Tamil Nadu Police – to create an exclusive database of workers from other states in Coimbatore, Tirupur and Erode districts

- The database will contain the photographs, fingerprints and photocopy of Aadhaar of the migrant workers
- The police has asked the houseowners, who have rented their houses to migrant workers, to submit details of their tenants in the respective police stations
- The department took similar measures in 2016, but it could not be completed due to shortage of personnel
- The three chosen districts have lakhs of migrant workers who often moved from one place to another for want of better job opportunities

Work on constructing a third desalination plant at Nemmeli along East Coast Road - is set to begin by the month-end.

- The new plant will have a capacity to treat 150 million litres of sea water in a day (mld)
- It will be set up on the same premises as the earlier 100-mld plant.
- The new plant will also employ the reverse osmosis process along with other pre-treatment process such as dissolved air flotation and ultra filtration, to filter sea algae and other particles in seawater
- The ₹1,259.38-crore project, partly funded by KfW, the German Development Bank, will be completed by December 2021.
- It will serve about 9 lakh people in south Chennai areas
- Tamil Nadu Water Investment Company Limited is the project management consultant for the facility
- Cobra Spain-Techton Engineering will build, operate and maintain the plant for two decades
The announcement for this desal plant was made way back in April 2013.

Another desalination plant will come up soon within a distance of one km in Perur on ECR to treat 400 mld of seawater.

This ₹6,078 project is expected to serve nearly 23 lakh people in the southern suburbs.

Tamil Nadu government - constituted two Committees for dealing with issues relating to Parambikulam Aliyar Project (PAP) and Pandiyar-Punnampuzha project.

Secretary of Tamil Nadu’s Public Works Department (PWD) K. Manivasan would lead both the committees.

Cauvery Technical Committee chairperson R. Subramanian is also part of both the panels.

The PAP intends to divert water from eight west-flowing rivers to Tamil Nadu for the benefit of the Coimbatore and Tirupur districts.

The Pandiyar-Punnampuzha Hydroelectric Project will facilitate the construction of four dams, two diversion weirs, and powerhouses in order to collect water from Devala-Punnampuzha river systems draining out into the Arabian sea.
Sri Lanka President Maithripala Sirisena - inaugurated the Jaffna international airport, whose redevelopment was funded partly by India

- The airport was redeveloped at ₹1,950 million (Sri Lankan rupee) of which India funded ₹300 million (Sri Lankan rupee)
- An Alliance Air flight, ATR 72-600, from Chennai touched down to mark the commencing of commercial operations at the airport after a gap of 40 years following the LTTE led civil war in the island nation.
- Indian government had earlier extended financial grant for the rehabilitation of runway and basic infrastructure at the Palaly airfield under the agreement concluded in November 2005 with the Sri Lankan government
- Flights between Chennai and Jaffna are scheduled to begin from November 1.

- State-owned National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (Nafed) - has opened two more new procurement centres in Handwara and Pulwama to procure Apples from Jammu & Kashmir
✓ Nafed has so far procured about 1,700 tonnes in the past one month under a special drive following the abrogation of Article 370 restrictions of the state
✓ The total apple production this season would be approximately 12 lakh tonnes and Nafed has set a target to procure about four lakh tonnes
✓ The maximum procurement by all agencies, including Nafed, has been done from Anantnag
✓ The key ‘apple’ trade in J&K has been targeted by terrorists who are aware of the economic significance of the business

INTERNATIONAL

➢ European Union negotiators - reached the agreement to a Brexit deal with Britain after days of talk and discussions

✓ Now the British PM Boris Johnson has to secure the British parliament’s approval for the deal in a vote by October 19
✓ Brexit was initially supposed to have happened on March 31 this year.
✓ It will now take place on October 31, once the deal is approved by the British and European parliaments.
✓ British Parliament defeated a previous deal struck by Johnson’s predecessor, Theresa May, three times
✓ Once the Brexit deal is approved, Britain will finally break 46 years of ties with the world’s largest trading bloc, European Union
✓ However, Northern Ireland will still stay in the EU’s single market for goods
India’s first lip-syncing humanoid, Rashmi – was unveiled by Ranjeet Shrivastava (38), a Ranchi-based software engineer

Also the world’s first Hindispeaking robot, Rashmi addressed an audience of 15,000 people with a warm “Namaste”.
Apart from Hindi, Rashmi also speaks English, Marathi and Bhojpuri.
The humanoid uses Artificial Intelligence, Linguistic Interpretation, Visual Data and Face Recognition systems to speak like a human being.
Rashmi was developed at a cost of ₹5 lakh.
As per Rashmi, Isro inspected her and planning to send her to Mars in 2022.

APPOINTMENTS

Patna high court’s Chief Justice A P Sahi – to take over as the next chief justice of the Madras HC
The collegium headed by CJI Gogoi announced the appointment of CJ Sahi
CJ Sahi replaces Chief Justice V K Tahilramani, who has submitted her resignation in September following the decision of collegium to shift her as CJ of Meghalaya HC
The collegium had earlier recommended Meghalaya HC Chief Justice A K Mittal to be appointed as CJ of Madras HC, which was now revoked.
CJ A K Mittal will now be posted to Madhya Pradesh HC
Similarly the collegium, which had earlier recommended transfer of Tripura HC CJ Sanjay Karol as CJ of Jharkhand HC, has now shifted him to Patna HC.
In addition, the collegium recommended appointment of Justice Mohammad Rafiq of Rajasthan HC as chief justice of Meghalaya HC

The government - has appointed Credit Suisse’s Neelkanth Mishra, Kotak Mahindra AMC managing director, Nilesh Shah and IFMR Graduate School of Business at Krea University dean, V Anantha Nageswaran as three new part-time members of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister
They will join Bibek Debroy, Sajjid Chenoy and Ashima Goyal on the elite panel
The three new members have been given a tenure of two years
They were inducted as part of a restructuring the committee

SPORTS
India - is among the three nations who have presented their bids to host the next edition of the men's Hockey World cup
Belgium and Malaysia are the other two nations who have also sent their bid
India has hosted the men’s World Cup thrice already
India preferred to conduct the event in the January 13 to 29, 2023 window, whereas the other two nations preferred to host the event in the July 1 to 17, 2022 window
For the Women’s World Cup, five countries have presented their bids
Germany, Spain, Malaysia, New Zealand and the Netherlands have presented the bid for hosting the women’s hockey world cup next year

RANKINGS
Karnataka - has emerged as the most innovative major state in India, as per the Niti Aayog’s India Innovation Index 2019
It is followed by Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Telangana, Haryana, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh to complete the Top 10 major states in the country.

Sikkim and Delhi take the top spots among north-eastern and hill states, and Union Territories/ city states/small states respectively.

Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh are announced as the most efficient states in translating inputs into output.

The states were divided into three categories — major states, north-east and hill states, and Union Territories/ city states/small states.

The India Innovation Index 2019 ranking is based on the average of the scores on two dimensions — Enablers and Performance.

The Enablers dimension refer to the factors that promote innovative capabilities and grouped in five pillars - (1) Human Capital, (2) Investment, (3) Knowledge Workers, (4) Business Environment, and (5) Safety and Legal Environment,

The Performance dimension reflects the various benefits that a nation derives from the inputs, which are divided in two pillars - (6) Knowledge Output and (7) Knowledge Diffusion.

Maharashtra topped the Enabler dimension this year.
**Britain’s BREXIT deal – REPORT**

British PM Boris Johnson has announced that a fresh deal has been agreed that will finally allow UK to leave EU by October 31, the Brexit deadline. But not all stakeholders share Johnson, or the EU’s, enthusiasm for the new deal. Doubts are still being raised about the Northern Ireland backstop, an issue Theresa May failed to resolve, leading to her ouster as PM. The deal will be put to vote in UK parliament on Saturday.

**The backstop’s gone, but why was it such a sticking point?**

- Negotiated by former PM May, the backstop proved a major hurdle in UK parliament okaying the deal.
- Northern Ireland’s (NI) border with Republic of Ireland necessitates restrictions in the event of a split. After Brexit, the two parts of Irish isle will fall under different regimes, one under UK, the other a part of EU, meaning products will have to be checked at the border, which both sides oppose.
- The backstop was conceived to ensure the border stayed open without becoming a backdoor to EU’s single market.

**The backstop options**

1. **NORTHERN IRISH BACKSTOP:** If the border between the two parts of Irish Isle is made so tight, the region would have required the region to remain in EU’s single market. It was rejected by Democratic Unionist Party, a NI party that props up Johnson’s government, as it would result in NI being treated differently from rest of UK.

2. **UK-WIDE BACKSTOP:** The entire country would’ve stayed within EU’s customs union. It led to fears that UK would be trapped in the EU regime.

**What is Johnson’s backstop fix...**

- UK PM has done away with a backstop, his deal still lacks support from DUP.
- Under Johnson’s deal, NI will remain in UK’s customs area but tariffs will apply on goods crossing from mainland UK to NI if they are deemed to be headed further into EU.
- NI’s government will also be able to vote on these rules staying in place every four years.

**How Britain came to new Brexit deal**

**AFTER SHOCK VERDICT, MAY REPLACES PM CAMERON**

- **2016, June 23:** Britons choose to leave EU in a referendum. Conservative PM David Cameron resigns next day. Theresa May succeeds him.
- **2017, March 29:** May sets Brexit deadline for March 29, 2019.
- **June 8:** Snap elections called by May sees Conservatives lose parliamentary majority. They need deal with Northern Ireland’s hardline DUP to stay in power.
- **2018, November 13:** Britain and EU agree draft divorce deal. But it finds few backers in May’s own party amid fears it will trap UK in EU trade rules, given the Northern Ireland backstop.

**MAY’S DEAL FAILS TO CLEAR UK PARLIAMENT, THRICE**

- **2019, January 15:** First parliament vote on deal results in its rejection.
- **March 12:** House of Commons again rejects May’s deal.
- **March 29:** Parliament rejects deal for a third time. EU agrees to delay Brexit until May 22 and, then, until October 31.
- **May 24:** May announces she will step down as Conservative leader.

**JOHNSON TAKES OVER, AGREES DEAL TO ENSURE BREXIT BY OCT 31**

- **July 24:** Boris Johnson becomes PM. Promises Brexit with or without a deal on October 31.
- **October 2:** Johnson publishes “final” Brexit proposals, they are rejected by EU.
- **October 17:** Hours ahead of a EU summit, the EU president tweets a new draft Brexit deal has been agreed.

**What next? Johnson still has to push deal through parliament**

- **Oct 19:** Extraordinary session of British parliament to vote on Johnson’s deal.
- **320 votes:** What Johnson needs to get the deal through in the 650-member parliament. His party needs DUP MPs’ 10 votes to stay in office. DUP has opposed the deal.

- Also, the main opposition Labour Party said it will call for another referendum in parliament on Saturday.
- Scottish National Party and the Liberal Democrats, too, have opposed the deal.
- If the deal is rejected, Johnson may seek nod to leave EU without a deal on October 31. If parliament refuses to okay a no-deal Brexit, then Johnson will have to write to EU seeking more negotiating time and delaying Brexit until January 31, 2020.