TAMIL NADU

University of Madras – appoints Professor K Ravichandran as the new Director of Institute of Distance Education (IDE)

* It had also appointed Professor K Pandian, Department of Inorganic Chemistry, as a full-time Controller of Examinations (CoE)

* Prof Pandian is a specialist in Nanotechnology, surface science and catalyst and polymer science, while Prof Ravichandran is an expert in analytical chemistry
* Both these positions were vacant for the last three years
India’s 1st Police booth with Bio-toilet - inaugurated at the Coimbatore Medical college Traffic signal on Avinashi Road

- Coimbatore based Park Group, in collaboration with Pathfinder Business Analysis Private Limited, is setting up the facility at a cost of Rs 4 lakhs
- The firm is also planning to set up 2 more such units at Singanallur traffic signal and SITRA on Avinashi Road.

STATES

- Kerala – to provide free education and vocational training to the children of fishermen who died or went missing in the 2017 Ockhi cyclonic storm
  - For the purpose, the Government had allocated Rs 13.92 crore and identified 194 students as beneficiaries
  - This Project will continue till 2037

NATIONAL

- Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai – to roll out anti-corrosive, Stainless steel body ‘Diesel electric multiple unit’ (DEM) train to Sri Lanka
The train can travel at a maximum speed of 100kmph and can accommodate around 800 passengers

The DEMU is powered with a 1800HP on board engine with a three-phase AC transmission system that requires less maintenance

ICF has been exporting coaches and coach components to countries such as Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola, Nigeria and Uganda since the 1971-72 period

PERSONALITIES

Snehlata Shrivastava, the first woman Secretary General of the Lok Sabha – gets an extension of one year from December 1, 2018 up to November 30, 2019

She was due to retire on November 30 2018

She had earlier served as Secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice and as Special/Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Finance

She had also handled senior positions in the Madhya Pradesh government, including Principal Secretary in the departments of Culture and Parliamentary Affairs

DEFENCE

SIMBEX – The naval exercise between India and Singapore starts in India off Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal
The 25th edition of the exercise will be held between November 10 and 21
- The first harbour phase of the exercise will be held at Port Blair followed by Sea Phase in Andaman Sea
- Second harbour phase will be held at Visakhapatnam followed by the final sea phase in Bay of Bengal
- This will be the largest edition since 1994 in terms of scale and complexity of the exercise
- The previous edition of the exercise was held off Singapore in the South China Sea in May 2017

**Indian Army – gets 3 new artillery weapons - M777 American Ultra Light Howitzers, K9 Vajra, and a ‘Composite Gun Tractor’ for towing some existing guns in service**

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman formally inducted the weapons at the Deolali artillery centre in Nashik.
- This is the first major induction since the Bofors were inducted in the 1980s
- M777 howitzers are US-made light weight guns
- K9 Vajras are South Korea-made self-propelled artillery guns
- The 100 numbers of K9 Vajras will be inducted at a cost of Rs 4,366 crore and will be completed by November 2020
- There will be 7 regiments of M777 howitzers which will be received fully within 2 years
- The M777 is currently operational in Australia, Canada, and Saudi Arabia and has also been deployed in the war in Afghanistan
- The K9 Vajra has been assembled in Larsen & Toubro and will also be produced by L&T for the Indian Army.
APPOINTMENTS

◆ Ashok Kumar Gupta – appointed as Chairperson of Competition Commission of India (CCI)

★ He replaces Sudhir Mital, acting Chairman
★ Gupta is former IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre
★ He will be in office till October 25, 2022 or till he attains 65 years
★ CCI
  ➢ Established – Oct 2003 under The Competition Act, 2002
  ➢ Ministry - Ministry of Cooperate Affairs
  ➢ Objective - to eliminate practices that adversely affect competition in industries, thereby protecting consumer’s interest

◆ Prasana Kumar Dash, Akhilesh Ranjan and Neena Kumar – appointed as new members of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)

★ All three members belong to 1982-batch of the Indian Revenue Service
★ With these appointments, CBDT now has full strength of five members and chairman
★ The two other members of CBDT are IRS officers Aditya Vikram and P C Mody while the board’s Chairman is Sushil Chandra
★ CBDT is supreme body in India for framing and enforcing policies related to direct taxes
★ It is a statutory authority established under The Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963
AWARDS

♦ Swati Chaturvedi – wins ‘Reporters without Borders’ (RSF) Press Freedom Award for Courage

♦ Chaturvedi, who works as a freelance journalist, won the award for her book ‘I am a Troll: Inside the Secret World of the Bharatiya Janata Party’s Digital Army’, an expose on the BJP’s IT cell
♦ The award was presented to her at the Getty Images Gallery in London’s Fitzrovia on November 8

SPORTS

♦ 11th Asian Airgun Championship, Kuwait
♦ Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary - shattered the junior world record and won the 10m air pistol mixed team gold medal

♦ India's junior shooting squad thus ended the championship with a tally of 11 medals, including 4 golds
INTERNATIONAL DAY

♦ World Science Day for Peace and Development – November 10

Science, A Human Right

#ScienceDay | #ISCSMD

World Science Day for Peace and Development
A Global Livestream Event

★ The day highlights the important role that science plays in our society
★ It was proclaimed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2001 and celebrated for the first time in 2002
★ Theme 2018 - "Science, a Human Right"