

January - 09

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The UK PM Boris Johnson cancelled his planned trip to India to be the chief guest at the Republic Day Parade 2021.
- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet has approved the Freedom to Religion Bill, 2020 as an Ordinance.
  - Previously, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh have passed similar laws.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami announced that the State government would grant a public holiday on Thai Poesam day every year.

## TAMIL NADU

### Bio-heritage sites

- ❖ The Tamilnadu State government identified three ecologically fragile areas.
- ❖ They are:
  - Arittapatty in Madurai,
  - Vagaikulam in Tirunelveli and
  - Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) in Coimbatore.
- ❖ It will be shortly issued as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS).

### About Arittapatti

- ❖ Tamil Brahmi stone inscriptions, dating back to the second century BCE (Before Common Era), are found in Kalinjamalai located at Arittapatti.
- ❖ An inscription found at Arittapatti indicated that earlier the village was called 'Paathirikudi'.
- ❖ The inscriptions indicate that two persons - Nelvazhi Sizhivan and Ilanjji Imayavan - had given shelter to the Jain monks at this cave
- ❖ During the Pandya reign, the Arittapatti village was part of 'thenparappu nadu'.
- ❖ Near the cave, a sculpture of an ancient Jain Thirthankara is found.
- ❖ A 10th century CE vattezhuthu inscription found under the sculpture says that Kalinjamalai was earlier called as 'Thiruppinaianmalai'.
- ❖ The other important heritage spot in the village is the 8th century rock-cut temple of Lord Shiva with a rare sculpture of Lakulisa.

- ❖ An inscription belonging to Sadayavarman Vikaramapandiyan period is found at another structural Shiva temple.

### **Flood mitigation project**

- ❖ The Tamilnadu Water Resources Department has finalised a tie-up with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Development Bank (AIIDB).
- ❖ The project was designed to create an effective water management system to augment water storage capacity, restore missing links of water bodies, and mitigate flood in highly vulnerable areas.
- ❖ It includes in Chennai, Kancheepuram, Chengalpet, Tiruvallur and Cuddalore districts.

### **Namma Tiruvannamalai app**

- ❖ It is a mobile application to ensure better communication between the district administration and the public.
- ❖ It was created by the district administration with the help of a private agency.
- ❖ It will have all information about Tiruvannamalai district.



### **Pazhaya soru**

- ❖ The state health department has commissioned a research project involving 600 patients to study the effect of probiotics in fermented rice (pazhaya soru).
- ❖ It will research the use of this in treating inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) like Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis (UC).

- ❖ IBD treatment normally involves taking steroid drugs, immunosuppressants and anti-cancer drugs, and in some cases surgical intervention.



### Health Dept rolls out research on 'Pazhaya Soru'

Tamilnadu Department of Health has rolled out a research on 'Fermented Rice' which we call 'Pazhayadhu or Pazhaya Soru'. For quite some time the doctors have been prescribing it for patients who come with IBD (Inflammatory Bowel Disease) as the good bacteria in it helped in maintaining the imbalance which was causing IBD. Now a formal study in a cost of 2.7 crores has been started to formulate a proper way of making it like choosing the best quality rice for it.

### PMAY Award

- ❖ Puducherry has bagged an award for the best performing Union territory in India in the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban (PMAY-U) in 2019.
- ❖ Puducherry was selected for the second time for the award.

## NATIONAL

### 40<sup>th</sup> Scientific Expedition to Antarctica

- ❖ India launched the 40th Scientific Expedition to Antarctica.
- ❖ It is marking the 40 years of India's scientific endeavour to the continent.
- ❖ The expedition was flagged off from Goa on the ice-class vessel MV Vasiliy Golovnin.
- ❖ India began its Antarctic expeditions in 1981.

- ❖ India built 3 permanent research base stations in the continent - Maitri, Dakshin Gangotri, and Bharati.
- ❖ Now, India has two operational stations in Antarctica names Bharati and Maitri.
- ❖ The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research-NCPOR in Goa manages the entire Indian Antarctic Program.



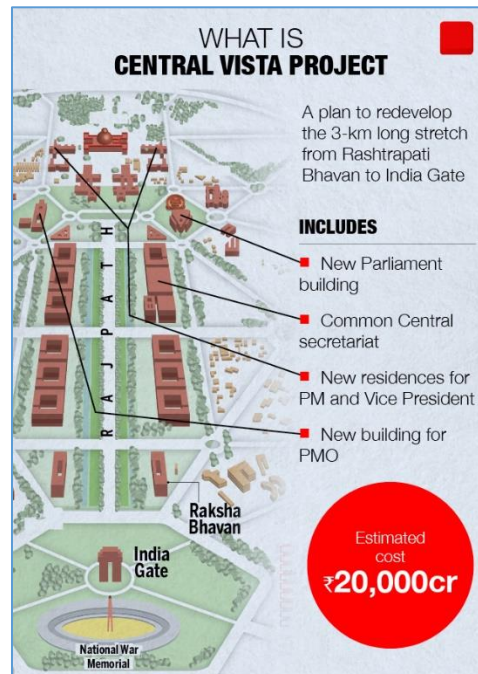
### **Floating Solar Energy Project**

- ❖ The Government of India is to construct the largest floating solar energy project in the world.
- ❖ It is to be constructed at Omkareshwar Dam on Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The floating solar power plant refers to solar panels installed on structures that float on surface of the water.
- ❖ International Finance Corporation and World bank are to provide the financial assistance to this project.



## Central Vista Project

- ❖ The Supreme Court allowed the Central Vista Project to go ahead.
- ❖ This project aims to renovate 86 acres of land in the Lutyen's Garden in New Delhi.
- ❖ It includes Landmark structures of Indian government such as Rashtrapati Bhavan, Parliament, India Gate and North and South Block.
- ❖ The current Parliament was built in 1927 by the British.





## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Sea Wing drones**

- ❖ China has deployed a fleet of underwater drones called Sea Wing (Haiyi) glider in the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ It can operate for months on end and make observations for naval intelligence purposes.
- ❖ These are a type of Uncrewed Underwater Vehicle (UUV).

## **ECONOMY**

### **India's Rice Exports to Vietnam**

- ❖ Vietnam has started to import rice from India.
- ❖ But Vietnam is the third biggest exporter of rice in the world.
- ❖ It is mainly because the local prices in Vietnam jumped to the highest in nine years due to Limited domestic supplies.
- ❖ Also, the Indian prices of rice are highly attractive.

### **TRIFOOD parks**

- ❖ The TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) operating under Ministry of Tribal Affairs signed a memorandum of understanding with Akhil Bhartiya vanvasi Kalyan Ashram to setup TRIFOOD parks in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The TRIFOOD is a joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of food processing industry and TRIFED.
- ❖ It was launched under Van Dhan Yojana in August 2020.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Kolar Leaf-Nosed Bat**

- ❖ Karnataka Forest Department is on a war footing to save these bats from extinction.
- ❖ It is endemic to India and is found in only one cave in Karnataka.
- ❖ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) status of this species is Critically Endangered.



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