TAMIL NADU

- Government Stanley Medical College Hospital – to introduce the free ‘Hair transplant’ procedure for survivors of burns and acid attacks – for the first time in the state
  - 20 plastic surgeons of the ‘Institute for Research and Rehabilitation of Hand and Department of Plastic Surgery’ - are trained to perform the procedure through a 3-day ‘Continuing medical education and live operative workshop’ in the hospital
  - The plastic surgeons are learning the techniques from Lucknow-based cosmetic and plastic surgeon Vivek Kumar Saxena

- Trichy Corporation – to open its 2nd ‘Wall of happiness’ at Srirangam
The 15-foot fall will be located close to the Srirangam Government hospital and the iconic Sri Ranganathaswamy temple

The 1st ‘wall of happiness’ is successfully functioning on the Allithurai Road near Mahatma Gandhi memorial Government Hospital in Trichy

The Corporation has asked its residents to place their ‘gently’ used products (like toys, footwear, clothes etc.,) on the 18-shelved-wall, so that people in need can use them

Dr G Viswanathan, VIT Chancellor – was re-elected as the President of ‘Education Promotion society for India’

He was elected in the society’s 9th national conference held in Bengaluru recently

‘Tribal Eco Cultural Village’, a museum representing the culture and lifestyle of the tribals in Tamil Nadu – is being set up at the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) at a cost of Rs 7 crore

The museum will be completed by next year - on a 20 hectare area at Karachikorai village of the Bhavani Sagar Range, which is 13km from Bannari

The State government has sanctioned funds as part of the Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) - under the State Innovation Fund for 2018-19 for the museum

Minister for Forest, Dindigul C. Sreenivasan, Ministers K.A. Sengottaiyan and K.C. Karuppannan laid the foundation stone for the Museum

NATIONAL

Government – notifies 4 commonly used Medical devices as ‘Drugs’ – under the ‘Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940’

They includes –

Nebulisers, blood pressure monitors, digital thermometers and glucometers
- The move will enable the improvement in the quality and performance of these equipment
- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) will regulate the import, manufacture and sale of these devices from January 2020
- With the addition of these 4 new devices, there are 27 medical devices that will now fall under the definition of drugs as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act

**INTERNATIONAL**

- **Australia** – becomes the world’s biggest Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) exporter for the very first time
- Australia had overtaken Qatar with its overall exports at 6.55 million tonnes in November 2018 against Qatar’s 6.27 million tonnes

- **Dubai Audio Library** – the World’s largest Arabic audio library in the world – was inaugurated by the Crown Prince of Dubai, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

- The library, with a planned collection of 3,00,000 arabic books in digital form, targets seven million visually impaired Arabic people
✓ Zayed Diwan is the first book uploaded to the Dubai Audio Library
✓ It is a collection of 87 poems written by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai

➢ Luxembourg – becomes the first country in the world to make its ‘Public transport’ free
✓ The country plans to abolish all fares on public transport by 2019
✓ The movie is aimed at reducing the worst traffic congestion that prevails in the country

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

➢ The color ‘Living Coral’ – was chosen as the Color of the year 2019 by the Pantone Color Institute

✓ The saturated orange base colour with a golden undertone provides a warming and welcoming energy, as per the institute
✓ The ‘Living Coral’ is the color of underwater reefs
✓ The institute had picked ‘Ultra Violet’ as the Color of the year 2018, ‘Greenery’ for 2017 and a duo for the first time in 2016, ‘Serenity (a baby blue) and Rose Quartz (a light pink’
✓ Pantone is an enterprise that forecasts color trends, analyze the psychology of color and advises companies on the color for product packaging and brand
✓ The experts in Pantone travels throughout the year across the world in search of color influences that have gained momentum from the entertainment industry to fashion and beauty trends
Vanessa Ponce de Leon (Mexico) – was crowned as the new Miss World 2018 in Sanya, China

- The 26-year old received the crown from India’s Manushi Chhillar, who became the 6th Indian to win the crown in 2017
- She is the first Mexican woman to win Miss World crown
- Miss India 2018, Anukreethy Vas made it to the top 30, but could not into the top 12
- Miss Thailand, Nicolene Pichapa was the runner-up
- Contestants from Belarus, Jamaica and Uganda were the other women who made it to the top five
- Contestants from 118 countries had participated in the 68th edition of the annual pageant this year
- Continental Queens of Beauty
  - Miss World Europe 2018 is Miss Belarus
  - Miss World Carribean 2018 is Miss Jamaica.
  - Miss World Africa 2018 is Uganda.
  - Miss World America 2018 is Miss Mexico.
  - Miss World 2018 Asia and Oceania is Miss Thailand
- Miss World – History
  - Miss World is the oldest running international beauty pageant
  - It was created in the United Kingdom by Eric Morley in 1951
  - Since his death in 2000, Morley’s widow, Julia Morley, has co-chaired the pageant
Sweden’s Kiki Hakansson was the first Miss World in the year 1951
India’s Reita Faria was the first Indian Miss World in the year 1966, followed by the other winners Aishwarya Rai (1994), Diana Hayden (1997), Yukta Mookhey (1999), Priyanka Chopra (2000) and Manushi Chhillar (2017)
India and Venezuela topped the countries with maximum winners with 6 Miss Worlds so far followed by UK at 5 winners

Sunil Mittal, Chairman of Bharti Enterprises – becomes the first Indian to receive ‘Doctor Honoris Causa’ (Honorary doctorate) from ESCP Europe Business school – for his contribution to innovative entrepreneurship and philanthropy in the field of Education

ESCP Europe is the world’s first business school founded in 1819

Malala Yousafzai (Pakistan), a Nobel Peace Prize winner – received the 2018 Gleitsman Award - from Harvard’s Kennedy School in Cambridge, Massachusetts
In October 2014, Yousafzai became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize at 17 years - in recognition of her efforts for children's rights.

She is the second Pakistani to receive a Nobel Prize after 1979 Physics laureate Abdus Salam.

She was awarded the Nobel along with Indian children's rights activist Kailash Satyarthi.

Malala was first nominated for the prize in 2013 but did not win and renominated in March 2014.

The 21-year old is now a student at Oxford University in England.

The Gleitzman Award, whose previous recipients include South African President Nelson Mandela and US Representative John R. Lewis, is presented biennially to an individual who has sparked positive social change.

**BOOKS & AUTHORS**

Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President – releases the books “The Republican Ethic” and “Loktantra Ke Swar” – containing selected speeches of Ram Nath Kovind, President of India - on 8 Dec 2018 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

The book is a collection of 95 of his selected speeches out of a total of 243 speeches made by the President in the first year of his office.

They have been divided in eight sections - Addressing the nation, Diversity of India, Window to the world, Educating India, Equipping India, Dharma of Public Service, Honouring our Sentinels, Spirit of the Law and Acknowledging Excellence.


The event has been organized by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting - to promote selected speeches of the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind.
SPORTS

➢ Ajay Rohera (Madhya Pradesh) – sets World Record for the highest first-class score on debut in Test match cricket

✔ He slammed an unbeaten 267 against Hyderabad in a Ranji Trophy game in Indore
✔ The record was earlier held by Amol Mazumdar (Mumbai), who hit 260 runs against Haryana at Faridabad in 1994
✔ During the knock, he also became the highest individual scorer for Madhya Pradesh surpassing 265 runs scored by J. P. Yadav

➢ Shubhankar Sharma (Chandigarh) – became the youngest Indian golfer to clinch the Asian Tour Order of merit – by winning $500,000 so far in the 2018 season

✔ Shubhankar, an Arjuna awardee - joins fellow Indian golfers, Jyoti Randhawa, Arjun Atwal, Jeev Milkha Singh and Anirban Lahiri who have earlier won the Order of Merit – as the top-earning pros on the Asian tour
✔ Jeev milkha Singh has done it twice earlier in 2006 and 2008
Shubhankar had earlier won the Joburg Open in December 2017, Malaysia’s Maybank championship in February 2018.

He had reached a career best ranking of 64 during his first Top-10 finish on the Asian Tour at the Indian Open in March 2018.

This year, he played all four Majors and all four World golf Championship events.

RANKINGS


- German Chancellor Angela Merkel retains the top spot for the eighth consecutive year, and 13 times in total.

- She is followed by U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May, who for the second year in a row has retained the No. 2 spot.
Four Indians who were featured in the list were –

- IT stalwart, Roshni Nadar Malhotra (57th in the list)
- Biotechnology pioneer, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (60th in the list)
- Media mogul, Shobhana Bhartia (88th position)
- Actor, Priyanka Chopra (94th spot)

Members of the 2018 Most Powerful Women list represent women in six categories - business (27 honorees), technology (18), finance (12), media & entertainment (16), politics & policy (22), and philanthropy (5)

The 2018 list names Taylor Swift as the youngest honoree at 28 and Queen Elizabeth II, the oldest at 92

The list also names siblings for the first time – Anne and Susan Wojcicki of 23andMe and YouTube respectively

North America represents 50 women on the list, Asia Pacific 22, Europe (inclusive of Russia and Turkey) 17, the United Kingdom 7, the Middle East 3 and one in Africa

Notably, Hillary Clinton, who came down by 63 spots in the ranks in 2017 at No. 65, did not appear on the list in 2018 for the first time since its inception in 2004

**Forbes’ Top 10 World’s Most Powerful Women**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>TITLE, COUNTRY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Angela Merkel</td>
<td>Chancellor, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Theresa May</td>
<td>Prime Minister, U.K.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Christine Lagarde</td>
<td>Managing director, International Monetary Fund, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mary Barra</td>
<td>CEO, General Motors, U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Abigail Johnson</td>
<td>CEO, Fidelity Investments, U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Melinda Gates</td>
<td>Cochair, Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation, U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Susan Wojcicki</td>
<td>CEO, YouTube, U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ana Botin</td>
<td>Chair, Banco Santander, Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Marillyn Hewson</td>
<td>CEO, Lockheed Martin, U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ginni Rometty</td>
<td>CEO, IBM, U.S.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTERNATIONAL DAY

- Submarine Day – December 8

- Indian Navy celebrates the day annually, which commemorates the day of induction of the first submarine, INS Kalvari, into the Navy in 1967
- It was decommissioned on the 31st May, 1996, after 29 years of service
- It has to be recalled that the nuclear submarine, INS Arihant was deployed into the Navy on November 5, completing the Nuclear triad

- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Council - has approved India’s proposal to observe the year 2023 as ‘International Year of Millets’
The proposal was approved in the 160th session of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Council, held in Rome

Earlier, India had observed 2018 as the National Year of Millets

Additionally, the FAO Council also approved India’s membership to the Executive Board of the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) for the years, 2020 and 2021

**REPORT**

- **Countries receiving foreign remittances in 2018 – a report by World Bank titled ‘Migration and Development Brief’**
  - India tops the entire world as the country receiving the largest amount of remittances with $80 billion being sent home by the Indian diaspora abroad
  - It is followed by China ($67 billion), Mexico and the Philippines ($34 billion each) and Egypt ($26 billion)
  - Remittances to South Asia are projected to increase by 13.5% to $132 billion in 2018, following a growth of 5.7% in 2017
  - For 2019, the growth in remittances is expected to be 4.3% due to reasons such as lower migration to the GCC countries, moderation of growth in advanced economies and the crashing oil prices
  - Global remittances are projected to grow by 10.3% in 2018 while the remittances to developing countries will increase by 10.8% in 2018, following a growth of 7.8% in 2018