The Centre’s ‘Bamboo Mission’ project – to be launched across the state by its horticulture department

- The Union government had proposed the mission of raising bamboo trees across the state in two phases
- In the first phase, bamboo trees will be raised on 300 hectares, including private and government lands.
- In the second phase, another set of trees will be raised on 300 hectares.
- In the first year, each farmer willing to give his land for raising bamboo trees will get ₹25,000 per hectare.
- In the second year, the amount paid will be ₹15,000 per hectare and in the third year, it will be ₹10,000.
- After the third year, the bamboo can be harvested
- A total of ₹2.36 crore has been set aside by the Union government for this mission
- Farmers who have unused land can raise and cultivate bamboo for a three year period
- Bamboo is not a cash crop and its hybrid varieties, which are thornless, are in high demand
- The horticulture department will distribute hybrid varieties of bamboo such as Bambusa balcooa, Bambusa vulgaris and Bambusa tulda.

Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2016 - is expected to come into effect soon

- As per the Act, deep sea fishing vessels will be fined up to five times the value of their catch if they fail to ensure safety of the fishermen on board.
- The key aspects of the amendment stipulate that the boat owner should possess valid registration and licence for the boats and the crew.
The owner should properly check the stability of the boat and functioning of all the equipment for every voyage.

They should also report to the harbour or origin of their expedition, probable area of fishing, date of return and details of the crew and communication equipment.

Apart from these rules, a mechanised fishing vessel should also carry two first-aid kits, and life jackets approved by the mercantile marine department for every individual.

It should also hang two lifebuoys on each side of the boat.

A disaster alert transmitter, foam type fire extinguisher and navigation and specified communication systems are among other essentials the boats should carry during every voyage.

Each boat will be given two warnings for lack of compliance on any of the above, failing which the licence will be cancelled.

The fisheries department has proposed providing 500 more satellite phones to fishermen to facilitate direct communication with the fishermen engaged in multi-day deep sea fishing.

Each satellite phone set along with the license worth Rs 96,000 will be provided to each boat at a 75% subsidy through the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) of the State.

**NATIONAL**

*The government - has approved setting up four medical device parks as part of its ‘Make in India’ initiative and provide world-class treatment at affordable prices.*

The parks will be set up in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Uttarakhand and Gujarat have also been approached by the Centre for such parks.
COMMITTEES

- **Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu** - has constituted a six-member committee for the merger of Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV
  - The move is aimed to pool resources, rationalise costs and cut extra spending on coverage of parliamentary proceedings.
  - The committee will also examine issues related to the merger and propose an appropriate name for the new channel.
  - The panel will comprise of Prasar Bharati chairman A Surya Prakash, additional secretary in the RS secretariat A A Rao, Ganpati Bhat of Lok Sabha secretariat, RS financial advisor and joint secretary Shikha Darbari and CEOs of RS TV and LS TV, Manoj Kumar Pandey and Aashish Joshi respectively.
  - The committees will also be examining whether live telecast of entire proceedings of both Houses of Parliament should be continued.
  - It will also look into whether a merged channel will be feasible to ensure adequate coverage of parliamentary proceedings on one integrated channel.

ECONOMY

- **Financial Sector Regulatory Appointment Search Committee (FSRASC)** – has conducted the interview for 10 candidates for the post of deputy governor — vacated by Viral Acharya— in charge of the monetary policy department in the Reserve Bank of India
  - The RBI currently has three deputy governors — N S Vishwanathan, who is serving a one-year extension, B P Kanungo and M K Jain.
  - The post of deputy governor has been lying vacant ever since Acharya stepped down in August this year.
  - The final call on the appointment will be made by the Prime Minister’s Office.
  - The shortlisted candidates include Chetan Ghate, professor at Indian Statistical Institute, Arunish Chawla, joint secretary (department of expenditure), Manoj Govil, principal finance secretary, Kshatrapati Shivaji, executive director, ADB, Sanjeev Sanyal, principal economic adviser, T V Somanathan, additional chief secretary, Tamil Nadu, Michael Patra, RBI executive director, Prachi Mishra, economist at Goldman Sachs.
  - Ghate and Patra participate in the monetary policy committee meetings as members.
  - The committee includes RBI governor Shaktikanta Das and financial services secretary.
  - Acharya was preceded by former governor Urjit Patel, who was preceded by Subir Gokarn.
  - Acharya, the youngest deputy governor, quit before his term ended in January.
He returned to New York University Stern School of Business to join in time for the new academic term

**AWARDS**

- Industrial air compressor manufacturer Elgi Equipments Ltd - received the Deming Prize for excellence in Total Quality Management.

ELGi’s TQM exercise began in 2008 and reached its zenith in 2014.
- ELGi’s TQM system - EBS (ELGi Business System) comprises improvement activities and human resource development initiatives.
- It was implemented to achieve ELGi’s goal of becoming the world’s second largest air compressor manufacturer by 2027
- ELGi’s TQM focus is extended to the standardization of all sales activities (the GTM go-to-market process) for sales expansion as well as the creation and promotion of various mechanisms using ICT

**OBITUARY**

- T N Seshan, Former Chief Election Commissioner (86 years)

T N Seshan served as a senior bureaucrat in various capacities, including as cabinet secretary of India in 1989 and earlier as the administrative head of Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) and also as Environment and Forests Secretary and Defence Secretary
- A 1955-batch IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, Seshan showed politicians the real power of the Election Commission of India during his tenure as CEC from December 12, 1990, till December 11, 1996
- An alumnus of the Madras Christian College, he, as an IAS officer, did a year-long course in management at Harvard University in the 1960s.
- In the Tamil Nadu government, he held positions such as Industries Secretary and Agriculture Secretary during M.G. Ramachandran’s first innings (1977-80) as Chief Minister.
- Seshan was the only one to hold the post of CEC for six years from 1990 to 1996 in the last 50 years.
✓ He used the EC powers to direct an election, including transfers and postings of officials to check corrupt electoral practices.
✓ He is best known for the introduction of electors’ photo identity cards as a means of electoral reforms and implementation of model code of conduct ‘seriously’ by the parties and candidates.
✓ It was during Mr. Seshan’s period that the Commission was made a multi-member body in October 1993.
✓ In July 1997, Mr. Seshan unsuccessfully contested the presidential election against K.R. Narayanan.
✓ In 1999, in the Gandhinagar parliamentary constituency, the Congress fielded him against then Union Home Minister L.K. Advani, but he lost.
✓ Seshan won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for his services to the government in 1996.

**SPORTS**

Shafali Verma (Haryana), at 15 years and 285 days – overtakes Sachin Tendulkar’s 30-year old record by becoming the youngest Indian to score an international fifty in the first T20 International against the West Indies in St Lucia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>For</th>
<th>Runs</th>
<th>Balls</th>
<th>Against</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>15y</td>
<td>Kavisha Egodage</td>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>57*</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>MAL</td>
<td>Bangkok</td>
<td>15-1-2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>15y</td>
<td>Shafali Verma</td>
<td>IND</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>WI</td>
<td>Gros Islet</td>
<td>9-11-2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>15y</td>
<td>Adn van der Merwe</td>
<td>NAM</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>Gaborone</td>
<td>23-8-2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>16y</td>
<td>Prossicia Alako</td>
<td>UGA</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>20-6-2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

✓ Tendulkar was 16 years and 214 days when he scored his maiden half century (59, versus Pak in the second Test at Faisalabad on Nov 23, 1989).
✓ At 15 years and 267 days, UAE’s Kavisha Egodage is the youngest woman to score an international 50 (57* against Malaysia in Jan 2019).
**Deepak Chahar is the first Indian to get a hat-trick in T20 Internationals**
✓ Chahar’s 6/7 is the best-ever in T20Is, surpassing Sri Lankan Ajantha Mendis’ 6/8 vs Zimbabwe in 2012
✓ Chahar achieved the feat in the series-deciding third and final T20I against Bangladesh at Nagpur

✓ Chahar finished the game with remarkable figures of six for seven from 3.2 overs, the best in T20 internationals.

**Indian shooters - surpassed their Rio de Janeiro figure of 12 quotas by clinching three more 2020 Olympic berths at the Asian Championships in Doha.**
✓ Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, 18, sealed a berth in men’s 50m rifle 3position event
✓ Angad Singh Bajwa and Mairaj Khan bagged the Olympic spot by sealing two skeet berths in the last quota event
✓ While Bajwa won the Gold medal, Mairaj bagged silver after a shoot-off in the goldmedal round with his teammate, to clinch two of the three quotas available in the event.
✓ In men’s 3P, young Aishwary took bronze for the quota place as five out of eight shooters in the final were competing for three Olympic berths.
✓ Aishwary, who had won gold with a world record in the Junior World Cup in Germany in July, decided to participate in senior events this year.
✓ This was his first international participation as senior.
✓ In 2016, India had won 12 quota places and had 17 shots at medals
✓ For Tokyo 2020, India has 15 individual quota places and the shooters will have 21 medal opportunities.