TAMIL NADU

- Greater Chennai Corporation – to allow its project contractors pay the Deposit money ‘online’ soon
  - The Commissioner of Corporation, D Karthikeyan, announced that the EMD, Earnest money deposit, which is 1% of the total contract value – can be paid ‘online’ soon

- Chennai Corporation – renames ‘Fraser Bridge Road’ into ‘TNPSC Road’
  - The move follows the announcement made by K Pandiarajan, Minister of Tamil Development – to rename all the roads of the state in Tamil
  - The TNPSC Road is located in VOC Nagar of Royapuram zone in Chennai corporation

- A Space science technology gallery lab cum training centre – was opened in a Government School in Puduppalaiyam, Edappadi, Salem
  - This is the first time in the entire country that such a centre was inaugurated in a Government school
  - It was developed with the assistance of ISRO
**STATES**

- **Jammu & Kashmir** – to have the country’s first ‘Institute of High-Altitude Medicinal Plants’
  - The foundation stone for the institute was laid by Union Ministers Jitendra Singh and Shripad Yesso Naik (Ayush Ministry)
  - It will be located in Bhaderwah in Doda district of Jammu & Kashmir
  - The institute, to be set up at a budget of Rs 100 crore, will provide research in medicinal plants and promote their cultivation

**NATIONAL**

- India’s first Railway University – was dedicated to the nation in Vadodara - by Piyush Goyal, Railways Minister and Vijay Rupani, CM of Gujarat
The university, named ‘the National Rail and Transportation Institute’ (NRTI) - is the third in the world after Russia and China.

The deemed university had earlier started its functioning from the Teachers day on September 5, 2018.

It has enrolled its first batch of 103 students from 20 states in two fully-residential, three-year undergraduate courses (62 for BSc in Transportation Technology and 41 in BBA in Transportation Management) in September 2018.

Ashok Lohani, Chairman of Railways Board, has been named the Vice Chancellor of the University.

The actual annual fee of NRTI for one year is Rs 91,000, whereas the first batch of the students had a 50% scholarship in the yearly course fee of Rs 75,000.

The Railways Ministry has sanctioned a budget of Rs 421 crore for the university and its curriculum development for the next 5 years.

The university will also start the Master Degree programmes from the academic session 2019-20 in Transportation and Systems Design, Transport Systems Engineering, Transport Policy and Economics, and others.

The university building’s construction has been designed on the lines of ‘Pratap Vilas Palace’ of the erstwhile Gaekwad state.


The new code promotes energy efficiency in the design and construction of homes.

It will potentially save energy of about 125 billion units of electricity per year by 2030, which is equivalent to about 100 million ton of (Carbon dioxide) CO₂ emission.
By 2030, the energy demand in the building sector would have risen from around 350 billion units in 2018 to approximately 1000 billion units.

- National Green Tribunal – sets aside the Tamil Nadu G.O. to permanently close the Sterlite Copper smelter unit in Tuticorin and allows it to resume operation – in its order on December 15, 2018.
- A bench of NGT, headed by chairperson A K Goel directed Tamil Nadu pollution control board (TNPCB) to issue ‘authorisation’ orders, subject to the compliance of appropriate conditions for environmental protection – within 3 weeks from the date of order.
- The NGT directed Vedanta Group, the owner of Sterlite, to comply with the recommendations suggested by the 3-member panel, headed by Tarun Agarwal, former Chief justice of Meghalaya high court.
- The tribunal also accepted the offer made by the Vedanta group to invest Rs 100 crore in social welfare measures in nearby villages, including maintenance of schools and villages over a period of 3 years.
- The Tamil Nadu Government responded to the verdict saying it would go on appeal against the order in the Supreme Court.
- The State Government had sealed the unit earlier on May 28, 2018.

INTERNATIONAL

- Australia – becomes the 3rd country to recognize ‘Jerusalem’ as the Capital of Israel after US and Guatemala.
- But, unlike the other 2 countries, it recognizes only the western Jerusalem and said that the Eastern Jerusalem would be recognized only after the settlement between Israel and Palestine.
- It also said that it won’t move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem unless the peace settlement is made between the two countries.

- European Union (EU) – approves ‘World’s largest’ Free-trade agreement (FTA) deal with Japan.
The new ‘EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement’ - will eliminate all tariffs and non-tariff trade barriers between both the economies
It will come into effect from February 1, 2019
It is expected to boost the exports of EU by 34% and Japan by 29% leading to benefits for both the economies

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

18th meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) - held in New Delhi

- Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman and her Russian counterpart, General Sergei Shoigu participated in the meeting
- The commission was set up in 2000 to discuss range of issues regarding military equipment and defence cooperation between both the countries
- The First meeting of the IRIGC-MTC was held in Moscow in 2001
- The next meeting will be held in Russia in 2019

4th edition of WHO Global forum on medical devices – held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
The 3-day event was the first time the forum is being held in India
During the event, N. Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, dedicated the ‘AP Medtech Zone’ to the nation
Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, announced setting up of a ‘National Medical Devices Promotion Council’ under the ‘Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion’ (DIPP) in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry
He also announced that Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, DIPP will be the head of the Council, which will be assisted by AP Medtech Zone for technical support
The inaugural Global Forum was held in Bangkok in 2010, the 2nd in Geneva in 2013, and the 3rd also in Geneva in 2017

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ISRO – to make the ‘Dead rocket’ come ‘Alive’ in space – for the first time in history
  It is currently working on a new technology where it will use the last stage of the PSLV rocket for Space experiments

- For the demonstration, it is planning to send PSLV C44 rocket in January 2019, which will carry a Microsat as the Primary satellite
This microsat will have inbuilt batteries and solar panel, which will keep the last stage of the rocket 'active' for a period of 6 months for more experiments in space

AWARDS

- Shree Saini, an Indian-American – wins Miss India Worldwide 2018 in New Jersey, United States

- Sakshi Sinha (Australia) and Anusha Sareen (UK) were crowned as the first and second runner-ups respectively
- This is the 27th edition of the annual global pageant for Indian-origin girls, which saw the participation of Indian-origin girls from 17 countries
- India’s Mandeep Kaur Sandhu, another Indian-American from Haryana - was crowned as Mrs India Worldwide 2018, during the event
- It is organized by ‘India Festival committee’ of New York, headed by Dharmatma Saran
- The next edition of the pageant will be hosted in Mumbai next year