Tamil Nadu Health Department – issues order on the recommendations of the 7-member committee set up on the directive of Madras High Court

- As per the new order, doctors in government service will be given up to 30% above their NEET scores as incentive for admission to postgraduate medical courses each year.
- The doctors are divided into four categories based on their workplace viz Hilly regions, difficult areas in the plains, remote and rural areas.
- Doctors working in hilly regions, difficult areas in the plains, remote and rural areas will get 10%, 9%, 8% and 5% above their NEET scores respectively.
- It means a doctor working in hilly region can get 10% of marks more than their NEET score every year and after 3 years or more of their service, they can get a maximum of 30% of marks over their NEET score for admission in PG medical courses.
- 50% of the seats in diploma courses will be reserved for in-service candidates.
- These incentives will not be available to the doctors working in urban areas, including medical college hospitals.
- Doctors working in public health department in the urban areas as ‘health officers’ will get an incentive of 10%, but they can choose only ‘community medicine’ as their PG course.

‘Mother Sago’ – A new scheme through which Sago (Javvarasi in Tamil) will be distributed by the Government through the Public distribution system (PDS) outlets soon.

- The scheme will be implemented through 30,000 ration shops in the state, benefitting around 2.01 crore card holders.
STATES

- Mizoram – to bring back Prohibition in the state after four years
  - The state cabinet approved the ‘Mizoram Liquor Prohibition Bill, 2019’ to be tabled in the upcoming assembly session
  - The Christian-majority state, Mizoram had complete Prohibition in the state for 17 years till 2015, when the ban was relaxed
  - After the relaxation of norms, buyers could acquire ‘liquor cards’ and purchase a stipulated amount of alcohol using them

NATIONAL

- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), under the Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers – reduces the prices of 390 Anti-Cancer Non-Scheduled Medicines up to 87%
  - The revised prices of these anti-cancer drugs came into effect from March 8, 2019
  - These 390 anti-cancer drugs brands make up about 91% of the 426 brands reported by manufacturers
  - This move is expected to benefit 22 lakh cancer patients in the country and would result in annual savings of around Rs. 800 crores to the consumers
  - Earlier on February 27, 2019, the NPPA had put 42 anti-cancer drugs under 30% Trade Margin cap

PERSONALITIES

- Lawyer-Activist Sudha Bharadwaj – has been honoured in the 6th Harvard Law International Women’s Day portrait exhibition
  - Along with her, Supreme Court lawyer ‘Menaka Guruswamy’, instrumental in the campaign for the decriminalization of homosexuality in India was also honoured
  - The two Indian women feature in the list of 21 women recognized for ‘astounding contributions of women around the world to the areas of law and policy’
✓ Sudha has been arrested in the Bhima Koregain case seven months back and currently jailed in Pune
✓ Sudha had worked in Chhattisgarh for decades, defending the rights of tribals and underprivileged

➢ Kane Tanaka from Fukuoka, Japan - has been officially confirmed as the oldest person living at 116 years 66 days old as of 9 March 2019

✓ Kane was born prematurely on 2 January 1903, the same year the Wright brothers became the first to achieve powered flight!
✓ 116-year-old Kane is six years shy of the record for oldest person ever, which has been held by Jeanne Louise Calment (France) for the past 22 years.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➢ A new reading-tutor app ‘Bolo’ – was launched by Sundai Pichai, the CEO of Google at a Municipal school in DN Nagar, Andheri, Mumbai on March 8
During the launch, Pichai interacted with the students and answered their questions.

The application, launched mainly to help rural students, uses speech recognition and text-to-speech technology to help students learn in English and Hindi.

The programme was jointly organized by Piramal Foundation and Google.

SPORTS

‘Chennai City FC’ – crowned as the I-League champions

On the final day of the championship, the Coimbatore-based football club had defeated Minerva FC to stay clear of the 2nd placed East Bengal by a solitary point.

CCFC scored 43 points in 20 matches while East Bengal finished with 42 points in as many matches.

East Bengal had never won the I-league and their last National football league title was in 2000-2001 season, before NFL was re-christened as I-league.

Real Kashmir FC finished at third pace with 36 points.

The CCFC became the first team from Tamil Nadu to win the National league, three years after their inception in the top tier of Indian football.

CCFC had finished eighth in both the last two I-league seasons.

Pedro manzi (CCFC) and Willis Plaza (Churchill) topped with 21 goals as the leading scorers in this season.

This is the last season of the I-league as Indian football’s premier football tournament.
INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **50th Raising Day of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) – March 10, 2019**

  - In a first for any paramilitary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 50th Raising Day celebrations of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on March 10 in Ghaziabad

  - The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is a Central Armed Police Force in India
  - It was set up under an Act of the Parliament of India on 10 March 1969 with a strength of 2,800
  - It was subsequently made an armed force of the Republic of India by another Act of Parliament passed on 15 June 1983
  - In April 2017, the government raised the sanctioned strength from 145,000 to 180,000 personnel
  - Among its duties are guarding sensitive governmental buildings, the Delhi Metro, and providing airport security
  - It is directly under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and its headquarters are at New Delhi.
  - The CISF provides security cover to 300 industrial units, government infrastructure projects and facilities and establishments located all over India
  - CISF plays a major role in Disaster Management, for Disaster Management course the personnel are trained from NISA, Hyderabad
  - Another unique thing which the CISF has is a Fire Wing which helps during fire accidents in Industries where CISF is on guard.