'Vetri Laptop Scheme': CM Vijay orders implementation, allocates ₹2,000 crore

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News

Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Saturday, 7 November 2026, ordered implementation of the 'Vetri Laptop Scheme' for students of government and government-aided colleges and allocated ₹2,000 crore for 2026–27. First- and second-year UG and diploma students of 2026–27 in arts and science, engineering, polytechnic, ITI, medicine, veterinary science, fisheries, agriculture and law will benefit. Third- and fourth-year professional students left out of the 2025–26 distribution are also covered. ELCOT (Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu) has administrative approval to procure the laptops while ensuring quality; engineering students will get machines with Intel Core i5 or equivalent processors. A High-Level Steering Committee chaired by the Chief Minister will monitor the scheme.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Scheme	Vetri Laptop Scheme
Order date	7 November 2026
Allocation	₹2,000 crore (2026–27)
Beneficiaries	1st & 2nd-year UG and diploma students, govt & aided colleges

Point	Details
Also	3rd & 4th-year professional students missed in 2025–26
Procuring agency	ELCOT
Monitoring	High-Level Steering Committee chaired by the CM
First scheme	15 Sep 2011 – Anna's birth anniversary; CM Jayalalithaa
Previous round	'Ulagam Ungal Kaiyil' – 5 Jan 2026, target 20 lakh

Background

- Tamil Nadu's free laptop scheme began on 15 September 2011 (Annadurai's birth anniversary) under CM J. Jayalalithaa through ELCOT, with 9.12 lakh laptops planned in year one. On 5 January 2026 CM M.K. Stalin launched 'Ulagam Ungal Kaiyil' to give 20 lakh laptops (with BOSS Linux and Windows).
- Polity: the 42nd Amendment (1976) moved education from the State List to the Concurrent List (Entry 25). Article 41 (Part IV – Directive Principles) asks the State to secure the right to education; Article 46 asks it to promote the educational interests of weaker sections.
- Technology: BOSS (Bharat Operating System Solutions) is an Indian open-source Linux distribution developed at C-DAC Chennai. The scheme aims to bridge the digital divide and support online learning, skills and jobs.
- ELCOT (Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu, 1977) handles the State's electronics and IT procurement and runs the ELCOSEZ IT special economic zones.

Tamil Nadu link: A wholly Tamil Nadu scheme – the continuation of the free laptop programme begun in 2011, with ELCOT procuring and a CM-led committee monitoring.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Saturday, 7 November 2026, ordered implementation of the 'Vetri Laptop Scheme' for students of government and government-aided colleges and allocated ₹2,000 crore for 2026–27.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Scheme: Vetri Laptop Scheme; Order date: 7 November 2026; Allocation: ₹2,000 crore (2026–27); Beneficiaries: 1st & 2nd-year UG and diploma students, govt & aided colleges.

What is the background to this news?

Tamil Nadu's free laptop scheme began on 15 September 2011 (Annadurai's birth anniversary) under CM J. Jayalalithaa through ELCOT, with 9.12 lakh laptops planned in year one. On 5 January 2026 CM M.K. Stalin launched 'Ulagam Ungal Kaiyil' to give 20 lakh laptops (with BOSS Linux and Windows).

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which State agency is approved to procure laptops under the 'Vetri Laptop Scheme'?

A) TNeGA

B) ELCOT

C) TIDCO

D) TANSI

Answer: B – Explanation: ELCOT, the Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu (1977), handles the State's electronics procurement.

2. Tamil Nadu's first free laptop scheme (2011) was launched on whose birth anniversary?

A) K. Kamaraj

B) Periyar

C) C.N. Annadurai

D) M.G. Ramachandran

Answer: C – Explanation: It began on 15 Sep 2011, Anna's birth anniversary, under CM Jayalalithaa, through ELCOT.

3. Which Constitutional Amendment moved education from the State List to the Concurrent List?

A) 44th

B) 42nd

C) 73rd

D) 86th

Answer: B – Explanation: The 42nd Amendment (1976) placed education in Concurrent List Entry 25.

4. Which body developed 'BOSS', the Indian Linux OS loaded on Tamil Nadu's free laptops?

A) ISRO

B) NIC

C) IIT Madras

D) C-DAC

Answer: D – Explanation: Bharat Operating System Solutions is an open-source Linux built by C-DAC Chennai.

5. Article 41, asking the State to secure the right to education, falls under which category?

A) Fundamental Rights

B) Fundamental Duties

C) Preamble

D) Directive Principles

Answer: D – Explanation: Part IV – Directive Principles of State Policy (Articles 36–51); they are not enforceable by courts.

Sources: DT Next; ThePrint; Governance Now. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.