TAMIL NADU

- ‘Adani Ennore Container Terminal’ at Kamarajar Port of Ennore – started functioning from Oct 20 - with the berthing of its first Maersk’s Container Vessel ‘Leonidio’

- Now, there are 4 container terminals located across 3 ports (Chennai, Kamarajar and Kattupalli) within a distance of 30 km near Chennai
- With this, Maersk – the world’s largest shipping line – shifts to Ennore from Chennai where its container ships have been berthing since 2003
- The Adani Group had invested Rs 724 crores for the terminal
- Maersk was the first global shipping line to start the terminal with a regular service connecting it with the Chinese port of Qingdao - within 14 days of travel
A new ‘refurbished’ butterfly garden – has been reopened for public at the Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur

- The Butterfly park was inaugurated by the former CM, J Jayalalithaa in Sep 2015 at an area of 2.7 hectares inside the Zoo
- The park was closed down after the impact of Cyclone, Vardah
- The park has around 40 types of butterflies at present and hopes to increase the count soon

**STATES**

- Odisha – For the first time in the country, Diesel is being sold in Odisha at a higher price than that of Petrol
  - In Bhubaneswar, on Oct 21, Diesel was being sold at Rs 80.78 per litre while petrol was being dispensed at Rs 80.65 per litre

- Himachal Pradesh government – is considering the a proposal to rename ‘Shimla’ as ‘Shyamala’
  - The popular holiday retreat was originally called ‘Shyamala’ but as the Britishers found it tough to pronounce, they renamed it ‘Simla’, which later became ‘Shimla’
  - Also known as the Queen of hills, Shimla was declared the summer capital of British India in 1864
  - It remained as the summer capital till India got independence in 1947
  - Earlier on Oct 16th, the Uttar Pradesh government renamed ‘Allahabad’ as ‘Prayagraj’
Prime Minister – announces a ‘National Award’ in the name of ‘Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose’ - for those involved in Disaster relief operations

- It was announced on the occasion of 75th anniversary of Bose’s formation of Azad Hind Government, India’s first independent government on October 21, 1943
- The award will be announced every year on January 23rd on Netaji’s birthday
- The award will help to recognize exemplary services rendered by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel in rescue and relief works during any disaster

Angriya - India’s 1st ever Passenger Cruise ship service – launched between Mumbai and Goa

- Launch by - Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Shipping, Ports and Road Transport
- It is a joint venture between Mumbai Port Trust and Angriya Sea Eagle Pvt Ltd
- It will make four trips a week between Mumbai and Goa with no halts in between
- The luxury ship has 104 rooms and can accommodate 399 passengers at a time with 67 crew members
- The tickets of the cruise are priced between Rs 7,000 and Rs 12,000
- The ship has been built in Japan and is 131 meter long and 120 metre-wide
- It has been named after the first Maratha Navy Admiral, Kanhoji Angre and the great ‘Angria bank coral reef’ near Vijaydurg, Maharashtra
- Mumbai, Chennai and Kochi are the 3 Indian cities that are looking at developing cruise lining facilities
INTERNATIONAL

- United States – to pull out of ‘Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces’ treaty with Russia
  - US alleges Russia of violating the agreement and produced a new medium-range missile called the ‘Novator 9M729’ - known to NATO as the ‘SSC-8’
  - The INF treaty
  - Signed - December 1987
  - Signatories - US President, Ronald Reagan and USSR President, Mikhail Gorbachev
  - Objective - To ban all nuclear and conventional missiles and their launchers, with a range of 500–1,000 km (short-range) and 1,000–5,500 km (intermediate-range)

COMMittes

- A Parliamentary panel under ‘Kirit Somaiya’ (MP) – has been constituted to look into the functioning of Retirement fund body ‘Employees Provident Fund Organisation’ (EPFO)

  - The committee will also review the implementation of labour laws, social security and welfare scheme for workers
CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **27th Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018) - held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat**
  - Organiser - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
  - Host - Department of Atomic Energy and Gandhinagar-based, Institute of Plasma Research
  - The 6-day conference discusses about the usage of nuclear fusion as an alternate source of energy

- **36th edition of ‘India Carpet Expo’ – launched by the Prime Minister through video conferencing – at Varanasi**
  - This is the first time that the India Carpet Expo is being organized in Varanasi
  - The PM mentioned Varanasi, Bhadohi and Mirzapur as important centres of the carpet industry

- **NITI Aayog – organizes the 4th edition of NITI Lecture Series at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on Oct 22, 2018**
  - The event will be attended by the Prime Minister
  - The Key note address to be provided by Jensen Huang, President and Co-Founder, NVIDIA Corporation
  - Theme 2018 - “AI for ALL: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Inclusive Growth”
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ISRO – observes 10th anniversary of Chandrayaan-I, India’s maiden unmanned lunar mission, on Oct 22, 2018
  - The father of Chandrayaan-I, launched on Oct 22, 2008, was K Kasturirangan, former Chairman of ISRO
  - The mission created history by discovering the water on moon
  - The Director of the mission was Srinivasa Hegde, who’s now part of India’s private moon mission, TeamIndus

DEFENCE

- Cope India – a trilateral air exercise to be jointly conducted by India, US and Japan – is planned to be held in December 2018
  - It was a bilateral air exercise between India and United States so far
  - It will be hosted by the Indian Air Force in December
  - The planning conference to finalise the modalities will be held in Kalaikunda, West Bengal
  - The three countries already are engaged in trilateral naval war games under the name ‘Malabar naval exercise’
  - The first ‘Cope India’ exercise was conducted at IAF air force station in Gwalior from February 2004
  - The exercise was repeated in 2005, 2006, and 2009

ECONOMY

- SBI – launches its first ‘SBI Wealth Hub’ in Mangaluru’s Lalbagh branch
  - It was inaugurated by its Chairman, Rajnish Kumar
  - SBI is the first PSU bank in the country to introduce comprehensive wealth business services for its clients
  - It plans to open atleast 50 such wealth centres by 2020
  - The bank has also launched Wealth Business services for NRIs
  - It also plans to set up a state-of-the-art global ‘e-Wealth’ centre at Kochi
APPOINTMENTS

- Nick Clegg, former British Deputy Prime Minister – appointed as Facebook’s ‘Global Affairs’ Head

  ✓ The appointment makes him the most senior European politician ever in a leadership role in Silicon Valley
  ✓ He succeeds Elliot Schrage

AWARDS

- Sujatha Gidla, a US based writer – wins 2018 Shakti Bhatt Prize for her debut book “Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India”

  ✓ The book deals with the family of her Uncle, K G Satyamurthy, a Maoist leader who founded Left-wing guerrilla movement called ‘People’s War Group’ (PWG)
  ✓ Shakti Bhatt Prize
    ✓ Objective – To honour first-time writers from India for their fictional or non-fictional works
    ✓ Founded – 2008 in memory of young writer, Shakti Bhatt
    ✓ Funded by - Shakti Bhatt Foundation
    ✓ Winner of 2017 - Anuk Arudpragasam, Srilankan author for his novel, “The Story of a Brief Marriage”
BOOKS & AUTHORS

- “Indian Sports: Conversations and Reflections” – authored by Vijayan Bala, Veteran commentator and cricket statistician

- The book is the compilation of the interviews conducted by him since 1971
- He has been a member of BCCI’s Statistical Committee apart from being an English teacher
- In 2016, he authored the book “The Complete Indian Sports Quiz” launched by the Sports minister, RS Rathore
- He has interviewed Olympians like Balbir Singh Senior, Abhinav Bindra, Sushil Kumar, Sakshi Malik, Col Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore etc.,
- He has also interviewed former cricketers like MAK Pataudi, GR Viswanath, Eknath Solkar etc.,

SPORTS

- Marc Marquez (Spain-Honda) – won MotoGP World Championship – for the record 5th time in 6 years

- He became the youngest ever to win 5 premier Class titles after his recent win at the Japanese MotoGP
US Formula One Grand Prix
Kimi Raikkonen (Finland - Ferrari) won his 1st Formula 1 victory since 2013

The second place was taken by Max Verstappen (Belgium - Red Bull)
Lewis Hamilton (Great Britain - Mercedes), the championship leader, finished at the third position

RANKINGS

Forbes’ Global 2000 best employers list

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) - is the only Indian firm to be featured among the top 25 companies in the list
It has secured 22nd place in the rankings
Alphabet, Google’s parent company, tops the list for the Second year in a row
It is the only company to receive a perfect score
Companies from the United States accounted for 6 of the top 10 spots
There are only 24 Indian companies in the overall list of 2000 companies
There are only 4 Indian companies in the top 100 list, which includes Mahindra & Mahindra (55th rank), Grasim Industries (59th rank) and HDFC (91st rank)
The list comprises of publicly traded companies from 60 countries
**Top 10**

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Alphabet, US  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Microsoft, US  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Apple, US  
4<sup>th</sup> Place – Walt Disney, US  
5<sup>th</sup> Place – Amazon, US  
6<sup>th</sup> Place – CNOOC, Hong Kong  
7<sup>th</sup> Place – Daimler, Germany  
8<sup>th</sup> Place – Kasikorn Bank, Thailand  
9<sup>th</sup> Place – Celgene, US  
10<sup>th</sup> Place – BMW Group, Germany

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**OBITUARY**

- Siddalinga Swami, a Lingayat Seer (69 years)

- Siddalinga was one of the most revered Lingayat seers in Karnataka
- The Karnataka government had honoured him with its ‘Rajyotsava and Basavashri’ awards for his services to the people and the environment
- The Swami was known as 'Kannadada Jagadguru' (Seer of Kannada) and ‘Green Swami’ in Northern Karnataka
- Because of his efforts, the state government declared 17,872 hectares of forest at Kappatagudda as a ‘Conservation Reserve’ in 2015
- His opposition to the setting up of a steel plant in his district forced Korean steel giant ‘Posco’ to withdraw its project proposal in 2011