Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu Government – announces a 2 hour slot of 6am to 7am and 7pm to 8pm - for bursting firecrackers on the day of Diwali
- The State Police has also announced that any violation would attract a fine of Rs 1,000 or 6 month imprisonment under Section 188 of the IPC
- University of Madras – to implement a new system which will help in releasing exam results 15-20 days earlier than usual

**PROPOSED CHANGES**

**OLD PROCESS**
- Each answer-sheet is assigned a dummy number
- Foil cards are created
- More manpower and 20 additional days are required to complete the process and release results
- Vulnerable to malpractice

**NEW SYSTEM**
- Use unique QR codes and bar codes are assigned to answer-sheets
- Creation of dummy numbers not required
- Reduces effort and malpractice

- This system was given a test run in the instant exams for 1,500 answer scripts held in July
- The entire process takes about 27 days
- It will be implemented in a phased manner from November or December this year
- The system would be tried out first for professional courses like MBA, MCA and MSc IT, where around 20,000 students write the exam
**States**

- Delhi – CM, Arvind Kejriwal – inaugurated the country’s 1st Asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge ‘Signature Bridge’

  - The 675-metre bridge was constructed at an outlay of Rs 1,518.37 crore over the Yamuna River

**National**

- Operation Greens – to be launched by Ministry of Food Processing Industries – to ensure the supply of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) crops throughout the country

  - The total budget allocated for the project is Rs 500 crores
  - New Delhi based ‘National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd’ (NAFED) - will be the Nodal Agency to implement price stabilisation measures
The Chief Justice of India, Justice Ranjan Gogoi – has established an in house ‘think tank’ - to strengthen the knowledge infrastructure of Supreme Court

✖️ It would redefine the Centre for Research and Planning (CRP) - to meet the various needs of judiciary

✖️ Roles of new CRP
  ➢ CRP will create a network of “leading independent scholars”
  ➢ It will create a permanent and accessible database of relevant knowledge through a series of working papers and case notes
  ➢ CRP will also prepare summary of key judgments of Supreme Court for general audience
  ➢ CRP will also conduct periodic seminars on doctrinal issues
  ➢ It will also engage with members of the Bar engaged in academic works, especially younger members

♦️ The Supreme Court – to allow the Guided tour of General public on Court premises - from 10 am to 1 pm every Saturday except on declared holidays

✖️ The visits can be planned though an online booking system, to be made in advance
✖️ The visitors will be allowed to witness the court rooms and introduced to various aspects of historical importance

♦️ Union Cabinet – approves the opening up of membership of ‘International Solar Alliance’ (ISA) to all the United Nation member countries
A resolution in this regard will be moved in the first assembly of ISA to amend the framework agreement of the alliance accordingly

ISA is an alliance of around 121 countries, initiated by India

India and France co-hosted the first International Solar Alliance summit in March 2018

The headquarters of ISA is at National Institute of Solar Energy, Gurugram, Haryana, India

It was launched ahead of the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in November 2015

INTERNATIONAL

Japanese Cabinet – approves the bill to bring more ‘Blue collar foreign workers’ into the country – to address labour shortage issues

The country would provide 5 year visas to the specific skilled workers, without allowing them to bring their families

A 10-foot bronze statue of a turbaned Sikh soldier - has been installed outside the largest Gurdwara in Europe

The statue named ‘Lions of the Great War’ - recognises the contributions made by Sikhs in World War I

It was unveiled on public land outside Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Smethwick near Birmingham

Overall, 1.5 million Indians fought for Britain in World War I, more than 20% of whom were Sikhs

Many were farmers from Punjab and known as “Black Lions” in the war
**ECONOMY**

- HSBC (UK) – executes the country’s first ‘Blockchain’ payment transaction
  - It was done for an export by Reliance Industries (RIL) to US-based Tricon Energy
  - The move had reduced the time taken for processing the documents in a big way

**APPOINTMENTS**

- Lt Gen P S Rajeshwar – appointed as the 12th ‘Tri Services’ Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to Chairman, Chief of Staff Committee
  - He succeeds Lt Gen Satish Dua, who is retiring on October 31
  - He was the current Director General (Perspective Planning) at the Integrated HQ, Ministry of Defence
  - During his illustrious career spanning 38 years, he has commanded an Artillery Regiment during ‘Operation Parakram’
  - He is an alumnus of the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, National Defence College, Delhi and holds a Masters in National Security Administration from NDC, Philippines
  - Lt Gen PS Rajeshwar was commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery in December 1980

**SPORTS**

- Simona Biles (US – 21 years) – becomes the first-ever gymnast to win 13 World championship ‘Gold’ medals – at the World gymnastics championships in Doha, Qatar
She has surpassed the previous all-time record of 12 world championship gold medals by Vitaly Scherbo (Belarus) in 1996
She has become the first American gymnast to win a world championship medal on all four events
Now she has 18 world championship medals apart from 4 Olympic Golds

Subhankar Dey (India) – wins SaarLorLux Open BWF Tour Super 100 badminton tournament in Saarbrucken, Germany

It is the first title of the year for the 25-year-old Kolkata born Shuttler
The World No 64, Dey created huge upset by beating title favourite Rajiv Ouseph in the final

Saurabh Netravalkar, ex-India U-19 Player – becomes the Captain of US National cricket team

The six-foot-tall left-arm seamer from Mumbai had quit the game to study ‘Master in computer science’ in Cornell University
He was India’s highest wicket-taker in the U-19 World Cup campaign in 2010, in which India finished 6th
The US team has a mix of players from India and Pakistan along with West Indies
INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ Ayurveda Day – November 5

★ The 3rd edition of the Ayurveda Day is observed on the occasion of the Dhanawantari Jayanti or Dhanteras
★ Lord Dhanvantari is considered as divine propagator of Ayurveda
★ Theme 2018 – “Ayurveda for Public health”
★ A-HMIS - a dedicated software application for Electronic Health Record (EHR) for the AYUSH systems of Healthcare – was also launched
★ A-HMIS - AYUSH-Health Management Information System