TAMIL NADU

- Greater Chennai corporation – launches the ‘online’ property tax payment facility by the Chennai residents through ‘Namma Chennai’ App

- The app allows users to procure birth and death certificates and view the status of property, professional tax and trade licences
- It also allows the submission of complaints
- The app is available on both Android and iOS platforms

- 10th World Tamil Conference (WTC) – to be held on July 4-7 in Chicago, USA
- The International Association of Tamil Research organises the conference and conducted in US for the first time
- The 10th conference will be jointly hosted by Federation of Tamil Sangams in North America and Chicago Tamil Sangam
✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Edappadi K Palaniswami will inaugurate the conference. Over 6,000 delegates, including research scholars, were expected to attend the conference.

✓ The last WTC was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2015.

✓ 3 WTC’s were held in Tamil Nadu in the years 1968, 1981 and 1995 during the regimes of late Chief Ministers CN Annadurai, MG Ramachandran and J Jayalalithaa.

✓ The inaugural WTC was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1966, arranged by Thani Nayagam Adigalar.

✓ The Conference attended by Tamil scholars around the world discusses the social growth of Tamil language apart from promoting its heritage.

➢ Madurai bench of Madras High Court – constitutes a 24-member committee – to oversee the conduct of Avaniapuram jallikuttu on January 15.

✓ The panel will be headed by retired District and Sessions Judge C. Raghavan.

✓ Apart from retired judge Raghavan, advocates B. Saravanan, N. Dilip Kumar and Anand Chandrasekar were announced as organising committee members of the committee.
 STATES

- Ladakh in Jammu & Kashmir – to get the World’s largest Single-location Solar Photo-voltaic (PV) Plant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOP 5 SOLAR PV PROJECTS</th>
<th>Present Capacity (MW)</th>
<th>Projected Capacity (MW)</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tengger Desert Solar Park</td>
<td>1,547</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ningxia, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhadla Solar Park</td>
<td>1,365</td>
<td>2,255</td>
<td>Rajasthan, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Datong Solar Power Top Runner Base</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurnool</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longyangxia Dam Solar Park</td>
<td>850</td>
<td></td>
<td>Eastern Zhejiang, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ladakh project</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ladakh, India</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SolarInsure, as of June 2017: The Ladakh project will still be the world’s largest even after others complete their planned capacities

- The 5000 MW Ladakh project will be located at Hanle-Khaldo in Nyoma block, about 250 km from Leh and 200 km from Kargil
- The plant will assist in lighting up the plains apart from keeping the glaciers cool by saving 12,750 tonne a year of carbon emission
- It will be promoted by the Solar Energy Corporation of India under the Ministry of Renewable Energy
- The plant is expected to be completed by 2023 at an estimated budget of Rs 45,000 crore
- Similarly, another solar plant with a capacity of 2,500 MW is expected to come up in Kargil
- It will be developed at Suru in Zanskar, about 250 km from the Ladakh project

 NATIONAL

- Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore – is authorized to conduct field research activity in the Kumbh Mela, which commences on January 15 at Prayagraj (Allahabad)
The study will have two streams of research – Documenting and analyzing the mela management & deep-dive into specific unique ‘themes’ in the massive socio-cultural event.

The Prayagraj Mela Pradhikaran is the agency hosting the Kumbh Mela, one of the world’s largest pilgrimage gathering.

**COMMITTES**

- M P Bezbaruah, former Union Tourism secretary – opts out as the Chairman of the 9-member committee set up by the Government.

  - The Committee was created for implementing Clause 6 of the 1985 Assam Accord.
  - Bezbaruah is the fifth member nominated by the Union Home ministry to abandon the committee.
  - Clause 6 of the Assam accord promises various safeguards to protect the Assamese people.

- Madras High Court – constitutes an expert committee to weed out ‘Invasive species’ in Western Ghats.
  - The ‘invasive species’ are considered as the second major cause for biodiversity loss besides causing agriculture, forestry and aquatic ecosystem degradation.
  - The commercial cultivation of ‘Eucalyptus’, Plants like ‘Lantana’ which causes reduction of hydrological species-water table are the various ‘invasive species’ mentioned in the petition seeking the restraint.
  - The committee shall be headed by Cherukuri Raghavendra Babu, Chairman, Expert Committee on Invasive Species, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai.

**CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

- 26th International Camel Festival – held in Bikaner, Rajasthan on Jan 12-13, 2019.
As part of the festival, several activities such as fur cutting, camel decoration, designing among others were held.

The festival was organized by Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan.

**PERSONALITIES**

- **Tulsi Gabbard**, the first Hindu elected for US Congress – to run for US President in 2020

  The 4-time Democratic lawmaker is expected to make a formal announcement soon to challenge Republican president, Donald Trump.

  Once announced, she will become the first Hindu-American and first Non-Christian to run for the White House.

  Tulsi hails from American Samoa in Hawaii islands and served in the US military taking part in Iraq war.
Mahendra Singh Dhoni - became the fifth Indian batsman to score 10,000 ODI runs for India

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cricketers with 10,000 ODI runs for India</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sachin Tendulkar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sourav Ganguly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rahul Dravid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virat Kohli</td>
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<tr>
<td>MS Dhoni</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

He reached the milestone during his knock in the 1st one day international (ODI) between India and Australia in Sydney

The former India captain is 12th on the list of all-time leading run scorers in the ODI format
Among full-time wicket-keepers, he is second on the list of scorers, behind Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara