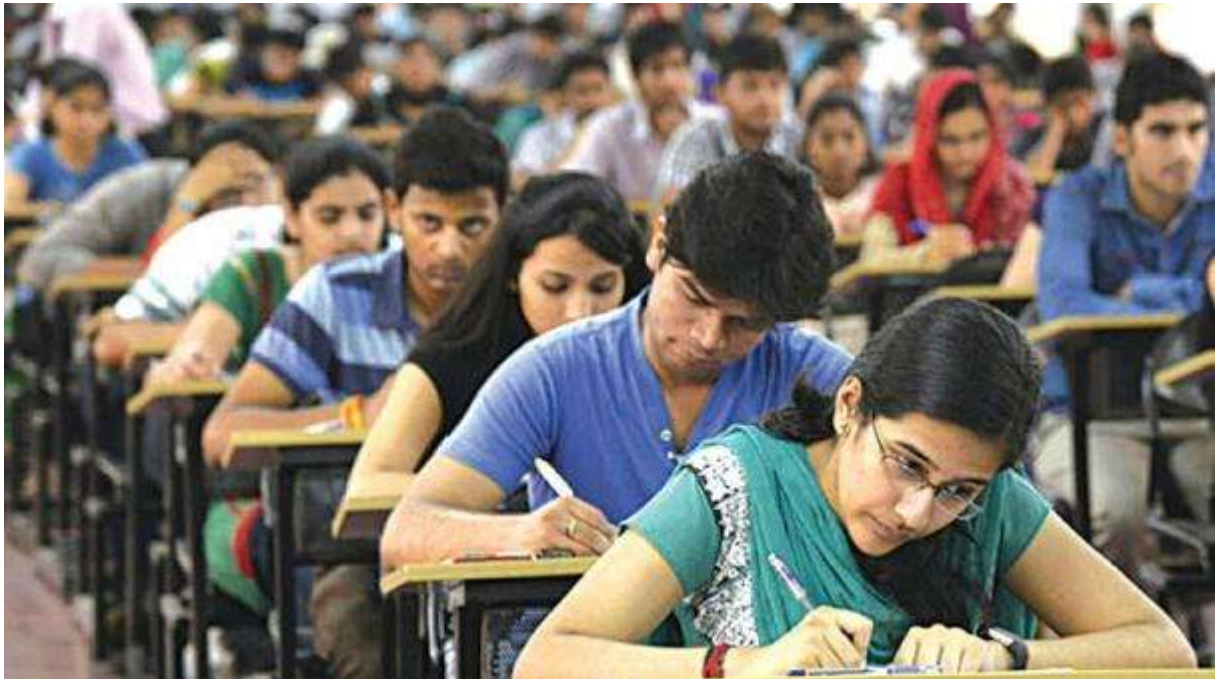


# Union government jobs: Whither are Tamils?



## **K. Danasekar**

The Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission's (TNPSC) Group-4, Village Administrative Officer examinations for 8,000 posts and Group-3 examinations for 220 posts were written by 22 lakh candidates and three lakh candidates respectively.

When it comes to the exams conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) to fill over 5,000 posts in the Union Government and the exams held to fill posts in the Railways, Public Sector Units including the Neyveli Lignite Corporation and the Public Sector Banks, the number of students from Tamil Nadu writing these exams is less than their counterparts from other states. Even, of those TN candidates who apply for the examinations for the union government posts, those who pass these exams are negligible. The reason generally cited for this abysmal state of affairs is want of proper coaching and preparatory training.

According to the recent data, several north Indians are working in the union government offices in Tamil Nadu, enjoying good pay, social security and permanency of job. But the situation in north India is in reverse. If changes are introduced in the competitive exam system for jobs, north Indian candidates launch agitations. We know pretty well how the Agnipath scheme for enrolment in Indian Army, sparked a backlash. Four trains were set ablaze in the agitation held in places such as Patna in protest against the government's attempt to include one more paper in the exams held for railway posts. Delhi witnessed a big agitation against the leak of the SSC exam question paper. Then, the Supreme Court intervened and stopped the publication of the results for a year.

Recently, awareness meeting were held at several colleges in Tamil Nadu to sensitize the students to the need for preparing robustly for the union government's competitive exams. But most of the students, who took part in the meeting, were totally unaware of such job opportunities in the union government. They are all under the wrong impression that the union government jobs will force the students to work in north India or Delhi and one has to learn Hindi for landing the jobs. They think Hindi is a must to prepare for the competitive exams for union government jobs.

There are over 80 union government offices, big and small, functioning in Tamil Nadu which is home to seven defence factories. Thousands of paramilitary personnel are also working in Tamil Nadu where the offices of NLC, BHEL, Indian Oil, CPCL and so on are situated. The fact that there are several non-Tamil employees working in village post-offices and working as ticket examiners in trains in Tamil Nadu is highly disturbing and unfortunate.

Now, the Staff Selection Commission has introduced the Combined Graduate Level Examination (CGLE) and also notified a recruitment drive to fill 20,000 posts. Of this, Tamil Nadu will certainly be allotted 1,800 posts. Similarly, a notification has

been published on recruitment to fill 960 posts in the Indian Meteorological Department. For these posts, the upper age limit for candidates in the general category has been fixed at 30 years and the age limit relaxed depending on the reserved categories. The exam fee is just Rs.100. Fee exemption has been given to women, SCs and STs. The past system of answering descriptive questions in Hindi and English alone has been scrapped. Moreover, the interview part has also been given a go-by. So, it can be said that the priority given so far to the Hindi-speaking candidates has been scrapped. It is a golden opportunity to the students of Tamil Nadu.

Besides, the union government is issuing notification after notification to recruit personnel to fill 10 lakh vacancies in its several departments by 2024. Of these, Tamil Nadu candidates will likely get about 70,000 to 80,000 posts.

In the past, it was alleged or complained that there were no training or coaching centres and no proper books available in Chennai and other cities in Tamil Nadu to prepare students to take these union government's competitive exams. Now, thanks to the ubiquitous Internet system, online classes are available, conducted by the companies based in Tamil Nadu and other states. The required books can be downloaded from websites. There are also several free coaching programs available on YouTube and mobile apps.

It is a great disgrace that Tamil Nadu students do not have awareness of the union government job opportunities nor do they have access to information about the union government jobs opening up. So, by way of setting right this deficiency, the Tamil Nadu government must order the departments of school education and higher education to conduct awareness camps, training sessions and workshops in all schools, colleges and hostels across the state to enlighten them on the job opportunities in the union government, on the competitive exams and on the ways and means to take these exams and come off successfully.

The nationally distinguished companies specializing in this field must be roped in to conduct online coaching programs. The government must also ensure availability of the required books at cheap rates for the students. All these measures will certainly go a long way in making our students come through all union government competitive exams with flying colours.

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