Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu – High court orders the suspension of Justice R Ragupathi Commission
  - It was constituted in 2011 to probe the irregularities in the construction of new Assembly-cum-Secretariat complex between 2006 and 2011

- Tamil Nadu – S Chitra, First Woman Chief Planner of CMDA Passes Away
  - She was credited for her contributions to drafting the 2nd Masterplan for the Chennai Metropolitan Area, 2026
  - She also played a significant role in the Heritage conservation committee
SCHEMES

★ Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

✓ Government – achieves the target of 5 crore LPG connections within 27 months instead of the original deadline of 35 months

✓ Recipient of 5 crore th LPG Connection - Smt Takrdiran of Delhi

✓ States with Maximum connections

✓ Uttar Pradesh (87 lakhs)
✓ West Bengal (67 lakhs)
✓ Bihar (61 lakhs)
✓ Madhya Pradesh (45 lakhs)
✓ Rajasthan (37 lakhs)
✓ Odisha (30 lakhs)

✓ It has to be noted that 47% of overall beneficiaries are from weaker sections of society i.e., SC/STs
PMUY

- Launched – 1st May 2016
- Tagline - Swachh Indhan, Behtar Jeevan
- Objective – to provide clean-cooking fuel to poor households
- Implementation - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas through its Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) i.e., IOC, BPCL and HPCL
- Target - 5 crore BPL households by 31 March 2019, which was later revised to 8 crores with a budget allocation of Rs 12,800 crores.

STATES

Mission Kakatiya Project

- Telangana – signed MoU with ‘International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics’ (ICRISAT)
➤ **Objective** - to conduct a research on the impact of Mission Kakatiya programme.

➤ **Areas covered**

- Impact of de-siltation on water availability for irrigation,
- Changes in cropping pattern
- Recharge of groundwater.

➤ **Mission Kakatiya**

- It is a program for restoring all the minor irrigation tanks and lakes in Telangana
- The programme helps in rejuvenating 46,531 tanks and lakes, storing 265 TMC of water across the state in five years
- The tanks and lakes are dug to remove silt for increasing water storage capacity.

⭐ **Telangana** – signs MoU with **Tech Mahindra** to launch India’s 1st **Blockchain District** at Hyderabad

- **Occasion** – International Block chain Congress 2018 at Hyderabad

  ![International Blockchain Congress](image)

- **Objective** – To be a centre of excellence cum incubator and a process development center in Block chain Technology to accelerate growth of Indian start-ups and companies with innovative infrastructure and facilities
✓ **Block chain Technology** - is a decentralized incorruptible digital ledger for storing data across peer-to-peer network, without copying it.

✓ Information is stored in the Block chain, through a shared database that can be accessed on a real-time basis.

✓ This shared database is stored in the cloud and not on a server, thereby allowing to store unlimited data.

✓ It is transparent and is not controlled by any entity.

✓ The most popular application of this Block chain technology is the ‘crypto currencies’.

**Himachal Pradesh** – launches ‘Shaur Nahin’ mobile application & ‘Horn Not Ok’ Campaign In The State

 ✓ **Objective** - To spread awareness of unnecessary blowing horn as it creates unnecessary noise pollution

 ✓ Launched at – Shimla and Manali (First phase of the campaign)

 ✓ **Shaur Nahin App**

   ✓ The app will enable general public to report cases of noise pollution

   ✓ It has settings for two types of users general public and officers

   ✓ Complaints received through this app will be immediately made available to concerned police officer, who can later respond with the action taken report on the application itself
**Kerala** – Makes E-Way Bill Mandatory for inter-state goods movement

- To implement it, it has set up 190 inspection squads

**Kerala** – A patient with suspected **West Nile Fever** has been admitted in Kozhikode Government Medical college hospital – making it a 1st known case in the country

- Symptoms
  - Most people infected with West Nile virus have no signs or symptoms.
  - Risk factor: You are more likely to get the virus if you are exposed to mosquito bites
  - **VIRUS CAN CAUSE**
    - Encephalitis (inflammation of the brain)
    - Meningoencephalitis (inflammation of the brain and its surrounding membrane)
    - Meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord)
  - Fever, Headache, Body aches, Vomiting, Diarrhoea, Fatigue, Skin rash

**Tripura** – India & Japan to Cooperate in Bamboo sector in the state

- **Occasion** - Bridging Japan and India by Bamboo – a Workshop

- The Japanese team held a workshop at the Bamboo and Cane Development Institute, Agartala.

- A Rs 1000-crore soft loan agreement is going to be signed between Japan and Tripura Government.
Karnataka - Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd is setting up the floating solar power plants on the three water storage reservoirs on its premises

- Energy output – 6 MW
- Operation – 2019

NATIONAL

Lok Sabha – Passes National Sports University Bill, 2018

- Objective – to set up the country’s 1st National Sports University in Imphal (west), Manipur – to provide sports education, research and coaching
- Introduced by - Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports on July 23, 2018
- Set up cost – Rs 524 crores
✓ **Key Points**

✓ The Bill replaces National Sports University Ordinance, 2018 promulgated by President on May 31, 2018

✓ It empowers the University to grant degrees, diplomas and certificates

✓ It was approved in 2014-15 budget with Rs.100 crore allocation

✓ All administrative affairs of the University to be managed by an executive committee, which consists of a Vice-Chancellor (appointed by the central government), Joint Secretary of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and four persons from among eminent sports persons and distinguished coaches

🌟 **Paryatan Parv** – to be organized across the country – from 16th to 27th Sep, 2018

✓ Organised by - The Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with other Central Ministries, State Governments and Stakeholders

✓ **Objective** - to focus on the benefits of tourism, showcasing the cultural diversity of the country and reinforce the principle of “Tourism for All”
Key Points

- It will start with the India Tourism Mart 2018 (16th – 18th September 2018)
- It will conclude with the World Tourism Day celebrations on 27th September 2018

TRAI Recommendations

- Zero Telecom equipment Imports by the year 2022
- The setting up of Rs 1000 crore fund for promoting Research and innovation
- TRAI - The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

List of Fugitive Economic Offenders – submitted in Lok sabha by the Finance Ministry

- Vijay Mallya (Kingfisher) – Rs 7500 crores
- Mehul Choksi (Gitanjali Jewels) – Rs 7080 crores
- Nirav Modi (Nirav Modi Global Diamond Jewellery House) - Rs 6498 crores
- Chetan Sandesara, Nitin Sandesara and Diptiben Sandesara (Sterling Biotech) – Rs 5383 crores
- Jatin Mehta (Winsome diamonds) – Rs 4625 crores
IIT, Kanpur & Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd – have jointly developed a 10 kg Rotary Wing Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)

- It was tested successfully in Bengaluru
- It can operate for an hour and travel 8-10 km.
- It is powered by a 2 stroke petrol engine and can carry a payload of 2.5 kg

China – Chinese researchers create World’s 1st Single-Chromsome Yeast
Background

✓ Normally Brewer’s Yeast has 16 chromosome

✓ However, the path-breaking researchers managed to fit all the genetic material within a single chromosome, without affecting the other functions

✓ The researchers used CRISPR-Cas9 genome-editing to create a single-chromosome yeast

✓ Yeast is a type of eukaryote, which includes humans, plants and animals

★ Bermuda Triangle Mystery

✓ British scientists have claimed 100 ft ‘Rogue waves’, which last only for a few minutes, could be the reason for the sinking of boats in the mysterious Bermuda triangle

✓ Bermuda triangle is also known as Devil’s triangle

✓ These Rogue waves are first identified by satellites in 1997 off South African coast
ECONOMY

✦ World’s Biggest Stock Market In Terms Of Market Value

✔ Japan overtakes China as the World’s 2nd biggest Stock market

✔ Japan’s stock market value - $6.17 trillion

✔ China’s stock market value - $6.09 trillion

✔ United states - has the world's largest stock market at just over $31 trillion.

✔ Earlier, China's stock market overtook Japan's in 2014 and soared to an all-time high of over $10 trillion in 2015.

APPOINTMENTS

✦ India – elected President of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) for a period of two years.

✔ Occasion – During 44th annual gathering of AIBD in Colombo
✓ Process – India won the voting, ahead of Iran

✓ F. Sheheryar, Director General of All India Radio - Re-elected as chair of the executive board

✓ Sri Lanka - Elected as vice-chair.

✓ **AIBD**
  ✓ Established – 1977
  ✓ Parent Body – UNESCO
  ✓ Secretariat – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
  ✓ Number of member countries – 26

★ **Ms Vijay Thakur Singh** – appointed Secretary in the Min of External Affairs

✓ She is currently India’s ambassador to Ireland

✓ She replaces Preeti Saran
SPORTS

★ Asian Nations Cup Chess Tournament, Iran

- **Indian Team**
  - Men – Silver (Gold – Iran Green team)
  - Women – Bronze (Gold – China and Silver-Vietnam)

- **Blitz Event**
  - Women – India – Gold
  - Men – India – 4th Place
Smriti Mandhana – becomes 2nd Indian Cricketer to score a Hundred in Women’s T20 cricket

Mithali Raj – was the 1st Indian woman cricketer to score a century in T20 international cricket (100 not out for Railways in 2017)

Latest ITTF (Table Tennis) Rankings

Tamilnadu’s A Sharath Kamal – becomes top-ranked Indian at 33rd place

Tamilnadu’s G Sathiyan – 39th place

Manika Batra (Haryana) – ranked at 57th is the only Indian woman in the top 100
Biel Masters chess tournament, Switzerland
✓ India’s Vaibhav Suri wins the event with 7 points

Louis Phillippe Cup Golf tournament, Bengaluru
✓ India’s Rahil Gangee wins the tournament

INDEX

Delhi Tops In Investment Potential Index, Followed By Tamil Nadu

LEADERS & LAGGARDS

The 2018 NCAER-State Investment Potential Index

TOP 5

Delhi 1  ▶️ +1
Tamil Nadu 2  ▶️ +4
Gujarat 3  ◀️ -2
Haryana 4  ◀️ 0
Maharashtra 5  ▶️ +3

BOTTOM 5

Odisha 17  ◀️ -6
UP 18  ▶️ +2
Assam 19  ◀️ -2
J’khand 20  ◀️ -2
Bihar 21  ◀️ -2

Best Performing Markets in 2018
✓ 1st – India ($2.2 trillion market cap)
SUNITA WILLIAMS IN AN ELITE LEAGUE

★ Sunita Williams, Indian-origin Astronaut, among 9 astronauts chosen - to fly on Boeing and SpaceX flights

★ NASA Selected Astronauts

✓ Sunitha Williams
✓ Victor Glover
✓ Mike Hopkins
✓ Bob Behnken
✓ Doug Hurley
✓ Nicole Aunapu Mann
✓ Chris Ferguson
✓ Eric Boe
✓ Josh Cassada

✓ NASA has unveiled the list of first astronauts to fly on private spaceships built by SpaceX and Boeing
The astronauts will be the first Americans to launch into orbit from U.S. soil since NASA's space shuttle program shut down in 2011.

NASA's first astronauts, Mercury Seven, were announced in 1959.

There are four flights in all — two each for SpaceX’s ‘Crew Dragon’ and Boeing’s ‘CST-100 Starliner’ vehicle.

The list has 8 NASA astronauts and 1 Boeing astronaut.

Proposed Launch – 2019

Destination – International Space station (ISS)

🌟 Sunitha Williams

- Born – Sep 19, 1965 at Euclid (Ohio), United States
- Total Time in space - 321 days 17 hours 15 minutes
- She came to NASA from the Navy where she was a test pilot and rose to the rank of captain before retiring
- She formerly held the records for total spacewalks by a woman (seven) and most spacewalk time for a woman (50 hours, 40 minutes).
- Williams was assigned to the International Space Station as a member of Expedition 14 and Expedition 15
- On April 16, 2007, she ran the first marathon by any person in space
- She holds the record for longest single spaceflight by a woman spanning 192 days
✓ She became the commander of the International Space Station on September 17, 2012, being only the second woman to achieve the feat.

✓ Also in September 2012, she became the first person to do a triathlon in space

✓ Williams has made seven spacewalks so far, totaling 50 hours and 40 minutes, putting Williams in No. 7 on the list of most experienced spacewalkers

✓ She was awarded the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Vishwa Pratibha Award by the World Gujarati Society, the first person of Indian descent who was not an Indian citizen, to be presented the award.

NEWS IN PICTURES

★ WHO Appreciates Swachh Bharat Gramin Initiative Of The Government

✓ It is estimated that 3 lakh deaths were prevented in 5 years due to the SBM-G initiative

✓ There are 4.09 lakh declared ODF (Open defecation free) villages as of Aug 2018

✓ Under SBM-G, 19 states/UT’s & 421 districts were declared ODF

![Graph showing ODF coverage over years](image-url)
BARACK OBAMA
(AUGUST 4, 1961)

★ 44th President of United States of America [January 20, 2009 – January 20, 2017]

★ Before winning the presidency, Obama represented Illinois as fifth African-American member in the U.S. Senate (January 4, 2005 – November 16, 2008)

★ First African-American presidential Candidate In US [August 27-28, 2008]

★ Awarded Nobel Prize for Peace in October 9, 2009

★ 2015 – Chief Guest for Indian Republic Day celebrations
EARLY LIFE:

- Born in 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.
- Parents - Barack Obama Senior and Ann Dunham
- Born to a white mother and a black father

EDUCATION:

- Obama graduated from high school in 1979
- Later, he moved to Los Angeles to attend Occidental College
- He graduated with a BA degree in Columbia University at 1983
- In 1988, he enrolled in Harvard Law School.
- After graduation, he became a Civil Rights Attorney and a Professor at the University of Chicago Law School from 1992 to 2004.

VENTURE INTO POLITICS:

- Political Party – Democratic
- He joined the firm of Miner, Barnhill & Galland to practice as a civil rights lawyer. He served as an associate for three years from 1993 to 1996, then as counsel from 1996 to 2004.
- Obama was elected to the Illinois Senate in 1997
- He represented the 13th district for three terms in the Illinois Senate from 1997 to 2004
- In 2008, he was nominated for President from the Democratic Party by defeating Hillary Clinton
- In the 2008 Presidential elections, he defeated Republican John McCain and became the 44th President of USA
- In December 19, 2012 elections, he was re-elected for the 2nd term as the President by defeating the Republican Mitt Romney
ACHIEVEMENTS DURING HIS PRESIDENCY

- **2015 Paris** Agreement on global climate change
- Obamacare
- Killing of Osama Bin Laden
- Brokered a nuclear deal with Iran
- Normalised U.S. relations with Cuba

Awards & Achievements

- He is the recipient of 2 Best Spoken Word Album Grammy Awards. He won the awards for the abridged audiobook versions of ‘Dreams from My Father’ (2006) and for ‘The Audacity of Hope’ (2008).

- In 2009, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Barack Obama "for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples".

- The ‘Time’ magazine named Obama as its Person of the Year twice, in 2008 and in 2012.