TAMIL NADU

- 12 Government Hospitals in Tamil Nadu – to get ‘Cath Labs’ at a cost of Rs 9.5 crore each – as announced by Dr C Vijayabaskar, State’s Health Minister
- These labs will be able to perform heart procedures like Angioplasty surgery etc.,

STATES

- Delhi Government – launches ‘Chief Minister’s Urban Leaders Fellowship Programme’

- The fellowship provides opportunity to young leaders across India to work within the Delhi government to address urban challenges
- Fellows, selected under this programme, will be assigned to work with ministers or senior officials across various departments in the state
- The fellows will be paid remuneration of Rs 1.25 lakh per month and Rs 75,000 per month to Associate Fellows
Delhi - Union Environment Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurates an ‘Air Quality Early Warning System’ for the Delhi Region

- It was designed with the help of American and Finnish models to predict extreme air pollution by 2-5 days in advance.
- An associated website has also been launched, to inform public and agencies about the pollution levels in advance.
- The system has been jointly developed by the scientists of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune, National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, Noida and India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- Besides this, the Central Pollution Control Board has constituted a 41 member-team for continuous monitoring.
- The city's air quality usually breaches the 'severe' zone.
- In May 2018, Delhi was declared the most polluted city by the WHO for megacities with a population of 14 million or more.
- It has to be recalled that the Central Pollution Control Board is going to implement an emergency action plan called the 'Graded Response Action Plan'.
- Under the emergency action plan, stringent actions are implemented based on the air quality of the city.

Haryana - Country's first-of-its-kind 'National Autism Intervention Research Centre' – opened at Fortis Memorial Research Institute in Gurugram, Haryana

- It has been started in association with 'Behaviour Momentum India', the brain-child of Dr Smita Awasthi.
- The centre will help people suffering from autism to get educated and improve their social skills.
- Autism is a lifelong and severe neurobiological disorder affecting nearly one crore children across India.
Telangana - Country’s 1st Agri and Food business online learning platform ‘SRiX Agri-Business Academy’ – was inaugurated at the ‘SR Innovation Exchange’ (SRiX) Campus, Warangal in Telangana

- It is an Indo-UK collaborative initiative and a technology business incubator under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India
- It will focus on start-ups of agriculture, cleantech and IoT
- Sarras Academies Ltd, a UK-based company, and SR Innovation Exchange have joined together to launch the Academy

Assam – passes ‘The Industrial Disputes (Assam Amendment) Bill, 2017’
- According to this bill, companies are allowed to retrench up to 300 employees without seeking prior approval of the government
- It replaces the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947
- The new bill provides for the compensation of 60 days salary instead of the present 15 days

NATIONAL

- Government – has relaxed the entry norms for foreign tourists visiting Andaman and Nicobar Islands
  - The tourists should no longer register themselves with the ‘Foreigners Registration Officer’ within 24 hours of their arrival, which is the current practice
  - The government recently opened up 29 inhabited and 11 uninhabited islands in the archipelago to foreign tourists, including Viper Island for Day visits

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- India & China – launch 1st Joint Programme to train diplomats from Afghanistan
This will be under the Trilateral Cooperation between India, China and Afghanistan.

For this, Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan, Vinay Kumar, hosted 10 Afghan Diplomats who will be travelling to India for the ‘1st India-China joint training programme’

- India & Sri Lanka – signs 2 MoU’s for the construction of 1200 houses through 50 model villages

- India provides an assistance of 60 crore Sri Lankan Rupees for the construction of 600 houses each in the Southern and Northern Provinces

- With this, India’s collaboration with Sri Lankan government under Model Villages Housing Program stands at 2400 houses in 100 model villages

COMMITTEES

- A 9-member High power committee under Shivaji B Zaware – constituted to study the issues at debt-laden IL&FS Group

- The committee was constituted by Naveen Gupta, President, ICA Institute
✓ The committee includes two past presidents of the CA Institute – Ved Jain and Nilesh S Vikamsey
✓ The group will suggest remedial measures and improvement in the system

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS


![Image](image-url)

✓ This was the second CHG meeting since India became a full member of SCO in June 2017
✓ It is the first major meeting since Kyrgyzstan took over as chair of the Organization
✓ **Highlights**
  ✓ Co-hosting the next meeting of the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group in India with Afghanistan
  ✓ Re-iterating India’s pledge to eliminate single-use plastics by 2022
  ✓ India to host the SCO exhibition on ‘Shared Buddhist Heritage’ in 2019
✓ **Background**
  ✓ Last year, CHG meeting was held in Sochi, Russia
✓ **SCO - Shanghai Cooperation Organization**
  ✓ Founded – 2001 – at a summit in Shanghai by Russia, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
  ✓ India and Pakistan has joined the organization as full time members from 2017 at a summit in Astana, Kazakhstan
✓ Observer states - Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia

➢ International Conference on the future of Indian Ocean – held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on October 11, 2018

✓ Theme - “The Indian Ocean: Defining Our Future”
✓ Inaugural address by - Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka
✓ Key note address by - Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka
✓ Organised by –
  ✓ The Office of the Prime Minister
  ✓ Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  ✓ Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies
  ✓ ‘Global Maritime Crime Program’ of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

➢ 6th edition of India International Silk Fair – begins in New Delhi on October 15, 2018
✓ It was inaugurated by Smriti Irani, Min of Textiles

✓ Over 108 exhibitors of silk and blended silk will display their produce in the 3-day event
✓ Organised by - The Indian Silk Export Promotion Council
✓ India is the 2nd largest producer of silk in the world after China
✓ In India, about 97% of silk comes from 5 states - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

PERSONALITIES

➢ Tracey Crouch, World’s first Minister for loneliness - is set to launch her first ‘Anti-loneliness strategy’

✓ She was appointed by the UK government in 2018 as it found that the young people can be affected by loneliness more than the elderly

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➢ T-CUP - World’s fastest camera – was invented by the Scientists led by Lihong Wang - at California Institute of Technology, US
✓ T-CUP can capture 10 trillion frames per second.
✓ It can ‘freeze time’ to see light in extremely slow motion
✓ The camera set the world record for real-time imaging speed
✓ The researchers integrated ‘Compressed ultrafast photography’ (CUP) which was at 100 billion frames per second - with femtosecond lasers to form T-CUP system

✓ IIT, Madras – develops ‘Low cost Road Dust collector’
✓ Researchers from the Civil Engineering department of IIT-M had designed a tricycle fitted with two brushes and a small solar-powered motor
✓ The machine, developed at a cost of Rs 55,000, can sweep up to 20 kg of fine particles in one hour
✓ For commercial manufacturing, light weight aluminium sheets can replace the heavy steel making the pedaling easier and reducing the cost at the same time

✓ ISRO – plans to set up 6 incubation centres and 6 research centres across the country in one year – as announced by K Sivan, ISRO Chairman
✓ An incubation centre was opened in Agartala last month, to be followed by more such centres in Jalandhar, Bhubaneswar, Nagpur, Indore and Tiruchirapalli in future
✓ These incubation centres will promote startups and give thrust to innovations and research in space technologies
✓ Each such centre cost Rs 2 crore, which will be seeded by ISRO
✓ Similarly, Space research centres will come up at Guwahati, Jaipur, Varanasi, Kurukshetra, Patna and Kanyakumari
✓ These centres will focus entirely on research and give a platform to the talented youth to come up with bright ideas and do research
✓ It may be recalled that few days ago, ISRO had signed MoU with ‘Central University of Jammu’ for setting up ‘Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Science’ on the campus

DEFENCE

✓ 1st India-US Tri services drill – to take place in 2019 in India
✓ US will be the 2nd country after Russia with whom India undertakes Tri services exercise
✓ The announcement of this exercise was formally made after the first ‘2+2’ dialogue held in Sep 2018 in New Delhi
✓ India and US exercises
  ✓ Military – Yudh Abhyas – Last conducted in Sep 2018
  ✓ Air Force – Cope India – Last conducted in 2009
  ✓ Navy – Malabar (along with Japan) – Last conducted in June 2018
APPOINTMENTS

- Dr Shekhar Mande – appointed as ‘Director-General’ of CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)

- He was also appointed as the Secretary of the ‘Department of Scientific and Research’
- He succeeds Girish Sahni, who retired in Aug 2018
- Dr Mande
  - He is the current Director of the ‘National Centre for Cell Science’, Pune
  - He had earlier worked as a scientist in ‘Institute of Microbial Technology’, Chandigarh and ‘Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics’, Hyderabad
  - He is the fellow of all the three major science academies of India—the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), the National Academy of Sciences India (NASI), and the Indian Academy of Sciences (IAS)
  - He has also been the vice president of ‘Vijnana Bharati’, the RSS-affiliated swadeshi science movement
  - He received the prestigious ‘Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize’ for Biological Sciences in 2005

- CSIR
  - It is the country’s premier Research and development organization, registered under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860
  - Established – 1942
  - Chairman – The Prime Minister
  - Headquarters – New Delhi

- Nimesh Shah – appointed as the new Chairman of ‘Association of Mutual Funds in India’
He is the current Managing director and chief executive of ICICI Prudential
He replaces A Balasubramanian, chief executive officer of Aditya Birla Sun Life MF
Kailash Kulkarni, CEO of L&T Mutual Fund, continues to be the vice chairperson

**AWARDS**

- Assistant Commandant, Pramod Kumar Satpathy - has been conferred with the Ashok Chakra posthumously for sacrificing his life while fighting the Naxals

- Pramod, an Assistant Commandant of the Odisha Police’s Special Operations Group, laid down his life on February 16, 2008
- The Ashok Chakra is the country’s topmost military gallantry award for valour, courage and self-sacrifice

**SPORTS**

- Sourabh Verma, Badminton player – won the Dutch Open BWFTour Super 100 badminton tournament in Almere, Netherlands
✔ The 25-year-old shuttler, who trains at the Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy, had won the Russia Open earlier this year
✔ This is his 3rd international title
✔ He won his first title at Chinese Taipei Masters in 2016

- Youth Olympics, Buenos Aires
- Simran, Indian Wrestler – settled for Silver in women’s freestyle 43 kg category

✔ She had earlier won a 40kg class bronze in the 2017 Cadet World Championships
✔ This is India’s fifth silver along with three gold in the ongoing Youth Olympics

- Leander Paes – wins his 2nd Challenger title of this year by lifting the ‘Santo Domingo Open trophy’ with partner ‘Miguel Angel Reyyes-Varela’ (Mexico)
✓ Paes had earlier won the Newport Beach event in January
✓ Last week, the 45-year-old Paes (ranked 69) and Angel ended runners-up at Monterey Challenger to Jeevan Nedunchezhhiyan and Marcelo Arevalo
✓ Paes also ended runner-up at Chicago, Dallas on the ATP Challenger circuit

- Japan – to host ‘4th International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Relays’- beginning May 11, 2019
✓ This will serve as a qualifier for the world championships taking place in Doha during next September and October
✓ The first three editions of the IAAF World Relays in 2014, 2015 and 2017 were held in the Bahamian capital of Nassau
✓ The relays will take place at Nissan Stadium in Yokohama, near Tokyo

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- International Day of Rural women – October 15

✓ The day recognizes the role and contribution of rural women in agriculture, rural development and eradicating rural poverty
✓ It was first observed in 2008
✓ Theme 2018 - “Sustainable infrastructure, services and social protection for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”
✓ The day is celebrated in India as ‘Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas’

✓ The day marks the birth anniversary of former President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
✓ Hon’ble former Tamil Nadu CM, J Jeyalalitha, announced that the 84th birth anniversary of the former President and the first after his demise on Oct 15, 2015 will be observed as ‘1st Youth Awakening Day’ in the State
✓ APJ Abdul Kalam (15 October 1931 – 27 July 2015)
  ✓ Born – Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu
  ✓ Served as – 11th President of India (2002-2007)
  ✓ Worked with – DRDO and ISRO as Scientist
✓ Known as – Missile Man of India, People’s President
✓ Achievements - Chief Project Coordinator of 1998 Pokhran-II nuclear tests, the project director of India’s first Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-III)