Tamil Nadu

- Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Porur - becomes the first government funded school in the state to issue smart identity cards to its students

- After launching the project, school education minister K A Sengottaiyan said it will be expanded to include all 70 lakh students in 45,000 government, aided schools across the state at an estimated cost of Rs 12.7 crore
- The Government implemented this project in association with the firm, Brigantia
- The cards will help monitor the entry/exit of students, and alert the headmaster and parents if students try to bunk classes
- The project involves two major components—a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) scanner and ID cards fitted with microchips
- The microchip contains 10 different personal details of students including their name, address, father/guardian’s name, school name, photo, year of issuance and blood group

- Gummidipoondi Revenue Officials – launched a new scheme ‘kutti police’ in Kavarapettai Primary School
- As per the scheme, school students from Standard I to VIII will be selected for monitoring civic issues like helmetless driving, driving without seatbelt, drunken driving, traffic signal violations etc., within their families and the best family will be awarded later
All the Government establishments – have fully banned the usage of Plastics within their premises
- The Government had earlier set a deadline of October 1 for the ban in its establishments
- The complete ban on the usage of Plastics will kick off in the state from January 1, 2019

672 Atal Innovation Centres – to be set up in Tamil Nadu by December 2018 – as per the announcement by K A Sengottaiyan, School Education Minister of the State

R Sivaraman of Chennai - is among the 12 teachers shortlisted for this year's Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Teacher Award
- This is to commemorate and recognise his work towards inspiring students to take up a career in science and technology
- INSA awardees will receive a Rs 50,000 cash prize, a book grant of Rs 20,000 and a scroll during the award ceremony scheduled for December

Government – launches first-of-its-kind ‘Youth Road Safety Learner’s Licence programme’ in New Delhi
- It is a Public–private partnership (PPP) initiative of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways in collaboration with ‘Diageo India’ and the ‘Institute of Road Traffic Education’ (IRTE)
- It is a formal and structured training program for young, first-time drivers as they apply for learner’s license
- This programme will help Government to achieve its target of reducing road accidents by 50% by 2020
- In the first year, the programme will cover 20 universities with a total of 400 programmes across the country
- IRTE is successfully conducting its ‘Road to Safety’ initiative to train traffic officials and educate drivers
- In India, one road accident occur every four minutes, with 72% victims in the age group of 15-44 years

NATIONAL
Government – lays foundation stone for ‘Prime Ministers Museum’ at Teen Murti Estate, New Delhi

✓ Union Minister for Culture, Dr. Mahesh and Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri laid the Foundation stone
✓ Nehru Memorial Museum and Library is already present inside the Teen Murti Estate, the official residence of India’s first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru
✓ The proposed Museum will be constructed at a cost of Rs. 271 crore
✓ The Teen Murti House was designed by Robert Tor Russel and built in 1929-30 as part of Edwin Lutyens’ imperial capital

Government – launches an award scheme under ‘Saubhagya’ scheme
✓ The ‘Saubhagya’ scheme is also known as ‘Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana’
✓ The new Award scheme will felicitate the power distribution companies (DISCOMs) and Power Department of the States and their employees for achieving 100% household electrification
✓ The 8 states which have already achieved more than 99% household electrification before the launch of the scheme are ineligible for the awards
✓ They are - Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu
✓ All the remaining States and their Discoms are eligible for the award
✓ The awards will be given in 3 categories –
  ✓ Special Category States (Seven North Eastern States, Sikkim, J&K and Uttarakhand)
  ✓ Non-Special Category States having more than 5 Lakh un-electrified households (Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telengana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal)
  ✓ Non-Special Category States having less than 5 Lakh un-electrified households
✓ Saubhagya scheme
  ✓ Launch - September 25, 2017 to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
  ✓ Budget - Rs 16320-Crore
  ✓ Target – 100% household electrification in the country by March 31, 2019
  ✓ Nodal Agency for implementation - The Rural Electrification Corporation Limited
The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun - signs 2 MoU’s with Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)

- The agreements were signed to launch ‘Prakriti’ programme
- The new programme aims to promote awareness about forests and environment among the students of NVS and KVS
- The two agreements have been signed for a period of 10 years
- The Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti runs around 660 functional residential schools in the country
- The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, established in 1963, runs around 1,183 schools in India and 3 schools abroad

IRCTC – launches ‘Ask Disha’ Chatbot on its e-ticketing Website, www.irctc.co.in

- It is a first-of-its-kind initiative for any Indian government website.
- It has been jointly developed by IRCTC and CoRover Private Limited, a Bangalore-based startup
- The new artificial intelligence-enabled Chat bot, ‘Ask Disha’, will assist Indian Railways passengers to get their questions answered
- It will be integrated in IRCTC Rail Connect Android app and will be voice-enabled soon
Pension disbursal in 21 States, UTs – to be made fully digital – through a new project undertaken by ‘Comptroller and auditor general of India’

✔ Kerala has been the first state where CAG has successfully implemented 100% digital solution for pension disbursal
✔ Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are among the states that have already been providing all pension related information of government employees ‘online’

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

✔ India & France – to hold the first tri-service exercise in 2019-2020
✔ This was confirmed after the defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman’s visit to France on October 11-12 for the 1st annual defence dialogue with her French counterpart Florence Parly

FESTIVALS

✔ 4th International Film Festival – concludes at Shimla
✔ "The Fog" by Ali Shoorvarzi and Hoseyn Mahroughi bagged the 'best short film' award in the festival

✔ Organised by - the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in collaboration with Himalayan velocity
✔ A total of 80 international and national films from 23 countries were screened at the festival
COMMITTEES

- IRDAI – constitutes a working group to examine the feasibility of payment of general and health insurance claims in instalments

  - The group will be headed by Suresh Mathur, ED (Health), IRDAI

APPOINTMENTS

- Priyank Kanoongo - appointed as the Chairperson of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) - for a term of 3 years

  - Priyank Kanoongo will be the 5th Chairperson of NCPCR
  - He replaces Stuti Kacker, whose tenure ended on September 16, 2018
  - He was a member of NCPCR since November 2015

AWARDS

- Khayyam, renowned Hindi Music director – to be conferred with this year’s ‘Hridaynath Award’ for Lifetime Achievement

  - Instituted by the Hridayesh Arts, the award carries a cash prize of Rs 100,000 and a memento
  - The award will be conferred by the Maharashtra Chief Minister, Devendra Fadnavis at a function in Mumbai on October 26
Prema Gopalan – conferred with the 8th Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2018

- She is the founder of Swayam Shikshan Prayog
- She was awarded for her work in promoting women’s entrepreneurship and rural livelihood
- The award was presented by Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, in New Delhi
- The winner of SEOY India Award will take part in the annual and regional meetings of the World Economic Forum (WEF)
- The award was instituted by Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship and Jubilant Bhartia Foundation in 2010

**BOOKS & AUTHORS**

- Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu - released the Biography of late Industrialist, Dr. Anumolu Ramakrishna titled ‘Building a Legacy’ in Chennai
  - It was written by Chennai-based Chartered Accountant V. Pattabhi Ram

- Dr. Anumolu Ramakrishna was a pioneer in using innovative construction techniques in the Indian construction sector
- He was former president and Managing Director at Larsen and Toubro
- He was instrumental in constructing several path-breaking buildings including Tirumala queue complex, Hitech city and Nehru Indoor Stadium
- He was posthumously awarded Padma Bhushan in 2014
SPORTS

- Youth Olympics, Buenos Aires
  - Mens and Women's Hockey team – won their maiden silver medals in the five-aside competition

- The Boys team lost to Malaysia and the Girls team lost to Argentina in the finals

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- World Food Day - October 16

  The day honours the founding of ‘Food and Agriculture Organization’ (FAO) of the United Nations in 1945
  - The day was established by FAO's Member Countries at the Organization's 20th General Conference in November 1979
  - Since 1981, World Food Day has adopted a different theme each year
  - 2018 Theme – ‘Our actions are our future. A #zero hunger world by 2030 is possible’
World Students Day – October 15

- The day is observed internationally to mark the birthday of A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, the former President of India
- In 2015, the United Nations declared 15th October as "World Students' Day"

Obituary

Paul Allen, Co-founder of Microsoft (65 years)

- Paul Allen co-founded Microsoft with his school-friend Bill Gates in 1975
- He persuaded Bill Gates to drop out of Harvard to start Microsoft at Albuquerque, New Mexico, which developed the first Operating system for IBM
- Initially, in 1975, the two jointly developed BASIC software for the Altair 8800, a desktop computer, that cost $400 in kit form
✓ It was Allen's idea to call it Micro-Soft, an amalgam of microcomputer and software. The hyphen was later dropped
✓ The first versions of two classic Microsoft products, Microsoft Word and the Windows operating system, were released in 1983
✓ Allen served as Microsoft's 'Executive Vice President' of Research and New Product Development until 1983, when he resigned after being diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, a form of Cancer
✓ However, Allen stayed on Microsoft's 'Board of Directors' for several years until 2000 while establishing his own philanthropic foundation
✓ In October 2018, Forbes magazine estimated his wealth at $21.7 billion and said he was the 44th richest person in the world
✓ Allen, the owner of 42 U.S. patents, was a technology visionary apart from being an investor, entrepreneur and philanthropist