

January - 18

## TNPSC BITS

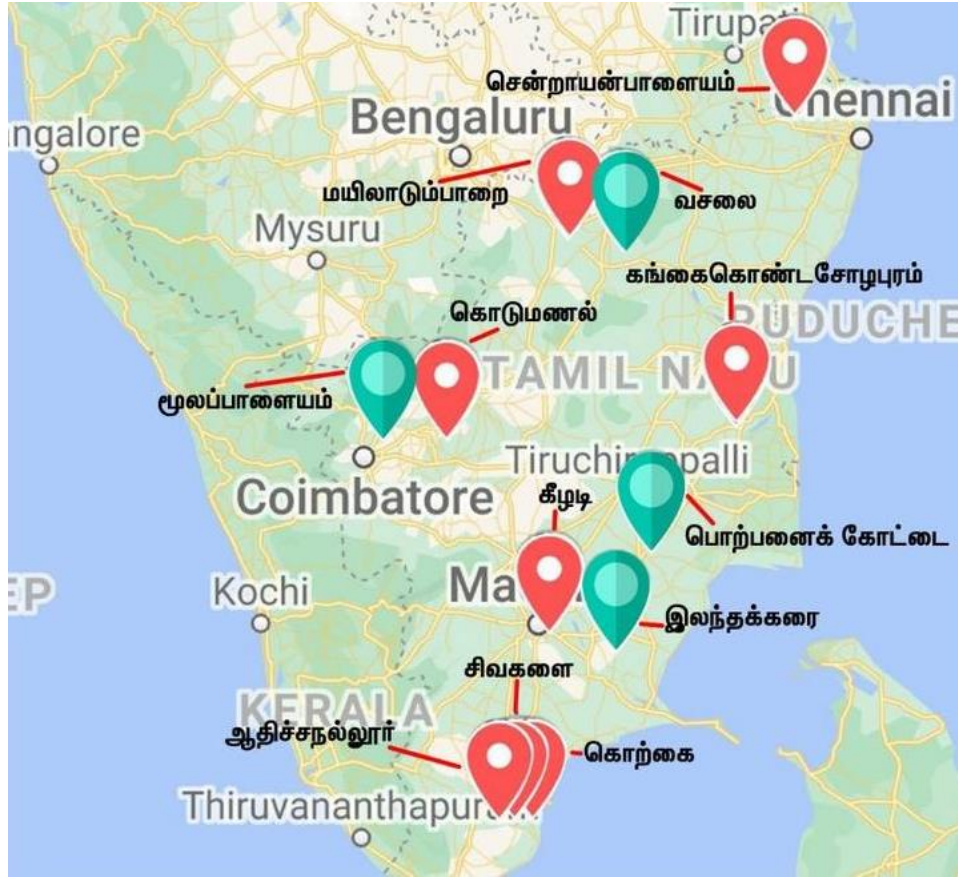
- ❖ The commander Abhilash Tomy retired from Indian Navy.
  - He was the first Indian to circumnavigate the globe solo and unassisted in a sail yacht.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet recently approved India-UAE Memorandum of Understanding for Scientific and Technical Cooperation.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry recently announced that the new Foreign Trade Policy 2021-26.
  - It aims to make India a 5 trillion USD economy in 2024.
- ❖ 'Gazing Eastwards: Of Buddhist Monks and Revolutionaries in China' is a new book authored by Romila Thapar.
- ❖ The Former chief election commissioner (CEC) S Y Quraishi has come out with his book titled "The Population Myth: Islam, Family Planning and Politics in India".
- ❖ The 4th edition of the Cherry Blossom Festival was virtually inaugurated at Mao in Manipur.
  - Manipur has been celebrating the festival every year since 2017.

## TAMIL NADU

### Archaeological excavations

- ❖ The Tamilnadu Archaeological Department has decided to launch excavations at seven more sites and field studies in two places.
- ❖ This is the first time the State will have more than 10 excavation projects by different agencies, including the State Archaeology Department and various universities.
- ❖ The excavations would be carried out in
  - Keeladi and surrounding areas in Sivaganga district,
  - Adichanallur, Sivakalai, Korkai and surrounding areas in Thoothukudi district,

- Kodumanal in Erode district,
- Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri district,
- Gangaikondacholapuram and Maligaimedu in Ariyalur district.
- ❖ One field study will be conducted to find new Stone Age sites in Krishngiri, Vellore, Dharmapuri, Tiruvannamalai and Salem districts.
- ❖ Another field study will be done in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts to find the Thamiraparani river civilization.
- ❖ Sharma Centre for Heritage Education has sought permission for excavation in Chenrayanpalayam in Tiruvallur district while Alagappa University has proposed to excavate in Ilanthakarai in Sivaganga district.
- ❖ Tamil University has submitted a proposal for Moolapalayam in Coimbatore district; the University of Madras for Vasalai in Vellore district and Tamil Nadu Open University for Porpanaikottai in Pudukottai.



## NATIONAL

### The Kayakalp Awards 2019-20

- ❖ These are presented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ They are annually given to the health facilities with the highest standards of sanitation and hygiene.
- ❖ The award was for the category Group A Central government health facility, or hospitals with more than 1,000 beds.
- ❖ The District Hospital Reasi of Jammu and Kashmir was given the first prize.
- ❖ The Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) was awarded the second prize under the Kayakalp Awards scheme.
- ❖ AIIMS Bhubaneswar has received the best central government hospital under Category B of the Kayakalp Awards for cleanliness.

### 30<sup>th</sup> National energy conservation awards 2020

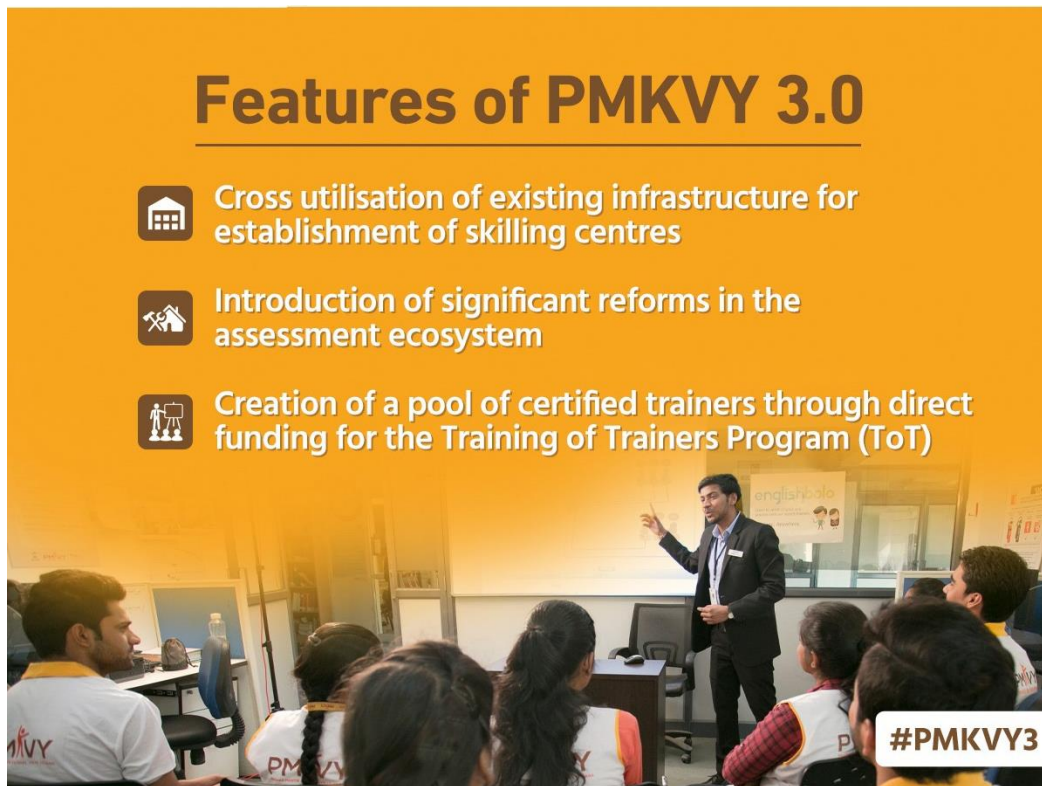


The poster for the 30th National Energy Conservation Awards 2020 features a central graphic of a lightbulb with a globe inside, surrounded by green leaves. The text on the poster includes the title '30<sup>th</sup> National Energy Conservation Awards 2020' and 'Award Winning Sectors under NECA:'. Below this, there are five categories with corresponding images: Industry (factory), Transport (bus and train), Building (modern structure), Institution (school building), and Appliance (refrigerator, air conditioner, and washing machine). The poster also includes the logos of the Ministry of Power and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, along with social media handles and the hashtag #BEECelebratesEC.


- ❖ The award is instituted by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- ❖ During the event, the Standards and Labelling Programme for Air Compressors and Ultra High Definition (UHD) TV on voluntary basis was initiated.
- ❖ SAATHEE Portal was also launched.


- ❖ State-wise Actions on Annual Targets and Headways on Energy Efficiency (SAATHEE) is a Management Information System (MIS) portal.
- ❖ It is an initiative of the Department of Science & Technology.
- ❖ The Paradip Refinery of Odisha has won First prize in the “Petroleum Refinery Sector”.

### **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0**



**Features of PMKVY 3.0**

-  Cross utilisation of existing infrastructure for establishment of skilling centres
-  Introduction of significant reforms in the assessment ecosystem
-  Creation of a pool of certified trainers through direct funding for the Training of Trainers Program (ToT)



- ❖ It will focus on training eight lakh candidates during the scheme period of 2020-2021.
- ❖ It will be spearheaded by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- ❖ It will focus on new-age India and COVID-related skills.
- ❖ Under the third phase, 729 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra are to be established.
- ❖ More than 200 ITIs are to be rolled out under Skill India mission.
- ❖ Prime Minister had launched Skill India Mission on July 15, 2015.



- ❖ The mission gained momentum through the launch of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
- ❖ The National Policy on Skill Development had set a target of skilling 50 crore people by 2022.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Sea Vigil-21



- ❖ The Indian Navy started the second edition of coastal defence exercise.
- ❖ The exercise aims at assessing India's preparedness in the domain of coastal defence and maritime security.
- ❖ The exercise by the Indian Navy will be undertaken along the entire 7,516 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India.
- ❖ It will also involve all the 13 coastal states as well as UTs.
- ❖ The inaugural edition of this exercise took place in January 2019.
- ❖ The Sea Vigil is a build-up towards the major theatre level exercise TROPEX.
- ❖ The Indian Navy conducts TROPEX every two years.
- ❖ TROPEX is Tropical Level Readiness and Operational Exercise.
- ❖ It is an inter-service military exercise that involves the participation of Indian Air Force, Indian Army and Indian Navy.

- ❖ The exercise is held to test the combat readiness of the Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Indian Army and Indian Coast Guard.
- ❖ The first TROPEX was held in 2005.

## ECONOMY

### Financial Stability Report (FSR)

- ❖ It was released by the Reserve Bank of India.
- ❖ It is a biannual report.
- ❖ This is the 22nd issue.
- ❖ According to this report, Banks' gross non-performing assets may rise to 13.5% by September 2021.
- ❖ It was 7.5% in September 2020 under the baseline scenario.
- ❖ The RBI Financial Stability Report is released by the Financial Stability and Development Council.
- ❖ The Union Finance Minister is the chairperson of the Financial Stability and Development Council.
- ❖ The idea of the council was mooted by Raghuram Rajan Committee in 2008.

## ENVIRONMENT

### One Planet Summit





- ❖ The summit aims to advance the protection of nature.
- ❖ Theme of this summit is 'Let's act together for nature'.
- ❖ United Nations, World Bank and France has organised this summit.
- ❖ The first Summit was organised in 2017 after the historic Paris Agreement in 2015.

