TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Global Family Day is celebrated every January 1 in the United States as a global day of peace and sharing.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government has launched the housing-sites distribution exercise under the 'Pedalandariki Illu' (houses for all the poor) scheme.
- ❖ The Serum Institute of India has launched the country's first indigenously developed pneumococcal vaccine PNEUMOSIL for children.

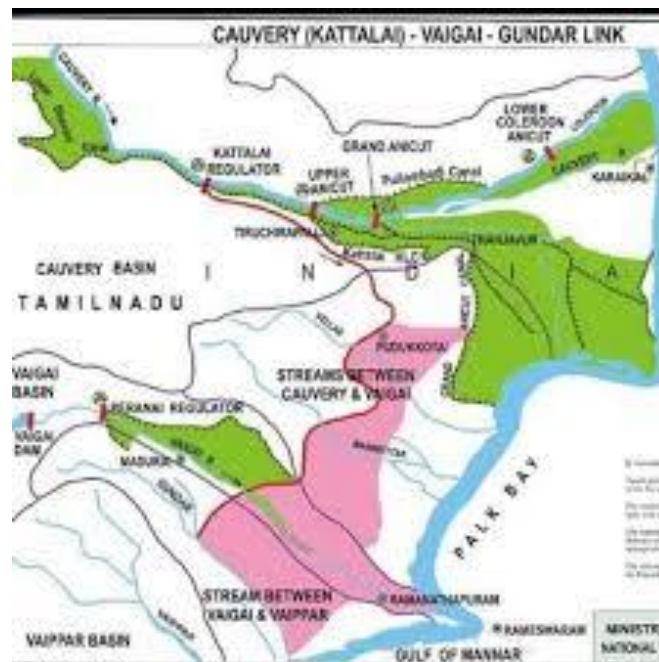# TAMIL NADU

38th district of Tamilnadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palanisamy on 28th December inaugurated the newly-formed Mayiladuthurai district.
- ❖ The 38th district in the state has been carved out of Nagapattinam district.

❖ The new district comprises four taluks - Mayiladuthurai, Sirkazhi, Tarangambadi, and Kuthalam.

Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar River linking

❖ The Foundation stone for the Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar river linking project will be laid in January 2021.

❖ The project involves construction of a 255.60-kilometre-long canal from Mayanur in Karur district to link river Kaveri with Vaigai.

❖ The link canal will run through the districts of Karur, Trichy, Pudukkottai, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar.
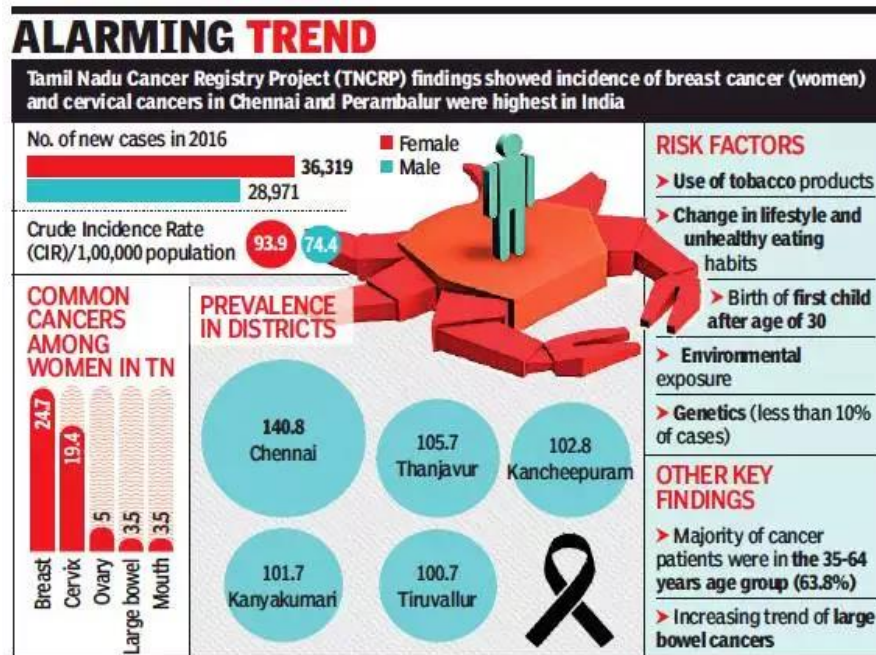

Cubes in Space

❖ Riyasdeen from Tamilnadu had participated a global competition the Cubes in Space.

❖ His 37 mm sized FEMTO satellites VISION SAT v1 and v2 has made it to the world's lightest FEMTO satellite.

❖ This satellite is expected to be launched in NASA Zero pressure Research Balloon under RB 6 mission during August 2021.

❖ Riyasdeen, a student at Sastra University, is from Karanthai in Thanjavur.

❖ The Cubes in Space competition is organised by 'idoodle Eduinc' of NASA for the students in the age group between 11 and 18.

WORLD'S LIGHTEST SATELLITE

Tamil Nadu Cancer Registry Project

ALARMING TREND

Tamil Nadu Cancer Registry Project (TNCRP) findings showed incidence of breast cancer (women) and cervical cancers in Chennai and Perambalur were highest in India

No. of new cases in 2016
■ Female
■ Male
36,319
28,971

Crude Incidence Rate (CIR)/1,00,000 population 93.9 74.4

COMMON CANCERS AMONG WOMEN IN TN
24.7 Breast
19.4 Cervix
5 Ovary
3.5 Large bowel
3.5 Mouth

PREVALENCE IN DISTRICTS
140.8 Chennai
105.7 Thanjavur
102.8 Kancheepuram
101.7 Kanyakumari
100.7 Tiruvallur

RISK FACTORS
➤ Use of tobacco products
➤ Change in lifestyle and unhealthy eating habits
➤ Birth of first child after age of 30
➤ Environmental exposure
➤ Genetics (less than 10% of cases)

OTHER KEY FINDINGS
➤ Majority of cancer patients were in the 35-64 years age group (63.8%)
➤ Increasing trend of large bowel cancers

❖ Tamil Nadu Cancer Registry Project (TNCRP) report was jointly released by the Cancer Institute and the state health department.

- ❖ The Crude Incidence Rate (CIR) of all cancers per 1,00,000 population was 93.9 among women compared to 74.4 in men.
- ❖ This is the highest demographic evaluated by any cancer registry in the world.
- ❖ The highest CIR of cancers was observed in Chennai (140.8) and the least in Krishnagiri (48.5).
- ❖ The incidence of breast cancer in women observed in Chennai (46.4 per 1,00,000 women) was the highest in the country.

NATIONAL

COVID-19 vaccine Mock Drill

- ❖ A Covid vaccine Mock drill has been planned to be conducted in four states Gujarat, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab.
- ❖ These vaccine trials will be co-sponsored by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- ❖ The Serum Institute of India has already produced around 50 million dosages of the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine 'Covishield'.
- ❖ The Pune based Serum Institute of India (SII) is the world's largest vaccine manufacturer.
- ❖ The drug regulator ICMR is considering three vaccines – AstraZeneca's, Pfizer/BioNTech's and one developed by a domestic company, Bharat Biotech, for emergency approval.
- ❖ India has eight COVID-19 vaccine candidates under different stages of trials, including three indigenous ones.
- ❖ These vaccines include the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine - Covishield, ICMR-Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, Russia's Sputnik-V and Zydus Cadila's ZyCoV-D.
- ❖ The others include Serum Institute's NVX-CoV2373 and Geneva's HGC019 and two unlabelled vaccines by Bharat Biotech and Biological E Limited.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Awards

- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has selected Vishakhapatnam Municipal Corporation as the best performing civic body.

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh secured the third position in best performing state category.
- ❖ Mirzapur of Uttar Pradesh won the best performing Municipal body.
- ❖ Tripura has been selected the best performing state in implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban, under the North Eastern and Hilly States category.
- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana aims to provide "Housing for All".
- ❖ It aims to 20 million affordable houses to the urban poor by March 31, 2022.
- ❖ PM Modi had also announced 2019-20 as the 'Construction Technology Year'.

INTERNATIONAL

Mission SAGAR III

- ❖ It is part of India's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries during the ongoing pandemic.
- ❖ This Mission is being undertaken in accordance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region).
- ❖ The Indian Naval Ship Kiltan arrived at Sihanoukville Port, Cambodia as part of this Mission.
- ❖ Earlier, under Mission SAGAR-II, INS Airavat delivered food aid to Djibouti, Sudan, South Sudan and Eritrea.

Five Eyes network

- ❖ Japan is now to join the Five Eyes network to become the sixth eye.
- ❖ It comprises of five nations namely Australia, Canada, Britain, US and New Zealand.
- ❖ It collaborated to respond against the increasing threats by China and North Korea.
- ❖ The origins of Five Eyes alliance can be tracked to the Atlantic Charter that was issued in August 1941.
- ❖ In June 2020, the Five Eyes countries signed an Economic Agreement to isolate China.

❖ The United States has sought to add three democratic countries India, South Korea and Japan in Five Eyes Network.

ENVIRONMENT

International Blue Flags

❖ The Blue Flag Programme for beaches is run by the international, non-governmental, non-profit organization FEE (Foundation for Environmental Education).

❖ It was hoisted in India at Kappad (Kerala), Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden (Odisha) and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).

❖ India had secured the International Blue Flag Certification for these 8 beaches.

❖ FEE was started in France in 1985.

❖ Spain tops the list with more than 560 such beaches.

The beaches which have been awarded the certification are:

- Shivrajpur (Dwarka-Gujarat),
- Ghoghla (Diu),
- Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka),
- Kappad (Kerala),
- Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh),
- Golden Beach (Puri-Odisha), and
- Radhanagar (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)

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