

March – 02

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Thiruvananthapuram hosted the Attakal Ponkala festival which is considered as one of the world's largest religious gathering of women on a single day.
 - Attakal Bhagavathy Amman temple is also called 'women's Sabarimala' as only women perform the ritual.
- ❖ Prime Minister unveiled the giant Bhagavad Gita, which is running into 670 pages and weighing 800 kg, at the ISKCON temple, Delhi.
 - According to ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness), this book will have the largest principle of sacred text ever to be printed.
- ❖ India and Brunei signed a pact for exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to taxes in order to curb tax evasion and tax avoidance in New Delhi.
- ❖ Bengaluru based semiconductor company “SIGNALCHIP” unveiled India’s first Indigenous Semiconductor Chips for 4G/LTE and 5G NR MODEMs at an event in New Delhi.
- ❖ Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated the ‘Titanwala Museum’ which showcases the Chhipa community’s art of traditional hand-block printing at Bagru, Rajasthan.
- ❖ According to BCG-IBA Report on EASE Reforms index released by Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Arun Jaitley, Punjab National Bank (PNB) secured the top spot among all public sector banks in the implementation of ‘Reforms agenda’.
- ❖ Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani became the first Indian and the only Asian to enter the Global top 10 richest billionaire list compiled by Hurun Research, China.
- ❖ Sri Lankan batsman Sanath Jayasuriya was banned for two years starting backdated from October 16, 2018, after admitting to obstruct an anti-corruption probe.

NATIONAL

SHREYAS Portal

- ❖ Minister for HRD, Prakash Javadekar has launched the Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS) at New Delhi.
- ❖ It will be providing industry apprenticeship opportunities to the general graduates exiting in April 2019 through the National Apprenticeship Promotional Scheme (NAPS).
- ❖ SHREYAS is a programme basket comprising the initiatives of three Central Ministries viz
 - Ministry of Human Resource Development,
 - Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
 - Ministry of Labour & Employment viz the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS).
- ❖ SHREYAS portal will enable educational institutions and industry to log in and provide their respective demand and supply of apprenticeship and the matching of students with apprenticeship avenues will take place as per pre-specified eligibility criteria.

INTERNATIONAL

Gandhi's birth anniversary Commemorative notes

- ❖ To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a UAE-based company will globally release the first-ever limited-edition commemorative series 12 bank notes of zero value.



- ❖ Dubai based Indian artist Akbar Saheb has designed these special notes.
- ❖ As a tribute to Gandhi, each note will feature memorable incidents from his personal and political life.
- ❖ The first 2 notes with just 5000 pieces will be printed in each design and the rest will be released in different phases till October 2.
- ❖ Out of the first 2 notes released, the first note shows the 'Promise to Mother' in 1880 made by Gandhi to his mother.
- ❖ Second note features the historic incident of 1893 when the young lawyer Gandhi was thrown off from a 'Whites only' compartment of a train at Pietermaritzburg railway station in South Africa.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE) mission

- ❖ NASA has selected a USD 42 million mission that will help scientists understand and, ultimately, forecast the vast space weather system around our planet.
- ❖ The mission is named as Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE) and is planned to launch in August 2022.



- ❖ AWE will focus on colourful bands of light in Earth's atmosphere, called airglow, to determine what combination of forces drive space weather in the upper atmosphere.
- ❖ Space weather is important because it can have profound impacts - affecting technology and astronauts in space, disrupting radio communications and, at its most severe, overwhelming power grids.

- ❖ Nasa also has selected the Sun Radio Interferometer Space Experiment (SunRISE) for a seven-month.
- ❖ It would be an array of six CubeSats operating like one large radio telescope.

STATES

Banglar Shiksha portal

- ❖ West Bengal government inaugurated a web portal (banglarshiksha.gov.in) to provide real-time data on state-run and aided schools.
- ❖ This was the first-of-its-kind online initiative in the state as well as in the country.
- ❖ This portal will address many issues, including attendance of students and teachers.

Auroville

- ❖ Auroville celebrated its 51st anniversary on February 28.
- ❖ Auroville is an experimental township in Villupuram district mostly in the state of Tamil Nadu, with some parts in the Union Territory of Puducherry in South India.



- ❖ It was founded in 1968 by Mirra Alfassa (known as "the Mother") and designed by architect Roger Anger. Both are from France.

BioAsia 2019

- ❖ 16th edition of BioAsia 2019 -Asia's largest biotechnology and life-sciences forum was conducted in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ❖ The theme of the conference was "Life Sciences 4.0 – Disrupt the Disruption".
- ❖ BioAsia is an annual event organised by the Government of Telangana and it largely focuses on re-imagining healthcare after technological disruptions.



SPORTS

ISSF International Solidarity Archery Championship

- ❖ India bagged four gold, three silver and three bronze medals at the third ISSF International Solidarity Archery Championship in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ❖ Winners are,



Event	Winners	Medal
Compound individual girl's	Pragati	Gold
	Isha Pawar	Bronze
Mixed pair event	Prathamesh and Pragati	Silver
Recurve boys' team	Paras Hooda, Bishal Changmai Karni Singh Chouhan	Gold
Recurve mixed pair	Paras Hooda and Komalika Bari	Gold
Recurve girls' team	R Kamolika Bari, Amanpreet Kaur, and Ridhi	Silver
Compound boys' team	Ritik Chahal, Prathamesh Smadhan Jawkar Chirag Vidyarthi	Gold
Compound girls' team	Isha Pawar, Pragati, Sanchita Tiwari	Silver

ISSF World Cup 2019

- ❖ International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup was held in New Delhi, India from 20 February to 28 February 2019.
- ❖ It is the annual edition of the ISSF World Cup which is governed by International Shooting Sport Federation.
- ❖ It is a qualifier for 2020 Olympic Games to be held in Tokyo, Japan.
- ❖ India was ranked 1st in the World Cup along with Hungary.
- ❖ Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker claimed gold medal in 10m Air Pistol Mixed team event.
- ❖ Apurvi Chandela won women's 10m Air Rifle and bagged India's first gold medal by breaking the world record in the Shooting World Cup 2019.

Records in Cricket match - West Indies vs England

- ❖ West Indies cricketer Chris Gayle became the first player in the world to hit 500 sixes.
- ❖ Gayle becomes the 14th batsman and second from the Caribbean after Brian Lara, to reach the milestone of 10,000 ODI runs.

- ❖ Total of 46 sixers hit by players in this match between England and West India that bettering the previous record of 38, from the match between India and Australia in 2013.
- ❖ England hit 24 sixes which is the most by a team in an ODI innings. They crossed the 23 that was hit by West Indies in the first ODI of the series.
- ❖ Total of 532 runs came in boundaries in the Grenada of West Indies, the most in any match till date.
- ❖ Morgan became the first England batsman to pass 6,000 ODI runs.



MISCELLANEOUS

Inclusive Internet Index 2019

- ❖ India ranked 47th in the 'Inclusive Internet Index 2019' which was prepared by the 'Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) for Facebook.
- ❖ The index was expanded to include 100 countries representing 94% of the world's population and 96% of global GDP.
- ❖ Sweden topped the index whereas Singapore ranked 2nd and USA ranked 3rd. India maintained its previous year rank.



The Inclusive Internet Index 2019


