Tamil Nadu government – signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Sixteen US-based companies to invest ₹2,780 crore in the state

- The companies signed the MoUs at an investors’ meeting held in New York on September 3 in the presence of chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and other officials.
- More than 200 entrepreneurs and professionals took part in the meeting.
- The companies include Aquil Systems, Scitus Pharma, Nurray Chemicals, Novitium Labs, Jogo Health, ST LNG, Saram 4, Emerson, Aspire Consulting, Revature-LLC and Zillion Technologies.
- Haldia Petrochemicals signed an in-principle agreement for investing ₹50,000 crore to set up a Naphtha Cracker Unit in the state.
- These investments are expected to create jobs for over 20,000 people.
- Tamil Nadu was showcased as a preferred destination for investments in the sectors of fintech, aerospace and electric vehicles manufacturing.
- Representatives from companies like Ford and Caterpillar that have presence in Tamil Nadu were also present.
- The CM is on a 10-day visit to the UK, US and Dubai to woo investors to the State.
The Tamil Nadu government – is planning to implement 100% online ticketing system for cinema theatres

- In this regard, the government intends to set up a committee comprising government officials and theatre owners to discuss and deliberate on the feasibility of the implementation.
- The state government plans to implement it in phases – starting with multiplexes in cities and corporation limits, moving on to standalone airconditioned theatres and later bringing ordinary theatres in towns and rural areas.

NATIONAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will launch the The Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhan Yojana, the Centre’s pension scheme for traders, during a visit to Nagpur on September 7

- A few of the first subscribers from across the country will be given pension cards by the PM at the ceremony.
- All shopkeepers, self-employed persons and retail traders with GST turnover below Rs 1.5 crore and aged between 18-40 years can enrol for the scheme.
- The scheme, which is an extension of the PM Shram Yogi Maan-dhan Yojana, will make all beneficiaries eligible for a monthly pension of Rs 3000 after the age of 60 at a tiny monthly contribution.
- The government will make a matching contribution in the subscribers' account.
- The proposal was approved by the cabinet on May 31, 2019 at the first meeting of the Modi government and later announced by the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her maiden budget speech on July 5.
- Government has earmarked Rs 750 crore for the scheme in the Union Budget 2019-20.
- The Life Insurance Corporation of India has been chosen as pension fund manager.
- It will be responsible for managing the pension fund, central record keeping agency and responsible for pension pay out.
INTERNATIONAL

Hong Kong chief executive Carrie Lam - announced that the government will formally withdraw an extradition bill that triggered months of demonstrations.

However, the government declined to accept any other demands, including an independent inquiry into alleged police misconduct and the unconditional release of those detained.

The protests began in March but escalated later in June and have since evolved into a push for greater democracy for the city which returned to China in 1997.

The Bill would have allowed extraditions to mainland China where courts are controlled by the Communist Party.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

India and Pakistan - failed to finalize an agreement on the Kartarpur sahib corridor during their third round of talks at Attari.
The two countries agreed on visa-free travel by Indian pilgrims to the gurdwara, without any restrictions based on their faith.

The two nations also agreed that 5,000 pilgrims will be allowed on the corridor daily.

However, Pakistan was demanding $20 service fee per pilgrim, which was not agreeable by the Indian authorities.

The entry fee was proposed to compensate for the huge investments pumped in creating the infrastructure for Kartarpur corridor.

Pakistan has also refused to have Indian consular presence on the Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara premises, as it refused the permission for Indian consular officials to travel with the pilgrims.

India and Pakistan have been building infrastructure on both sides of the border for the pilgrims, who will begin festivities in the first week of November to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, who spent many years of his life at this sacred location.

**CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

**First Mobile Science Exhibition – flagged off at Leh Palace, in Leh**

The Mobile Science Exhibition will be moving to various schools in the Leh district.

It is specially designed in a bus so that it can reach the doorsteps of people.

The bus will travel from school to school in rural areas to organize exhibitions and other events like Sky Observation Programme through the telescope.

Science film shows, Science Demonstration Lectures etc will also be organized.
For the first time, a Hindu girl, Pushpa Kolhi, has become a police officer in Pakistan’s Sindh province after passing the provincial competitive examinations.

Pushpa Kolhi has been posted as the Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) in Sindh.

In January, Suman Pawan Bodani, a Pakistani belonging to the Hindu community, was appointed a judge to the civil and judicial magistrate.

The Majority of Pakistan’s Hindu population is settled in Sindh province where they share culture, traditions and language with the Muslim population.

Hindus form the biggest minority community in Pakistan, with about 75 lakh hindus living in the country.

Yudh Abhyas 2019, the joint military exercise between India and United States begins on September 5 at the Joint Base Lewis Macard near Washington.

This is the 15th edition of the joint military exercise hosted alternately between the two countries.

The armies of India and USA will jointly plan, train and execute a series of well developed operations to meet any unforeseen contingency.

It concludes on September 18.
SPORTS

Afghanistan’s leg spinner Rashid Khan has become youngest test cricket captain ever in the Test Cricket history

The record was earlier held by Zimbabwe’s Tatenda Taibu who was 20 years and 358 days old when he led his side against Sri Lanka in Harare in 2004.

Rashid is 20 years and 350 days old, leading Afghanistan against Bangladesh in the one-off Test at Chittagong, Bangladesh on September 4.

The Chittagong Test is the third five-day match for Afghanistan since they received Test status in 2017 and the first against Bangladesh.

Rashid was appointed Afghanistan’s captain across all three formats of the game in July after the team’s dismal performance at the 50-over World Cup.

RANKINGS

Vienna in Austria, Melbourne and Sydney in Australia - ranked as the top three cities in the World, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit’s Global Liveability Index 2019.

Vienna had taken the top spot from Melbourne last year, which was ranked at No. 1 for seven consecutive years.
Osaka, Japan and Calgary, Canada make up the remaining top five on the annual Global Liveability Index of 140 cities around the world.

Honolulu scored the highest among U.S. cities, ranking 22nd.

In India, New Delhi has dropped by six places to rank 118th on the list, while Mumbai also fell two places since last year to rank 119th on the list.

Asian cities overall have scored slightly below the global average while three Asian cities — Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea (135th), Pakistan’s Karachi (136th) and Bangladesh’s Dhaka (138th) — are among the ten least liveable globally.

London and New York ranked 48th and 58th, while Paris slid six places to 25th, from 19th last year.

Damascus in Syria, Lagos in Nigeria and Dhaka in Bangladesh were ranked in the bottommost places in the index.

The index assesses which locations around the world provide the best or the worst living conditions.

The survey ranks countries across indicators including stability, healthcare, education, infrastructure, culture and environment.

**NATIONAL DAY**

**Teachers’ Day 2019 – September 5**

The day marks the birth anniversary of Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, India's first Vice President (1952-1962) and second President (1962-1967).

It was first celebrated in 1962, the year he became the second President of India.
Teachers’ Day is dedicated to all the teachers, gurus and mentors who guide their successors to become better human beings in life.

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was one of India’s most distinguished scholars of the 20th century.


Dr. Radhakrishnan was one of the founders of Helpage India, a renowned NGO for elderly underprivileged in India.

He was conferred with the Bharat Ratna, India’s highest civilian award, in 1954.

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was nominated for the Nobel Prize 27 times, 16 times for the Nobel Prize in literature and 11 times for the Nobel Peace Prize.

He was also awarded knighthood in 1931 and honorary membership of the British Royal Order of Merit in 1963.

President Ram Nath Kovind gave way National Awards to 46 teachers chosen from across the country to celebrate the Teachers Day.