

March - 06

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Bimal Julka is appointed as the next Chief Information Commissioner of India.

TAMIL NADU

Export of Organic Mangoes

- ❖ For the first time around 4 thousand metric tonnes of organic mangoes to be exported from Krishnagiri soon.
- ❖ The mangoes produced by these groups are to be exported after a quality inspection, under the label 'Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana' (PKVY) with the bar code in it.

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

- ❖ The PKVY launched in 2015, is an extended component of Soil Health Management (SHM).
- ❖ PKVY aims at supporting and promoting organic farming, in turn resulting in improvement of soil health.

Eco-restoration of waterbodies

- ❖ World Bank is planning to give fund of ₹5,000 crore for improving water supply and resilience during disasters.
- ❖ Chennai Corporation is likely to get funding for eco-restoration of 25 waterbodies in various parts of the city.
- ❖ The eco-restoration work is expected to improve groundwater level and promote resilience during disasters.
- ❖ World Bank is also expected to fund projects of the Tamilnadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB)
 - to build alternative houses for slum residents and
 - to provide funding assistance for Metro water proposal to give 24X7 water supply to all houses.

Nammakal Medical college

- ❖ Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami laid the foundation stone for a medical college at Namakkal on March 5th.



- ❖ A total of 85 per cent seats are to be allotted to students from Tamil Nadu, while the remaining goes under All-India quota as per rule.

Eight food processing projects - sanctioned

- ❖ The Union government's Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee has sanctioned eight food processing projects for Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The projects are approved under the Agro Processing Cluster Scheme of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- ❖ Objective of PMKSY is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease Agri-Waste.

NATIONAL

Mac binding process

- ❖ After restoring the use of social media in Jammu and Kashmir, the internet can be now accessed only through Mac binding process.
- ❖ MAC (Media Access Control) binding is a process where a user's system MAC address and IP (Internet protocol) address are binded to allow internet access.
- ❖ Through this process, a request from a particular machine which has its MAC address and IP address binded will be accepted.
- ❖ It means that one can only open websites that have been allowed by the administration using a system which has its MAC and IP address binded, rests will be dropped.

International Conference on Nano Science and Technology

- ❖ ICONSAT (International Conference on Nano Science and Technology) is the series of biennial international conference held in India under the aegis of Nano Mission, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- ❖ The Nano Mission, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, has approved ICONSAT-2020 to be conducted by the S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata.
- ❖ The conference is held from 5-7 March at Kolkata.
- ❖ The conference aims to keep pace with the latest development in the emerging areas of Nano Science and Technology.



ECONOMY

Chennai ranks 2nd in Digital transaction

- ❖ According to the recent survey Bangalore ranks first in currency transactions through digital medium (Paytm, Gpay, etc.) followed by Chennai in second place.
- ❖ In the state-wise ranking, the first three ranks go to Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu respectively.
- ❖ This survey on the digital exchange of goods and services in India was conducted by the World Line Money Transfer Company.

Interest rate on Employee provident fund reduced

- ❖ Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) lowered the interest rate on deposits to 8.50 per cent for the current financial year (FY20).
- ❖ Previously it was 8.65 per cent in 2018-19.
- ❖ The move means that salaried employees would earn lower returns for the financial year ending March 31, 2020.

EPFO

- ❖ EPFO assists the Central Board in administering a compulsory contributory Provident Fund Scheme, a Pension Scheme and an Insurance Scheme for the workforce engaged in the organized sector in India.
- ❖ EPFO comes under the administrative control of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.

SAVINGS INSTRUMENTS

Rate of interest (in %)

EPF	8.5*
PPF	7.9
5-year time deposit	7.7
National Savings Certificate	7.9
General Provident Fund	7.9
Savings deposit	4

*yet to be notified;
proposed for 2019-20
Source: EPFO, Finance Ministry



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Second Cloud region at Delhi

- ❖ Google to open its 2nd India Cloud region in 2021 at Delhi.
- ❖ The Delhi cloud region will have three zones to protect against service disruptions.
- ❖ The first Indian Cloud region was launched in Mumbai in 2017.
- ❖ It aims to serve healthcare and financial services, as well as public sector organisations across the country.
- ❖ In the Asia-Pacific region, Google has 22 cloud data-centres. Google cloud centres help other companies to store their data at the local level.

Cloud region

- ❖ A Cloud region is a specific geographical location where you can host your resources.
- ❖ Most of the regions have three or more zones.

Gene Editing Tool - used first time to treat blindness

- ❖ The Gene Editing Tool called CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) has been used for the first time to treat blindness in Oregon University, Portland, USA.
- ❖ However, doctors claimed that it will take a month to check if the vision of the patient has restored.
- ❖ This gene-editing technique try to edit a gene while the DNA is still inside a person's body.

ENVIRONMENT

Hard ground Swamp deer

- ❖ Hard ground Swamp deer, is seeing a revival in the Kanha National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR).
- ❖ It is the state animal of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ KNPTR is on the Maikal range of the Satpura hills is located between Mandla and Balaghat districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The swamp deer is endemic to KNPTR.

Swamp Deer

- ❖ There are three subspecies of swamp deer found in the Indian Subcontinent.

Name	Found In	Habitat
Western Swamp deer	Nepal	Swampy Area
Eastern Swamp deer	Kaziranga and Dudhwa National Parks	Swampy Area
Southern Swamp deer	Central and North India	Hard ground



STATES

Safe homes to be setup in Kerala

- ❖ The Department of Social Justice of Kerala has unveiled the unique initiative to set up 'safe homes' for inter-caste and inter-faith couples.
- ❖ Here such couples can stay up to one year after marriage.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Lalit Kala Akademi awards

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the 61st annual awards of the National Lalit Kala Akademi at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
- ❖ The National Lalit Kala Akademi awards are conferred to recognize individuals for their outstanding work in the field of art.

SPORTS

Khelo India Winter Games

- ❖ The first-ever Winter Games will be held in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir from March 7 to 11.
- ❖ The Union Territory of Ladakh will also host the Khelo India Winter Games in the third week of March.
- ❖ Both the games will be funded by the Ministry of Youth affairs and Sports.



MISCELLANEOUS

Freedom House's annual report

- ❖ India has become one of the world's least free democracies according to the annual report on political rights and civil liberties by Freedom House
- ❖ The Freedom in the World 2020 report ranks India at the 83rd position, along with Timor-Leste and Senegal.

Deterring democracy • PTI

The Freedom House report said that India showed a deteriorating trend when it came to personal autonomy

Year	Political rights	Civil Liberties	Total Score
2017	35/40	42/60	77/100
2018	35/40	42/60	77/100
2019	35/40	40/60	75/100
2020	34/40	37/60	71/100

Top five countries in the free category:
Finland, Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, Luxembourg

Bottom five countries in the free category:
Botswana, Peru, India, Timor-Leste, Tunisia

Leaders – including the chief executives of the United States and India, the world's two largest democracies – are increasingly willing to break down institutional safeguards – SARAH REPUCCI, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL PUBLICATIONS, FREEDOM HOUSE

