

Tamil Nadu Current Affairs 2020

Tamil Nadu CM Free Masks Scheme

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Eddapadi K Palaniswami has launched Free Mask Distribution Scheme on 27 July 2020. In the CM Free Masks Scheme, the state govt. will benefit over 69 lakh families in the first phase.

This scheme will provide masks absolutely free of cost to ration card holders as part of measures to fight COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

The Chief Minister distributed masks to 5 people at the Secretariat, marking the inauguration of the 1st phase of the scheme.

In the Tamil Nadu CM Free Masks Scheme 2020, masks will be given to beneficiaries through ration shops.

Around 4.44 crore reusable masks, purchased at a cost of Rs. 30.07 crore will be distributed to 69.09 lakh families in panchayats, municipalities and corporations barring the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC).

According to the GCC, close to 45 lakh masks have already been distributed. EPS had recently announced the distribution of quality, reusable masks to all ration card holders in the state as a part of measures to fight the pandemic.

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Tamil Nadu Young Advocates Monthly Allowance Scheme

Tamil Nadu government has launched a new Young Advocates Monthly Allowance Scheme 2020 for lawyers. In this CM Advocates Welfare Scheme, the state govt. will provide Rs. 3,000 per month as stipend to young lawyers.

All those advocates who are practicing in Tamil Nadu, registered with Tamilnadu Bar Council and are also in voters list of the state will be able to apply for CM Young Advocates Monthly Allowance Scheme.

IT department will release the Chief Minister Young Lawyers Stipend Scheme online application form on the law department's website.

The stipend amount of Rs. 3,000 to be given under Tamil Nadu Young Advocates Monthly Allowance Scheme will be paid during their first 2 years of practice.

Tamil Nadu Two Wheeler Subsidy Scheme

Tamil Nadu state government has started a new Two Wheeler Subsidy Scheme for Ulemas. This announcement is made by honourable Chief Minister Edapaddi K Palaniswami on 19 February 2020 for welfare of minority communities in TN state.

Accordingly, EPS announced a subsidy of 50 per cent for Ulemas to buy two-wheelers and also double the Ulema pension to Rs. 3,000 from existing Rs. 1,500 per month. Ulemas are the guardians and interpreters of religious knowledge in Islam.

Tamilnadu CM said that there are more than 2800 institutes registered with the TN Waqf Board. The ulemas of these institutions would be able to get Rs. 25,000 or 50% subsidy (whichever is less) on purchase cost of two wheeler. The pension amount under the Ulema Pension Scheme has also been revised.

In the pension scheme implemented in the Tamil Nadu state in 1981, all the Pesh Imams, mothinars, Arabic teachers and mujawars who retired from Tamil Nadu Waqf Board institutions are paid pension.

Now all those people among these who have completed 20 years of service and reached 60 years of age are eligible for an increased pension amount.

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Tamil Nadu Amma Ilaingar Vilayattu Thittam Scheme

Tamil Nadu state government has launched TN Amma Ilaingar Vilayattu Thittam Scheme on 13 January 2020. This TN Amma Youth Sports Scheme aims to develop leadership skills and promote unity among the youth.

The scheme is going to be implemented in 12,524 village panchayats and 528 town panchayats across the state.

The state govt. of Tamilnadu will implement the scheme with an outlay of Rs. 76.24 crore.

Tamilnadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami inaugurated the “Amma Ilaingar Vilayattu Thittam” via video conferencing from the Secretariat.

The scheme was inaugurated at the Kiloy village panchayat ground in Sriperumbudur. During the event, CM Palaniswami also launched the logo of the Amma Youth Sports Scheme 2020.

CM Palaniswami also inaugurated a hostel in Trichy which was constructed at a cost of Rs 96 lakh.

Tamil Nadu Free Bicycle Scheme

Tamil Nadu state government has started a TN Free Bicycle Scheme 2019-2020 for students. Under this Muft Cycle Yojana, the state govt. will provide free bicycles to class 11th students of the current academic year.

TN Free Cycle Scheme will encourage students to come to school daily on time and help them in getting quality education.

All the boys and girls students of government, govt-aided and partly aided schools are eligible.

Students can take benefits of TN Free Bike Scheme scheme through their respective school headmaster.

CM Edappadi K Palaniswami marked the official launch of Free Bicycle Scheme 2020 by providing cycles to 9 students at the secretariat as token gesture.

The bicycles under TN Free Bike Scheme would be given to students of 10 districts namely Chhenai, Kancheepuram, Chengalpet, Vellore, Ranipet, Tirupattur, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Tirunelveli and Tenkasi.

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Amma Two Wheeler Scheme

Tamilnadu state government has launched the Amma Two Wheeler Scheme. Subsequently, all the women between 18 to 45 years of age can avail 50% govt. subsidy or Rs. 25,000 (whichever is less) on the purchase of mopeds and scooters.

Accordingly, interested candidates can download the Amma 2 Wheeler Scheme offline applications in PDF format & check application status from the official website of Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women.

Amma 2 wheeler scheme will make women economically independent and self confident.

Subsequently, this scheme is for “Women Empowerment” in the Tamil Nadu state.

All the women having annual income of less than Rs. 2.50 lakhs can avail maximum 50% or Rs. 25000 subsidy.

One female member in a family can apply for this scheme.

Cauvery Delta Declared as a Protected Special Agriculture Zone

The Tamil Nadu government has declared the Cauvery delta region as a Protected Special Agriculture Zone.

The protected zone includes eight districts namely Thanjavur (Rice Bowl of Tamil Nadu), Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Pudukottai, Cuddalore, Ariyalur, Karur and Tiruchirapalli.

The Cauvery delta region is an important agricultural region in Tamil Nadu. It has been seen that in the last four decades, Tamil Nadu’s food dependence on the delta has fallen from 65% to 40%.

Hydrocarbon wells are one of the major reasons behind the same.

The Government has emphasised that central projects on hydrocarbon exploration in the delta region cannot be implemented without No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the State government.

Tamil Nadu CM unveiled Direct CTO scheme for green category industries

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami has announced a new scheme, the 'Direct CTO scheme for Green Industries' to relax the process for pre-establishment clearances for green category industries.

Under the new scheme, the green industries just need to apply for consent to establish, and don't have to wait till obtaining final approvals to commence construction work.

The move would largely benefit micro, small and medium enterprises planning to set up operations in the state.

Noting that companies falling under the "white" category do not require consent from the pollution control board.

"Red" category industries are those which have a pollution index score of 60 and above, "orange" category are with 41 to 59, "green" category industrial sectors are of 21 to 40 and "white" category industries are from 0 to 20.

According to Ministry of Environment, companies are classified in red, orange, green and white categories based on the pollution index generated from them.

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1st Global Hyperloop Pod Competition

Indian Institute of Technology, Madras will organize India's 1st Global Hyperloop Pod Competition named as 'Indian Hyperloop Pod Competition', to increase the awareness & enthusiasm about Hyperloop in India.

The competition aims to encourage student teams in India & abroad to develop a Hyperloop Pod & compete to construct the fastest, highly innovative, effective design & also prototypes of related technologies.

The final round to take place in the IIT-Madras campus in July 2020.

On March 14, 2020, IIT-Madras launched Career Back 2 Women (CB2 Women) initiative through its "Digital Skills Academy" to skill women who want to return to a technical profession after a break in their career.

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State Girl Child Protection Day celebrated in Tamil Nadu

The Tamil Nadu state government celebrated the birth anniversary of former CM Jayaram Jayalithaa on February 24 as 'State Girl Child Protection Day' in honor of the passion with which she worked for the well-being of children, especially girls.

TN CM announces 5 schemes for children living in government-run homes.

Tamil Nadu CM Palaniswami has also announced 5 schemes for children living in government-run homes.

When the orphan girl residing in government-run homes completes 21 years of age, the state government will deposit ₹2 lakh in the bank in their name to help them get a better life in society after they leave the government homes.

Also, a scheme for girls who face difficulties after leaving government-run homes on completion of 18 years of age was announced, in which a special financial assistance will be given to ensure their social and financial safety. It will include assistance for higher education, skill development, job opportunities and self-employment. The assistance will continue to be provided till they complete 50 years of age.

The state Government also increased the monthly amount paid to the foster parents of the girls to ₹4,000 from ₹2,000.

The govt. announced employment of destitute children from government homes in social welfare, social justice, ICDS departments, the categories of C and D, which would not fall in the purview of the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission. They would also be prioritised in jobs in noon meal centres and anganwadis.

The govt would award gold, silver and bronze medals and certificates to three district collectorates who improve child sex ratio, given that ratio was lesser than the average in those districts.

Cauvery Delta Region to be declared as Protected Agricultural Zone by TN Govt

Tamil Nadu CM announced that Cauvery delta regions in Tamil Nadu is going to be declared as a protected Special Agricultural Zone (SAZ), He also added that special team will be formed to produce special law to make the Delta region as a Protected Zone.

Districts like Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Delta regions of Trichy, Karur, Ariyalur, Cuddalore and Pudukkottai are included in the Protected Zone.

Only Agro based Industries are allowed in the Protected Zone.

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India's 1st Sukhoi-30 squadron to be stationed in Thanjavur, TN

The induction ceremony of a Sukhoi-30 MKIs (Su-30 MKI) squadron in the southern skies will take place in the presence of Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu (TN) on January 20, 2020.

The range of this will be in the Indian ocean region (IOR) up to Suez Canal.

It will be the IAF's 2nd frontline fighter squadron based in South India, with the most potent platform capable to perform predominantly maritime role and certainly a secondary to all other defensive mechanism. Earlier, the number-45 Flying daggers squadron has been deployed at the Sulur Airport in Coimbatore, TN.

The Indian Air Force 's 222 Squadron, 'The Tigersharks' has been resurrected with state-of-the-art Sukhoi-30 MKI multirole fighter aircraft. Raised on 15 September, 1969 with the Sukhoi-7, the squadron was later equipped with MiG 27 ground attack aircraft before being canceled in 2011.

WHO Chief Scientist honoured with Tamil Nadu's CM's special award

Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist of World Health Organisation, was conferred with the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's special award, in recognition of her advisory role in combating the COVID-19 pandemic in the state.

The WHO representative has been offering suggestions to the state health department to step up measures in fighting the pandemic.

According to the World Health Organisation, Swaminathan has 30 years of experience in clinical care and research and has worked throughout her career to translate her research into impactful programmes.

Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation received the certificate of appreciation for various steps undertaken to ensure uninterrupted availability of drugs for combating coronavirus.

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Tamil Nadu Government signed 8 MoUs of ₹10,399 crores

Tamil Nadu State Government signed 8 new Memorandum of Understanding of Rs 10,399 crores which will bring investments in the areas of solar cells, agrotech, iron foundry and module manufacturing.

The cumulative investment in the state will generate around 13,507 jobs. The job creation will be in solar cells, industrial parks, data centres, etc. In order to monitor the projects, the state government is to setup a Special Investment Promotion Task Force. The chief Secretary of the state is to chair the task force.

The inward-looking options of solar cell manufacturing by the State Government will help to boost domestic production. It is to be noted that India has extended safeguard duty of solar imports to boost domestic production.

The safeguard duties have been extended mainly for China. China has been dumping its low-quality solar cells at cheapest prices after the US and European Union closed their solar cells imports from China.

The duty will help to protect domestic manufacturers and consumers from such low-quality imports from China.

TN Assembly passed Bill to rename 'Tamil Nadu Fisheries University'

Tamil Nadu Assembly passed the Bills to rename 'Tamil Nadu Fisheries University' and 'Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University', after the late Chief Minister and AIADMK leader Jayaram Jayalalithaa as 'Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University (TNJFU)' and 'Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University (TNMFAU)' respectively.

Jayalalithaa was born on 24 February 1948 at Melkote in Mandya district in Karnataka.

She started her career as an actress and acted 140 films in Tamil, Telugu and Kannada languages

She had entered into politics in 1982 and became Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the first time in 1991.

She served as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for six times.

She had launched several welfare schemes like Amma Unavagam (canteen), Amma Water in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu Govt launched free mask plan for ration card holders

Tamil Nadu state government has launched a free mask distribution scheme to benefit over 69 lakh families in the first phase, as part of measures to help fight COVID-19.

Palaniswami gave away the masks to five people at the Secretariat marking the inauguration of the first phase of the scheme, which would witness distribution to beneficiaries through ration shops.

The initial phase envisages distribution of 4.44 crore reusable masks -bought at a cost of ₹30.07 crore- to 69.09 lakh families in town panchayats, municipalities and corporations barring the Greater Chennai Corporation.

The Chief Minister had recently announced distribution of quality reusable masks to all ration card holders in the state as part of measures to fight the pandemic.

There are 2.08 crore ration cards that covers a total of 6.74 crore individuals, who are part of the families of the card holders and the plan is to distribute two masks for each member of a family.

IIT Madras researchers found potential of turmeric in treating cancer

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras have shown that curcumin, the active compound from turmeric curcumin can enhance cancer cell death. Finding agents that can trigger apoptosis, or programmed cell death, has been of interest to cancer researchers.

TNF-related apoptosis-inducing ligand (TRAIL) is an agent with the ability to programme cell death (apoptosis) and has triggered many preclinical studies the world over.

The IIT-M research team chose curcumin as it is known to inhibit carcinogenesis and induce apoptosis in various cancer cells.

The researchers isolated leukaemia cells from cancer patients and found that non-toxic concentrations of curcumin can significantly increase the efficiency of TRAIL-induced cell death.

The researchers said their findings clearly show that even small concentrations of curcumin could potentially enhance the sensitiveness of leukemic cells to TRAIL.

Several studies have focused on natural compounds that could significantly enhance TRAIL-mediated apoptosis at non-toxic concentrations.

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Centre Allocates funds to Rejuvenate Small, Medium & Tiny Industries Sector in Tamil Nadu

The Central Government has allocated 4125 crore rupees to Tamil Nadu for rejuvenating the Small, Medium and Tiny industries sector.

It forms 10% of the total allocation of the scheme, and the scheme is being effectively implemented in the state.

TN Chief Minister Edapadi K. Palanisamy has laid the foundation stone for 166 crore rupees Pilloor joint water supply scheme.

The newly redesigned Ukkadam pond and pedestrian amenities built at a cost of 39 crore rupees are opened to the public.

5th edition of NIRF Rankings 2020

Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has virtually released 5th edition of National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2020. The ranking was to be announced in April 2020 but was postponed due to coronavirus (Covid-19) crisis and lockdown.

A total of 3771 unique institutions participated themselves in this ranking & 5805 applications for ranking were made by these institutes.

The rankings are being announced for India's best universities and institutions in 10 categories namely- Overall, Universities, Engineering, Colleges, Management, Pharmacy, Medical, Dental Architecture, and Law. 'Dental' category has been included for the first time this year. Earlier there were only 9 categories.

In the same way last year (i.e 2019), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras (Tamil Nadu) has topped the list of 'overall ranking' category with a score of 85.31 followed by Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru (2nd with a score of 84.18) and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (3rd with a score of 81.33).

IISc Bangalore has been declared as the top Indian university followed by Jawaharlal Nehru University and Banaras Hindu University.

Minister of State for HRD, Shri Sanjay Dhotre. Additional Secretary (Higher Education), Shri Rakesh Ranjan, MHRD; Chairman UGC, Prof. D. P. Singh; Chairman, AICTE Anil Sahasrabudhe; Chairman NBA, Prof. K.K. Aggarwal; Member Secretary NBA, Dr. Anil Kumar Nassa, and representatives of Higher Education Institutions witnessed the release through video conferencing.

TN announced Direct CTO scheme for green industries

Tamil Nadu CM announced a new scheme '**Direct Consent to operate scheme for green industries**' to get faster clearances from government for green category industries.

The scheme was announced at the 125th year celebrations of the Confederation of the Indian Industry (CII) held in Chennai, TN.

Under this new scheme the green industries need to obtain permission for establishment purpose & need not wait for final approvals for starting construction work. The scheme would benefit upto 63 types of green industries.

Mr Palaniswami also announced an initiative for land use reclassification in non-plan areas where the approval will be given within 50 days. Previously the approval was done between 6 months to 2 years.

The CII's role during global investors meeting 2019 was highlighted in which 63 new Memoranda of Understandings (MoU) worth Rs.19,000 crore were signed by the Government. Through this initiative 83,000 new jobs are expected to be created in the State.

Tamil Nadu Governor Shri Banwarilal Purohit, Shobana Kamineni, past president, CII & executive vice chairman of Apollo Hospital and other officials were present on the occasion.

ECI awarded National Media Award for print to “The Hindu Tamil”

Election Commission of India has awarded National Media Award for print to “The Hindu Tamil” as part of the poll panel’s national awards for voter awareness and education campaign in 2019 on the occasion of the 10th National Voters Day held at New Delhi.

President Ram Nath Kovind presented National Media Award for print to K.Ashokan, Editor, The Hindu Tamil for encouraging people for ‘Right to vote based on the merit of candidates’ during Lok Sabha election 2019.

President Kovind gave away the awards for best electoral practices to officers in conducting elections as well as civil society organizations & media groups for spreading awareness.

The awardees were Khalid Jahangir, District Election Officer (DEO), Anantnag District, Jammu & Kashmir, DEO Adavathu Sarat, Jagitial, Telangana (for election management), Imphal, Manipur DEO Rangitablaai Waikhom (inclusive & participative elections), Alwar, Rajasthan DEO for Indrajeet Singh (Systematic Voters’ Education & Electoral participation programme activities), Hisar, Haryana DEO Ashok Kumar Meena (IT initiatives).

The award for excellence to states went to Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha with Chief Electoral Officers (CEO) Sirra karuna Raju, Gopal Krishna Dwivedi & Surendar Kumar respectively received the awards. ‘Best CEO for Accessible Elections’ award presented to Sirra Karuna Raju of Punjab.

Maj.Gen.(Rtd.) Anil Verma of the Association for Democratic Reforms and Bhushan Punani of the Blind’s People Association were also recognized for their work.

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Tamil Nadu hosted Divya Kala Shakti-Witnessing the Abilities in Disabilities

Tamil Nadu is to host the first-ever regional event “Divya Kala Shakti: Witnessing the abilities in disabilities a unique cultural” event at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai on 12 March 2020.

This event is being organized by the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (Divyangjan) (NIEPMD), Chennai in collaboration with Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India.

In this event around 1000 invitees including Persons with Disabilities, Parents of Persons with Differently Abled, teachers, care-givers and NGOs, etc are attending.

This event brings together children and youth with Differently Abled from all the five Southern zone Viz. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Lakshadweep and Puducherry.

Tamil Nadu Topped Market Borrowings Among States in India

Tamil Nadu has topped market borrowings among States in India with a collection of Rs.30,500 crore in the fiscal 2020-21.

TN, which has accounted for 17% of the borrowings done through the issue of bonds, has been followed by Maharashtra ₹25,500 crore (14%), Andhra Pradesh ₹17,000 crore (9%), Rajasthan ₹17,000 crore (9%).

Earlier on July 7, 2020, Tamil Nadu raised ₹1,250 crore at the low interest rate of 6.63% for the 35-year bonds and ₹1,250 crore at the rate of 4.54% for the three-year bonds in the auction conducted by RBI.

In addition, it has also raised an additional amount of ₹500 crore in place of originally planned ₹2,000 crore through the issue of 35 years and 3 years bond with ₹1,000 each .It also have a 'green shoe' option to raise a further ₹250 crore in each of these securities.

The state Government has raised the amount through the issue of long tenure bonds rather than short-terms funding tools like Ways and Means Advances (WMA) to meet the increased expenditure and falling revenue situation amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Finance Secretary projected that the TN will witness a shortfall in revenue of about ₹12,000-₹13,000 crore a month.

The GST (Goods and Services Tax) collection of TN has sharply reduced by 15% in June 2020, higher than the 3% fall in national GST collections due to the continuous lockdown.

TN's WEWA signed MoU with Indian Bank to provide credit for business establishments

Indian bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Women Entrepreneurs Welfare Association (WEWA) of Tamil Nadu to provide training and credit linkage to its women entrepreneurs to establish business.

The Indian bank will provide loans to the WEWA members at discounted rates. Training will be given to the WEWA members in the INDSETIs (Indian Bank Self Employment Training Institutes)

The WEWA currently aims to add 1,000 members by 2023.

6th offshore patrol vessel "Yard 45006 VAJRA" launched in Chennai

6th offshore patrol vessel (OPV) "Yard 45006 VAJRA" was launched to enhance coastal security. The 6th vessel in the series of 7 OPV is designed & developed by Larsen & Toubro under the Central government's initiative 'Make in India'.

To strengthen the efforts of Indian Coast Guard to secure over 7500 km vast coastline, over 20 Lakh sq Kms of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) & to safeguard more than 1 lakh merchant ships transiting per year through Indian waters for global trade.

It is a state of the art platform which increases the capabilities of Indian Coast Guard in Operation, Surveillance, Search & Rescue.

It is used for day & night surveillance along with anti-terrorist, anti-smuggling operations in the EEZ.

It has 2 Navigation radars, with ultra-modern technology, Sophisticated navigational and latest communication systems.

It is 98 metres long & 15 metres wide with gross tonnage of 2,100 tonne. It is equipped with two diesel driven engines & can extend to a maximum speed of 26 knots.

The ship will be manned by 121 personnel & to increase its operational, surveillance, search and rescue capability it will be fitted with CRN-91 & 12.7 mm guns & an integral twin engine helicopter.

It will be inducted by the Coast Guard after extensive trial & testing of equipment & machinery.

Mayiladuthurai to become Tamil Nadu's 38th district

Nagapattinam district will be bifurcated and a new district (38th) will be formed with its headquarters at Mayiladuthurai. Currently, in Tamil Nadu there are 37 districts out of which 5 districts were formed in 2019 namely;

Kallakurichi was the 1st new district to be formed in January 2019 by splitting from Villupuram.

Chengalpattu and Tenkasi districts were formed in July 2019 by slicing Kanchipuram and Tirunelveli districts respectively.

Tirupathur and Ranipet were formed in August 2019 by trifurcating Vellore.

The beneficiaries are those who have completed 20 years of service and completed 60 years of age and served at temples but not under the limits of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department (HR and CE).

He stated that an additional expenditure of Rs 4.64 crore will be met from government funds & renovation work will be carried out in 55 ancient temples at Rs 50 crore from government & temple fund

He also stated that Rs 26.20 crore will be spent on desilting in 100 tanks owned by temples & at a cost of about Rs 4 crore free weddings for 10,000 poor couples at 50 temples will also be held.

ISRO to set its 2nd launch port in Thoothukodi district of Tamil Nadu

Indian Space Research Organisation will be established 2nd launch port in Thoothukodi district of Tamil Nadu to launch small satellite vehicles. This will come up in 2300 acres.

Also, following the GPS navigation system developed by America, the Indian navigation system called Navic with the indigenous atomic clock will be operational with mobile phone manufacturers coming forward to install the regional navigation device.

Chandrayaan 3 mission to the moon, comprising of a lander and a rover is approved by the Government.

India's first manned mission to outer space Gaganyaan is targeted to launch in 2022. Selection of Astronaut is over and four men selected from Indian Air Force will leave to Russia for the training.

Karnataka topped in total installed renewable capacity

According to a CRISIL Research report, Karnataka retained its 1st position in terms of total installed renewable capacity in FY20 followed by Tamil Nadu (2nd) & Gujarat (3rd). The top 3 states in overall solar energy capacity addition are Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka & in wind energy- Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

Karnataka's total renewable energy installed capacity stood at 15,232 MegaWatt (MW) as on March 31, 2020, against 13,845 MW as on March 31, 2019. It has the highest installed capacity for solar at 7,278 MW, up from 6,096 MW a year ago. Its wind energy capacity is at 4,791 MW.

Many SECI (Solar Energy Corporation of India)-led schemes have enabled commissioning of projects in the Pavagada solar park with the capacity of 2,050 MW of solar projects.

The state has enabled the commissioning of several rounds of solar schemes under its solar policy (Karnataka Renewable Energy Corporation Ltd-led rounds), which boost additions over the past 3 fiscals.

The state has also exploited wind capacity, particularly in the districts near Ghats, and facilitated a favourable open access policy capacity until FY18 which helped capacity additions.

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TN constituted a 24 member high-level committee to assess COVID-19 impact

Tamil Nadu constituted a 24 member high-level committee to assess the immediate and medium-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on various sectors of the State's economy, examine fiscal challenge & suggest ways to improve its fiscal position including increasing the tax-Gross Domestic Product(GDP) ratio and diversifying revenue sources and re-prioritising expenditure.

State Finance Secretary S Krishnan will be the coordinator of the committee. The committee will submit its final reports to the Government within 3 months apart from the interim reports.

The committee will assess opportunities and threats in the short- and medium-term, along with measures required to help key sectors namely- Agriculture, Industries, Services, including tourism, construction, real estate and retail trade, among others to overcome the impact of the pandemic.

It will identify specific reform measures to be taken by the State to support and promote the growth of these sectors, and identify possible sources of financing and funding for infrastructure projects, small businesses and other enterprises.

Interact and seek views from industry bodies, trade associations, stakeholders, economic and other experts in India and overseas

Look at fiscal issues and economy promotion measures the State government should take up with the Centre for necessary action

Cabinet approved a bill to confer National importance status in Tamil Nadu

The Union Cabinet has approved a bill to give the status of Institute of National Importance (INI) to 2 National Institutes of Food Technology at Kundli, Haryana and Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu(TN).

The cabinet amended National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship & Management (NIFTEM) Bill, 2019 to give status of national importance to the 2 food institutions.

This step will help these institutions to cooperate with foreign food institutes and improve the standard of education.

Increase Access to Affordable Housing in Tamil Nadu

The government of India signed an agreement along with the World Bank and the Government of Tamil Nadu to help the low-income groups in the state of Tamil Nadu to get access to affordable housing.

Legal agreements of two projects were signed to strengthen the state's housing sector policies, institutions, and regulations.

First Tamil Nadu Housing Sector Strengthening Programme worth \$200 million(Rs 1,510 crore),

Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project worth \$50 million (Rs 377 crore).

The loans from the IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) have a maturity period of 20 years (including grace period: 3.5 years)

It supports the Government's efforts to increase the availability of affordable housing by shifting the role of the state to an enabler.

The second operation looks to deepen these measures to make affordable housing more efficient and inclusive.

Maritime security cooperation 2020 held in Chennai

The 4th edition of East Asia Summit Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation 2020 was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu from February 6-7 2020. The conference was jointly organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India (GoI) in association with the governments of Australia and Indonesia.

The knowledge partners of the Conference include National Maritime Foundation (NMF) and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).

It saw the participation of about 50 delegates from all the EAS partners (18 members) to discuss on host of issues of maritime security cooperation under five thematic sessions; namely Holistic Maritime Security, Maritime Safety, Transition to a Regional Blue Economy, India's Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative and the Way Forward & provided a better suggestions on handling challenges in the maritime domain in a cooperative manner.

The previous 3 editions of the EAS Maritime Security Conferences organised by the Indian government were held at New Delhi in November 2015, Goa in November 2016 and Bhubaneswar in June 2018.

L&T MBDA Missile Systems set up missile integration facility in Coimbatore

Larsen & Toubro Limited and European defence major MBDA Missile Systems have set up a missile integration facility in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu (TN).

L&T MBDA Missile System has set up the assembly, 'inert' integration (without explosives) and testing the Missile Subsystems & Weapon launch systems.

L&T owns 51% of shares in LTMMSL while European Defence MBDA owns 49% of shares.

The inert facility spreads across an area of 16,000 square meters in a Special Economic Zone.

LTMMSL produces advanced missiles & missile systems to the Indian Armed Forces through domestic production.

They will display some of the next-gen offerings at the DEFEXPO2020 (Defence Exhibition Organisation 2020) to be held at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

An e-commerce app "Thirumathi Kart" for SHG products launched at Tiruchi

Thirumathi Kart, an e-commerce mobile application developed by National Institute of Technology, Tiruchi (NIT-T) for promoting products developed by self-help groups was launched in Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu by Collector of Tiruchi, S. Sivarasu in the presence of Mini Shaji Thomas, Director, NIT- T, and

other officials at the inauguration ceremony of 'Marketing strategies in the digital era: self-promotion of SHG products through Thirumathi Kart' programme.

The App, Thirumathi Kart will be the main app for usage of public domain, the other 2 apps namely Thirumathi Kart (seller) and Thirumathi Kart (logistics), are for use among the SHGs.

The app has been developed under the project, 'Design and development of ICT-enabled cloud-based mobile application for self-promotion of products developed by SHG' assisted by Department of Science and Technology.

The project aimed to connect the customers with SHGs to empower women with sustainable income-generation platform.

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Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Programme

Tamil Nadu state government has launched the 5 year Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Programme (TNHSRP) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The programme will be implemented with the World Bank's fund. This was the first Program-for-Results project for the Bank in India and the first for Tamil Nadu.

To strengthen the management of non-communicable diseases (NCD) & injuries, improve the quality of care & reduce the inequities in reproductive and child health services in the State.

The total cost is Rs 2,857.003 crore, of which World Bank has provided Rs 1999.902 crore. The remaining cost will be provided by Tamil Nadu State government.

The activities under the Programme includes improving quality of care in all government health institutions, interventions to address quality of care in primary, secondary and tertiary-level facilities, NQAS (National Quality Assurance Standards) and NABH (National Accredited Board of Hospitals and Healthcare Providers quality) accreditation of select hospitals and primary health centres.

Deputy Chief Minister (DCM) O. Panneerselvam, TN Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar, Dr. Junaid Kamal Ahmed, Country Director of India, World Bank participated in the occasion.

Sanitary personnel in Tamil Nadu to be called as 'cleanliness workers'

A total of 64,583 sanitary personnel employed by urban and rural civic bodies in Tamil Nadu will be called as "cleanliness workers" to honour their work.

The state will also implement a scheme worth of Rs 4,300 to install smart meters for 42 lakh electricity consumers to compute their power consumption.

The state will launch other schemes worth of Rs 1,998 crore to develop the power distribution infrastructure, under which it will upgrade 230 kV (Kilovolt) sub-station at Alagarkoil in Madurai district into a 400 kV station and enhancing two 110 kV sub-stations into 230 kV facilities.

First regional edition of "Divya Kala Shakti event" held in Chennai

First regional edition of "Divya Kala Shakti Event" held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu which was organised by the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), in association with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The Divya Kala Shakti event aims to provide a platform for the disabled to exhibit their talents.

Divya Kala event brought 98 children and youth with various disabilities, including vision and hearing impairment, locomotor disabilities, autism spectrum disorders and other intellectual disabilities.

The participants were from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry.

Divyangjan performed dance, music, instrumental in classic, folk & modern style. The event also holds yoga and acrobatics for the first time.

Nearly 1000 invitees including Persons with Disabilities, Parents of Persons with Differently Abled, teachers, care-givers and NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisation) were presented in the occasion.

Researchers at IIT-M developed solar parabolic trough collector

Indian Institute of Technology-Madras developed a solar 'parabolic trough collector' system for concentrating solar energy for industrial applications like desalination, space heating and space cooling.

The research was led by Professor K Srinivas Reddy, Heat Transfer and Thermal Power Laboratory, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Madras and his team member Mr C Ananthsothnaraj.

The PTC is lightweight and has been developed to have high energy efficiency. It is designed to function under India's various climatic and load conditions.

Besides, it can pave the way for sustainable energy solutions in agriculture and industrial process heat sectors. Concentrated solar power (CSP) technology could meet thermal and electrical energy demands.

The 'Trough Collector' focuses sunlight on a small area where it is absorbed and then utilised for heating and subsequently into energy generation. This system consists of a concentrator or reflector, receiver, supporting structures like pylon, torque tube, mirror supporting arm and receiver support and a tracking unit.

The tubes absorb sunlight from reflectors, have a glass exterior and metal interior to hold a heat transfer liquid. To minimise thermal loss in the process, the space between glass exterior and metal interior is maintained at low-pressure conditions.

The concept also follows the Centre's National Solar Mission which has set a target of providing 20,000 MW (Megawatt) solar power by 2022.

K Srinivas Reddy, IIT-M professor also added that solar energy is a most propitious technology for clinching sustainability in the energy domain and solar power technology can meet thermal and electrical energy demands due to its high reliability.

States such as Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat have great potential to harness this energy, which can reduce the combustion of non-renewable and polluting sources of energy such as coal and petroleum.

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