

March - 02

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India's first indigenously built hydrogen fuel cell ferry boat, named 'Suchetha', was inaugurated in Kochi.
 - The V.O. Chidambaranar Port is also the first Green Hydrogen Hub Port of the country.
- ❖ The Assembly Secretariat has declared the Vilavancode Assembly constituency vacant, following the resignation of S. Vijayadharani.
- ❖ Prime Minister dedicated to the nation five All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Rajkot (Gujarat), Bathinda (Punjab), Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh), Kalyani (West Bengal) and Mangalagiri (Andhra Pradesh).
- ❖ The Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI), has successfully commissioned India's largest Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), which stores energy using solar energy in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ Renowned ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas passed away recently at Mumbai.
- ❖ Bharat Tex 2024, one of the largest-ever global textile events, was inaugurated in Delhi.
- ❖ Two 'Ayush Projects' - The National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN) in Pune and the Central Research Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy (CRIYN) in Deverkhana Village, Jhajjar of Haryana were inaugurated recently.
- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu has appointed A S Rajeev as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).
- ❖ Former Supreme Court judge A.M. Khanwilkar was appointed as the chairperson of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal.

TAMIL NADU

'Ilakkiya Maamani' awards

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister handed over 'Ilakkiya Maamani' awards to nine Tamil scholars - Aranga. Ramalingam, K.N. Kothandam, Suryakanthan alias M. Marudhachalam, Mani Arjunan, Ara. Thiruvadam, K. Poornachandran, G. Manikkavasagan, S. Shanmugasundaram, Ilakkiya Natarasan alias S. Natarasan.
- ❖ The award carries a cash component of ₹5 lakh, a gold medal and a citation.
- ❖ The CM also virtually unveiled statue of late Tamil scholar Mu. Varadarasan in Ranipet.

- ❖ The statues of late Tamil scholar and freedom fighter Annal Thango was unveiled at Gudiyatham in Vellore district and late anti-caste activist Rettaimalai Srinivasan unveiled at Acharapakkam in Chengalpattu district.



Kulasekarapattinam spaceport

ISRO Sanctions India's 2nd Spaceport at Kulasekarapattinam

Will have designated area for **Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV)** designed with low cost & low turnaround time.

\$118 million sanctioned for land acquisition, TN govt. to establish dedicated space industrial parks nearby.

Ideal for launching satellite into polar orbits (rockets from Sriharikota need to turn-manoeuve to avoid flying over Sri Lanka) will save fuel + payload capacity

- ❖ The Kulasekarapattinam spaceport will be ready in two years to launch small satellites.
- ❖ This upcoming facility would have the capacity to launch 24 satellites per year.
- ❖ When a satellite is launched into space from ISRO's Sriharikota facility, the rocket first heads east, and then turn south.

- ❖ But the satellite launch from Kulasekaranpattinam spaceport doesn't have to take this diversion and the rockets can now head straight in the southern direction.
- ❖ Also, Kulasekaranpattinam is closer to the equator than Sriharikota.
- ❖ SSLVs can be used to launch satellites that weigh less than 500 kg into the lower earth orbit.

New e-governance initiative of the state



- ❖ Tamil Nadu state has launched the Tamil Nadu Public Fund Tracking System (TNPFTS).
- ❖ It is aimed at ensuring procedure simplification, complete tracking of funds from the treasury to end-users and expenditure rationalisation, among other aspects.
- ❖ It also launched the 'Kalanjiyam' portal and a mobile application to facilitate self-service requirements of State government employees and pensioners.
- ❖ Another website and mobile application launched to monitor the effective implementation of the New Health Insurance Scheme.

11th century Vishnu temple

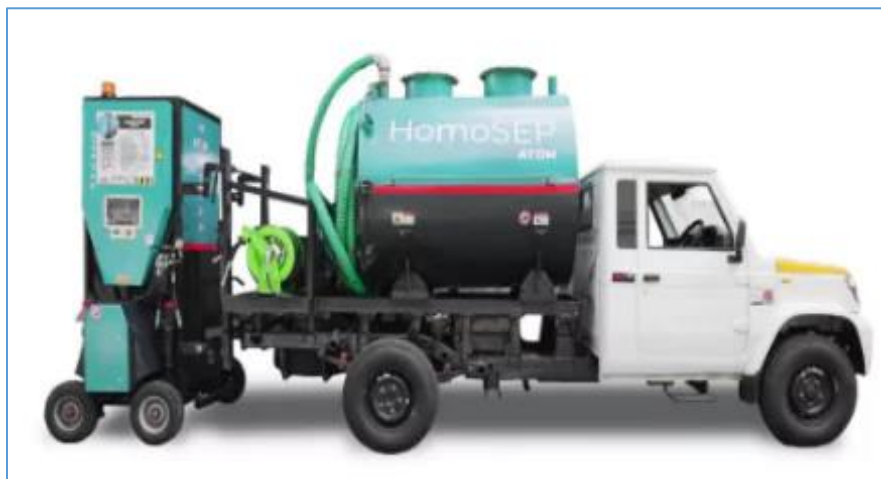
- ❖ The T.N. Department of Archaeology has commenced the conservation and maintenance work at the Vishnu temple.
- ❖ It is a protected monument located in Ulagapuram near Vanur in Villupuram district.
- ❖ The temple is said to date back to the 11th century A.D and the village was then known as Ulagamadevipuram.
- ❖ It is named after the chief queen of Chola King Raja Raja I.

- ❖ The temple has inscriptions of Chola king Rajendra 1 and records the grants made to the temple.



NATIONAL

India's 1st septic tank cleaning robot



- ❖ India's first septic tank/manhole cleaning robot, offering an end-to-end solution to eliminate manual scavenging, is strengthening the swachhata abhiyan.
- ❖ The technology called Homosep Atom was developed by the startup incubated in the Department of Science and Technology (DST) Technology Business Incubator (TBI) of IIT Madras.
- ❖ It has reached 16 cities in different parts of India and empowers extensive blade cleanings, solid waste desilting, suction and storage at one device.

- ❖ It is reducing the cost of owning multiple assets and promotes robotic cleaning in sewers.

INTERNATIONAL

First-ever woman Chief Minister in Pakistan

- ❖ Senior leader Maryam Nawaz, the daughter of three-time former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, became the first-ever woman Chief Minister of a Punjab province in Pakistan.
- ❖ Punjab province is home to 120 million people.
- ❖ She defeated Rana Aftab, who received no votes as his party boycotted the election.



STATES

Attukal Pongala festival

- ❖ Women devotees have gathered with 'Pandara Aduppu' at the Attukal Bhagavathy Temple, Thiruvananthapuram.
- ❖ The Attukal Pongala is one of the largest gatherings of women in the world.
- ❖ It falls on the ninth day of the annual ten-day festival at the Attukal Bhagavathy Temple.
- ❖ Attukal Temple is called the "Women's Sabarimala" as only women perform rituals.

- ❖ In 2009, the ritual had made it to the Guinness Book of World Records for being the largest religious gathering of women on a single day when over 2.5 million people took part in it.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Gaganyaan Mission astronauts



- ❖ India's first human-crewed spaceflight – Gaganyaan mission's "astronaut" was introduced recently.
- ❖ The four candidates are Group Captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair (47), Angad Pratap (41), Ajit Krishnan (41) and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla (38).



- ❖ They all are officers of the Indian Air Force.
- ❖ Capt. Ajit Krishnan hails from Tamil Nadu is the fighter pilot.
- ❖ He is an alumnus of NDA and a recipient of the President's Gold Medal and Sword of Honour at the Air Force Academy.

Manohar Joshi

- ❖ Former Maharashtra chief minister Manohar Joshi passed away recently.
- ❖ Joshi emerged as a key leader within the Shiv Sena, known for his organisational skills and grassroots connect.
- ❖ In 1995, he was appointed as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra.
- ❖ He succeeded Sharad Pawar of the Indian National Congress, marking the first time the Shiv Sena had assumed power in the state.
- ❖ He was also elected as a Member of Parliament and was the Lok Sabha Speaker from 2002 to 2004.



India's Oldest MP - Shafiqur Rahman Barq

- ❖ Senior Samajwadi Party leader, and MP from Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal, Shafiqur Rahman Barq passed away recently.
- ❖ He is India's oldest MP in Parliament.
- ❖ Barq, who has been a four-time MLA, was elected MP from Sambhal for the fifth time in 2019.



- ❖ Barq won the Muradabad Lok Sabha seat three times (1996, 1998, and 2004) and the Sambhal Lok Sabha seat twice (2009 and 2019) from SP.
- ❖ He had also served as a cabinet minister in the Uttar Pradesh government and was elected as a legislator from the Sambhal seat four times.

