Tamil Nadu

- MGR Centenary Hall at DPI complex, Chennai – foundation stone laid by Hon’ble CM, Tamil Nadu
STATES

➢ Kerala – World’s largest bird sculpture of ‘Jatayu’ – to be inaugurated in Jatayu Earth Center (JEC) at Chadayamangalam in Kollam district, Kerala – on Aug 17 by the CM, Pinarayi Vijayan

✓ It was created by Rajiv Anchal, Sculptor and Film Director
✓ Budget – Rs 100 crores
- GOAMILES – The new Goa Tourism department’s App-based taxi service flagged off by the CM of Goa, Manohar Parrikar

- Goa – becomes the 1st state in the country to start its own App-based taxi service

- Telangana - Benelli, Italian Motorcycle manufacturer signs MoU with Telangana and Adishwar Auto Ride International (AARI) for setting a manufacturing facility

- Initially it would assemble CKD (Completely Knocked Down) kits of the bike for Benelli

- Benelli is one of the oldest Italian motorcycle-manufacturer

- It has a presence in over 60 countries across America, Africa, Europe and Asia Pacific regions.
- **Uttarakhand** – becomes 1st state in the country to issue **ID cards to Gau Rakshaks**

  - The initiative has been taken to distinguish genuine Gau rakshaks from others who resort to violence in the name of cow protection.

- **Karnataka** – becomes the 1st state in the country to **have** two Belgian Malinois into the dog squad of its City Armed Reserve Police

  - This particular breed is used by the police in countries including the U.S.

  - They have more Sniffing power than other breeds and hence used for bomb detection, contraband goods detection and crime scene investigations.

- Karnataka – In a first in the state, Nrupatunga kannada school in Ramakrishnanagar held open-book examinations in different subjects for Classes V to X

- **West Bengal - Kolkata** – to host the next edition of ‘**CuppaSchoola’ Karate** meet

  - It is run by the Indian Professional Karate association and the Boutspro Ultimate Karate League
Government – has removed **29 inhabited Islands in Andaman and Nicobar** from the list of ‘Restricted Area Permit’ until Dec 2022

✓ This has been done under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963

✓ Objective – to increase the visit of tourists and promote tourism in these areas

✓ With this, the tourists can visit these areas without any permission from the Government

✓ However, this is not applicable to citizens of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan

Rajyavardhan Rathore, Sports Minister – announced that the **Sports Period will be made compulsory from 2019** onwards in all the Schools

✓ He also said that there will be a reduction of 50% in the syllabus, to be ensured by the Min of Education

✓ He also welcomed ‘Webb Ellis cup’ to India, launching the 2019 Rugby World Cup Trophy Tour in India

✓ 2019 Rugby World cup is going to be hosted by Japan, for the 1\textsuperscript{st} time in Asia.

✓ The World cup is on a visit across 18 nations as a countdown to the event
TRAI – integrates its 2 Mobile apps ‘DND 2.0’ and ‘MyCall’ with the UMANG platform

- **DND 2.0 App**
  - It is a ‘Do Not Disturb’ Service App, wherein the customers can register their mobile number
  - Once registered, Users can report spam messages or unsolicited calls through the App

- **MyCall App**
  - It is a user friendly application for the quality monitoring of the voice calls
  - It lets the mobile phone users to rate their experience about voice call quality in real time

- **UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) platform**
  - It was developed by National e-Governance Division under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
  - It was launched by the PM on Nov 23, 2017
It is a single platform for all Indian Citizens to access pan India e-Governance services, ranging from Central to Local Government bodies.

It contains 162 services of 33 departments and 4 States.

It supports 13 Indian languages.

It is basically, a single App to avail multiple government services.


The Minister also announced a new annual award for Excellence in National Highway projects – to recognize contractors who display excellent performance.

The winners would be announced on the Good Governance Day on 25th December, 2018.

Bhoomi Rashi

It contains the entire revenue data of the country, right down to 6.4 lakh villages.
The portal serves to reduce the time taken for approval and publication of notifications pertaining to land acquisition

**Public Financial Management System**

- It is a web-based online software application to facilitate sound public financial management system for the Union Government
- With the integration of Bhoomi Rashi with PFMS, payment of Compensation for Land acquisitions by the Ministry to the beneficiaries will be faster

**64th Foundation Day Celebrations of Lalit Kala Akademi in New Delhi – Aug 7, 2018**

- Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State for Culture (I/c) – inaugurated the event
- A book on eminent artist Ganesh Pyne – “A Painter of Eloquent Silence” written by Pranav Ranjan Ray was released during the occasion
- The Minister released the logo of the 12th Triennale India, which is scheduled to be organised by the Akademi in December 2018.
NITI Aayog – identifies 117 districts as ‘Aspirational Districts’ under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan

- It is a scheme with Central assistance to open model Degree colleges in unserved & underserved districts in North Eastern and Himalayan States.

Bharti Airtel and Telecom Egypt - announced a strategic partnership through which the Indian firm will get the right to use sub-marine cable networks -- MENA and TE North

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

51st ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting – starts in Singapore

- Chaired by – Lee Hsien Loong, Foreign Minister of Singapore

- Iran officially joined the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.

- ASEAN - stands for ‘Association of Southeast Asian Nations’

- Permanent Members – Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam (10 countries)
INTERNATIONAL

- **Saudi Arabia** – announced that it is cutting all its diplomatic, trade and investment ties with Canada – for its interference in the Internal Affairs of Saudi Arabia
  - It has also expelled the Canadian ambassador and recalled its own envoy in Canada

- **Nicolas Maduro**, Venezuela's president – escapes an assassination attempt when the explosives detonated just above him during a speech in a military event
  - He replaced the socialist, Hugo Chavez in 2013
Google – officially launches Android 9.0 named ‘Pie’ – with Artificial Intelligence embedded in it for ‘Digital wellbeing’ of the user, as per Google

- It succeeds Android Oreo
- It includes an Adaptive Battery feature that maximizes battery power by prioritizing the apps you're most likely to use next
- It also introduces a new gesture-based system interface like the swipes in iPhone X, for navigating through the operating system
✓ It has a Wind Down Mode to tone down at the end of the day, which activates the ‘Do not disturb’ mode.

✓ It has been rolled out in its own Pixel phones and will be available to other devices later this year

✓ Since Android 1.5, Google has named each version of its mobile operating system after a sweet food — moving sequentially through the letters of the alphabet.

♦ Android 1.5 Cupcake (April 2009)
♦ Android 1.6 Donut (September 2009)
♦ Android 2.0/2.1 Éclair (October 2009, January 2010)
♦ Android 2.2 Froyo (May 2010)
♦ Android 2.3 Gingerbread (December 2010)
♦ Android 3.0/3.1/3.2 Honeycomb (February 2011, May 2011, July 2011)
♦ Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich (October 2011)
♦ Android 4.1/4.2/4.3 Jelly Bean (July 2012, November 2012, July 2013)
♦ Android 4.4 KitKat (October 2013)
♦ Android 5.0/5.1 Lollipop (November 2014, March 2015)
♦ Android 6.0 Marshmallow (October 2015)
♦ Android 7.0/7.1 Nougat (August 2016, December 2016)
♦ Android 8.0/8.1 Oreo (August 2017, December 2017)

✓ **Apple** – to allow the TRAI’s anti-spam App ‘**DND 2.0’** in its latest India-specific changes made to the upcoming operating system ‘iOS12’ to be launched in Sep, 2018

➢ **ISRO** – to **launch GSAT -11, the heaviest communication satellite** at 5700 kg (5.7 tonnes) from French Guiana – on Nov 30, 2018

✓ This will help in increasing internet speed of the country upto 14 gigabit per second data transfer speed.
**MILITARY**

- **Karnataka - Defence India Startup Challenge** – inaugurated in Bengaluru

  ![Defence India Startup Challenge](image)

  - Inauguration by – Nirmala Sitharaman, Defence Minister
  - During the Occasion, MoU’s were signed with 5 Incubators.
  - IIM Ahmedabad, IIT Mumbai, Forge IIT, Madras and T Hub – to provide solutions for defence requirements of the armed forces
  - She also launched SPARK (Support for Prototype and Research kickstart) programme in defence sector

- **Pacific Endeavour 2018** – a communication exercise under the Multinational Communications Interoperability Program (MCIP) - started in Kathmandu, Nepal

  - Objective – to develop common communications operating procedures for the military forces in the Asia Pacific region to collectively work following any disaster.
  - Around 270 personnel from 20 Asia-Pacific Countries are participating in the exercise
  - It is jointly organised by the Nepali Army and United States Pacific Command.
Government – appoints S Gurumurthy and Satish Marathe as Part time ‘Non-official’ Directors on RBI board

- The appointment is for a four year term
- They were made under Section 8(1)(c) of the RBI Act, 1934.
- With these appointments, the total number of Directors rises to 10, the maximum permitted.

List of Directors on RBI board

- Nachiket Mor, Subhash Chandra Garg, Prasanna Kumar Mohanty, Rajiv Kumar, Dilip S. Shanghvi, Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Bharat Narotam Doshi, Sudhir Mankad, Ashok Gulati, and Manish Sabharwal

Swaminathan Gurumurthy

- He is a chartered accountant, an economist and a writer.
- He is the editor of a Tamil political weekly ‘Thuglaq’.
He is the convener of the RSS affiliate Swadeshi Jagaran Manch.

**Satish Kashinath Marathe**

- He is the patron of a NGO, Sahakar Bharati, which works for the co-operative movement in India
- He had worked in various Banks, starting with Bank of India
- He also worked as Honorary Secretary of Indian Banks’ Association and Vice President of Private Sector Bank’s Association.

**The Central Board of Directors of RBI**

- It governs the affairs of the Reserve Bank of India
- The board is appointed by the Government as per the RBI act, 1934
- The Board has 2 types of Directors, Official and Non-official
- The Official Directors are full-time directors. They are Governor and 4 Deputy Governors
- The Non-Official Directors are totally 10 Directors from various fields and two government nominated Officials

- **Government** – appoints Aditya Vikram and Pramod Chandra Mody as members of Central Board of Direct Taxes
- **S Gopakumar** – appointed as the Director and General manager of United India Insurance company (HQ-Chennai)
- **WWE star Glenn Jacobs**, better known as Kane - has been elected Mayor in Tennessee.
- **Anita Kumar** - became the first Indian-American to be elected to the board of the White House Correspondents Association
AWARDS

➢ Amit Sahai – A 43-year-old IT professional from Kolkata—has topped the prestigious Intelligence Quotient (IQ) World list along with two other Americans with a score of 148.

He is also a member of the International High IQ Society.

➢ Arvind Kumar, writer of Hindi Samantar Kosh and famous journalist—has been awarded with the 'Hindi Ratna' award.

➢ Shimla-based filmmaker Devkanya Lotheta’s film “Behind the Bars” — has won the first prize under the Short Film Award Scheme — 2018 of the National Human Rights Commission.
Vikram Sood is the former head of India’s foreign intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing from 2000 to 2003.
**SPORTS**

- **Indian young Footballers wins 2 Tournaments**
  
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<td>Under 16 West Asian Football Federation Cup (WAFF), Jordan</td>
<td>India</td>
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- **Tokyo 2020 Olympics** - Facial Recognition System to be used for the 1st time in the Olympics history
  
  - Developed by – NEC Corp
  - Based on - AI engine called NeoFace

- **ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) Tennis Rankings** – released on 6th Aug, 2018
  
  - Rafael Nadal (Spain)
  - Roger Federer (Switzerland)
  - Alexander Zverev (Germany)

- **FIH (International Hockey Federation) Men’s Hockey Team Rankings** – as on 6th Aug, 2018
  
  - India placed at 5th Spot
  - Australia
Argentina

Belgium

Netherlands

India

In the women’s rankings, the Indian team reached 9th position, the best from any Asian country.

Netherlands remained in the top position of women’s FIH rankings, followed by England, Australia, Argentina and Germany

INTERNATIONAL DAYS

International Friendship Day – celebrated on Aug 5th

It takes place every year on the 1st Sunday of August

It was celebrated since – 1935

Initially it began as a dedication day in United States, but later gained popularity and it is celebrated worldwide now
- International Lighthouse Day – August 7th

- National Handloom day – August 7th
  - Instituted in – 2015
  - Objective – to highlight and honour the contributions of Handloom weavers to the development of our country
OBITUARY

➢ R.K. Dhawan, Veteran Congress Leader – passes away

✓ He was personal secretary to Indira Gandhi when she was Prime Minister of India from 1962 to 1984.

✓ He was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1990.

✓ He was also a member of the Congress Working Committee

✓ He was the Minister of state (independent charge) Housing and Urban Development during 1995-1996

➢ Geetha Bennett, Veena player, vocalist – Passes away
✓ She was the daughter of Ace musician, S Ramanathan

✓ She performed for the composition ‘Scheherazade’ by the Colgate University Orchestra, United States

✓ She performed vocals and veena for the musical production ‘The Creation’, with music by the popular, Jeff Atmajian

✓ She was awarded ‘Best veena player of the season’ by Narada Gana sabha in Dec 2007

✓ She has also received Dr Padmavati Ammal Endowment Prize

✓ She was also conferred the award of ‘Best veena player’ by the Indian Fine arts society, chennai