TAMIL NADU

- Registration department of the Tamil Nadu Government – begins the Scanning of Land documents – as part of the Trial digitization process
  - These scanned land documents, registered between 1865 and 2001, will be available to the public ‘online’
  - The scanning is being done at Chennai South Joint II sub-registrar office at Guindy
  - The whole process will be completed within a period of six months, scanning around 50 crore pages
  - The facility would be extended to 575 sub registrar offices across the state within the month

- Madurai – to host ‘The Rise’, a global summit of Tamil Entrepreneurs and professionals – between December 28 and 30, 2018
  - It is jointly organized by Confederation of Tamil Agriculture Commerce Industry and Services, CK Prahalad Center for Emerging India, First World Community and the Pillar Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship
  - The summit will see the participation of over 500 Tamil Entrepreneurs across the world
**STATES**

- Delhi Government – releases ‘One’ card, a common mobility card
  
  ![Image of Delhi Government officials holding One cards](image)

  - It has a tagline of ‘One Delhi One Ride’ for easier public transport commute
  - This would enable access to Metro and bus services with a single card at a 10% discount

**NATIONAL**

- Union Government – includes ‘Gangotri and Yamunotri in Uttrakhand, Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh and Parasnath in Jharkhand’ under PRASAD scheme

  ![Image of various pilgrimage sites](image)

  - With these new places, the number of sites under PRASAD has now reached to 41 across 25 states
  - PRASAD - Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive
  - It is a scheme to develop pilgrimage and heritage destinations across the country
  - It was launched in 2014-15 by the Ministry of Tourism
University Grants Commission (UGC) – has directed all the Universities to observe December 7 as ‘Armed Forces Flag Day’

The day commemorates supreme sacrifices made by country’s soldiers during the unforeseen events of terrorism and war and against the natural calamities.

The day is observed since 1949 to honour the country’s tri-service personnel.

UGC – was established as per UGC Act, 1956 and comes under Ministry of HRD.

The National Rail Museum of the Railways Ministry - signed a MoU with the Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, Delhi - to develop tourism in Delhi -NCR region.

This is the first ever Public-Private museum collaboration in the country.

As per the MoU, a special discount of 35% will be provided to the visitors of National Rail Museum, when they visit Madame Tussauds Wax Museum in New Delhi.

Similar discounts were also provided for combo packages and also for school children.

Madame Tussauds Wax Museum – is the first ever wax museum in India.

It was the 23rd wax museum of the renowned Madame Tussauds in London, inaugurated in 2017 and currently has 52 wax statues of various celebrities.
INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- India and UAE – signs 2 agreements on the areas of Currency swap and development cooperation in Africa

  - The agreement on currency swap between the countries will allow trading in their own currency without the need of benchmark currency, US dollars
  - The other agreement will enable both the countries to initiate developmental projects in Africa
  - The agreements were signed by Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister during the 12th session of India-UAE Joint Commission meeting for Economic and Technical Cooperation in Abu Dhabi, UAE
  - The Minister also inaugurated ‘The Gandhi-Zayed Digital Museum’, a digital interactive museum highlighting the life, works and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi and the founder of modern UAE Shaikh Zayed
  - India and UAE were currently celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and centenary celebrations of the birth of Shaikh Zayed respectively

PERSONALITIES

- Pune-based Tuhin Satarkar - became the first Indian to climb three routes in the Sahayadri mountain range

  - He climbed Dhodap, Jivdhan and Naneghat, three famous peaks which were climbed by Chatrapati Shivaji
  - Sahyadri is a mountain range in Western Ghats
US space agency SpaceX – launched India’s first privately built satellite ‘ExseedSAT 1’ along with 63 other satellites on December 4, 2018 from California

- This launch mission of 64 satellites in one go by SpaceX is a new US record
- After 43 minutes of the launch, SpaceX’s Falcon 9 rocket placed ExseedSat-1 into the polar orbit
- The mini communication satellite, weighing just a kilogram with double the size of a Rubik’s cube (10 cm x 10 cm x 10 cm), is made up of aluminium alloy
- It is the brainchild of a Mumbai-based, 2017-founded startup, Exseed Space, and is aimed to serve the amateur radio community
- It was built at a cost of Rs 2 crore within a span of just 18 months
- It will have a lifespan of 5 years and will allow people to receive signals on 145.9 Mhz frequency with the help of a TV tuner
- During the launch, Falcon 9 carried 15 micro-satellites and 49 CubeSats belonging to 34 different clients from 17 countries
- The microsatellites weigh a few dozen kilograms and the CubeSats even lesser

- The first manned mission of Soyuz spacecraft – reaches International Space station (ISS) with three astronauts
- The mission had earlier failed during the October 11 launch due to a sensor damage during the assembly at Baikonur cosmodrome
- Three Astronauts, Oleg Kononenko from Russia, Anne McClain of NASA and David Saint Jacques of the Canada - were part of this manned mission
- They will stay in ISS for a period of six and half months
DEFENCE

- London based ‘British Band Instrument Company’ – bags Rs 31,500 crore deal to sell Musical instruments and bands to Indian Army

- The company, with just 6 staffers, had bagged 2 orders – to send bagpipes to 26 Indian military bands and to send drums, cornets, trombones, tubas, flutes, clarinets, French Horns and euphoniums to 47 regimental centres

- The 10-year old company manufactures the instruments under licence with the World famous ‘Boosey & Hawkes’ brand name and supplies to 70 countries, mostly Commonwealth nations

APPOINTMENTS

- Jon Ridgeon – was appointed the new CEO of International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)

- He succeeds Olivier Gers, who resigned in March and Nigel Garfitt, who has served as the acting CEO

- Ridgeon, a former British Hurdler, was one of the architects of the IAAF’s Diamond League Series
N Sivaraman – appointed as the group Chief Operating Officer (COO) of IL&FS
✓ The Infrastructure Leasing and Financing company, ILFS is a public entity that is battling huge debts
✓ The new COO will report to Vineet Nayyar, vice chairman and managing director, IL&FS Group

Swapna Barman, Asian Games Gold medalist – has been named as the Brand Ambassador of SBI’s digital app ‘YONO’ (You only need one)
✓ The app is an integrated digital banking platform for various services including online shopping, taxi services or medical bill payments

SPORTS

Luka Modric, Croatian and Real Madrid Football Player – wins 2018 Ballon d’Or on December 3, 2018
✓ He becomes the first player other than Cristiano Ronaldo or Lionel Messi to win the award after 2007, when Brazilian star Kaka won it
✓ The 33-year old Modric, won his third successive Champions League and helped Croatia to reach its first World cup final
✓ He also becomes the oldest winner of the Award, since Italy’s Fabio cannavaro (also 33 years) won it in 2006
✓ Modric also claimed the Golden Ball for the best player at the World Cup before picking up UEFA’s prize for the Player of the Season and FIFA’s best player award in September 2018
✓ The Football’s greatest and prestigious award for the Players, Ballon d’Or – is organized by France Football magazine, taking votes from 180 journalists around the world
✓ It was instituted in 1956 as the European Footballer award of the year
✓ It was then integrated with FIFA world player of the year award and a new FIFA Ballon d’Or was instituted in 2010
✓ The inaugural award was presented in 2010 to the Argentina Player, Lionel Messi
✓ Messi had won it most times so far with 4 awards in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2015
✓ Kylian Mbappe, French and Paris St-Germain’s 20-year old star – bagged the Kopa Trophy for the best young player award
✓ Ada Hegerberg, Norwegian and Lyon club of France – becomes the first winner of the Women’s Ballon d’Or award
✓ She is three-time Women’s Champions League winner with French side Lyon and scored tournament-record 15 goals last season

➢ Delhi Daredevils – has been renamed ‘Delhi Capitals’ for the upcoming IPL season
✓ The team will be coached by Ricky Ponting, Australian legend with Mohammad Kaif of India being the assistant coach

➢ 7th edition of Chennai Marathon – to be held on January 6, 2019
✓ The event will have four categories – full marathon (42,195 km), half marathon (21,097 km), 10 km run and Perfect 20 Miler Marathon (32,186 km)