TNUHDB built 1.26 lakh Chennai tenements in 20 years: SPC report

Topics: Tamil Nadu Administration · UPSC Prelims · TNPSC · SSC · Current Affairs



News

DT Next reported on 21 November 2026 that a State Planning Commission (SPC) report says the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB) has built 1.26 lakh tenements for slum dwellers in Chennai over the past two decades. South Chennai got 60,102 (47%), mainly in the Adyar and Sholinganallur zones; Central Chennai 38,359; and North Chennai 28,366. Though many displacements took place in North Chennai, fewer tenements were built there; the report links the South's larger share to greater land availability. Most beneficiaries were moved from the margins of the Cooum and Adyar rivers; 13,484 Cooum-bank families were relocated to Padappai, Thiruvottiyur, Ambattur, Perumbakkam and Maraimalai Nagar. Adyar-bank families were resettled in Thoraipakkam, Ezhil Nagar, Tambaram, Semmencherry and Perumbakkam. Over the two decades, about 1.2 lakh families in 503 Chennai slums benefited from slum improvement programmes. The zone-wise figures add up to 1,26,827 (≈1.27 lakh); the report rounds the total to 1.26 lakh.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Report by	State Planning Commission (SPC), Tamil Nadu
Total	1.26 lakh tenements (Chennai, two decades)
South Chennai	60,102 (47%) – Adyar, Sholinganallur

Point	Details
Central / North	38,359 / 28,366
Cooum banks	13,484 families relocated
Slum improvement	503 slums; about 1.2 lakh families
Law	TN Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1971
SPC	First set up 1971; members resigned July 2026 – not yet reconstituted

Background

- The Tamil Nadu Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1971 (Act 11 of 1971) lets the Government, under Section 3, notify an area as a 'slum area' if it is insanitary, overcrowded or has buildings unfit for living. It also covers protection of occupants from eviction, improvement works and land acquisition. Large slum-improvement programmes in Chennai began in 1977. For counting, Census 2011 used three kinds of slums – notified, recognised and identified (Arthapedia).
- The Centre's Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM, 2005) funded housing for slum dwellers in big cities through its Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) component; the mission, first set for seven years, was later extended. PMAY-Urban followed from 2015, with 'in-situ slum redevelopment' as one of its verticals.
- Chennai's Cooum river starts from the surplus course of the Cooum tank in Tiruvallur district, runs about 65 km east and meets the Bay of Bengal below Napier Bridge (Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust). Because riverbank settlements worsen floods, families on the banks continue to be moved to new tenements.

Tamil Nadu link: An entirely Tamil Nadu story: TNUHDB is a State board that began in 1970 as the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB); the 2022 amendment of the 1971 Act renamed it the Urban Habitat Development Board. The State Planning Commission was first set up in 1971; in July 2026 its Vice-Chairman and all members resigned, and the Government has not yet announced how it will be reconstituted (DT Next).

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

DT Next reported on 21 November 2026 that a State Planning Commission (SPC) report says the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB) has built 1.26 lakh tenements for slum dwellers in Chennai over the past two decades.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Report by: State Planning Commission (SPC), Tamil Nadu; Total: 1.26 lakh tenements (Chennai, two decades); South Chennai: 60,102 (47%) – Adyar, Sholinganallur; Central / North: 38,359 / 28,366.

What is the background to this news?

The Tamil Nadu Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1971 (Act 11 of 1971) lets the Government, under Section 3, notify an area as a 'slum area' if it is insanitary, overcrowded or has buildings unfit for living.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Census 2011 counted slums as 'notified' and 'recognised'. What was the third category?

A) Temporary

B) Squatter

C) Identified

D) Unauthorised

Answer: C – Explanation: Identified slums – a compact, congested area of poorly built tenements with at least 300 people (60–70 households) (Arthapedia, Finance Ministry).

2. Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP), which funded housing for slum dwellers, was a component of which mission?

A) Smart Cities Mission

B) JNNURM

C) AMRUT

D) DAY-NULM

Answer: B – Explanation: JNNURM – launched in December 2005. Smaller towns had a separate component, IHSDP.

3. In which year was the Tamil Nadu Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, which lets the State notify an area as a slum, enacted?

A) 1956

B) 1965

C) 1971

D) 1976

Answer: C – Explanation: 1971 – Act 11 of 1971; Section 3 gives the power to notify, and Chapter VII protects occupants from eviction.

4. Building new houses for slum dwellers on the same land where they live, without moving them, is called what?

A) Gentrification

B) Urban sprawl

C) Resettlement

D) In-situ redevelopment

Answer: D – Explanation: In-situ redevelopment – a PMAY-Urban vertical. Resettlement means moving families to another site, such as Perumbakkam.

5. The Cooum, from whose banks many families were moved, starts from the Cooum tank in which district?

A) Tiruvallur

B) Kancheepuram

C) Chengalpattu

D) Ranipet

Answer: A – Explanation: Tiruvallur – it flows about 65 km and meets the Bay of Bengal near Napier Bridge (Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust).

Sources: DT Next; State Planning Commission; PRS; TNUHDB; Arthapedia; MoHUA – JNNURM (mohua.gov.in); PIB (JNNURM launch, 3 Dec 2005); CRRT. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.