Tamil Nadu

❖ The Tamil Nadu government - plans to build a massive statue of Bodhidharma at Kancheepuram

✓ It also plans to develop a Buddhist pilgrimage circuit in the state to attract tourists from China
✓ Statues of Bodhidharma are still worshipped in various countries like China, Hong Kong, Japan and Thailand
✓ Bodhidharma is widely believed to be a Pallava prince born in Kancheepuram who travelled to China to spread the teachings of the Buddha
✓ In China, he taught Shaolin monks the famous martial arts
✓ Tamil Nadu’s connections with Buddhism date back about 2,000 years
✓ In the 10th Century, Emperor Rajaraja Chola had donated a village in Nagapattinam district for constructing a Buddha vihara named ‘Soodamani’

❖ The first ever Tamil Nadu Day – was observed across the entire state on November 1, 2019
November 1, 1956, is the day on which the present Tamil Nadu was carved out from erstwhile Madras Province after States Reorganisation Act, 1956 came into being, redrawing state boundaries along linguistic lines.

The Madras Province was renamed Tamil Nadu by a resolution moved in the state legislature on July 18, 1967, by the then chief minister C N Annadurai, which was unanimously passed.

The state officially became Tamil Nadu on January 14, 1969.

The State Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced in July that Tamil Nadu Day will be celebrated on November 1.

Orissa (now Odisha) was the first state to be formed on linguistic basis on April 1, 1936.

Later, in 1953, Andhra Pradesh was formed on linguistic basis.

**Deputy chief minister O Panneerselvam - is likely to undertake a week-long tour of the US from November 7 to November 16, 2019.**

As per a tentative schedule, he will be visiting three cities – Chicago, Houston and Washington during his proposed trip.

During his five-day stay in Chicago, the deputy chief minister will participate in a roundtable summit on sustainable housing and smart cities.

The Deputy CM will be presented with an award by members of Indian community in Chicago.

**Greater Chennai Corporation – to acquire 15 ‘bandicoots’, a type of robot, that can clean drains with their ‘hands’**

Each zone in the city will get one robot for removing the silt in the storm water drain manhole.

This is part of the plan to eradicate manual scavenging which was declared ‘illegal’.

The bandicoots were manufactured by Kerala-based company, GenRobotic Innovations.

Each robot will be costing Rs 36 lakh and can perform the work in 20 minutes which needs 2 hours to be done manually.

Its robotic arms can also scrape sludge or sewage or any semi-solid or solid material just like a human hand.

Robots are already being used in Thanjavur, Kumbakonam, Tuticorin and Coimbatore for the similar purpose.

On an average, an estimated 3.7lakh tonnes of silt needs to be removed from the 2,076km storm water drain network in Chennai.

Almost 80% of the network is de-silted once every two years.
The State Government plans to introduce single window admission for undergraduate courses at arts and science colleges in Chennai region on a trial basis in 2020-21

WHAT’S HAPPENING

Admissions will be based on Class XII marks.
There are around 120 arts and science colleges in the Chennai region providing admission to around 70,000 UG students every year.
The new system, which got the government’s approval recently, involves the students applying to colleges in Tamil Nadu with a single application like in engineering and medical admissions.

The 19th periodic meeting of Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) – concluded in Trichy on October 31

The meeting was attended by representatives of the four neighbouring states, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh
Trichy is hosting the meeting for the very first time
The committee noted that the Government of Karnataka is releasing the water in Cauvery as per its recommendations based on the inflow
It also reiterated that Karnataka government cannot build a dam across the Cauvery at Mekedatu, near the interstate border, without the consent of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)
It has to be recalled that Karnataka approached the Union water resources ministry earlier for the construction of the dam on the inter-state river which Tamil Nadu has been strongly objecting to.
It was “tentatively” decided that the next meeting of the CWRC would be held in New Delhi on November 14.
Navin Kumar is the Chairman of CWRC and member-secretary of CWMA
The legislation seeks to facilitate contract farming, whereby companies will sign contracts with farmers before the beginning of the agricultural activity to procure the produce at a fixed price, in spite of market fluctuations.

This act intends to give the farmers a minimum guaranteed price, a long-standing demand of the farmer community.

The legislation mentions that the pre-determined procurement price should not be below the minimum support price fixed by the government for various crops.

The government’s objective, while enacting such a law, is to protect small and marginal farmers being exploited by traders and also to insulate them from the variations in market forces.

In case of any disputes, they will be heard by a separate dispute settlement committee, which will be headed by a revenue divisional officer or a sub-collector.

The disputes, if still unsolved, can then be appealed to the district collector and thereafter to the Tamil Nadu State Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Authority, headed by the Secretary, agriculture.
Tamil Nadu - has reported the lowest occupancy rate in prisons compared to other large States in the country.

The State has 61.3% occupancy rate, while Uttar Pradesh topped the list of inmates with 165%, followed by Chhattisgarh with 157.2%

These details were revealed by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data for the year 2017

Overall, the State has 138 jails, including nine central prisons, which is the highest in the country.

The total capacity of prisons in Tamil Nadu was for 22,792 inmates, while the number of ‘actual’ inmates was 13,969, including 601 women and 112 foreign nationals.

The State government - is planning to put in place an exclusive body to handle water sector projects in the entire state

The entity — the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Conservation and Rivers Restoration Corporation (TNWRCRRC) — will be registered shortly

About a year ago, the government issued an order, stating its decision to establish such an entity.

K. Satyagopal, an IAS officer, who retired as Additional Chief Secretary and Commissioner of Revenue Administration in September, has been appointed Chairman and Managing Director of the proposed body

Apart from formulation of projects, the TNWRCRRC will also look out for the funding of such projects.

The new body will step in and seek funds even from multinational agencies such as Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) or KfW of Germany (which funds development projects) or multilateral bodies.

Besides, it will also try to obtain funds from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Dr. Satyagopal will also monitor the execution of works under the ‘kudimaramathu’ (people’s maintenance of irrigation structures) scheme.
Mumbai and Hyderabad – features in Unesco’s coveted ‘Network of Creative Cities’ list for the year 2019, released on the occasion of ‘World Cities Day’ on October 31

- Hyderabad received the nomination in the gastronomy category while Mumbai was named in the films section.
- Hyderabad got the ‘creative city’ tag, thanks to its delectable haleem and biryani
- The two cities will now be part of a 246-member-strong network of ‘creative’ urban cities, 66 of which have been added newly this year.
- Previously, in 2010, haleem was honoured with the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, thus becoming the first meat-based product from India to win the prestigious status.
- Apart from Hyderabad’s haleem and kalyani biryani, 9 other international destinations were also nominated in the gastronomy category of the network for their cuisine culture.

The draft National education policy – proposes the board exams to be conducted twice in a year as early as 2022.
Moreover, the new policy also seeks a high-quality common modular entrance exam multiple times each year for undergraduate admissions in higher education institutions.

These moves aim to ease the ‘exam’ pressure on students and parents.

**India - has registered an improved sex ratio and a decline in birth and death rates with non-communicable diseases dominating over communicable in the total disease burden of the country**

- These details were released in the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence’s (CBHI) National Health Profile (NHP) 2019.
- As per the NHP, sex ratio (number of females per 1,000 males) in the country has improved from 933 in 2001 to 943 in 2011.
- In rural areas the sex ratio has increased from 946 to 949, while in the urban areas, it has shown an increase by 29 points from 900 to 929.
- Kerala has recorded the highest sex ratio in respect of total population (1,084), rural population (1,078) and urban (1,091).
- The lowest sex ratio in rural areas has been recorded in Chandigarh (690).
- The estimated birth rate reduced from 25.8 in 2000 to 20.4 in 2016 while the death rate declined from 8.5 to 6.4 per 1,000 population over the same period.
- As per the report, the total fertility rate (average number of children that will be born to a woman during her lifetime) in 12 States has fallen below 2 children per woman and 9 States have reached replacement levels of 2.1 and above.
- Delhi, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have the lowest fertility rate among other States.

**SPORTS**

**Oman - defeated Hong Kong in the T20 World Cup qualifier to reach the finals, which will take place in Australia next year**

- Oman joins Scotland, Namibia, Netherlands, Papua New Guinea and Ireland, who had already booked their places in the 2020 extravaganza.
Shiva Thapa (63kg) and Pooja Rani (75kg) - clinched gold medals at the Olympic Test Event for Boxing in Tokyo

- India's Ashish (69kg) settled for a silver during the event
- Four-time Asian medallist Thapa defeated Kazakhstan's national champion and Asian bronze-winner Sanatali Toltayev to claim the Gold medal.

- Thapa is also the current national champion and a former bronze-medallist at the world championships
- Former Asian Games bronze medallist Rani prevailed over Australia's Caitlin Parker
- Rani had claimed a silver medal at the Asian Championships earlier this year.
- Earlier, former junior world champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg), Simranjeet Kaur (60kg) along with Asian silver medallist Sumit Sangwan (91kg) and Vahlimpuia (75kg), in the men's draw, lost their respective semifinal games to end with bronze medals.
- Overall, India ended the event with seven medals