TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme Cover increase of Rs 5 Lakh from the current Rs 3 Lakh – comes into effect from December 1, 2018

- The decision to this effect was earlier announced in September 2018
- This follows the decision of the State Government to link the scheme with Centre’s Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana under the Ayushman Bharat programme
- The linking would additionally benefit 10 lakh families increasing the total beneficiaries to 1.58 crore families, who earn less than Rs 72,000 per annum
- The state now covers 1,027 medical procedures under the scheme and the Centre covers 1,300 in the private sector
- The beneficiaries can get treatment in government hospitals or at more than 700 empanelled private hospitals, with nearly 40% of them with NABH accreditation
Tamil Nadu Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TNRERA) – ranked at Eighth among the Real estate regulators in India in the Housing project registrations

✓ The authority, till November, had registered 778 projects so far
✓ As per the statement by Anarock Property Consultants, Maharashtra tops the registration with 18,492 housing projects since its inception
✓ Gujarat (4,076), Karnataka (2,133), Madhya Pradesh (2,019), Uttar Pradesh (2,517), Chhattisgarh (859) and Rajasthan (841) are the other states behind Maharashtra
✓ The Tamil Nadu Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Rules, 2018 underscores that all ongoing housing projects with a minimum of eight units must be registered with TNRERA

NATIONAL

Integral Coach Factory, Chennai – hands over the first set of 23 new Tejas express coaches to Southern Railways

✓ Southern Railways will operate the Second Tejas Express between Chennai and Madurai
✓ The first Tejas train is being operated between Mumbai and Goa since last year
✓ Out of 23 coaches, 18 are air-conditioned chair cars, two are air-conditioned executive chair cars and three are power cars
✓ The new coaches have normal sized seats with audio-visual display units well fitted behind every seat apart from several other sophisticated features
✓ The date of launch and the schedule will be announced later by the Southern Railways
Indian Railways – launched ‘eDrishti’ software – for the Railway Minister to keep track of punctuality of trains apart from Passenger and freight earnings

- The software is also connected ‘Live’ to the kitchens of Indian Rail Catering and Tourism Corp (IRCTC)
- It will also provide the ‘live’ status of reserved and unreserved passengers travelling on trains apart from providing the exact locations of trains at any given point of time
- It was developed by Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS)

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) – had signed MoU with Dr Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC) – for collaboration in research activities and policy formulation for socio-economic transformation and sustainable development

- JNU, with a status of the ‘University of Excellence’ given by the UGC, is a world-renowned centre for teaching and research
- DAIC
  - DAIC was inaugurated by the PM Narendra Modi on December 7, 2017
  - It is a state-of-the-art Centre for quality research in socio-economic transformation
  - It was constructed at a cost of Rs 195.74 crore
  - It was declared as a ‘Centre of Excellence for Socio-economic Transformation and Buddhist Studies’ by PM Narendra Modi in December 2017
  - It has five schools – School of Sustainable Development and Livelihood, School of Buddhist Studies, School of Policy Making and Policy Advocacy, School of Studies on Ambedkar, and School of Socio-economic Transformation
Union Government – has released the revised Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data for the years 2004-2005 to 2010-2011

- In the revised GDP, the base year was changed to 2011-12 instead of 2004-05
- As per the revised estimates by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the economic growth rate between 2005-06 and 2011-12 averaged at 6.7%
- As per the base year of 2004-05, the average GDP stood at 7.75%
- It was in February 2015 that the CSO worked out a new formula with 2011-12 as the base year and the new GDP series was announced
- At that time, they had revised the new GDP series from 2012-13 onwards
- The revision of GDP work was started by the CSO under the then chief statistician, TCA Anant who changed the base year from 2004-05 to 2011-12
- GDP
  - It is the final value of the goods and services produced within a country during a specified period of time, normally a year
  - It is an important indicator of the economic performance of a country
- Base Year
  - A base year is the year used for comparison for the level of a particular economic index
INTERNATIONAL

- “The Wizard of Oz” (1939, US) – has been named as the Most influential film of all time, followed by ‘Star Wars’ and ‘Psycho’

- The rankings were released by the Researchers at the University of Turin in Italy following the analysis of 47,000 films listed in the IMDb, Internet movie database
- As per the study, Top 20 most influential movies were all produced before 1980 and mostly in US
- With respect to Actors, Samuel L Jackson, Clint Eastwood and Tom Cruise were the Top 3 influential Actors

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- 1st ever India Indonesia Business forum (IIBF) - held at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- It was held by both countries to extend their strategic partnership in the Indo-Pacific Region including Indian Ocean Region
- It was aimed to improve the links between Andaman and Nicobar Islands of India with Aceh and North Sumatera Province of Indonesia
- Earlier, in July 2018, the 1st Business Forum between both countries was held in Aceh
3rd edition of ASEAN-India Business summit – held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

- It was organized by the Malaysian chapter of ASEAN India Business Council (AIBC)
- It consists of two main events, ASEAN India Business Conference and ASEAN India Business Excellence Awards
- Spice Garden group of restaurants owner, Pardeep Batra was awarded the special ASEAN – India Achievement award for the businessman of year

Indian Owl Festival 2018 - held at Pingori village in Purandar taluka of Pune, Maharashtra

- It was organized by Ela Foundation to create awareness on owl conservation
- It was the country’s first owl festival, which featured skits and short films on owls
- Out of the 262 species of owls that are found in the world, 75 are threatened
- They are protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India
**APPOINTMENTS**

- **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** – takes over as Revenue secretary
  - He replaces Hasmukh Adhia, who superannuated on November 31, 2018
  - Pandey will continue to head Unique Identification Authority of India as its CEO and will also be the chairman of GST Network responsible for providing the IT Backbone

- **David Tait** – appointed as the new CEO of World Gold Council
  - Before the appointment, he worked as the Global Head of Fixed Income Macro Products at Credit Suisse
  - He began his professional career at Goldman Sachs
  - He succeeds Aram Shishmanian, who served as CEO over the last 10 years

**AWARDS**

- **Indian Navy Commander (Pilot) Vijay Varma and Captain (Pilot) P Rajkumar** - were honoured at the 7th ‘Asian of The Year’ awards – for their selfless rescue service during Kerala Floods
  - The winners were announced at the ‘Straits Times Global Outlook Forum 2019’ held in Singapore
SPORTS

- Abhinav Bindra, India’s only individual Olympic Gold medalist – was awarded the coveted ‘Blue Cross’, Shooting’s highest honour by the ISSF, International Shooting Sport Federation

- The 36-year old becomes the country’s first shooter to get the coveted honour for his contribution to the Shooting
- Bindra won the Gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics in his favourite 10m air rifle event - apart from 7 commonwealth medals, including 4 Golds
- He had also won 3 Asian Games medals and a World championship Gold that he won in 2006
- He got the Arjuna award in 2000, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna in 2001 and the Padma Bhushan in 2009

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People - November 29

- The day is observed since 1977, as a reminder to the unresolved conflict caused after Israel Occupied East Jerusalem in the 1967 Six-day war
- The day is also called ‘Solidarity Day’
- On November 29, United Nations adopted the Resolution 181, the partition plan for Palestine in 1947