

August - 28

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will implement an urban employment scheme on the lines of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) at a cost of ₹100 crore.
  - This is to improve the livelihood of urban poor.
- ❖ India's complex mission to evacuate its citizens and Afghan partners from Kabul has been named as "Operation Devi Shakti".

## TAMIL NADU

### Municipalities to municipal corporations

- ❖ Tambaram, Kancheepuram, Kumbakonam, Karur, Cuddalore and Sivakasi municipalities would be upgraded to municipal corporations.
- ❖ Tambaram municipal corporation would be created by annexing Pallavaram, Chempakkam, Pammal and Anagaputhur municipalities and neighbouring town panchayats and panchayats.
- ❖ The upgradation would not come in the way of elected representatives of local bodies.
- ❖ They will continue in their posts till the completion of their tenure.

### Announcements by Higher Education Minister

- ❖ State government is to open 10 arts and science colleges, including a women's college in Koothanallur in Thiruvarur district.
- ❖ New colleges would come in Thiruchuli in Virudhunagar district, Thirukovilur in Kallakurichi, Thalavadi in Erode, Ottanchathiram in Dindigul, Manur in Tirunelveli, Dharapuram in Tirupur, Eriyur in Dharmapuri, Alangudi in Pudukottai and Serkadu in Vellore.
- ❖ The objective is to increase students' enrolment and provide higher education equally in all areas.
- ❖ Diploma courses in civil engineering and mechanical engineering would be launched in Tamil from the next year.
- ❖ The Institute of Road and Transport Technology, Erode, would be converted into the Government Engineering College.

### **Best Third Gender - Grace Banu**


- ❖ 30-year-old transgender activist Grace Banu has been conferred the first ever 'Best Third Gender' award by the Tamil Nadu government.
- ❖ This is for her services rendered towards the welfare of the society.
- ❖ The award was organised by the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department.
- ❖ This has been introduced for the first time by the government of Tamil Nadu to recognise transgenders and their contributions to the society.



### **7.5% quota for State govt. school students in professional courses**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly adopted a Bill to earmark 7.5% of seats on “preferential basis” for students from State government schools.
- ❖ This is for their admission of undergraduate courses in engineering, agriculture, veterinary, fisheries, law and other professional programmes offered in universities, private colleges, government-aided and government colleges.
- ❖ These students would have to have studied from Class 6 to 12 in the State government schools in Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ This bill seeks to take affirmative action to bring about real equality between students who studied in government schools and in private schools.
- ❖ The existence of “de facto inequalities” between the government and private school students was evident from the report submitted by the Justice D. Murugesan Commission.

<p>➤ Justice D Murugesan panel had <b>recommended 10% quota for government students in professional courses</b></p> <hr/> <p>➤ TN cabinet on Wednesday <b>decided to provide 7.5% horizontal reservation</b></p>		<p>➤ <b>Though 40% of pass-outs in state every year were from govt schools,</b> the commission found that only 6.4% were admitted to professional courses last year. <b>The figures for previous years were no different</b></p>
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## NATIONAL

### GUAREX



- ❖ India’s first sectoral index in the Agri commodities basket i.e. GUAREX was launched by the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX).
- ❖ GUAREX is a price based sectoral index that tracks the movement in the futures contracts of guar gum refined splits and guar seed on a real-time basis.
- ❖ This index product will offer a lot of opportunities to the value chain.

- ❖ The weightage of guar seed and guar gum refined splits in the index will be 63 per cent and 37 per cent, respectively.
- ❖ India is the world's largest guar producer.
- ❖ Rajasthan is the country's top producer.

### **First woman Chief Justice of India**

- ❖ All nine names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium were cleared by the Centre.
- ❖ This paved the way for India to see its first woman Chief Justice of India in 2027.
- ❖ The nine names include those of three women judges Justice Hima Kohli, Justice BV Nagarathna, Justice Bela Trivedi.
- ❖ According to the order of seniority, Justice Nagarathna may be appointed CJI in 2027.



### **KAZIND-21**



- ❖ The 5th edition of Indo- Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise, “KAZIND-21” will be held from August 30 to September 11, 2021.
- ❖ This joint training exercise will be conducted as a part of military diplomacy.
- ❖ It seeks to strengthen the growing strategic relation with Kazakhstan.
- ❖ Training exercise will be conducted at Aisha Bibi in Kazakhstan.
- ❖ A battalion of the Bihar Regiment will represent the Indian Army contingent.

### India's first mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine

- ❖ The Drugs Controller General of India gave nod for Phase-2 and Phase-3 trails of India's first mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ First mRNA-based covid-19 vaccine is as called HGCO19.
- ❖ It is being developed by a Pune-based biotechnology company, Genova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd. in collaboration with HDT Biotech Corporation of USA.

### SUJALAM



- ❖ Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched a ‘100 days campaign’ named SUJALAM.
- ❖ This is to create more and more Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus villages by undertaking wastewater management at the village level.

### Highest ever FRP for Sugarcane

- ❖ Union cabinet has approved the highest ever fair & remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane farmers.
- ❖ FRP (Fair and remunerative price) for sugarcane has been increased to Rs 290 per quintal for 2021-22.
- ❖ This price will be based on 10% recovery.
- ❖ If recovery is less than 9.5%, then farmers will be given a FRP of Rs 275 per quintile.
- ❖ FRP has been increased for marketing year October-September.
- ❖ FRP is the minimum price at which sugarcane is purchased by sugar mills from farmers.
- ❖ This price is fixed by Union government based on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).



## INTERNATIONAL

### Fatah-1

- ❖ Pakistan conducted a successful test flight of Fatah-1.
- ❖ Fatah-1 is a Pakistan-made guided multi-launch rocket system.
- ❖ Pakistani army had conducted a successful test launch of Shaheen 1-A, a medium-range ballistic missile, in March 2021.

## STATES

### Mission Vatsalya

- ❖ Maharashtra government launched a special mission called “Mission Vatsalya” in order to help women who lost their husbands to COVID-19.
- ❖ Mission Vatsalya will provide several services and some 18 benefits under one roof to those women.
- ❖ Under this mission, schemes like Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana and Gharkul Yojana will benefit those for women.
- ❖ This mission is being implemented by women and child development (WCD) Department.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Dog Day - August 26

- ❖ The day is observed every year to raise awareness about dog adoption and the importance of providing rescue dogs with a safe and loving environment.
- ❖ The day was started as National Dog Day in the US in 2004 by Colleen Paige.

