Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu’s 1st Mind Museum – to come up in Chennai soon
  - It will be set up as a separate gallery inside the Egmore Museum

  ✓ The first-of-its-kind museum will record the history of mental health treatment in the country
  ✓ It will be set up on the lines of a mental health museum in Istanbul, Turkey

- Tamil Nadu CM, Edapaadi K Palaniswami – launches a 24-hour, toll-free helpline ‘181’ – for women facing domestic violence and sexual harassment
  ✓ The initiative has been developed at a cost of Rs 62.70 lakh
  ✓ The affected women can contact the helpline to get emergency assistance such as police help, legal aid or medical services including an ambulance
✓ 'Gold for Mangalsutra' scheme
✓ During the occasion, the Tamil Nadu CM gave 8 grams of Gold to the beneficiaries, as part of the flagship scheme of the Government
✓ A sum of Rs. 724 crore has been allocated for the scheme for the year 2018-19
✓ The scheme was launched by the former CM, J Jayalalithaa by giving 4 grams of Gold to poor women for their marriage assistance in June 2011
✓ It was later revised to 8 grams during September 2016 by the former CM, J Jayalalithaa

➢ Tamil Nadu Government – to set up 13 Mental health review boards – by February 2019
✓ Each board will be headed by a retired judge and comprises of eight members, including one user of mental health services, a caregiver, two mental health professionals and the district collectors concerned
✓ It will inquire into the complaints from patients with mental illness and their relatives
✓ The statutory boards will be set up across the state as mandated by the Mental Health Care Act, 2017
✓ Those guilty of violations, including denying medical care by institutions, face up to 6 months imprisonment or Rs 10,000 as fine or both
✓ Those running unlicensed establishments will face a fine up to Rs 5 lakh

➢ Tamil Nadu Government Nurses ‘All-white’ uniform – to be replaced soon by a colourful Outfits, including shirt and trousers, chudidhar and sari
✓ There will be 5 different uniforms for Female nurses and 4 for Male nurses based on seniority and designations
✓ Uniforms for all would carry a name badge and the logo of ‘Tamil Nadu Government Nursing’
✓ Women will wear white leather shoes while men will put on black leather cut shoes
✓ **New Uniforms**
✓ Female nurses upto 10 years of experience – Shirt and trousers
✓ Female nurses above 10 years of experience – Chudidhar (with overcoat)
✓ Female nursing superintendent, Grade I and II – Pink and Pista green sari (with overcoat)
✓ Neonatal intensive care unit Nurses – Pink shirt and pink trouser
✓ All Male nurses – Shirt and trouser
✓ Male nurses with above 10 years of experience and Male nursing superintendent of Grade I and II – will have an additional Overcoat

➢ **Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Ashok Nagar** – **becomes the first School in the country to launch ‘Photographic Attendance’ System for Students from December 10, 2018**
✓ The system functions through an Android app developed by Bengaluru-based company, I.C.E.T
✓ This facility is currently in practice in military and some other departments in China
✓ The Photos of all the students were first captured and stored in the server of the Android App
✓ Once, the teacher captures the photo of the entire students in the class through the App downloaded in the mobile phone, it compares with the photos in the server and identifies the ‘absentees’
✓ This Artificial Intelligence (AI) based system, aimed to prevent wrong entry of Attendance, will be implemented on a pilot basis for Class VIII students of the school

**STATES**

➢ **Kerala** – becomes the first and only state in the country to get its 4th International airport in Kannur
The first aircraft to take off from the new airport was the Air India Express flight to Abu Dhabi with 186 passengers, which was inaugurated by Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister for Civil Aviation and Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief minister of Kerala.

The greenfield airport was built on a public-private-partnership model stretching across 2,000 acres of land at Mattanur, a town at 25 kilometres from Kannur.

It was constructed at a cost of Rs 1,892 crores.

At present, Air India and GoAir have released their schedule of flights from the airport.

Kochi, Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram are the other three cities with an international airport.

**NATIONAL**

- **Union Home ministry – approves South Korea as the only country other than Japan to get Visa-on-arrival facility**
  - It allows South Korean passport holders to have double entry for a period not exceeding 60 days for business, tourism, medical and conference purposes.
  - The facility, extended with effect from October 1, 2018, can be availed at 6 airports in the country – Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.
  - Visa-on-arrival facility was first extended to Japanese nations in March 2016.
  - The fee for the facility is Rs 2,000.
  - The facility was earlier offered to citizens of 12 countries (Cambodia, Finland, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Luxembourg, Myanmar, Newzealand, Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam and south Korea), but discontinued in November 2014 following the launch of e-tourist visa scheme.
  - E-visa facility is now extended to 166 countries.

- **India and China – to launch a Cultural exchange forum for the very first time on December 21**
  - The forum will facilitate high level people-to-people and cultural exchange.
✓ It will be inaugurated by Sushma Swaraj, India’s Minister for External Affairs and Wang Yi, China’s state councilor and foreign minister

➢ **Union Cabinet – approves Agriculture Export Policy, 2018**
  ✓ It aims to double the income of farmers by 2022
  ✓ To oversee its implementation, a monitoring committee will be established with ‘Ministry of Commerce’ as the nodal department
  ✓ The policy also seeks to double agricultural exports from present $30+ billion to $60+ billion by 2022

**INTERNATIONAL**

➢ **United Arab Emirates – to double the Women representation in the Federal National Council - from the next parliamentary term**

  ✓ The current representation of 22.5% will be doubled to 50%
  ✓ The move will rank the nation in the top position worldwide in terms of representation of women in parliament
  ✓ Dr. Amal Al Qubaisi is the current chairperson and the speaker of the Federal National Council (FNC)
  ✓ She was also the first woman elected to the FNC in 2006
  ✓ The Federal National Council is the 40-member consultative council, which is the parliamentary body of the UAE

➢ **Japanese Parliament – approves new law – to allow foreign ‘blue-collar’ workers easing labour shortage in the country**

  ✓ As per the law, the workers will be allowed in two categories, one for a five-year period with minimum skills and Japanese language proficiency and another for resident-visa category with higher skills
1st International Conference on ‘Sustainable Water Management’ – begins in Mohali, Punjab at ISB (Indian School of Business) on December 10 and 11

Organised by - Bhakra Beas Management Board - under the aegis of the National Hydrology Project of the Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation

Theme – ‘Sustainable Water Management’

World Bank Board had approved $175 million National Hydrology Project - to assess water situation in India - during March 2017

‘Ideate for India – Creative Solutions using Technology’, a National Challenge for Youth – was launched in New Delhi by Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister for Electronics & IT, Law & Justice

It aims to encourage school students to create solutions to the social problems around them
The challenge was launched by National e-Governance Division, Ministry of Electronics & IT in association with Intel India and the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of HRD.

As part of the challenge, students have to share a 90 second video explaining the problem and their proposed solution.

It is open to at least 1 million students of classes 6 – 12 all across the country in 11 core theme areas.

The Top 50 students selected by the Experts will be declared ‘Tech Creation Champions’

Military Literature Festival 2018 – commenced in Chandigarh

The 3-day festival is the joint initiative of the Punjab Government and Western Command of Indian Army.

The festival showcased the various battles undertaken by the Navy and world’s largest tank battle of Khemkaran

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

ISRO – to launch a dedicated Communication satellite ‘Gsat-7A’ for the IAF, Indian Air Force during the 3rd week of December, 2018

It will enable IAF to interlink different ground radar stations, airbases and AWACS aircraft apart from boosting the airforce’s network-centric warfare capabilities.

It has a lifetime of 9 years and costs around Rs 500-800 crore.

It will have Ku-band transponders and 2 deployable solar arrays.

The satellite, weighing 2.2 tonnes, will be launched by GSLV Mk II.

It will be the second satellite dedicated to the military.

Earlier, ISRO had launched Gsat-7 or Rukmini on September 29, 2013 exclusively for Navy.
Rukmini helped the Navy to monitor upto 2000 nautical miles of the Indian ocean region apart from providing inputs to Indian warships, maritime aircrafts and submarines.

**DEFENCE**

- Ex AVIAINDRA 2018, a bilateral exercise between Indian Air Force and Russian Federation Aerospace Force – kicks off at Air Force Station, Jodhpur, Rajasthan on December 10, 2018

- The second edition of the service-specific wargames will conclude on December 21
- The exercise is ‘unique’ in the sense that the Russian Air Force will not bring its assets and will take part in the drill using Indian platforms
- The first edition of the exercise was held in 2014

- 10th edition of INDRA NAVY 18 – the bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Federation Navy – starts off Vishakapatnam from December 9 to 16
The inaugural edition of the exercise was held in 2003.
The exercise would be held in 2 phases, the harbor phase and sea phase.
The harbor phase will be held at Visakhapatnam from December 9-12 and the sea phase would be conducted in the Bay of Bengal from December 13-16.
Indian Navy would be represented by INS Ranvir, a guided missile destroyer, INS Satpura, an indigenous frigate, INS Kadmatt, an indigenous anti-submarine warfare (ASW) corvette, IN Ships Kuthar and Khanjar both indigenous missile corvettes and INS Jyoti, a fleet tanker.
In addition, one Sindhughosh class submarine, Dornier maritime patrol aircraft, Hawk fighter aircraft and other integral rotary wing helicopters would be taking part in the exercise.
In July this year, Ex Peace Mission 2018, the joint military exercise of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), took place in Russia with participation from eight member countries.
The two countries in 2018 have participated in the Army Games 2018.

SPORTS

- Patricio Manuel, a transgender boxer – made history with a Professional win over Mexican super-featherweight champion, Hugo Aguilar.
  
  He became the first transgender Male to fight professionally in the United States.
  He had undergone a transition from female to male and was allowed by the International Olympic Committee to compete ‘without any restriction’

The 12-year old has a chance of becoming the youngest ever GM in the world, if he bags this 3rd and final GM norm by December 29

Gukesh will be in action at the Sunway Sitges chess festival in Spain, starting on December 13

GM Sergey Karjakin holds the current record when he achieved the feat at 12 years and 7 months

R Praggnanandhaa remains India’s youngest GM at 12 years, 10 months and 13 days and also third youngest in the world after Uzbekistan’s Javokhir Sindarov who was 5 days faster to become the second youngest

Gukesh won his maiden GM norm at the Bangkok open in April 2018

2nd Edition of Khelo India – was launched by Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Union Sports Minister on December 9, 2018

The games, now called ‘Khelo India Youth Games’, will be held in Pune from January 9 to 20
Around 10,000 athletes from 29 states and 7 UT’s would take part in the two age categories – U-17 and U-21- across 18 disciplines

**INTERNATIONAL DAY**

- Human Rights Day 2018 – December 10, 2018

The observance of the day commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the year 1948

The Declaration was adopted by the UN General Assembly in Paris on December 10, 1948

Theme 2018 - ‘Let's stand up for equality, justice and human dignity’

The Universal Declaration is the most translated document in the world, available in more than 500 languages

The first Human Rights Day was celebrated in 1950