Microsoft has announced the addition of Tamil 99 - the popular Tamil language virtual keyboard - to Windows 10 PCs as part of the latest Windows update made available in April 2018.

New feature works with both hardware as well as touch keyboards providing another convenient option for Tamil text input.

While the Tamil keyboard based on InScript standard has been available on various Windows since 2010, the Tamil 99 keyboard adds to the number of choices available to Windows 10 users.

Standardised and approved by the Tamil Nadu Government in 1999, the Tamil 99 keyboard layout was created to help Tamil users type in a faster and simpler manner.
தமிழக அரசு காங்கிரசு இல்லாம பாதுகாப்பு

முன்னாட்டுரையில் குறிப்பிட்டு அமைக்கப்படுகின்றது

- தமிழக அரசின் முதலாம் தமிழக முன்னாட்டுப் போட்டியில் குறிப்பிட்டு தமிழக முன்னாட்டு தொகுப்பின் தலைவர் இந்திய முன்னாட்டு தலைவராக நிறுவப்பட்டார்.

- தலைவர் பிறந்து கொண்டு பாதுகாப்பு நிறுவனம் மத்தியச்சுற்று வளைந்து விளையாடும் அதிகாரச் சான்றாகப் பயன்படுத்தி விளையாட்டு நிறுவனம் மத்தியச்சுற்று அரச தயாரிப்பின் காரணமாக 2006-ம் ஆண்டில் தலைவர் பாதுகாப்பு தலைவராக நிறுவப்பட்டார்.

- அரச காங்கிரசு அமைக்கப்பட்டு தற்போது பாதுகாப்பு நிறுவனம் குறிப்பிட்டது புதுச்சைவாக விளையாடும் விளையாட்டிற்கு வேலைப்படுத்துண்டு.
Parliament Passes Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018

- Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha in July 2018
- It was unanimously passed in Rajya Sabha on August 6, 2018
- Bill ensures stringent punishment for those convicted of raping girls below 12 years of age
- Bill replaces the Criminal Law Ordinance which was promulgated by President of India Mr. Ram Nath Kovind on April 22, 2018.

Key Features of the Bill

- Bill stipulates a minimum jail term of 20 years which may go up to life in prison or death sentence for the rape of a girl under 12 years
- Perpetrators involved in the gangrape of a girl below 12 years of age will get life imprisonment or death
- In case of rape of a girl below 16 years, the minimum punishment has been increased from 10 to 20 years and it is extendable to life imprisonment
- Punishment for the gangrape of a girl below 16 years of age will invariably be imprisonment for the rest of the life of the convict
- Fast-track special courts will be set up to exclusively deal with rape cases
- Apart from this, only a woman judge will hear the rape case and a woman police officer will record the statement of rape victims
- Bill amends Indian Penal Code (IPC), Criminal Procedure Code, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Indian Evidence Act
State Governments

➢ Four states - Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Arunachal Pradesh already have brought in law for death penalty to those who rape girls below 12 years

Lok Sabha Passes SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018

➢ Lok Sabha on August 6, 2018 passed the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018.

➢ Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawar Chand Gehlot
Bill overturns the judgment of the Supreme Court on March 20, 2018 which allegedly ‘diluted’ some provisions of the law protecting Dalits and tribals from atrocities.

**Provisions of the Bill**

- Bill states that the investigating officer will not require the approval of any authority for the arrest of an accused.
- A preliminary enquiry will not be required for the registration of a First Information Report against a person accused under the Act.
- SC/ST Act 1989 states that persons accused of committing an offence under the Act cannot apply for anticipatory bail.
- Bill seeks to clarify that this provision will apply despite any judgements or orders of a court that provide otherwise.
- Bill restores the original provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

**States**

**TELANGANA - Life Insurance Scheme for Farmers**

- State Government of Telangana has launched the first-of-its-kind life insurance programme on August 6, 2018.
- Amount – **Rs.5 lakh** for the farmers in the State.
- Scheme is called **Rythu Bandhu Life Insurance Bonds**.
- It is expected to benefit 2.8 million farmers and their families.
Key Highlights

- Under the scheme, the families of the farmers will get the insurance amount irrespective of whether the farmer’s death is natural or accidental.

- Insurance amount will be given to the farmer’s family within **10 days**

- Distribution of insurance papers to the farmers would begin from August 15, 2018.

- Scheme has been launched with a rough investment of **Rs.650 crore**
➢ **Andhra Pradesh** – world’s 1st **Thermal battery plant** inaugurated by the State’s Chief Minister, Chandra babu Naidu in Amaravati

➢ It will be manufactured by Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited

➢ Project cost – Rs 660 crores

➢ Capacity - 1,000 MW and would be enhanced to 10 GW in the next six to seven years.

➢ It is expected to start commercial operations by May 2019

➢ In the first phase, batteries suited for telecommunications, mini or microgrids and electric buses would be manufactured

➢ The batteries are expected to run for up to 800kms on a single charge.
Uttar Pradesh - Mughalsarai Railway Junction of Uttar Pradesh was renamed as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction Railway station on August 5, 2018.

- Amit Shah, Bhartiya Janata Party National President, inaugurated the renamed station.
- On the same occasion, a goods train with an all-woman crew, the first time in the country, was also flagged off.

**Background**

- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya was found dead, in Feb 1968, near the Mughalsarai station.
- It is also the birthplace of former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.
- The railway station was set up in 1862 when the East India Company linked Howrah to Delhi by rail.
 ➢ **Manipur** – constitutes 2 committees to monitor illegal immigrants

- The first is State Level Monitoring Committee which will monitor the entry or presence of illegal immigrants in the state, headed by Special Secretary (Home)

- The second is the District Level Monitoring Committee with respective deputy commissioners as its chairman

 ➢ **Uttarakhand** – bans the use of Elephants for Commercial purpose in the State

- The authorization comes from the Uttarakhand high court, which has directed the Forest department of the State to rescue all the elephants within 24 hours

- Around 40 resorts situated around Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR) receive tourists throughout the year and the Elephants are used to entertain the Guests there

**NATIONAL**

➢ **Chandrayan - 2 Mission – Was Again Postponed to January 2019**
✓ Initially it was planned to be launched in April 2018 and was later fixed for October 2019

✓ Chandrayan-2 is the ambitious 2nd Moon mission of ISRO

✓ Earlier Mission of Chandrayan took place in 2008, which was only an orbiter mission.

✓ The Chandrayan-2 involves an orbiter, lander and rover

✓ ISRO is going to attempt to land rover on moon’s south-pole, for the 1st time

✓ The mission involves soft-landing on lunar surface, which is the most complex exercise

✓ Only US, Russia and China have been able to soft-land spacecraft on lunar surface and Israel is also planning to do the same by the year end

➢ Four Member Group of Ministers (GoM) – set up by the Government to advise whether to continue with or withdraw from the 16-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations
The constituent Members of the GoM are –

- Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry (Head)
- Piyush Goyal, Finance and Power Minister
- Nirmala Sitharaman, Defence Minister
- Hardeep Puri, Housing and Urban Affairs Minister

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

It is a free trade agreement between 16 member countries, comprising 10 ASEAN countries and 6 ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners - Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand

Startup India – launches the new programme ‘Startup Academia Alliance’

- It is a unique mentorship opportunity between academic scholars and startups working in similar domains
- It aims to reduce the gap between scientific research and its industrial applications
➢ **Halkaa (Relief)** – a new movie produced under the **Swachh Bharat Mission** – launched by Hardeep S Puri, Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Affairs

- The movie is about an 8 year old boy Pichku, who was against the practice of open defecation

➢ **International Conference on “Sustainable Growth through Material Recycling: Policy Prescriptions”**

- Organised by – NITI Aayog

- Inaugurated by - Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport, Highways & Ganga Rejuvenation
‘Festival of Democracy’ – inaugurated in Thiruvananthapuram

✓ Inauguration by - Ram Nath Kovind, Hon’ble President of India
✓ Occasion - to mark the conclusion of the diamond jubilee celebrations of the Kerala legislative assembly.

Bidder Information Management System (BIMS) – a new initiative was developed by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

✓ Inauguration by - Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways
✓ Objective - to streamline the process of pre-qualification of bidders for contracts of all National Highway works with enhanced transparency and objectivity.
India Post Payments bank – to be launched by the PM on August 21, 2018

- It will have at least one branch in every district and focus on financial services in rural areas
- It was the third entity to receive payments bank permit after Airtel and Paytm.
- Payments banks can accept deposits up to Rs 1 lakh per account from individuals and small businesses

- **French Company IDEMIA** - has become the 1st company to be given the certification to manufacture and personalise RuPay chip contact and contactless cards - on the qSPARC v2 platform.

- The certification is issued by the National Payments Corporation of India, after testing all payment scenarios.
**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **RISECREEK** - 1\textsuperscript{st} set of Indigenous Microprocessors developed by IIT Madras

- They industry-standard microchips were developed as part of Project Shakti

- They are fabricated at Intel’s facility at Oregon, US for free to run Linux operating system

- Project shakti – started in 2014

- **Xingkong - 2** – China’s 1\textsuperscript{st} hypersonic “waverider” flight vehicle (aircraft) was successfully tested
✓ It is also known as ‘Starry Sky-2’

✓ It is a flight vehicle that flies in atmosphere and utilises shockwaves generated by its own hypersonic flight with air to fly at high speed

✓ Apart from China, United States and Russia also carry out similar experiments

✓ It can carry both conventional and nuclear warheads

✓ It has capability to penetrate any current generation anti-missile defence systems

DEFENCE

➤ **Maitree 2018** – Joint Military exercise between Indian Army and Royal Thai Army was conducted in Thailand from 6 to 19 August 2018

✓ It mainly emphasized to sharpen tactical and technical skills in joint counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations
ECONOMY

- **RBI** – has approved the **Umbrella Organisation** (UO) – to revive Urban co-op banking (UCB) sector

- Gujarat is the first State in the country to have an UO for the UCB sector.

- Sahakar Setu 2018 – a 2 day conference and exhibition of co-operative banking sector is conducted in Ahmedabad on this occasion

PERSONALITIES

- **Indra Nooyi – Steps Down as CEO Of Pepsico After 12 Years**

- She will be succeeded by Ramon Laguarta, who becomes the 6th CEO of the company

- She continues to be the Chairman of the company till early 2019

- **Indra Nooyi’s Time Line**

- Nooyi is a Chennai-born, 1st Foreign and 1st Woman CEO of Pepsico

- She completed her MBA from Indian Institute of Management Calcutta in 1976 and attended Yale School of Management in 1978 and earned a master's degree in Public and Private Management.
✓ Nooyi joined PepsiCo in 1994 as head of corporate strategy

✓ She became the President and CFO of the company in 2001

✓ She was named CEO of the company in 2006

✓ She assumed the role of Chairman of the Board of Directors in 2007.

✓ She became the 1st Female independent director of International cricket council (ICC) in Feb 2018

✓ During her tenure, PepsiCo’s annual net profit rose from $2.7 billion to $6.5 billion. During her tenure, the company's shares also rose to 78%

✓ **Accolades**

✓ In 2007 and 2008, Nooyi was named on Wall Street Journal's list of 50 women to watch and was listed among Time's 100 Most Influential People in the World.

✓ She was named as the 3rd Most Powerful Woman in Business by Forbes in 2008 and was ranked 13th in 2014 She was ranked the most powerful woman in Business in 2009 and 2010 by Fortune.

✓ She was ranked the 6th most powerful woman in the world in October 2010 by Fortune and the 2nd most powerful in 2015

✓ In 2008, Nooyi was named one of America's Best Leaders by US News & World Report.

✓ In the same year, she was elected to the Fellowship of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and was elected Chairwomen of the US-India Business Council (USIBC)

✓ In 2007, she was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India.
SPORTS

- **Swastika Ghosh (India)** claimed a bronze medal in the junior girls' doubles along with Singapore's Jingyi Zhou - in the 2018 Hang Seng Hong Kong Junior and Cadet Open

- **Mosaad Aldossary, an 18-year-old Saudi National Gamer** has been crowned champion of the FIFA eWorld Cup Grand Final
Gurugram Ranks 1st in the Central Pollution control board’s study with Air Quality Index (AQI) crossing 300 mark

Attributed to the Dust storm from the Middle East
INDONESIA SHAKEN

98 no. of people killed

236 injured

13,000 houses damaged

20,000 people displaced

2,000 tourists evacuated

Lombok 120
Aftershocks felt since Sunday quake

2 Jolts In A Week
A July 29 quake killed 17 people.
Sunday’s quake was 5 times stronger than the previous one

Quake struck at a depth of 10.5 kilometres. Shallow quakes tend to cause more damage than deeper ones.
REMEMBERING RABINDRANATH TAGORE ON HIS DEATH ANNIVERSARY

EARLY LIFE

- Born as Rabindranath Thakur on May 7, 1861 at Calcutta
- Parents - Debendranath Tagore and Sarada Devi
- Wife - Mrinalini Devi

FONDLY CALLED

- Gurudev
- Bard of Bengal

EDUCATION

- Tagore largely avoided classroom schooling
- He learned drawing, anatomy, geography and history, literature, mathematics, Sanskrit, and English
- Tagore enrolled at a public school in Brighton, East Sussex, England in 1878
In 1880, he returned to Bengal without any degree

After returning to Bengal, Tagore regularly published poems, stories and novels

**SHANTINIKETAN**

- Tagore moved to Shantiniketan to found an ashram in **1901**
- He published Naivedya and Kheya and translated poems into free verse
- Middle years of Tagore was spent in Shantiniketan
- He started an experimental school at Shantiniketan where he tried his Upanishadic ideals of education

**FREEDOM MOVEMENT**

- Tagore participated in the Indian nationalist movement, though in his own non-sentimental and visionary way
- Mahatma Gandhi was his devoted friend
- Tagore was knighted by the ruling British Government in 1915, but he renounced the honour as a protest against the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in April 1919

**SOCIAL REFORMER**

- He was against caste system and untouchability
- He penned Dalit heroes for his poems and his dramas
- Tagore campaigned successfully to open Guruvayoor Temple to Dalits

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Awarded Noble Prize for Literature in **1913** for his work *Gitanjali*, the first non-European to win the prize
- Founded Visva Bharati University
Composer of national anthems for two countries

- India's Jana Gana Mana
- Bangladesh's Amar Shonar Bangla.

Sri Lankan national anthem was inspired by his work

LITERARY WORKS

- Gora
- Rabindra Sangeet
- Ghare Baire
- Kabuliwallah
- The Postmaster

REMEMBERANCE

- He passed away on August 7, 1941 at the age of 80 at Calcutta
- Several stamps have been issued by different countries like Brazil, Argentina, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh
- On 8th May 1987, a lovely 2-rupee stamp was issued featuring his self portrait
Dr. M. S. SWAMINATHAN
(AUGUST 07, 1925)

1. திசைவியலின் கிளையாளார் வெள்ளாகல் கி. இராச்சிய வெளியூர், பக்தம் புனிதமான குண்டல் வேலு அவருக்குப் போன்றோரின் கின்னாங்குவரின் (M.S. Swaminathan) பொறுப்புக் கிமான திகழ்வு (அக்தூபோ 7).

2. அவர் பிறர் 1942-ம் ஆண்டு போன்று விளங்கிய மிகவும் பாளிக் கதை. வேலூர் தமிழ்நாடு அரசாளிகளின் விளங்குவதற்கு பதிலாக பெரும் பாடல் கொண்டார். உள்ளே வேலூர் தமிழ்நாடு தில்லியில் பல்வேறு பல்வேறு பெரும் பார்வைகள் கதையும் பதிலியலின் பாடல் பெரும் பாடல் கொண்டார்.

3. பிறர் அதிகாரிப்பார் 1948-ம் ஆண்டு வருடானாக. அவர் பல்வேறு பல்வேறு செயற்கைகளின் விளங்குவதற்கு பதிலாக பல்வேறு பாடல் கொண்டார். வேலூர் தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணிக்காரன் திருமண, துறவுக்கான தேசிய ஆவணிக்காரன் கொண்டார், புதுக்காண்டள வழிபாட்டார்.

5. 1960களில் இரண்டு பத்தாண்டுகள் பாதுகாப்பு அமைக்கப்பட்ட திருத்தாசிரியர் வங்கியக் காரணத்தில் பிள்ளை விட்டத்தில் விலைப்பட்டது. ‘திருத்தாசிரியர் இரண்டு பத்தாண்டுகளுக்கு விளையாட்டுகள் நடந்த போல மாரிய நிலை. தேச பொருளாதாரத்திற்கான பொருளாதாரத் திருத்தாசிரியரால் வரும் முறையில் திருத்தாசிரியரால் அமிர்த முறை, அதிக வருமானம் பெற அதிக முறையாக திருத்தாசிரியரால். இது ‘நான்கு பார்வை’ நான்பு பார்வையுடன் பிரித்து திருத்தாசிரியர் கான்கிறார்.

6. இவ்விதமான வேறுபாடு என்பது நேரத்தில் நவாயுதத்தனியான திருத்தாசிரியர் தன்னியலம் பெறுமத்தாகவே. நாயக்கா அன்னையா வழங்குவதற்காக நவாயுதத் தொகுப்பால் அமிர்த வருமானத்தை அழக்கி அவர்களின் நான் அவர்களின் திருத்தாசிரியர் தன்னியலை பெற்றார்

7. இவ்விதமான வேறுபாடு இருவர் இருவர் இருவர், வேலாசுரை இருவர் இருவர் நான் நான் நான் இருவர் முதலே ஒருவர் முதலே ஒருவர் ஏற்பாடு என்று கூறுகிறார். ‘பார்வை திருத்தாசிரியரால் சந்த கைவு’ நடந்தார். பார்வை திருத்தாசிரியரால் ஆண்டு அடுக்கிய வருடம் 1988-க்கு நேரானார்

8. திருத்தாசிரியரால் இரு ஆண்டுகள் பத்தாண்டுகளும் அமைந்த நவாயுதத்தில் பொருளாதாரால் அனைந்து திருக்கா தொகுப்பால் அழக்கி திருத்தாசிரியரால். நான்கு திருக்கா தொகுப்பால் குறுகு விளையாட்டு. நான்கு திரு குறுகு விளையாட்டு பார்வை பதனித்து வசதிகள் வங்கிப்பட்டனார்.
9. கிண்வெப்பு மகாகிரி வெப்பமாக, தொல்லியல் ஆக்கப்பட்டுக்குச் செயல்பிரிவு பந்தனைக்குறுக்கில் மேல்வாழ்வா ‘சாந்திரன்’ விளையாட்டு நுழைவூட்டு முக்கியமான விளைவை எதிர்க்க அவர்கள் 40-க்கும் வெப்பமான விளக்கத்திற்குப் பதிவு செய்தனர். எனவே விளக்கத்தில் இரண்டு ஆண்டுகள் கழுது கவுரு எனில் போடும் எடுப்புவழித்தல்.

10. தொல்லியல் துளசை மைதுகளுக்குச் செயல்பிரிவு வாய்ப்பு மகாகிரியார் துளசையார் அம்மனில் விளக்கத்திற்கு பதிவு செய்தன. கொம்மாத்தில் 90 வருடங்களுக்கு முன்னர் ஆக்கப்பட்டுவாய்ப்புகள் பந்தனைக்கு குறித்து பந்தனைக்குறுக்கில் விளையாட்டின்.

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"Developing countries can leapfrog several stages in the development process through the application of biotechnology in agriculture"

On the 1999 'Time 20' list of most influential Asian people of the 20th century

Wants to promote a culture of sustainability, which would result in an "evergreen revolution"

Renowned scientist M S Swaminathan was born on August 7, 1925

FATHER OF THE GREEN REVOLUTION

NOTABLE AWARDS
• Ramon Magsaysay (1971)
• Albert Einstein World Award of Science (1986)
• Padma Vibhushan (1989)
• World Food Prize (1987)

Has published 254 scientific papers in the fields of crop improvement, cytogenetics and genetics, and phylogenetics.