Prime Minister Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone for ‘Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Career Hub’ in 7 Universities in Tamil Nadu, including Bharathidasan University and Madurai Kamaraj Universities

- The PM had digitally announced the launch of these hubs, set up at a cost of Rs 15 crore each, from Sher-e-Kashmir international convention centre in Sri Nagar.
- The hub will function as a separate entity in the university which will be registered under Companies Act.
- The university shall invite innovative ideas from students and develop them into a business model.
- The hub will be set up using a part of Rs 50 crore given to the universities by the Ministry of HRD under Rashtriya Utchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) Phase II, which includes funding for research projects.
Tamil Nadu Government – observes 30th ‘Road Safety Week’ between February 4 and February 10

- Theme 2019 – ‘Road Safety – Life Safety’
- The State Government had set aside Rs 65 crore for the road safety works and due to its extensive campaigning the road accidents have reduced by 3% and the casualties by 25% in 2018 than the preceding year
- The Government had also proposed to institute the ‘Chief Ministers’ award’ for the best 3 districts and 1 police commissionerate, which implement most initiatives to reduce accidents and casualties

STATES

Maharashtra - has now become the seventh state in India to give 10% reservation to weaker sections of general category
- Gujarat was the first state to implement the reservation, followed by Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Assam

NATIONAL

Ministry of Health – signs agreement with Google and telecom providers – to launch trial for ‘Accurate 108 Emergency Ambulance Service’
- As per the initiative, the ambulance will reach the spot without being informed about the location
- One will be able to call the Centre-run 108 emergency ambulance services without even specifying the location or without a mobile app or without internet connection at all
- The service will be run using twin technologies -- Cell Tower Triangulation and Google Emergency Location Services
While Cell Tower Triangulation technology uses information from telecom operator about the location, the Google ESL uses GPS to track the location in a more accurate way.

The idea was pitched by IAS officer Abhijeet Kaplish of the 2015 cadre, currently posted as the Sub-Divisional Magistrate in Mansa.

His idea was converted into a presentation and was shortlisted by the Cabinet Secretary and was delivered to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September 2017.

The government chose Uttar Pradesh for the pilot trial of the project, which has been initiated since January 2019.

The government has also offered other states to take up the project as part of their yearly planning under the National Health Mission for 2019.

**INTERNATIONAL**

**United Nations General Assembly** - elected South Africa, Indonesia, Dominican Republic, Germany and Belgium as 5 new non-permanent members of UN Security council (UNSC) – for a 2 year term beginning January 1, 2019.

- UNSC is a body of United Nations responsible for international peace and security.
- It has 15 members, including five permanent ones with the power of veto.
- The five permanent members are China, France, Russia, UK and US.
- 10 non-permanent members are elected for two-year terms each.

**PERSONALITIES**

**Aribam Syam Sharma**, acclaimed Manipuri filmmaker – returns the Padma Shri conferred on him in 2006.

- The 83-year old filmmaker returned the award in protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.
Pope Francis - visited Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

✓ Thus, he becomes the first pontiff to visit the Arabian peninsula
✓ In UAE, he is about to participate in a conference on inter-religious dialogue sponsored by the Emirates-based, Muslim Council of Elders
✓ An estimated 700 participants from different faith are expected to participate in the ‘Human Fraternity Conference’, which includes representatives of the Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and Sikh faiths

SPORTS

Sana Mir, former captain of the Pakistan women team - became the first Asian woman to play hundred T20Is

✓ She became the 6th woman in the world to achieve the feat
✓ Daendra Dottin of West Indies leads the list with 110 T20Is

Rohit Sharma, Indian cricket team vice-captain – becomes the 14th Indian cricketer to play 200 One day internationals

✓ He holds the record of highest Individual score (264 runs) and highest number of double centuries (3 Double Century) in ODIs
◆ Sundeep Jora, Cricketer from Nepal - became the youngest man to score a half-century in T20 Internationals

✓ Jora made his T20I debut for Nepal against the UAE at 17 years and 103 days on January 31
✓ Jora joined teammate Rohit Paudel, who last week became the youngest to score an international fifty, breaking the record held by Sachin Tendulkar
✓ During the series in which Nepal defeated UAE by 2-1, their captain Paras Khadka became the first Nepalese cricketer to score an ODI hundred

INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ World Cancer Day – February 4

✓ The day is observed every year with an aim of creating awareness and education about Cancer in order to prevent the deaths associated with the dreaded disease by 2020
✓ The day is organized by The Union for International Cancer Control, which has been initiated to support the goals of 2008 World Cancer Declaration

✓ Theme for 2019-21 – ‘I Am and I Will’
✓ Theme for 2016-18 – ‘We Can and I Can’
✓ Cancer is one of the leading causes of mortality worldwide, responsible for 9.6 million deaths in 2018
✓ Tobacco use is the most important risk factor for cancer and is responsible for approximately 22% of cancer deaths
✓ Lung, prostate, colorectal, stomach and liver cancer are the most common types of cancer in men, while breast, colorectal, lung, cervix and thyroid cancer are the most common among women

◆ 30th Road Safety Week – February 4 to 10

✓ Theme 2019 - ‘Sadak Suraksha-Jeevan Raksha’
✓ Organised by – Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
Activities Planned in the Country

Commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Home Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari will flag off the car rally.

The car rally will go through places historically associated with Gandhi, in India, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

In India, it will cover places like Sabarmati, Porbandar, Dandi, Yerwada, Sewagram, Jabalpur, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, ChauriChaura, Champaran, Shantiniketan and Kolkata.

It will conclude on February 24th in Myanmar covering a total distance of 7,250 km.

The Society of Indian Automobile Industry will also declare 2019 as the Year of Road Safety promoting safety on Indian roads.

Retro Reflective Stickers on Sadak Suraksha Jeevan Raksha will be launched on the occasion.

A new Dash Board for Road Accident Data of India and its states will also be launched during the occasion.

World Wetlands Day – February 2

Theme 2019 - “Wetlands and Climate Change”

The observance of the day aims to create awareness for preserving fragile wetlands, which are taken over by the human activities.

It was first observed on 2 February 1971.

The day commemorates the signing of the ‘Convention on Wetlands’, called the Ramsar Convention at the Iranian city of Ramsar.

The 2 main objectives of Ramsar Convention are –

- Conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands
- To stop the encroachment and loss of wetlands