Tamil Nadu Government – sets up ‘TN Animal Welfare Board’ with Hon’ble Chief minister, Edappadi K Palaniswami as the Chairman

- The Animal husbandry minister is the vice-chairman of the 14-member board, which will have the chief secretary and heads of various departments as ex-officio members
- There will be honorary members representing ‘Society for prevention of cruelty to animals’ (SPCA), which is to be established by the board
- The board is supposed to ensure the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 implemented in both letter and spirit

- Tamil Nadu government – seeks to increase 100 days of MGNREGA – to 150 days
  - It had requested the Union ministry of rural development for the same
Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the livelihood security programme - offers 100 days of guaranteed wage employment for every household

- The notified wage rate in respect of Tamil Nadu for the current fiscal is Rs 224 per person per day
- The state has made this request for 11 Gaja affected districts, including Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Tiruvarur, Ramanathapuram, Theni, blocks of Dindigul and Karur, Sivaganga, Trichy, Cuddalore and Nagapattinam
- The state government is expected to notify the cyclone affected districts in a few days

The Labour department of Tamil Nadu Government - has developed ‘Tamil Nadu legal metrology complaint tracking system’ (TNLMCTS), a mobile app

- It will facilitate consumers to lodge complaints against traders and commercial establishments for issues of excess MRP and short weight
- The consumers can also file the complaints through the app against petrol bunks and ration shops in case of any malpractices

STATES

- Himachal Pradesh - becomes the first state in the country to implement Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) with a Single Emergency (ERSS) Number ‘112’ for the entire state

  - The single Emergency Number 112 integrates all other emergency numbers like 100 for police, 101 for fire and 102 for ambulance
  - The Emergency number was launched by Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh
  - This is similar to the Single Emergency number of ‘911’ in practice in United States
  - Gradually this emergency number will be started in other states of the country
The ERSS project also includes a '112 India' mobile app integrated with the panic button of smartphones. The app has a ‘SHOUT’ feature, exclusively for women, to ensure their safety. The ERSS Project – was started based on the recommendations of the Justice Verma Committee following the Nirbhaya incident in December 2012. The project, earlier referred as Nationwide Emergency Response System, was allotted a budget of Rs.321.69 crore under the Nirbhaya Fund.

- Jharkhand – to provide free mobile phones to 28 lakh farmers
- This was announced by its CM, Raghubar Das at the two-day ‘Agriculture and Food Summit’ in Ranchi.

- He also said that a separate electric feeder for agriculture purpose will be set up by May 2019 to provide uninterrupted electricity to farmers.

- Maharashtra – to develop the state’s largest Sewage Treatment plant (STP) in Malad, Mumbai
- The Plant, to come up at a budget of Rs 2,020 crore, had received the approval of Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- It will take four years to be constructed.
- It will treat 1,500 million litres of untreated water that directly flows into the sea.

- Karnataka Government – to start ‘DataCity’ Urban challenge in Bengaluru
- The initiative will be launched in association with Numa, start-up accelerator.
- It will be organized by Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and French utility company Suez.
- The challenge will be a seven-month programme that enables corporate to identify the relevant innovative start-ups for addressing civic issues.
Maharashtra – approves the 16% reservation quota for Marathas in government jobs and education
✓ This takes the total percentage of quotas in the state from 52% to 68%, making it the second highest in India after Tamil Nadu’s 69%
✓ Haryana has the third highest with 57% reservation currently
✓ The Supreme Court had in 1992 capped total reservation in a state at 50%

NATIONAL

IIT Kharagpur – signs MoU with University of Auckland – to promote academic exchange and research collaboration

✓ It is the first strategic partnership of University of Auckland with a Higher Educational Institute of India
✓ As per the MoU, both the institutions will work together in the areas of Healthcare technologies, cyber security and artificial intelligence

INTERNATIONAL

UNESCO – has added 6 new cultural treasures to the collection of its ‘Intangible cultural heritage’ list
✓ New Elements added
  ✓ Chidaoba – Georgia’s traditional wrestling
  ✓ Hurling – Ireland’s field game
  ✓ Reggae – Jamaican musical form, popularized by the likes of Bob Marley
  ✓ Raiho-shin – Japanese rituals
  ✓ As-Samer – Jordanese form of dancing and singing
  ✓ Spring festive rites of Kazakhstan’s horse breeders
✓ The UNESCO’s List of Intangible Cultural Heritage – was established in 2008.
✓ It consists of two segments –
  ✓ Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity
  ✓ List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of urgent Safeguarding
- **India’s Intangible Cultural Heritages List – 13**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>ICH Element</th>
<th>Year of Inscription</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Tradition of Vedic chanting</td>
<td>2008</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana</td>
<td>2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas, India</td>
<td>2009</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Chhau dance</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Buddhist chanting of Ladakh</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur</td>
<td>2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab, India</td>
<td>2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Kumbh Mela</td>
<td>2017</td>
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**INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS**

- RITES Limited, the Railway Company – delivered ‘S-13 series’ 13 coaches Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) to Sri Lanka on November 27, 2018

- The new rake of the DEMU was handed over on November 12 to the RITES by Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai
- These rakes are manufactured under the ‘Make in India’ initiative of the Central Government
✓ The order is being jointly executed by RITES and ICF Chennai under the India-Sri Lanka economic cooperation agreement
✓ As part of the order, ICF Chennai will manufacture six DEMU rakes consisting of 78 coaches in five variants
✓ The Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) rake is powered by a 1,800 HP onboard engine and has a newly-designed stainless steel aerodynamic front end to reduce drag at high speeds apart from several high tech features

➢ Nepal government - has launched a Social Security Scheme for its formal sector workers

✓ The contribution based scheme will cover health and medical facilities, safe motherhood, accident and physical security
✓ It will be compulsorily applicable to formal sector workers and extended soon to the informal sector workers

COMMITTEES

➢ A High level committee chaired by P K Sinha, Cabinet Secretary – submits its recommendations to tackle crisis in Stressed thermal power projects

✓ The committee was set up by the Government in July 2018
✓ The report focused on 34 thermal power stations entirely fuelled by coal and lignite
CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

South Asia Regional Youth Peace Conference - inaugurated in New Delhi on November 28, 2018

Inaugurated by - Shri Krishna G Kulkarni, great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi
Organised by - Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) and STEP (Standing Together to Enable Peace)
Participation – Around 100 youth leaders from various countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka
The 3-day conference was held as part of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, Father of Nation

15th edition of The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) Plenary 2018 – held in Brussels, Belgium – between November 12 to 16, 2018

During the concluding ceremony of the plenary, India was announced as the new Chair of KPCS from January 1, 2019
European Union was the last Chair of the KPCS
India is the founding member of KPCS and is actively involved in KP activities to ensure that the diamond trade in the world is smooth
The KPCS was launched in 2003
The next International session is slated to be held in India as Chair
Botswana and the Russian Federation will serve as Vice-Chair during the period of 2019-2020.
HAUSLA 2018 – organised in New Delhi between November 26-29, 2018

- Hausla 2018, the National Festival for Children of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) - was organized by The Ministry of Women and Child Development
- Theme – Child Safety
- The festival saw the participation of more than 600 children from 18 states in various events
- The team from Orissa walked away with the Rolling Trophy with the Chhattisgarh team finishing close second

PERSONALITIES

- Salom Zurichishvili - was elected as the first female President of Georgia

- She will assume office on December 16, 2018
- The French-born, former Foreign minister of Georgia was backed by the ruling Georgian Dream party
- She replaces Giorgi Margvelashvili, the outgoing President
- She defeated her rival candidate - Grigol Washadze
- She was the former member of Iran’s Prohibition Committee of UN Security Council Council (UNSC) between 2010 and 2013
- Georgia, with its capital in Tbilissi, broke away from Soviet union and announced its independence on April 9, 1991
ISRO – launches the PSLV-C43/HysIS mission from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh - on November 29, 2018

- The 6th mission of the year puts HysIS, earth observation satellite, into orbit
- The mission carried 30 other satellites of 8 different nations, including 23 from United States (1 micro and 22 nano), Australia (1), Canada (1), Colombia (1), Finland (1), Malaysia (1), Netherlands (1) and Spain (1)
- With this mission, ISRO is carrying the satellites of Australia, Colombia, Malaysia and Spain for the very first time
  This launch marks the 13th successful flight of this PSLV model
- PSLV-C43, the 45th flight of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), is the 'Core Alone' and the Lightest version of the launch vehicle.
  PSLV-C43 mission’s payload consists of the HysIS satellite, one micro-satellite and 29 nano satellites
- HysIS satellite will be launched at an altitude of 636.6km, while all other satellites will be launched at an altitude of 504.5km from the Earth’s surface
- PSLV is a four stage launch vehicle with alternating solid and liquid stages
- Each stage is built to power the rocket through a different phase in the launching process
- All these satellites have been commercially contracted for launch through ISRO’s commercial arm, Antrix Corporation Limited
- It has to be recalled that ISRO had recently launched its latest communication satellite GSAT-29 on board GSLV MkIII-D2 on November 14, 2018

HysIS
It was built around ISRO’s Mini Satellite 2 (IMS-2) bus
At the heart of the satellite is the detector array chip designed by Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad and produced by Semi-Conductor Laboratory, Chandigarh.
CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH) – to establish a High-End Skill Development Centre in its campus in Chandigarh
✓ The country’s premier National Research Laboratory will collaborate with Merck, a leading German science and Technology Company to establish the centre
✓ The centre will develop skills by conducting workshops, trainings and seminar series on the life science processes, tools and techniques

DEFENCE

Konkan 18 – The naval exercise between India and United Kingdom – started off Goa between November 28 to December 6, 2018
✓ The exercise involves both the harbor phase and sea phase
✓ Indian Navy will be represented by INS Kolkata and Dornier, maritime patrol aircraft
✓ Bilateral KONKAN exercise was first conducted in 2004

Cope India 2019 – The bilateral air exercise between Indian Air Force (IAF) and US Air Force – scheduled to be held in West Bengal between December 3 and 14, 2019
✓ It will be held in Air Force Station, Kalaikunda and Air Force Station, Arjan Singh at Panagarh
✓ The first exercise was conducted at IAF air force station in Gwalior in February 2004
✓ It was repeated in 2005, 2006, 2009 and was last held in 2010
Indian Army – conducted ‘Cockerel Gunners’ White Water Rafting Expedition - at Rishikesh on November 29, 2018

- The expedition was undertaken by a team of 20 adventure enthusiasts of a Medium Regiment in the Indian Army
- It covered about 150 km across River Ganges over four days with a strong sense of determination, grit and perseverance

AWARDS

- Mylswamy Annadurai – conferred the award of ‘Mars Man’ during the Engineer’s Day celebrations in Kuwait by the chapter of Indian Engineer’s Institute

- The award recognizes his contribution to ISRO’s Mangalyaan project as the Director of Mars Orbiter Mission

- With 46.6 million stunted children, India accounted for nearly one-third of the world’s 150.8 million children who are stunted, indicating major malnutrition crisis
- According to the latest National Family Health Survey-4 data, India recorded a 10% point decline in stunting from 48% during 2005-06 to 38.4% in 2015-16
- Most of the stunted children are in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Maharashtra
- Stunting, or low height for age, is caused by long-term insufficient nutrient-intake and frequent infections

Apart from stunting, India also accounts for the largest number of wasted children in the world with low weight for height
- India recorded 25.5 million children who are wasted, followed by Nigeria (3.4 million) and Indonesia (3.3 million)
- According to NFHS-4, percentage of wasted children under five years increased from 19.8% in 2005-06 to 21% in 2015-16
- Share of severely wasted children also rose from 6.4% to 7.5% during the same period
- Wasting, usually caused by acute food shortage or disease, is a strong predictor of mortality among children under five years of age