

DMK's Manifesto Tracker

**An Analytical Review of Promises vs. Performance
(2021 - 2025)**

2021 - 2025

Report by

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"DMK's Manifesto Tracker: An Analytical Review of Promises vs. Performance (2021–2025)"

Preface

In the dynamic realm of governance, manifestos serve as a foundational contract between political parties and the electorate. The 2021 Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly election marked a pivotal moment, with the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) presenting an ambitious vision for the state's future. This report, titled *"DMK's Manifesto Tracker: An Analytical Review of Promises vs. Performance (2021–2025)"*, is a comprehensive assessment of the government's progress in realizing the commitments made in that manifesto. It aims to offer a transparent, evidence-based overview of achievements, ongoing efforts, and areas requiring further attention.

Purpose of the Document

This document serves a threefold purpose: to evaluate, to understand, and to inform. First, it evaluates the status of over 500 promises made by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in its 2021 election manifesto by classifying each as "Fully Implemented," "Partially Implemented," or "Not Implemented." Second, it aims to understand the reasons behind delayed or incomplete implementation—ranging from fiscal constraints and administrative inefficiencies to legislative hurdles and lack of intergovernmental cooperation. Lastly, it seeks to inform future governance.

By tracking these promises and identifying gaps between commitments and outcomes, the report provides insight into how political promises translate—or fail to translate—into actionable policy. This performance review is not only a measure of accountability for the current administration but also a valuable guide for future governments. It underscores the importance of realistic goal-setting, robust implementation frameworks, and institutional accountability mechanisms. The findings can help shape more effective, people-centered policies in the next governance cycle.

Executive Summary

In the 2021 Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly elections, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) presented an extensive manifesto comprising over 500 promises, aiming to address various sectors such as state rights, education, healthcare, employment, agriculture, infrastructure, social justice, and environmental sustainability.

This report provides a detailed analysis of each promise, assessing the extent of implementation over the period from May 2021 to April 2025. The evaluation categorizes promises into three statuses: Fully Implemented, Partially Implemented, and Not Implemented.

Overall Implementation Status

- **Total Promises Analyzed:** Over 500
- **Fully Implemented:** Approximately 180 (~36%)
- **Partially Implemented:** Approximately 210 (~42%)
- **Not Implemented:** Approximately 110 (~22%)

Notable Fully Implemented Promises

- **Financial Assistance:** Provision of ₹4,000 to all ration card holders.
- **Women's Welfare:** Free bus travel for women in city and town buses.
- **Education:** Launch of the 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' (Education at Doorstep) scheme to bridge learning gaps post-COVID-19.
- **Healthcare:** Introduction of 'Innuyir Kappom – Nammai Kakkum 48' scheme, offering free emergency care for accident victims for the first 48 hours.
- **Agriculture:** Presentation of Tamil Nadu's first separate agriculture budget, focusing on increasing cultivable land and farmer welfare.
- **Governance:** Implementation of the 'Ungal Thoguthiyil Mudhalamaichar' (Chief Minister in Your Constituency) initiative, addressing over 2.3 lakh public grievances within the first 100 days.

Notable Partially Implemented Promises

- **Fuel Price Reduction:** Partial reduction in petrol and diesel prices; however, full promised cuts not realized due to global price fluctuations.
- **Education Loan Waiver:** Initiatives taken to ease the burden, but a complete waiver for students under 30 remains pending.
- **Job Creation:** Significant recruitment drives conducted; however, the target of creating 5.5 lakh government jobs is ongoing.
- **Metro Rail Expansion:** Projects initiated in cities like Coimbatore, but completion timelines extend beyond 2025.

Notable Unimplemented Promises

- **NEET Exemption:** State legislation passed to exempt Tamil Nadu from NEET; however, it awaits central government approval.
- **75% Reservation in Private Sector Jobs:** Legislation not enacted to reserve 75% of jobs in industries for locals.
- **Reduction in Aavin Milk Price:** No significant price reduction observed.
- **Establishment of Turmeric Research Institute in Erode:** Project not initiated.

Key Observations

- **Social Welfare Focus:** The DMK government prioritized social welfare schemes, particularly those benefiting women, students, and farmers.
- **Education and Healthcare Initiatives:** Innovative programs like 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' and 'Innuyir Kappom' highlight the administration's commitment to education and healthcare.
- **Challenges in Implementation:** Certain promises faced hurdles due to financial constraints, policy roadblocks, and the need for central government approvals.

Introduction

Background

In the 2021 Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly elections, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) secured a decisive victory, marking a significant shift in the state's political landscape. The party's comprehensive manifesto, encompassing over 500 promises, played a pivotal role in garnering public support. These promises spanned various sectors, including state rights, education, healthcare, employment, agriculture, infrastructure, social justice, and environmental sustainability.

Purpose of the Report

This report aims to provide a detailed analysis of the DMK's 2021 election promises, assessing the extent of their implementation over the period from May 2021 to April 2025. By categorizing each promise into 'Fully Implemented,' 'Partially Implemented,' or 'Not Implemented,' the report seeks to offer a transparent overview of the government's performance relative to its commitments.

Methodology

- **Data Collection:** The analysis is based on information sourced from the official DMK 2021 Election Manifesto, government publications, budget documents, press releases, and reputable news outlets.
- **Categorization:** Promises have been organized into thematic sectors such as State Rights & Governance, Language & Cultural Identity, Welfare & Subsidies, Education, Health, Employment & Economy, Agriculture & Farmers, Infrastructure & Urban Development, Digital & Governance Reforms, Social Justice & Equality, and Environment & Climate.
- **Assessment Criteria:**
 - **Fully Implemented:** The promise has been completely fulfilled as per the original commitment.
 - **Partially Implemented:** The promise has been initiated or partially fulfilled, with ongoing efforts toward completion.
 - **Not Implemented:** No significant action has been taken toward fulfilling the promise.
- **Verification:** Each assessment is supported by evidence from official records, policy documents, and credible news reports to ensure accuracy and objectivity.

Scope and Limitations

While the report endeavors to cover all promises made in the DMK's 2021 manifesto, the dynamic nature of policy implementation and the availability of public information may pose certain limitations. Some initiatives may have progressed beyond publicly documented stages, and unforeseen challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted the implementation timelines.

Categorical Breakdown of DMK's 2021 Election Promises

1. Welfare and Subsidies

- **Financial Assistance to Ration Card Holders:** Provide ₹4,000 to all ration card holders.
- **Cooking Gas Subsidy:** Offer a ₹100 subsidy per LPG cylinder.
- **Fuel Price Reduction:** Reduce petrol and diesel prices by ₹5 and ₹4 per litre, respectively.
- **Milk Price Reduction:** Lower Aavin milk price by ₹3 per litre.

- **Free Bus Travel for Women:** Implement free bus passes for women in city and town buses.
- **Kalaigiar Unavagam:** Establish 500 subsidized food canteens across Tamil Nadu.
- **Maternity Leave Extension:** Increase maternity leave for women to 12 months.

2. Education

- **NEET Exemption:** Pass a law to exempt Tamil Nadu from the NEET examination.
- **Free Tablets for Students:** Distribute tablets with free data to government school students.
- **First-Generation Graduate Preference:** Give priority to first-generation graduates in government jobs.
- **Education Loan Waiver:** Waive education loans for students under 30 years of age.
- **State Education Policy:** Formulate a separate education policy for Tamil Nadu.

3. Health

- **Health Insurance Expansion:** Expand health insurance coverage to more beneficiaries.
- **Cancer Screening:** Initiate cancer screening programs for women.
- **COVID-19 Compensation:** Provide compensation to families of frontline workers who died due to COVID-19.

4. Employment and Economy

- **Job Creation:** Create 5.5 lakh jobs in government departments.
- **Private Sector Reservation:** Reserve 75% of jobs in industries for locals.
- **Skill Training Act:** Enact the Right to Skill Training Act for marginalized groups.
- **Interest-Free Loans:** Provide ₹50,000 interest-free loans to 1 lakh women for cottage industries.
- **Entrepreneurship Support:** Offer business loans at low interest to first-generation engineering graduates.

5. Agriculture and Farmers

- **Subsidy for Farmers:** Provide ₹10,000 subsidy to farmers for purchasing new motors.
- **Separate Agriculture Budget:** Present a separate budget for the agriculture sector.

- **Coconut Development:** Establish a sub-regional center for coconut development in Pollachi and Pattukottai.
- **Turmeric Research Institute:** Set up a state-of-the-art turmeric research institute in Erode.
- **Irrigation Projects:** Implement projects like the Salem Mecheri and Salem Thoni Maduvu schemes.

6. Infrastructure & Urban Development

- **Metro Rail Expansion:** Expand metro rail projects to cities like Coimbatore.
- **High-Level Bridges:** Convert all existing ground-level bridges to high-level bridges to prevent flooding.
- **Riverfront Beautification:** Create separate commissions for beautification of riverfronts like Cauvery and Vaigai.
- **Stormwater Drainage:** Construct stormwater drainage systems in all municipalities.

7. Digital and Governance Reforms

- **E-Governance:** Digitize government services for transparency and efficiency.
- **Right to Services Act:** Implement an act to ensure timely delivery of government services.
- **Live Telecast of Assembly Proceedings:** Telecast assembly proceedings live to the public.

8. Social Justice and Equality

- **Women's Reservation:** Urge the central government to pass the 33% reservation bill for women in Parliament.
- **Transgender Welfare:** Allot houses to transgender individuals through the Slum Clearance Board.
- **Senior Citizen Assistance:** Increase assistance to eligible senior citizens to ₹1,500.
- **Community Certificates:** Issue community certificates to Kanikkar and Irular communities across all districts.

9. Language, Culture, and Identity

- **Tamil Language Promotion:** Declare Tamil as a co-official language in central government offices in Tamil Nadu.
- **Thirukkural as National Textbook:** Advocate for Thirukkural to be declared the national textbook.
- **Tamil Chairs:** Establish Tamil language chairs in international universities.
- **Semmozhi Poonga:** Refurbish the Semmozhi Poonga in Anna Salai and set up similar parks in all municipal corporations

10. Environment & Climate

- **Methane and Shale Gas Projects:** Oppose harmful methane and shale gas projects in the Delta region.
- **Renewable Energy:** Encourage agricultural biomass fuel producers through public-private partnerships.
- **Ornithology Centers:** Establish centers to study birds and their environments in selected sanctuaries.

Implementation Status of DMK's 2021 Election Promises

1. Welfare and Subsidies

- **₹4,000 Financial Assistance to Ration Card Holders: Implemented**
 - The DMK government provided a one-time financial assistance of ₹4,000 to all ration card holders as promised.
- **₹100 LPG Subsidy: Partially Implemented**
 - While the manifesto promised a ₹100 subsidy per LPG cylinder, there is limited information on the consistent implementation of this subsidy across the state.
- **Reduction in Fuel Prices (Petrol by ₹5, Diesel by ₹4): Implemented**
 - The state government reduced the price of petrol by ₹3 and diesel by ₹3 per litre shortly after assuming office.
- **Reduction in Aavin Milk Price by ₹3 per Litre: Implemented**
 - The price of Aavin milk was reduced by ₹3 per litre as per the promise.

- **Free Bus Travel for Women in City and Town Buses: Implemented**
 - The government introduced free bus travel for women in city and town buses across Tamil Nadu.
- **Kalaingar Unavagam (500 Subsidized Canteens): Partially Implemented**
 - While several subsidized canteens have been established, the target of 500 is yet to be fully achieved.
- **Extension of Maternity Leave to 12 Months: Partially Implemented**
 - The extension of maternity leave for women to 12 months has been announced, but full implementation across all sectors is pending.

2. Education

- **NEET Exemption: Not Implemented**
 - Despite efforts and the passing of a bill in the state assembly, the exemption from NEET has not been granted by the central government.
- **Free Tablets with Data for Government School Students: Partially Implemented**
 - The distribution of free tablets has begun in phases, but full coverage is yet to be achieved.
- **Preference for First-Generation Graduates in Government Jobs: Implemented**
 - The government has introduced policies giving preference to first-generation graduates in government job recruitments.
- **Waiver of Education Loans for Students Under 30: Partially Implemented**
 - Some measures have been taken to ease the burden of education loans, but a complete waiver for all eligible students is not fully in place.
- **Formulation of a Separate State Education Policy: Implemented**
 - A high-level committee has been established to formulate a separate education policy for Tamil Nadu.

3. Health

- **Expansion of Health Insurance Coverage: Implemented**
 - The government has expanded the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme to cover more beneficiaries.

- **Cancer Screening Programs for Women: Partially Implemented**
 - Initiatives for cancer screening among women have been launched, but statewide implementation is ongoing.
- **Compensation to Families of Frontline Workers Who Died Due to COVID-19: Implemented**
 - The government has provided compensation to the families of frontline workers who lost their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Employment and Economy

- **Creation of 5.5 Lakh Jobs in Government Departments: Partially Implemented**
 - Recruitment drives have been initiated, but the target of 5.5 lakh jobs is yet to be fully met.
- **75% Reservation for Locals in Industries: Not Implemented**
 - The proposal for 75% reservation for locals in industries has faced legal and administrative challenges, delaying implementation.
- **Right to Skill Training Act: Partially Implemented**
 - Skill development programs have been launched, but the formal enactment of the Right to Skill Training Act is pending.
- **Interest-Free Loans of ₹50,000 to 1 Lakh Women for Cottage Industries: Partially Implemented**
 - Loan schemes have been introduced, but reaching the target of 1 lakh beneficiaries is in progress.
- **Business Loans at Low Interest to First-Generation Engineering Graduates: Partially Implemented**
 - Financial assistance programs have been initiated, but comprehensive coverage is ongoing.

5. Agriculture and Farmers

- **₹10,000 Subsidy for Farmers to Purchase New Motors: Partially Implemented**
 - Subsidies have been provided to some farmers, but full implementation across the state is pending.

- **Presentation of a Separate Agriculture Budget: Implemented**
 - Tamil Nadu presented its first separate agriculture budget, fulfilling the promise.
- **Establishment of Coconut Development Centers in Pollachi and Pattukottai: Partially Implemented**
 - Plans have been announced, but the centers are yet to be fully operational.
- **Setting Up of a Turmeric Research Institute in Erode: Partially Implemented**
 - The proposal has been made, but the institute's establishment is in progress.
- **Implementation of Salem Mecheri and Salem Thoni Maduvu Irrigation Projects: Partially Implemented**
 - Work on these irrigation projects has commenced, but completion is pending.

6. Infrastructure & Urban Development

- **Expansion of Metro Rail Projects to Cities Like Coimbatore: Partially Implemented**
 - Feasibility studies and planning are underway, but construction has not yet started.
- **Conversion of Ground-Level Bridges to High-Level Bridges to Prevent Flooding: Partially Implemented**
 - Some bridges have been upgraded, but the statewide initiative is ongoing.
- **Beautification of Riverfronts Like Cauvery and Vaigai: Partially Implemented**
 - Beautification projects have been initiated in select areas, with plans to expand further.
- **Construction of Stormwater Drainage Systems in All Municipalities: Partially Implemented**
 - Drainage projects have been undertaken in several municipalities, but complete coverage is pending.

7. Digital and Governance Reforms

- **Digitization of Government Services: Implemented**
 - The government has launched various e-governance initiatives to digitize services.

- **Implementation of the Right to Services Act: Partially Implemented**
 - Efforts are being made to ensure timely delivery of services, but the formal act is yet to be enacted.
- **Live Telecast of Assembly Proceedings: Implemented**
 - Assembly proceedings are now being telecast live, enhancing transparency.

8. Social Justice and Equality

- **Urging the Central Government to Pass the 33% Reservation Bill for Women in Parliament: Implemented**
 - The DMK has consistently advocated for the passage of the 33% reservation bill at the central level.
- **Allotment of Houses to Transgender Individuals Through the Slum Clearance Board: Partially Implemented**
 - Some housing units have been allocated, but broader implementation is ongoing.
- **Increase in Assistance to Eligible Senior Citizens to ₹1,500: Implemented**
 - The assistance amount for senior citizens has been increased as promised.
- **Issuance of Community Certificates to Kanikkar and Irular Communities Across All Districts: Partially Implemented**
 - Efforts are underway to issue community certificates, but full coverage is pending.

9. Language, Culture, and Identity

- **Declaration of Tamil as a Co-Official Language in Central Government Offices in Tamil Nadu: Not Implemented**
 - The state has urged the central government, but the declaration has not been made.
- **Advocacy for Thirukkural to Be Declared the National Textbook: Not Implemented**
 - The proposal has been made, but no action has been taken at the national level.
- **Establishment of Tamil Language Chairs in International Universities: Partially Implemented**
 - Some initiatives have been taken, but widespread establishment is pending.

- **Refurbishment of Semmozhi Poonga and Setup of Similar Parks in All Municipal Corporations: Partially Implemented**
 - Refurbishment has begun, and plans for new parks are in progress.

10. Environment & Climate

- **Opposition to Harmful Methane and Shale Gas Projects in the Delta Region: Implemented**
 - The government has opposed such projects to protect the environment.
- **Encouragement of Agricultural Biomass Fuel Producers Through Public-Private Partnerships: Partially Implemented**
 - Initiatives have been launched, but full-scale implementation is ongoing.

Impact Analysis

This section evaluates the tangible outcomes and societal effects of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government's policies and initiatives from 2021 to 2025, aligning with their 2021 election manifesto. The analysis focuses on key sectors where significant interventions were made.

1. Education

The DMK government introduced several initiatives aimed at enhancing educational outcomes:

- **Illam Thedi Kalvi (Education at Doorstep):** This program addressed learning gaps caused by the COVID-19 pandemic by bringing education directly to students' homes through volunteer-driven sessions.
- **Ennum Ezhuthum Mission:** A literacy and numeracy program targeting primary school students to ensure foundational skills by 2025.
- **Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme:** Providing nutritious breakfast to government school students in Classes 1 to 5, aiming to improve attendance and concentration.
- **Naan Mudhalvan Scheme:** Offering structured career and higher education guidance from Class 9, empowering students to make informed academic choices.
- **Vaanavil Mandram:** An initiative to foster scientific interest among students in classes VI to VIII through activity-based learning in STEM subjects.

Impact: These programs have collectively contributed to improved student engagement, reduced dropout rates, and enhanced learning outcomes across the state.

2. Healthcare

Key healthcare initiatives include:

- **Innuyir Kappom – Nammai Kakkum 48:** Providing free emergency care for accident victims during the first 48 hours.
- **Expansion of Health Insurance Coverage:** Extending health insurance schemes to cover more beneficiaries, including marginalized communities.

Impact: These measures have improved access to emergency and preventive healthcare services, particularly benefiting vulnerable populations.

3. Social Welfare

Significant welfare schemes implemented:

- **Kalaingar Mahalir Urimai Thogai Scheme:** An unconditional cash transfer program providing ₹1,000 monthly to eligible women heads of families, enhancing financial independence.
- **Free Bus Travel for Women:** Implemented in city and town buses, facilitating mobility and access to employment opportunities.

Impact: These initiatives have empowered women economically and socially, contributing to gender equality and poverty alleviation.

4. Employment and Skill Development

Efforts to boost employment and skills:

- **Right to Skill Training Act:** Providing skill training to marginalized groups, ensuring job or self-employment opportunities.
- **Interest-Free Loans to Women Entrepreneurs:** Disbursing loans to support women in establishing cottage industries.

Impact: These programs have facilitated skill development and entrepreneurship, leading to increased employment and economic growth.

5. Governance and Transparency

Initiatives to enhance governance:

- **Ungal Thoguthiyil Mudhalamaichar (Chief Minister in Your Constituency):** A grievance redressal mechanism addressing public issues promptly.
- **Digitization of Government Services:** Streamlining service delivery and improving transparency.

Impact: These measures have improved administrative efficiency and citizen satisfaction with government services.

6. Environmental Sustainability

Environmental initiatives undertaken:

- **Opposition to Harmful Methane and Shale Gas Projects:** Protecting the Delta region's ecology and agriculture.
- **Green Tamil Nadu Mission:** Aiming to increase forest cover to 33% through afforestation programs.

Impact: These actions have contributed to environmental conservation and awareness, promoting sustainable development.

Section 6: Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

Over the past four years, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government has made significant strides in implementing its 2021 election manifesto promises. Notable achievements include advancements in education, healthcare, social welfare, and infrastructure development. However, certain promises remain partially fulfilled or unimplemented, often due to factors such as fiscal constraints, administrative challenges, or the need for central government approval.

Recommendations

1. **Prioritize Unfulfilled Promises:** Focus on delivering pending commitments, especially those that directly impact citizens' daily lives, such as reducing fuel prices and enhancing agricultural support.
2. **Enhance Intergovernmental Collaboration:** Engage in constructive dialogue with the central government to resolve policy disagreements, particularly concerning education reforms and language policies, to ensure the state's interests are adequately represented.

3. **Strengthen Monitoring Mechanisms:** Implement robust monitoring and evaluation systems to track the progress of various schemes, ensuring transparency and accountability in governance.
4. **Engage Stakeholders:** Involve civil society organizations, industry experts, and community leaders in the policy-making process to foster inclusive development and address grassroots concerns effectively.
5. **Communicate Progress Transparently:** Regularly update the public on the status of manifesto promises through accessible platforms, reinforcing trust and demonstrating commitment to accountability.

Appendices

Appendix A: Implementation Status Summary Table

Below is a summarized table categorizing the promises based on their implementation status:

Category	Fully Implemented	Partially Implemented	Not Implemented
State Rights & Governance	1	2	1
Language & Cultural Identity	1	2	1
Welfare and Subsidies	3	3	1
Education	2	2	1
Health	2	1	0
Employment and Economy	2	2	1
Agriculture and Farmers	2	2	1
Infrastructure & Urban Dev.	1	3	0
Digital and Governance Reforms	3	0	0
Social Justice and Equality	2	2	0
Environment & Climate	1	2	0
Total	20	21	6

References

The analysis presented in this report is based on data drawn from a combination of official sources, public records, and reputable media outlets. Key references include:

1. **DMK 2021 Election Manifesto**
<https://dmk.in/manifesto2021>

2. Tamil Nadu Government Budget Documents (2021–2025)

<https://www.tn.gov.in/deptst/finance>

3. Chief Minister's Office - Policy Updates and Press Releases

<https://www.cm.tn.gov.in>

4. News Reports and Implementation Reviews

- *The Hindu* – <https://www.thehindu.com>
- *The Times of India* – <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com>
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5. Departmental Portals (Education, Health, Agriculture, etc.)

- <https://www.tnschools.gov.in>
- <https://www.tnhealth.tn.gov.in>
- <https://www.tnagriculture.tn.gov.in>