

March-14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ On International Women's Day (March 8), Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced a pension scheme for single women above 50 years of age and widows above 50 years of age — one perhaps unique in the country.
- ❖ Shri Ravi Thapar (IFS: 1983), presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Lebanon. Nengcha L. Mukhopadhaya is the current Ambassador of India to Lebanon.
- ❖ Britain's Prince Charles has appointed Indian-origin steel tycoon Sanjeev Gupta as an official ambassador for the Industrial Cadets programme. The programme helps young people aged 9-21 to develop skills and gain an insight into the manufacturing industry.
- ❖ The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has constituted Mahanadi Water Dispute Tribunal with Supreme Court Judge A M Khanwilkar as chairman of Tribunal.
 - The two other members are Justice Ravi Ranjan of Patna High Court and Justice Indwermeet Kaur Kochar of Delhi High Court.

NATIONAL

Solar Energy – First Union Territory

- ❖ Diu has become the first and only Union Territory in the country to be fully run on solar energy.
- ❖ Diu has an area of just 42 square kilometres and population of 56,000. For water and electricity, the Union territory was solely dependent on Gujarat government.
- ❖ The UT generates total of 13 megawatts (MW) of electricity from solar power generating facilities daily.
- ❖ Of this, 3 MW is generated by rooftop solar plants and 10 MW by its other solar power plants.

HT Cotton

- ❖ The government has constituted a committee to investigate into the illegal or unauthorised cultivation of Herbicide Tolerant (HT) or BG-III cotton in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- ❖ For this, the Department of Biotechnology in the Ministry of Science and Technology has constituted a Field Inspection and Scientific Evaluation Committee (FISEC).
- ❖ The cultivation of BG-III or HT cotton has not been approved by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment.
- ❖ The commercial cultivation, sale, cultivation and seed production of unapproved HT cotton is punishable offence under Seeds Act 1966, Seed Rules 1968, Seeds (Control) Order 1983 with regard to Environmental Protection Act, 1986 and Environmental Protection Rules, 1989.
- ❖ Herbicide-Tolerant (HT) Cotton also known as BG-III cotton is innovation in Bt Cotton contains Round-up Ready and Round-up Flex (RRF) gene.

STATES

Saubhagya Yojana - Uttarakhand

- ❖ Union Minister of State for Energy R.K. Singh along with CM Trivendra Singh Rawat launched Saubhagya Yojana at Pavilion Ground in Dehradun.
- ❖ Under the scheme more than 2 lakhs 50 thousand families will be provided electricity connection in the state.
- ❖ The Union Government has set the target to provide electricity for all by 2019.

Saubhagya Yojana

- ❖ “Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana” (Saubhagya) aims to provide last mile electricity connectivity to all rural and urban households.
- ❖ It will provide subsidy on equipment like transformers, meters and wires.
- ❖ The government has set the target of providing 24X7 power for all by 2019.

First cyber police station

- ❖ Haryana’s first cyber police station, equipped with a digital forensic laboratory, was inaugurated in Gurugram.

- ❖ A separate magistrate will also be appointed for the station. It will act as a centralised monitoring station for all kinds of online and tech-related crimes.
- ❖ The police station will have trained manpower and modern equipment to deal with crimes in the cyber world.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Border guarding force – First Women Officer

- ❖ In another first for women, 25-year-old Prakriti has been inducted as the first woman direct-entry combat officer in the border guarding force, ITBP.



- ❖ The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force is the last of the CAPFs (Central Armed Police Force) to induct women officers in combat roles after the government first allowed it to enrol them in 2016.
- ❖ The force already has women in combat roles but only in the constable ranks.
- ❖ The ITBP, that guards the 3,488 km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China, was raised in 1962 in the aftermath of the Chinese aggression.
- ❖ Two other forces, the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), were allowed to directly induct women officers in 2013 and 2014 respectively.

ITBP

- ❖ ITBP was raised on 24th October in 1962 and is deployed on guarding 3488 km long India-China Border from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The ITBP is one of five Central Armed Police Forces of India and was raised on 24 October 1962, under CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) Act, in the wake of 1962 Sino-Indian War.
- ❖ It was provided full autonomy after the Parliament enacted the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force Act (ITBP), 1992. It works under the command of Union Home Ministry.

Central Armed Police Force

- ❖ Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) aid in combating external threats (they mainly manage internal security issues) but are managed by Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ❖ Central Armed Police Force includes Assam rifles (AR), Border security force (BSF), National Security Guards (NSG), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

SPORTS

ISSF World Cup

- ❖ Akhil Sheoran dominated the Men's 50m Rifle 3-Position final to bag India's fourth gold medal at the ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation) World Cup in Guadalajara, Mexico
- ❖ India's Anjum Moudgil clinched a silver medal in the women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions event and it was Anjum's first World Cup medal.
- ❖ India, however topped the medals tally for the first time in an ISSF competition with four gold, one silver and four bronze for a total of nine medals.

MEDAL STANDINGS

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1  IND	4	1	4	9
2  USA	3	1	2	6
3  CHN	2	2	1	5
4  FRA	1	1	3	5
5  ROU	1	1		2
6  FIN	1		1	2
6  HUN	1		1	2
8  GRE	1			1
8  LUX	1			1
10  GER		3	1	4

MISCELLANEOUS

Fastest growing IT services brand - 2018

- ❖ According to Brand Finance IT Services 15 annual report for 2018, Tata Consultancy Services has been named as the fastest growing IT services brand in the world.
- ❖ TCS (Tata Consultancy Services) now has a total brand value of USD 10.391 bn, a growth of 14.4% from the last year's total of USD 9.081 billion, with an increase of USD 1.309 bn.
- ❖ Brand Finance is the world's leading brand valuation firm founded in 1996 by David Haigh.
