TAMIL NADU

All the 575 Sub-register offices in the state – becomes ‘cashless’ in the state from February 18, 2019

- All the offices were installed with CCTV cameras to video record the property registrations
- The captured video grab would be handed to the buyer and seller in DVD format along with the original documents
- The move aims to avoid impersonation, which largely takes place by forging photo identity cards such as Aadhaar card or voter ID

A new ‘fish waste recycling unit’ – was inaugurated in Foreshore Estate, Chennai

- Central Institute of Brackish Water Aquaculture (CIBA) has developed the technology to recycle fish waste into manure
- As per the new technology, around 80% of the fish waste would be converted into oil and another 10% becomes solid waste
- The oil will be used in aquaculture farms to enhance the growth of fish or shrimps, which in turn will help in reducing the consumption of feed
- The solid waste generated is used as manure for raising saplings, vegetables or other trees
Tamil Nadu – seeks Rs 1,064 crore funding under the Dam rehabilitation and improvement project (DRIP) of the World Bank

- The scheme is to improve safety and operational performance of existing dams
- Tamil Nadu Public works department and Tangedco have submitted the proposals for 59 dams under phase II and phase III of DRIP
- Moyar Forebay, Parson’s valley dam, Pillur dam and Sandynallah dam are among the structures to be taken up in Phase II
- Pillur dam augments the drinking water supply of Coimbatore
- The state PWD has completed strengthening of 63 dams in Phase I and work on 6 structures (Manimukthanadhi, Cholavaram and Red hills, Manimuthar and Pechiparai and Uppar) in progress
- The state has taken up 89 dams in Phase I in 2012 at a cost of RS 745 crore
- Kodaganar, an earthen dam, is the only one dam failure reported from Tamil Nadu in the last century, even though 36 dams witnessed failure across the country
- The 12.75m high dam breached because of 1977 floods, the same year it was built
- The World Bank has already given in-principal clearance for Rs 11,000 crore funding for dam safety across the country
- Over the next 10 years, 733 large dams across 18 states would be strengthened under the scheme
STATES

- Rajasthan assembly – passes 2 new bills ‘The Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and the Rajasthan Municipality (Amendment) Bill, 2019’ - to scrap ‘minimum educational qualification’ for civic and panchayat poll candidates
  - As per the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Amendment Bill 2015, a candidate must have passed class X for municipal elections, class VIII for panchayat polls for the post of sarpanch and class X for Zila Parishad elections.

NATIONAL

- Prime Minister, Narendra Modi – to flag off the world’s first ‘Diesel to Electric’ converted High Horse Power Twin Rail Engine – on February 19, 2019 at Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW), Varanasi
  - The twin loco engine was converted from Diesel loco to Electric loco in just 69 days
  - It has the ability to pull heavy freight train, with an increase in power of electric loco up to 92%
  - It is completely eco-friendly, providing a saving of Rs 1.9 crore per annum per engine in fuel expense
The Central Government – launches 3 ‘Women safety’ initiatives in New Delhi - promote the safety of women in their living spaces, working spaces and the public spaces

The 3 initiatives are
- Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)
- Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO)
- Safe City Implementation Monitoring (SCIM) Portal

They were launched jointly by Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh along with Women and Child Development Minister, Maneka Gandhi

ERSS
- The ERSS was launched in 16 states and union territories including Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, UP, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Andaman, Dadar Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Jammu and Kashmir.
- Earlier, Himachal Pradesh became the first state to implement the ERSS in November 2018, followed later by Nagaland in December 2018
- The Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) is a pan-India single number (112) based response system for persons in distress.

ITSSO
- It is an online module available to law enforcement agencies to undertake real-time monitoring and management for completion of investigation in rape cases in two months

SCIM portal
- The Government has identified eight cities (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai) for implementation of Safe City projects in the first phase at a cost of Rs 2,919 crore, in order to instill a sense of security in women in metro cities
- The projects are funded under the Nirbhaya Fund scheme
India and Argentina – signs 10 MoU’s for cooperation in several fields including Defence, Tourism, Broadcasting content, Pharmaceuticals, Antarctica research, Agriculture, ICT, Civil nuclear and to establish the India-Argentina centre for Information and Technology

- The President of the Argentine Republic, Mauricio Macri, is on a state visit to India from February 17-19, 2019 - as part of the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Argentine Republic and the Republic of India.
- The Prime Minister fondly recalled his visit to Argentina to attend the G20 Leaders Summit in November-December 2018 and commended President Macri's leadership for successfully organising the Summit.
- India will be hosting the G20 Summit in 2022, coinciding with the 75th year of India's independence
- They also expressed satisfaction over the successful conclusion of the fifth India-Argentina Joint Commission Meeting, held in New Delhi on January 14, 2019

India’s first ‘Fulldome 3D Digital Theatre’ – inaugurated at the Science City in Kolkata, West Bengal

- Union Culture Minister, Mahesh Sharma inaugurated the 23-metre tilted dome, capable of screening high resolution, full dome, and digital 2D/3D content by utilising 6 high-end projectors using Ulteria Seam technology
SUPREME COURT VERDICT

The Supreme Court, on February 15 - directed all state governments to make their police personnel aware of the scrapping of Section 66A of Information Technology Act – on March 24, 2015

- Section 66A of IT Act provided jail term for people sending offensive contents in internet
- The Act when in force will attract jail term upto 3 years.
- By citing liberty of thought and expression as ‘cardinal’, Supreme Court scrapped section 66A in 2015

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

4th Agri Leadership Summit 2019 – concluded at the India International Horticulture Market (IIHM) in Ganaur, Sonipat district, Haryana

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmer’s Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh, had inaugurated the 3-day summit held from 15th February 2019 to 17th February 2019
- Theme - “Entrepreneurship & Agri Business; Agri Allied – A Promising Sector and Agri Service- Direct Marketing”
- Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) were the Institutional Partners at the summit
- President Ram Nath Kovind, launched ‘Digital Kisan Platform’, while addressing the closing ceremony of the summit
- He also conferred Krishi Ratna Puraskar on Vice Chancellor, K. P. Singh for Haryana Agriculture University, Hisar and honoured 9 farmers with the Kisan Ratna Puraskar
◆ 40th International Annual Desert Festival - starts in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on February 17, 2019

✓ The 3-day festival was held amidst the beautiful Sam dunes of the Thar Desert
✓ The festival is organised by the Rajasthan tourism and district administration.

**PERSONALITIES**

◆ PUMA, German sports and lifestyle brand - has appointed the 6 time world champion woman M C Mary Kom as its new brand ambassador in India

✓ Mary Kom will endorse brand’s advertising campaign #DoYou, which aims to motivate women across the country to be strong and accomplish their goals
✓ Kom has been named as PUMA India’s new ambassador for their women’s training category and will be representing the brand in marketing campaigns.

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

◆ AntBot, the first walking robot to have navigational capabilities without GPS or mapping – has been developed

✓ It has been designed by French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and Aix-Marseille University researchers at ISM
✓ They are developed based on the concept employed by desert ants who use polarised lights and UV radiation to navigate exceptionally in space
✓ It is equipped with an optical compass used to determine its path by means of polarised light, and by an optical movement sensor directed to the Sun to measure the distance covered
✓ Weighing only 2.3 kg, this robot has 6 feet for increased mobility, allowing it to move in complex environments - with precision of up to 1 centimetre after having covered a total distance of 14 metres
 Reserve bank of India’s Central board – approves the transfer of Rs 28,000 crore as interim dividend to the Government

The amount is transferred to the central Government for the half-year period ended December 31, 2018

This is the 2nd successive year that the RBI is transferring an interim surplus

RBI’s financial year ends in July and the interim dividend will be usually transferred to the Government by March

Even though the government was seeking Rs 40,000 crore as the interim dividend, the board opted for Rs 28,000 after considering the policies and requirements of RBI

Last year, the RBI paid an interim dividend of Rs 10,000 crore and for the full financial year, it amounted to Rs 50,000 crore

Maharashtra State Government’s Shiv Chhatrapati Awards – conferred to Mallakhamb coach, Uday Deshpande and batswoman, Smriti Mandhana among others

Uday Deshpande was awarded with the Shiv Chhatrapati life-time achievement award for dedicating his life to the traditional sport, Mallakhamb
Yuwa, a Jharkhand based NGO – won the Laureus Sports for Good Award

- Yuwa, working for girl empowerment, became the third Indian entry to receive this honour
- In 2004, Indian Cricket team along with Pakistan shared Laureus Award for the first time and later by Magic Bus in 2014.
- Yuwa prepares girls to break the cycle of poverty permanently, by using team sports and education to build character, confidence and courage among girls
- Yuwa was founded in 2009 by Americans Franz Gastler and Rose Thomson
- It runs a football program in rural Jharkhand with 450 girls
- Legendary footballer and coach, Arsene Wenger kicked football with the young Indian girls of Yuwa before the announcement

Sports

Railway Sports Promotion Board - won their sixth straight title as the Champions in the 9th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2019 (A Division) in Hisar, Haryana

- In the one-sided final, RSPB defeated Hockey Madhya Pradesh by a margin of 5-0 goals
- Earlier, on Feb 10, Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) defeated defending champions Punjab to lift the 9th Senior Men’s National Hockey Championship in Gwalior
Mukesh Kumar and Punam, a lawyer couple from Chandigarh – won silver medals in table tennis at the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation World Games in Sharjah

- Mukesh won a silver medal in Category 7 (athletes on a wheel chair) and Punam in category 6

- **1st Mallakhamb World Championship** - was held in Shivaji Park in central Mumbai

- India emerged as the Winner in the event, which saw the participation of 14 countries including Spain, Germany, Czech Republic, Italy, USA, Iran, Norway, England, France, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, Vietnam and Bahrain
- This sport involves athletes performing various yogic and gymnastic poses while hanging from a rope or on a pole.
தமிழ்நாடு குழு பதகன் விளையாட்டு நிகழ்ச்சி

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