TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu Government – announces new rules & fares for Trekking in the state’s Forests
  - New Rules
    - Only organisations registered with the forest department will be allowed to organise treks
    - Trekking routes have been divided into three — easy, moderate and tough
    - Trekkers have to get permission from district forest officers - from wildlife wardens in sanctuary areas and from deputy directors in tiger reserves - before setting out
    - While going on easy and moderate treks, the group (a minimum of five people) will have to take one guide along
    - When a group of five opts for a tough trekking route, apart from the guide they also have to take along a forest department employee
    - The new rules also specify periods when treks are banned, the routes to be used and the time that can be taken
  - New Fares

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Rate for Indians</th>
<th>Rate for Foreigners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>₹200</td>
<td>₹1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>₹350</td>
<td>₹3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tough</td>
<td>₹500</td>
<td>₹5,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5th World Tamils Economic Conference – inaugurated in Puducherry by the Prime Minister of Guyana, Moses Veerasami Nagamuthu along with the CM, V Narayanasamy

- It will be held from Oct 11 to 15 in the Union territory along with Pondicherry Global Economic Summit 2018
- It is organized by World Tamils Economic Foundation and Madras Development Society with the support of Durban-Indian Community
- Past Conferences
  - 1st WTEC – Chennai (2009)
  - 2nd WTEC – Dubai, UAE (2011)
  - 3rd WTEC – Chennai (2016)
  - 4th WTEC – Durban, South Africa (2017)

STATES

- Meghalaya – to launch ‘Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries’
The Central Government has sanctioned Rs 51 crore for the scheme and it will be launched on October 26.
With the launch of the scheme, the state aims to be self-sufficient in fish production

NATIONAL

- India – was elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council – for a period of 3 years from Jan 1, 2019

- India secured 188 votes in the Asia-Pacific category, the highest number of votes among all candidates
- The 193-member UN General Assembly held elections for 18 new members through a secret ballot
- India got 188 votes followed by Fiji with 187 and Bangladesh 178 votes.
- Along with India, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Fiji and Philippines had also staked a claim for 5 seats in the same regional group
- The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) was established by the UN General Assembly in March 2006
- The UNHRC comprises 47 elected members states –
  - African States - 13 seats
  - Asia-Pacific States - 13 seats
  - Eastern European States - 6 seats
  - Latin American and Caribbean States - 8 seats
  - Western European and other States - 7 seats

- NITI Aayog – signs MoU with Microsoft India – to adopt Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in Agriculture and Healthcare
✓ Microsoft will also use AI for development and adoption of Local language computing
✓ It will combine AI, Cloud, Research and its expertise to provide solutions and also for new initiatives

➢ 5th meeting of India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic, Science and Technology Cooperation, New Delhi (Oct 11 and 12, 2018)

✓ India and Azerbaijan – signs protocol on trade and economic, science and technology cooperation
The trade turnover between India and Azerbaijan in January-August 2018 was USD 657.9 million.

The next meeting of the cooperation will be held in Baku, Capital of Azerbaijan.

Regarding the diplomatic relations, the Indian Mission was opened in Baku in 1999 and Azerbaijan opened its mission in New Delhi in 2004.

- **World Economic Forum (WEF)** – launches its new ‘Centre for 4th Industrial Revolution’ in India.
- The new Centre was inaugurated by the PM, Narendra Modi.

- It will be based in Maharashtra.
- It is the 4th such Centre of WEF after San Francisco (US), Tokyo (Japan) and Beijing (China), which are already functioning.
- The centre will have the fields of drones, artificial intelligence and blockchain as the first three project areas.
- NITI Aayog will coordinate the partnership on behalf of the government.
- The first project will focus on the application of Artificial Intelligence in the fields of education, healthcare and agriculture.
- The WEF has also entered into partnerships with the Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh governments for the new initiative.
- At the state level, Maharashtra will undertake a drone mapping operation in the agriculture sector.
- **WEF**
  - Established by - Klaus Schwab
  - Established in – 1971
  - Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland.
Min of Women and Child Development – to set up a four member committee to examine all the #MeToo cases
✓ The four-member committee will comprise senior judicial and legal persons
✓ The #MeToo campaign first began as a hashtag on Twitter in 2017, when Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein was accused

AWARDS

✓ Sikkim – awarded ‘UN Food and Agriculture Organisation’s (FAO) Future Policy Gold Award’ – for becoming the World’s first 100% organic farming state

✓ Sikkim emerged winner among 51 other nominees from around the world for the award
✓ Silver award was won jointly by Brazil, Denmark and Ecuador
✓ This award in nicknamed as the “Oscar for best policies”
✓ FAO – Established in 1945 with its headquarters in Rome
✓ It has 194 member countries

✓ New Academy Literature Prize
✓ Maryse Conde (81) – wins the alternative Nobel Literature Prize
✓ The award was organised to fill the gap left by the cancellation of 2018’s official Nobel Literature award
✓ Conde, a French (Guadeloupean) author with more than 20 novels, was selected among 47 authors by the voting of around 33,000 people around the world
✓ Her famous novels include Desirada, Segu and Crossing the Mangrove

BOOKS & AUTHORS

➢ Shashi Tharoor - introduces his new book “The Paradoxical Prime Minister” and a 29-letter word “floccinaucinihilipilification”

✓ He has described his new book on PM, Narendra Modi as “more than just a 400-page exercise in floccinaucinihilipilification”
✓ Oxford dictionary states the meaning of floccinaucinihilipilification as “the action or habit of estimating something as worthless”
✓ The cover of the book shows Prime Minister Narendra Modi examining a wax figure of himself at Madame Tussauds museum
✓ Shashi Tharoor is a second-term parliamentarian from Thiruvananthapuram constituency
✓ Earlier, he has served as Under-Secretary General in the United Nations

☑️ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu – releases the autobiography “Enadhu Porattam” of Ma.Po.Si on Oct 12 in Chennai

✓ Mysore Ponnu Sivagunnam was fondly called Ma. Po. Si and Silambu Selvar
✓ The title ‘Silambu Selvar’ was conferred on him by R.P. Sethu Pillai for his insightful research on the Tamil classic, Silappathikaram, written by Ilango Adigal
✓ He conducted the ‘Silappathikara Vizha’ in 1950 for the first time in Tamil history
✓ From 1950 onwards, Ma Po Si’s ‘Tamil Arasu Kazhagam’ has been celebrating this festival every year
✓ Ma Po Si wrote “Kappalottiya Thamizhan” a biography of V.O. Chidambaram Pillai
✓ He had won him the Sahitya Akademi Award for Tamil in the year 1966 for the biography of Vallalar - Vallalar kanda orumaipaadu
✓ “Viduthalai Poril Thamizhagam” is a great compilation by him on the role of Tamilnadu in the Nationalistic movement
✓ He loved Tamil language and culture and gave the clarion call - “Engum Tamil – Edhilum Tamil”
✓ In 1946, Ma.Po.Si started a movement called ‘Tamil Arasu Kazhagam’ and demanded proper status for Tamil in administration and education
✓ In 1972, Government of India awarded him ‘Padma Shri’ for Literature & Education
SPORTS

➢ Para Asian Games, Jakarta, Indonesia

✓ K Jennitha Anto (Tamil Nadu) - wins gold in women’s individual rapid P1 chess event
✓ Kishan Gangolli – wins gold in men’s individual rapid VI - B2/ B3 chess event
✓ Parul Parmar - wins gold in women’s singles SL3 Badminton event
✓ Neeraj Yadav and Amit Balyan - wins Gold and silver in men’s javelin throw F55 event

RANKINGS

➢ Top 100 World’s Most Innovative University Rankings – Released by Reuters
Stanford University was named as World’s Most Innovative University for the 4th consecutive year.
No Indian University was named in the list ever since it was first published in 2015.
In this top 100 list, 48 universities are from North America find mention on the list, 23 Asian universities, 27 from Europe and 2 from the Middle East.
US dominated the list with 48 universities among the top 100.

Top 10 Innovative Universities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Stanford University</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Harvard University</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>University of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>University of Washington</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>University of Texas System</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>KU Leuven</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Imperial College London</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>University of North Carolina Chapel Hill</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Vanderbilt University</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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INTERNATIONAL DAY

- International Day for Disaster Reduction – October 13

- The day aims to create awareness about risk and disaster reduction.
✓ It also seeks to encourage citizens and governments to build disaster resilient communities and nations
✓ Theme 2018 - ‘Reducing Disaster Economic Losses’
✓ The day was instituted by United Nations in 1989 and was celebrated as ‘International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction’ on the 2nd Wednesday of October
✓ Later, in 2009, it was changed to the present name with a permanent date
✓ It focuses on Target C of Sendai Framework, which aims at ‘reducing disaster economic losses in relation to global GDP by 2030’
✓ In 2016, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) launched the ‘Sendai Seven’ campaign, which was centred on the seven targets of the Sendai Framework.
✓ Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-30
✓ It calls for international action to reduce disaster risk over a period of 15 years
✓ It is the successor of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015)
✓ It was approved by UN member states in March 2015 at Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan

➢ World Arthritis Day – October 12

✓ The day aims to create awareness on issues affecting people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases
✓ Arthritis is an inflammatory condition causing pain and stiffness in joints.
✓ It was established in 1996 by Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI).
✓ 2018 Campaign by ‘European League Against Rheumatism’ (EULAR) - “Don’t Delay, Connect Today Campaign”
OBITUARY

- Annapurna Devi, Legendary Hindustani Classical Musician (91 years)

- Annapurna Devi was a disciple of her father, Allauddin Khan, whose contribution to Indian music resulted in the ‘Senia-Maihar’ gharana.
- She was married to sitar maestro, Pandit Ravi Shankar
- World renowned maestro, Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, was her sibling
- She was a recipient of the Padma Bhushan award

- Prof GD Agarwal, Environmentalist (86 years)

- He was on a ‘fast unto death’ since June 22, 2018, demanding the government to stop hydel projects on the tributaries of Ganga in Uttarakhand, and to pass a law protecting the river Ganga
- He was an environmental engineer, religious leader, monk and former professor of Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
✓ He was selected as the first member-secretary of Central Pollution Control Board in 1974
✓ He went onto serve in the National Ganga River Basin Authority
✓ In 2011, he became a ‘sanyasi’ and adopted the name Swami Gyan Swaroop Sanand.
✓ He was the Patron of an NGO named ‘Ganga Mahasabha’
✓ An admirer of Mahatma Gandhi, he has undertaken 5 fasts in the last 10 years as a mark of his protests
✓ In 2009 his fast led to stop a dam construction on Bhagirathi River