TAMIL NADU

- Chennai corporation – introduces ‘Gambusia affinis’, a mosquito fish – in open wells and clean water bodies across its 15 zones – to contain mosquito breeding

- As per the body, around 4.5 lakh fishes will be introduced in a phased manner to eradicate the dengue-causing ‘Aedes aegypti’ mosquitoes

- The biological control measure to tackle mosquito larvae includes introducing 2 types of exotic fish namely, Mosquito fish and Guppy fish

NATIONAL

- ISRO – launches GSAT-29 communication satellite aboard GSLV Mark-III rocket from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota
The mission life of the GSAT-29 satellite is over ten years.
GSAT-29 carries Ka/Ku-band high throughput communication transponders.
This is the second test flight of GSLV Mark-III, which will be used for the upcoming Chandrayaan-II mission in January 2019.
The GSLV Mark-III rocket weighs around 640 ton and has a height of 43.4 metres.

- Ministry of HRD – launches ‘Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching’ (ARPIT), a unique initiative of Online professional development of 15 lakh higher education faculty in the country.
- It will be available using the massive open online courses platform ‘SWAYAM’.
- The Ministry also launched ‘LEAP’ (Leadership for Academicians Programme).
- The 3 week training programme, LEAP will be implemented through 15 top institutions like IITs, NITs, TISS, DU, JNU etc.
- It includes a week’s training in the foreign campus of various universities like Harvard University, Oxford University, Purdue University and NTU, Singapore.

- Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister for Rural development – given the additional charge of the Parliamentary affairs.
- Sadananda Gowda, Minister for Statistics – given the additional charge of Chemicals and Fertilisers.
- The move follows the passing away of Ananth Kumar, who was heading both the ministries.

- Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL) has signed MoU with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) - to explore storage of crude oil at Padur underground facility in Karnataka.
- Strategic Petroleum Reserves Program.
- Phase I Storage reserves (10 days capacity of the entire country)
  - Visakhapatnam (1.33 million tons)
  - Mangalore (1.5 million tons)
  - Padur (2.5 million tons)
- Phase II Storage reserves (12 days capacity of the entire country)
  - Chandikhol in Odisha (4 million tons)
  - Padur (2.5 million tons)

- Twitter India – launched #PowerOf18 campaign.
- It was aimed at encouraging youth to participate in various debates and to ensure their engagement for the 2019 general elections.
- The initiative was launched by Twitter CEO, Jack Dorsey and Maya Hari, Vice-President and Managing Director, Asia Pacific, Twitter at IIT, Delhi.
Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) in consultation with National Institute of Wind Energy, Chennai – prepares a draft of new scheme ‘Indian Wind Turbine Certification Scheme’
✓ The scheme provides various guidelines of the Turbine Certification

**COMMITTES**

National Green Tribunal – forms a Committee under Justice SP Garg – to check the Air quality during functions at Hotels, banquets, farmhouses etc., in New Delhi

✓ The committee will prepare an action plan on sewage disposal, groundwater extraction, rainwater harvesting, municipal solid waste management and systems for groundwater recharge
✓ It will also form a plan to check air quality due to traffic congestions and noise pollution because of use of DJ sets, loudspeakers and crackers etc. in the functions.

**CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

1st Global Cooling Innovation Summit – held in New Delhi
✓ Organised by - Department of Science and Technology along with Alliance for An Energy-Efficient Economy (AEEE), Rocky Mountain Institute, Conservation X Labs and CEPT University
✓ Inaugurated by – Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Environment

✓ During the first-of-its-kind event, $3 million dollar prize to be awarded once in every 2 years, Global Cooling Prize was launched

2nd edition of INSPIRE 2018 – launched in New Delhi
✓ INSPIRE - International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency
✓ Organised by - Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and World Bank
✓ As a run-up to the event, a first-of-its-kind Energy innovation challenge ‘#InnovateToINSPIRE’ was conducted earlier and 4 winners of the challenge were awarded in the event
Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities 2018 – held in New Delhi

- Hosted by - Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Korea and its organising partners namely Rehabilitation International Korea and LG Group
- It is being held every year in Asia-Pacific region

6th Indian Social Work Congress – held in New Delhi

- Organised by - National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI) and Department of Social Work (Delhi School of Social Work), University of Delhi
- Dr. Martha Farrell – was posthumously honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award in the event

PERSONALITIES

Vinod Dasari, MD and CEO of Ashok Leyland – quits citing personal reasons

- Dasari worked with Leyland for 14 years and will stay with the company till March 2019
- Dasari is the first MD of Leyland to resign, since all earlier head’s have retired till now
- He was the joint MD of CumminsIndia before joining Leyland
- Dheeraj Hinduja, the Company’s chairman – will take over the role of Executive chairman till a replacement is found
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- Spiking Neural Network Architecture (SpiNNaker) machine, the World’s largest Super computer that mimics Human brain – was switched on for the first time

- It was designed and built at University of Manchester in UK
- It is capable of completing more than 200 million million actions per second

- IIT, Madras – develops a Portable, Solar powered ‘Cold Storage Device’

- The 500 kg capacity device can be used for storing vegetables and fruits, among other items.
- The device will help farmers to store their produce without perishing, until it gets sold out
  The first unit of device was deployed at farm in Madurantakam in Kancheepuram district in Tamil Nadu
- Each unit costs between Rs 5.5 to Rs 6 lakhs
DEFENCE

- **Samudra Shakti** – The inaugural edition of bilateral naval exercise between India and Indonesia held at the port of Surabaya, Indonesia

- The exercise had both harbor phase and sea phase
- Indian Navy was represented by INS Rana of Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam under Eastern Naval Command, which is deployed in South East Asia

- **Indra 2018** – The joint military exercise between India and Russia under the aegis of United Nations – begins in Babina Military Range, Uttar Pradesh

- The 11-day exercise will enhance the peacekeeping, enforcement environment of both armies
- The first-ever tri-services joint exercise was held between the Indian and Russian Armed Forces in the Eastern Military District of Russia during October 2017
AWARDS

- **Infosys Prize 2018 Winners**
  - Engineering and Computer Science - Navakanta Bhat (Professor at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore)
  - Humanities - Kavita Singh (Dean, School of Arts & Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University)
  - Life Sciences - Roop Mallik (Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR))
  - Mathematical Sciences - Nalini Anantharaman (Professor and Chairman of Mathematics, Institute for Advanced Study, University of Strasbourg, France)
  - Physical Sciences - SK Satheesh (Professor, Centre for Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences, IISc Bangalore)
  - Social Sciences - Sendhil Mullainathan (Professor of Computation and Behavioral Science, the University of Chicago, US)

- The winner receives 22-carat gold medallion, a citation certificate and prize money of US $100,000
- It is one of the highest monetary awards in India that recognizes the scientific research
- The award is given by the Infosys Science Foundation

- **2018 UNESCO Asia-Pacific award for Cultural Heritage conservation in ‘Award of Distinction category’**
  - The restoration of an aristocratic house project in Ladakh undertaken by LAMO (Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation) Center – wins the prestigious award
  - The Awards were instituted in 2000 to recognize the conservation efforts of heritage structures
INTERNATIONAL DAY

- World Diabetes Day – November 14

- The day intends to create awareness about diabetes
- Theme 2018 - “The Family and Diabetes”
- The day was instituted by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2007
- Diabetes is a chronic, progressive disease characterized by elevated levels of blood sugar (blood glucose)
- There are 2 types of Diabetes – Type 1 and Type 2, both needing the injection of Insulin for the treatment

- Public Service Broadcasting Day – November 12

- The day commemorates the first and last visit of Mahatma Gandhi to All India Radio Studio (AIR), New Delhi in 1947
- Gandhiji had visited AIR studio to address displaced people from Pakistan who were temporarily settled in Kurukshetra, Haryana after the partition
- The day was instituted in 2000 as Jan Prasaran Diwas (Public Service Broadcasting Day) It was conceptualised by Suhas Borker, Convenor of Jan Prasar
World Pneumonia Day – November 12

- The observance of day is to highlight the severity of pneumonia and to promote its prevention and treatment
- The day was first observed in 2009 after more than 100 organisations joined together to form ‘Global Coalition against Child Pneumonia’
- Pneumonia is form of acute respiratory infection that affects the lungs

OBITUARY

- Ananth Kumar, Union Minister for Parliamentary affairs (59 years)

- Ananth Kumar is a senior BJP leader from Karnataka
✓ He represented the Bengaluru South parliamentary constituency six times in Lok Sabha since 1996
✓ He was a national General Secretary of BJP for nine years
✓ He was the youngest minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Cabinet during 1999-2004
✓ In January 1998, he became the first Indian politician to host his personal websites ‘www.dataindia.com’ and ‘www.ananth.org’, earning the image of a tech-savvy leader
✓ He is also the first person to speak in Kannada in the United Nations.