TAMIL NADU

- Health Department of the State Government – warned that Spouses and Kin of Pregnant Women can be jailed for Fetus Sex test
  - Determining the sex of the fetus is in violation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994

- Dr Ashis Kumar Sen (Department of Mechanical Engineering), IIT Madras – has been chosen for the prestigious ‘Swarnajayanti Fellowship’ given by the central government’s Department of Science and Technology (DST)
  - The fellowship encourages young scientists with a track record of excellence
  - Sen is one of the three faculty to receive this fellowship award in engineering sciences discipline for 2017-18
  - Sen has been a faculty member since 2010
  - He had already secured more than $1 Million of research funding from various agencies to establish a Microfluidics Research Facility in IIT, Madras
  - He has published nearly 70 research papers in prestigious international journals and filed 7 patents
  - The Swarnajayanti Fellowships’ was instituted by the Government to commemorate India's 50th Year of Independence
  - It will cover all the requirements for research and also includes a fellowship of Rs. 25,000/- per month for 5 years
STATES

- Nagaland – becomes the first North Eastern state to launch ‘Single Emergency Number’ 112 - under the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)
  - It was launched on the state’s formation day and the inaugural day of the 2018 edition of the Hornbill Festival on December 1, 2018
  - Nagaland has been allocated Rs 4.88 crore for the project by the Union Government
  - Under the project, one ‘Emergency Response Centre’ will be established in Kohima
  - It replaces separate numbers for Police, fire, Ambulances
  - It is available through voice call or from ‘112 India’ Mobile App
  - The 112 India mobile app includes a unique ‘SHOUT’ feature to ensure the safety of women
  - The Union Government has allocated Rs 321.69 crore under the Nirbhaya Fund for the implementation of the ERSS project across the nation
  - Himachal Pradesh had become the first Indian state to launch the single emergency number ‘112’ service on November 28, 2018
  - The ERSS was recommended by Justice Verma Committee, against the backdrop of Nirbhaya incident in December 2012

- Nagaland – signs MoU with e-Governance Academy of Estonia- for setting up of e-Governance Academy of Nagaland (e-GAN)
  - The five-year Agreement was signed during the on-going 4th edition of the e-Naga Summit

- Maharashtra Government – to allow its citizens to inspect Government records in district-level offices and local bodies – under the RTI act
  - Those who wishes to check the record can directly go to the office on every Monday between 3pm to 5pm without filing RTI applications
  - This is not applicable to Mantralaya, the state secretariat of Maharashtra, due to logistical issues
  - The move is aimed to bring transparency in the functioning of the Government
NATIONAL

- Union Government – signs a loan agreement of $85 million with Asian Development Bank (ADB) – for the Odisha Skill Development Project

- As part of the project, a World Skill Center (WSC) will be established in the state capital, Bhubaneswar
- The state Government will engage Institute of Technical Education Services (ITEES), Singapore - for setting-up of the WSC
  The center will deliver 8 training courses for 13,000 full-time students at a time
- Overall, the project will improve the quality of Technical and vocational education in the state in relevance to the industry needs
- ADB – is a regional developmental bank for Asian region
- It was established in December 1966 with its headquarters in Manila, Philippines
- It has 67 member countries, of which 48 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside

- Train 18 – becomes the country’s fastest train by clocking 180 kmph during the test run in Kota-Sawai Madhopur section

- It was the country’s first indigenously developed engineless train, named after the year 2018 when it was produced
- It had earlier clocked 115 kmph during the trial on tracks in Moradabad division of the Northern Railways
- It is considered as a replacement for the Shatabdi Express, launched in 1988
- The 16-coach train is expected to be launched commercially from January 2019 after the completion of all the tests and trials
- Train 18 – was rolled out at Integral Coach Factory, Chennai in October 2018
- It was developed within a short period of 18 months at a budget of Rs 100 crore
Central Mental Health Authority (CMHA) – has been constituted by the Union Government - to monitor and regulate all mental health institutions in the country
- The Centre had earlier passed the new Mental Health Care Act in 2017
- The CMHA consists of 12 members, both officio and non-officio, including all the stake holders
- The committee is chaired by Sanjeeva Kumar, additional secretary of health, ministry of health and family welfare
- The setting up of the authority is in sync with the ‘United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities’ in which India is a signatory

National Green Tribunal (NGT) - slapped a fine of Rs 25 crore on the government of Delhi – for failing to curb Pollution
- The move is due to the non-compliance of the state Government to shut down at least 51,000 industries running in non-conforming areas across Delhi

Indian Navy – plans to expand its naval base in Chennai
- It is on talks with the Tamil Nadu government and the Chennai Port Trust for the expansion
- It plans to have a new aircraft carrier with 50 planes to be docked in Chennai
- The Navy has a base in Visakhapatnam on the eastern coast and in Mumbai on the western coast

INTERNATIONAL

World Bank – to provide $200 billion – for Climate Action Investment during 2021-25
- The amount is double than the current five year funding by the Agency
- The announcement was made on the sidelines of UN climate summit that started on 03” December 2018 in Katowice (Poland), which was referred as ‘Paris 2.0’

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

International Conference on Bears – starts in Agra from December 3 to 6, 2018
- It saw the participation of more than 80 delegates from 11 countries
- Hosted by - Wildlife SOS, a non-profit Conservation group in association with Bear Care Group from the US and Canada
- It was focused on bear care, wildlife conservation and human wildlife conflict mitigation
DEFENCE

- Indian Navy – to conduct ‘TROPEX’ Exercise from January to March, 2019 – to test the robustness of entire coastal security apparatus

- TROPEX - Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise
- As part of TROPEX, Indian Navy will also conduct ‘Exercise Sea Vigil’, a large-scale coastal defence exercise with the participation of all its Ships, Submarines and Aircrafts
- Indian coast guards (ICG), Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) will also participate in the exercise
- TROPEX is an annual exercise that takes place on Western Seaboard

- Theme - joint Mobility/Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) on Transport aircraft
- IAF is participating with C-17 and An-32 aircrafts in the exercise

ECONOMY

- Unilever – to buy UK-based, GlaxoSmithKline’s Indian consumer business – in a deal valued at Rs 31,700 crore

- GSK has a large presence in Indian health drink segment with Horlicks, Boost, Viva and Maltova
- It also distributes OTC products like Crocin, Sensodyne and Eno
- The deal is touted as the largest deal under outgoing Unilever CEO, Paul Polman
- GSK Consumer Healthcare will be merged subsequently with Unilever’s Indian subsidiary, Hindustan Unilever (HUL)
APPOINTMENTS

- Ajay Narayan Jha - has been appointed as the new Finance Secretary

  - He is the current Expenditure Secretary in the Union Government
  - He replaces Hasmukh Adhia, who retired on November 30, 2018
  - Jha, a Manipur cadre IAS officer, is set to retire on 31st January, 2019 a day before the interim budget is presented
  - Gireesh Chandra Murmu, a Gujarat cadre IAS officer - will take over as the expenditure secretary on 1 February, 2019

- Pawan Singh – becomes the first Indian to be elected in the Judges Committee of the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF)

  - Currently, he is the Joint Secretary General of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)
  - He was also a former coach of the Indian shooting team
  - Pawan Singh was elected one of the seven members Judges Committee during the elections held at Munich
  - The ISSF elections take place every four years
  - Earlier, on November 30, 2018, India’s Raninder Singh, President of NRAI had become the first Indian to be elected Vice President of ISSF
Firhad Hakim, Minister of Municipal Affairs, West Bengal – becomes the first Muslim Mayor of Kolkata since Independence

He was chosen as the 29th Mayor of the city, defeating Meena Devi Purohit

AWARDS

Imran Hussain, Delhi Minister of Food Supplies, Environment and Forest - was awarded “Hero to Animals” by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

The Minister had banned the Chinese Manjha (A thread use in Kites) in Delhi in July 2018

SPORTS

Ullas Narayan - wins India’s first international medal in Ultra Running

He won bronze in the 2018 International Association of Ultra Running (IAU) 24 Hour Asia & Oceania Championships in Taipei, Taiwan

In the Team Event, Indian team comprising Ullas Narayan (250 km), Sunil Sharma (202 km) and L L Meena (192 km) - also won a bronze medal

Ultra races consist of running extremely long distances which are much longer than the traditional races
Indian Chess team – wins silver at the World youth under-16 chess Olympiad, Konya, Turkey

- The team comprises of GM Arjun Erigaisi, International Master P Iniyan, Koustav Chatterjee, Sankalp Gupta and Woman International Master Divya Deshmukh
- The team coached by GM Srinath Naryanan won in 7 out of 9 rounds
- India’s Arjun won individual silver in the tournament while Sankalp won bronze medal

Gagan Sethi, defending champion – won the ninth edition of the JK Tyre Hornbill Rally, Kohima, Nagaland

- He partnered with a new co-driver, Sabatullah Khan for this edition and won the title in the ‘Open’ category

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) - has submitted a formal expression of interest to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) - to bid for the 2032 Olympics

- This is the first time that the IOA has officially submitted its expression of interest to host an Olympic Games in the country
- New Delhi and Mumbai are the top two venues chosen by the IOA, but other venues may also be considered later
- The bid process for the 2032 Olympics will start in 2022 and a host city will be announced in 2025
- Indonesia has already submitted its expression of interest just after successfully hosting the Asian Games
- Other venues that are interested to host the event include Chinese city Shanghai, Brisbane in Australia, North and South Korea together and Germany
INTERNATIONAL DAY

- 47th Indian Navy Day – December 4

The day celebrates the achievements of Indian Navy.
The day is observed every year to commemorate the success of Indian Navy’s ‘Operation Trident’ on Karachi Harbour during the 1971 Indo-Pak war.
INS Nipat, INS Nirghat, and INS Veer, Indian Navy missile boats - played a major role in the attack.
The anti-ship missiles were first used in the region during ‘Operation Trident’.