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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Tamil Nadu: 01-05-2024

<p>Cybersecurity</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has launched a program to teach the basics of cybersecurity to school students.• The program is a joint effort by IIT-Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation, Rotary District 3232, and the Forensics Intelligence Surveillance and Security Technologies (FISST) Academy. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The students will learn the basics of cybersecurity, including understanding cyber threats, safe internet practices, data privacy, and digital hygiene.• The training will feature interactive sessions, workshops, and hands-on activities led by seasoned professionals and cybersecurity experts.• The training will teach students the need to protect their personal information, safeguard sensitive data, and prioritize privacy in digital interactions.
<p>Manual scavenging</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Madras High Court expressed concern over the conditions of conservancy workers employed in manual scavenging and the resultant deaths.• The court issued a set of 19 guidelines to the government to effectively deal with the issue and asked to eradicate the practice by at least 2026. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The court acknowledged the right of a human corpse for decent burial/cremation and right to sleep as fundamental rights, but noted that the practice of manual scavenging still persists.• The court termed manual scavenging as a bane on society that perpetuates the violation of human rights and dignity of marginalised communities.• The guidelines included steps to ensure mechanisation of clearing of sewer, septic tank and stormwater drains.



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13th century inscriptions
discovered in Vanavareddy



- The court urged the authorities to ensure strict implementation and compliance of the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2023**.

Why in news?

- **Yakkai Heritage Trust** discovered inscriptions on a memorial stone dating back to the 13th century in **Vanavareddy, Kallakurichi district**.
- The team uncovered a **memorial stone with inscriptions from the Kalliamman Temple** and a fragmentary inscription from a nearby **Aiyanar temple**.

Key points:

- The **findings shed light** on the establishment of a **Sapthamadhar Temple, honouring the Ezhupidari**.
- The **Vanagovaraiyar dynasty** historically **reigned over vast territories**, including present-day Salem, Perambalur, Kallakurichi, Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, and parts of the Cuddalore district.
- The dynasty's reign marked an era of flourishing **religious diversity**, with patronage extended to **Buddhism, Shaivism, Vaishnavism, and folk deities**.
- Inscriptions outside the Vanavareddy Kali Temple, dating back to the fifteenth regnal year of **Kulothunga III**, provide insights into the administrative and religious landscape of the region.
- The **inscriptions mention the establishment of a temple dedicated to seven Pidaaris** by Ponparappinaan, a title bestowed upon the kings of the Vanagovaraiyar dynasty.



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'En Kalloori Kanavu' initiative

Why in news?

- The 'En Kalloori Kanavu' initiative has been launched by the **Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department**.
- The aim is to improve the higher education enrolment rate among students from the **Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) communities** and reduce the number of dropouts.

Key points:

- The initiative is a **higher education and career guidance program**.
- The program aims to help nearly **1.28 lakh SC and ST students** who studied in government, government-aided, Adi Dravidar and tribal welfare schools in the State and appeared for the **Class XII board exams**.
- The department has also created a **database of the various higher education courses** available and mapped them district-wise to help students know the availability of various courses in the colleges near their locality.

Disaster Preparedness Plan

Why in news?

- The **Directorate of Public Health (DPH) and Preventive Medicine in Tamil Nadu** is planning to create a **Disaster Preparedness Plan**.
- The plan is based on lessons learned from the **flood in 2023**.

Key points:

- The aim is to draw up a **Disaster Preparedness Plan for Tamil Nadu**, and also **district-level plans in the longer run**.
- The directorate has documented its **public health response strategies** following extensive flooding in the aftermath of **Cyclone Michaung in Chennai** and its suburbs, and during heavy downpour in southern districts in December 2023.

Timely action

Various public health measures were put in place following the extensive flooding during December 2023. A look at the number of people who were able to get help through medical camps and some of the key public health interventions that were made

KEY STRATEGIES

Incident command system established at State and district levels

Geographical localisation and reporting of acute febrile illness and acute diarrhoeal disease were done through choropleth mapping. Trend analysis of each reported disease served as a valuable tool for monitoring disease trends

Helpline number put in place for immediate assistance

Analyses aided in prioritising vulnerable populations, carrying out risk stratification of areas and provision of healthcare services for high-risk focus areas

Disease surveillance and prevention

Risk stratification of areas was done based on number of illness reported

Data from medical camps and integrated health information platform utilised

Task-specific teams such as for flood response, vector control and water analysis were formed to address different aspects of the emergency



DEPLOYMENT OF MOBILE MEDICAL TEAMS FLOOD-AFFECTED DISTRICTS OF TAMIL NADU

District	Number of additional external medical teams	Total number of medical camps conducted	Total number of beneficiaries
Chennai	159	7,834	4,85,122
Chengalpattu	60	2,953	1,68,122
Tiruvallur	51	2,308	1,22,122
Kancheepuram	30	1,270	69,312
Thoothukudi	30	3,885	2,75,122
Tirunelveli	30	2,945	1,02,122
Tenkasi	5	2,055	59,212
Kanniyakumari	5	1,569	50,312
Total	370	24,819	13,33,122

Source: Adapting to Adversity: Public Health Flood Response Strategies Following Twin Disasters/Tamil Nadu Journal of Health and Medical Research