

March- 02

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Senior TV journalist Rahul Mahajan has been appointed the new Editor-in-Chief of Rajya Sabha Television. The television channel is run and managed by the Upper House of Parliament.
 - The recommendation was made by a five-member Search Committee headed by A Surya Prakash, chairman of Prasar Bharti.
- ❖ With a mission to build a New India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the '[Run for New India](#)' marathon in Surat, Gujarat.
- ❖ The government has launched a scheme to provide free of cost [viral load testing](#), at least once a year, for 1.2 million people who are living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) and are on treatment. The viral load is used to monitor the effectiveness of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) over time.
 - It measures the amount of HIV genetic material (RNA) in the blood and reports how many copies of the virus are present.

TAMIL NADU

Subsidised 'Amma' Two-Wheeler Scheme

- ❖ Prime Minister launched the subsidised scooter scheme for working women on the occasion of the 70th birth anniversary celebrations of late Tamil Nadu leader J.Jayalalithaa.
- ❖ As part of the scheme, every beneficiary will be given 50% of the cost of a two-wheeler or a grant of INR 25,000.
- ❖ Each year, one lakh working women would be covered.
- ❖ This [Amma two-wheeler scheme](#) was a pet project of Jayalalithaa which was proposed by her in the election manifesto.

NATIONAL

15th Edition of Bio Asia 2018

- ❖ Bio Asia, the annual flagship event of the Government of Telangana, was held at Hyderabad - the life sciences hub of India.

- ❖ The theme of the Bio Asia 2018 is 'RIGHT TIME, RIGHT NOW'
- ❖ The 15th edition of the prestigious event is organized by the Industries and Commerce Department in partnership with Government of India, Federation of Asian Biotech Associations (FABA) and Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil).
- ❖ Technology Conferences of Bio Asia is a Science-Business bridge, that aims to bring together a trans-disciplinary environment for driving innovation in the life sciences industry.
- ❖ Ireland, Netherlands and South Africa are the International Partners for the 15th edition of the event whereas the States of Gujarat, Assam and Rajasthan are the Indian State partners for the event.
- ❖ Bio Asia 2018 had deliberation on the strategies to take on this rapid pace of change, innovative ways to develop new model's healthcare delivery and the opportunities exist right now for the Life Sciences value chain.

INTERNATIONAL

20th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (20CCEM)

- ❖ The 20th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (20CCEM) was held in Nadi, Fiji.
- ❖ The theme for 20CCEM is "Sustainability and Resilience: Can Education Deliver? "
- ❖ The 20CCEM was the first meeting of Commonwealth Education Ministers since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- ❖ The Integrated Partners Forum (IPF) was held in parallel to the Ministers' Conference
- ❖ In this 20th CCEM, Ministers reaffirmed that education is a fundamental human right and is indispensable for the achievement of sustainable development.
- ❖ The Government of Kenya will be hosting the 21st CCEM in 2021.
- ❖ The Commonwealth education conference has been taking place every three years since 1959, when the first meeting was held in Oxford.
- ❖ It is the second largest meeting organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat after the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

Saudi Arabia - Military

- ❖ The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has for the first-ever time opened applications for women to enlist in the military.
- ❖ Women can apply for positions with the rank of soldier in the provinces of Riyadh, Mecca, al-Qassim and Medina.
- ❖ Women applicants must be Saudi citizens, between 25 to 35 years of age, have a high-school diploma, and must pass a mandatory medical check-up.
- ❖ The military roles do not involve combat. Instead, women will reportedly be given the opportunity to [work in the security department](#).
- ❖ The initiative has been reportedly undertaken as part of Saudi Arabia's [Vision 2030 programme](#), launched by Saudi Crown Prince, Mohammad bin Salman.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SpaceX

- ❖ Space X has launched the [Paz mission](#) with two experimental satellites [Tintin A \(Microsat-2a\)](#) and [Tintin B \(Microsat-2b\)](#) from the Space Launch Complex 4E at California's Vandenberg Air Force Base.
- ❖ Space X has completed the launch of its mission using a recycled Falcon 9 rocket.
- ❖ These two satellites, if successful will pave the way for [Star link](#), a constellation of satellites that would provide a cheap, high speed, global Internet connection.
- ❖ Star link will have 12,000 small satellites in two layers — low earth orbit (LEO) and very low earth orbit (VLEO).
- ❖ The LEO constellation will provide high-speed broadband services around the world; the VLEO constellation will enhance capacity.
- ❖ The UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development estimated in 2016 that 57% of the world's population was offline.



- ❖ Paz mission is mainly about the Spanish radar imaging satellite with applications such as border control, intelligence, military operations, environmental monitoring.
- ❖ Satellites in LEO constellation will operate in the frequency bands of Ku, Ka and V band.
- ❖ Satellites in VLEO constellation will operate in the frequency bands of V band.
- ❖ LEO located in the altitude of 1110-1325 km above the earth.
- ❖ VLEO located in the altitude of 335-346 km above the earth.

SPORTS

69th Strandja Memorial boxing tournament

- ❖ **Vikas Krishan** defeated World Championships bronze medallist Troy Isley in the 75 kg final and claimed a gold medal at the Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament in Sofia, Bulgarian.

- ❖ It was his first medal since the Asian Championships bronze last year (2017) in April-May.
- ❖ He was also adjudged the best boxer of the event.
- ❖ Along with Vikas, **Amit Panghal** (49kg) claimed a gold medal, rounding off India's best ever performance at the tournament
- ❖ The country ended with a whopping 11 medals -- five from men and six from women boxers. In all, the contingent clinched two gold, three silvers and six bronze medals.
- ❖ **Mary Kom and Seema Poonia** clinched the silver medal at the Strandja Memorial Tournament.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Rare Disease Day – February 28

- ❖ 28 February 2018 will be the eleventh international Rare Disease Day coordinated by EURORDIS (EURORDIS – European Organisation for Rare Disease).
- ❖ Rare Disease Day is held on the last day of February every year to raise awareness amongst the general public and decision-makers about rare diseases.
- ❖ The Theme for the year 2018 is “Research”.
- ❖ Research is key. It brings hope to the millions of people living with a rare disease across the world and their families.
- ❖ The day was first launched by EURORDIS and its Council of National Alliances in 2008.
- ❖ The first Rare Disease Day was celebrated in 2008 on 29 February.
