

February - 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Telangana Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution for undertaking a comprehensive household caste survey across the state.
 - It is the third state to follow the footsteps of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh has achieved a historic milestone of connecting 98 per cent of households with potable tap water under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).
 - It is the first north east state to achieve this.
- ❖ India's first Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) will be started from Uttarakhand.
 - It will be sent anywhere within a radius of 150 km to airlift anyone who has met with an accident to the medical facility.
- ❖ Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) has signed a MoU with BPCL for setting up a green hydrogen plant in the premises of Cochin Airport.
 - This will be the world's first green hydrogen plant and fuelling station located within an airport.
- ❖ The Current marathon world record holder Kelvin Kiptum and his coach Gervais Hakizimana died recently at Kenya.
- ❖ Dubai is going to create the world's first citywide network of electric air taxis and vertiports by 2026.

TAMIL NADU

New members to TNPSC



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government named five new members to the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC).

- ❖ Retired IAS officer M.P. Sivanarul, R. Saravanakumar, IRS, A. Thavamani, Usha Sukumar and R. Premkumar are the new members of the commission.
- ❖ They will have a tenure of six years or until they attain 62 years of age.

First Mini TIDEL Park

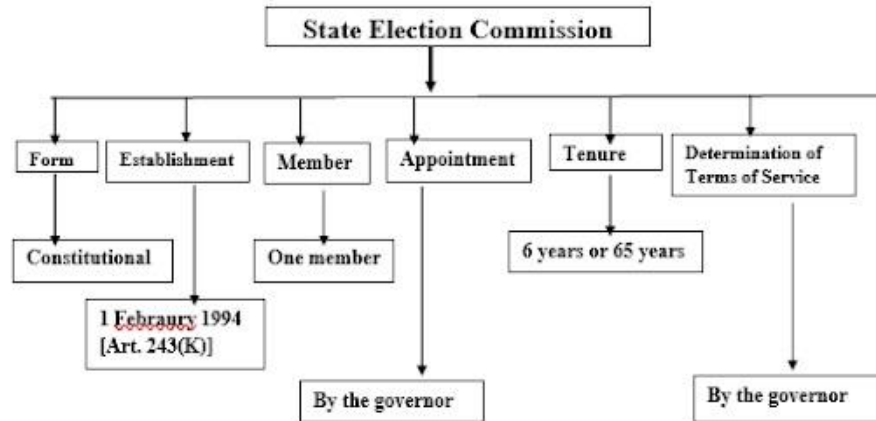
- ❖ Chief Minister inaugurated Tamil Nadu's first Mini-TIDEL Park in Villupuram.
- ❖ This project is situated on a built-up area of 63,000 sq ft spread across a five-acre land parcel at Thiruchitrabalam village, Vanur Taluk.
- ❖ To promote growth of IT and ITeS sectors in Tier II cities of the state, the government is setting up 7 Neo-TIDEL parks across the State as per the Tamil Nadu budget 2023-2024.
- ❖ Mini-TIDEL parks are being established in Tier II and Tier III towns, with eight other such parks already in development in Thanjavur, Salem, Thoothukudi, Vellore, Karaikudi, Namakkal, Tirupur and Ooty.



State Election Commission Tenure – Tamilnadu

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly adopted a Bill to further amend the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994.

- ❖ It aims to fixing the tenure of the State Election Commissioner to “five/six years or sixty-five years of age, whichever is earlier, without any provision for extension.”
- ❖ In most of the States, the tenure of the State Election Commissioners was five years or until they reached the age of sixty-five, whichever was earlier.
- ❖ According to the existing clause (b) of sub-section (2) of sub-section 239 of the 1994 Act, the term of office of the State Election Commissioner was two years and he/she was eligible for two successive terms.



One-Stop Centers for Disabled Persons – Tamilnadu



- ❖ The state differently-abled welfare department will soon establish 39 one-stop centres (OSCs) at the sub-divisional level.

- ❖ This is held under the World Bank-funded RIGHTS project.
- ❖ They are expected to reduce the distance travelled by the persons with disabilities (PwD).
- ❖ The centres will have nine experts including a psychologist, physiotherapist, speech audiologist, occupational therapist and special educators.
- ❖ RIGHTS stands for Rehabilitation Initiative for True Human Advancement Support.

Mahavir Statue in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ 1,000-year-old stone statue of Thirthangara Mahavir was found at Manavarayanendal near Thiruchuli in Virudhunagar district.
- ❖ Based on the sculpture technique, it is assumed that the statue might belong to the 11th century AD.
- ❖ The statue is made of granite and is intricately carved with fine details.
- ❖ It depicts Mahavir sitting on a throne with makara-toranas (arches with mythical creatures) on both sides.
- ❖ There is a triple umbrella above his head, which has creepers carved on it.



Kotravai sculpture

- ❖ Archaeological researchers have discovered an eighth-century Kotravai sculpture near Ulundurpet.
- ❖ They confirmed that it is 1,200 years old and was used for worship.

- ❖ The idol is depicted with eight hands, indicating its origin in the eighth century during the Pallava period.
- ❖ The sculpture's crown has uniqueness compared to other eighth-century Kotravai sculptures found in the area.



NATIONAL




PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

₹75000 crore scheme for 1 crore houses

KEY FEATURES OF THE SCHEME

Up to 300 units of electricity per month	Up to ₹78000 subsidy	Loan at lower interest rates	Easy enrollment process
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- ❖ The Union govt announced the launching the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana.
- ❖ This project will be with an investment of over Rs. 75,000 crores.
- ❖ It aims to light up 1 crore households by providing up to 300 units of free electricity every month.

- ❖ For solar panels with capacities up to 2 kW, households can avail of a subsidy of Rs. 30,000 per kilowatt, and Rs 18,000 per kW for additional capacity up to 3 kW.

Renaming of saving schemes

- ❖ The central government renamed the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana to Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme, 2024, and the Post Office Time Deposit Scheme to the National Savings Time Deposit Scheme with revised interest rates.
- ❖ This Scheme may be called the Sukanya Samriddhi Account (Amendment) Scheme, 2024. It shall be deemed to have come into force on January 1, 2024.
- ❖ The deposits made in the account on or after the 1st day of January 2024 shall earn interest at the rate of 8.2 per cent.



Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA) Scheme

Main features:

- (i) Account can be opened with a **minimum amount of Rs 250**.
- (ii) Account can be **opened by a parent/guardian of a girl child up to the age of 10 years**. Only one account is permissible for a girl child and not more than 2 accounts in a family.
- (iii) **Minimum of Rs 250 and maximum Rs 1.5 lakh** can be deposited in a year.
- (iv) The account stands for **21 years**.
- (v) An Amount up to **50% of the balance can be withdrawn** by the girl child after attaining the age of **18 years**.
- (vi) The rate of interest in this scheme is very attractive
- (vii) The account can be transferred anywhere in India and also from Bank to Post Office and Post Office to Bank.

Contact your nearest Post Office to open Sukanya Samriddhi Account.

ASI 2020-21 and ASI 2021-22

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the results for the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- ❖ These surveys cover factories employing 10 or more workers using power and those employing 20 or more workers without power.



- ❖ At the aggregate level, gross value added grew by 8.8 per cent in 2020-21 (in current prices), after registering a fall the year before.
- ❖ Growth in value added was driven by a sharper fall in input (at 4.07 per cent) than output (which fell by 1.9 per cent).
- ❖ In 2021-22, as the economy rebounded, value added grew by 26.6 per cent, with output growing at 35.4 per cent.
- ❖ In both these years, the registered organised manufacturing sector grew at a faster pace than the unorganised sector.
- ❖ The industries that drove growth during 2021-22 were manufacture of basic metal, coke and refined petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, motor vehicles, and chemicals.
- ❖ The value added by these industries grew by 34.4 per cent.
- ❖ The estimates of employment show that during the first year of the pandemic, total persons engaged fell marginally by 3.2 per cent.

ANNUAL SURVEY OF INDUSTRIES 2020-21 & 2021-22				
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	CAGR For 2021-22
Number Of Factories	2,46,504	2,50,454	2,49,987	0.7
Number Of Workers	1,30,58,156	1,25,94,563	1,36,09,931	2.1
Number Of Employees	1,65,68,526	1,60,25,118	1,71,51,172	1.7
FINANCIALS				
Wages To Workers	2,28,90,520	2,22,61,548	2,64,55,930	7.5
Total Emoluments	4,91,72,897	4,83,89,031	5,60,82,801	6.8
Net Fixed Capital Formation	1,43,61,795	32,25,819	30,42,540	-54.0
Gross Fixed Capital Formation	4,16,71,537	3,13,61,805	3,30,07,225	-11.0
Profits	4,69,47,269	6,14,05,752	9,50,71,368	42.3
<i>Value figures in Rs lakh</i>				
<i>Source: MOSPI</i>				

- ❖ It was from 1.66 crore in 2019-20 to 1.6 crore in 2020-21.
- ❖ Employment picked up thereafter, with total persons engaged rising to 1.7 crore in 2021-22 — an increase of 7 per cent.
- ❖ Between 2017-18 and 2022-23, while the labour force participation rate (15 years and above) saw a steady increase, rising from 49.8 per cent to 57.9 per cent.

- ❖ The share of workers that were self-employed rose from 52.2 per cent in 2017-18 to 57.3 per cent in 2022-23.
- ❖ Over the same period, the share of workers in manufacturing declined from 12.1 per cent to 11.4 per cent.

ENVIRONMENT

Cuscuta dodder weed

- ❖ An invasive weed, is slowly choking the Chengalpattu forests and Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary.
- ❖ It is threatening the local vegetation, ecology and habitat of migratory birds.
- ❖ Cuscuta dodder, a parasitic vine without roots, is native to North America.
- ❖ Legislation in 25 countries has listed the dodder as a 'declared noxious weed' with seeds and plant material denied entrance.
- ❖ In United States, it is the only weed seed whose movement is prohibited in every state.

