TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu – has set a National record – by opening over 16 Lakh postal savings account under the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana

- It was announced by the Chief Postmaster General of the state, M Sampath
- He stated that over 1500 post offices out of the total 6717 post offices in the state have already migrated to the Darpan system
- **Darpan - Digital Advancement of Rural Post Offices for a new India**
  - Launched – December 2017

- Golden temple in Sripuram – wins the World’s best Green temple award
The temple near Vellore bagged the award given by Exnora International, an Environmental service organisation

**STATES**

- Rajasthan – For the first time in the country, Rajasthan to have Braille-enabled Electronic Voting Machines at all the polling stations
- They will benefit visually impaired people, who will also be provided with the Braille-enabled Voter slips

- Punjab Government – has signed 4 MoU’s with Israel – to address issues of farmers and depleting groundwater level in the state

![](image)

- This was done by the Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on his five-day visit to Israel
- Among these, 1 MOU is for water conservation and 3 MOUs for agricultural research and education

- Punjab – has banned the sale of ‘Glyphosate’, a Cancer-causing Weedicide
- It is classified under ‘Group 2A’ cancer causing material with the potential to damage the human DNA
- Punjab was the fourth State after Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra to ban the sale of herbicide
- Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee has recommended it only for use in tea gardens and non-cropped areas

- Maharashtra – METRO INOX in Mumbai becomes India’s 1st Rooftop Solar Powered Cinema and the first Multiplex with Solar panels
- The South Mumbai’s Largest Multiplex cinema has launched 2 INSIGNIA screens which are 100% solar powered
- The INSIGNIA screens also reduces 282 tons of CO₂ during its operational life

- Haryana – launches ‘Pashu Sanjeevni Sewa’ scheme
✓ It provides free of cost health care services to livestock through mobile veterinary clinics
✓ The service will be pilot-started in the districts of Jind, Yamunanagar and Nuh
✓ A toll-free number of 1962 is also launched for the farmers to avail the service
✓ Each mobile vehicle would have a veterinary doctor, one para vet and one helper-cum-driver

NATIONAL

➢ **Krishi Kumbh 2018** – inaugurated by the Prime Minister through video conferencing in Lucknow

![Image of Prime Minister inaugurating Krishi Kumbh](image)

✓ The 3-day long festival provides solutions to the farmers to double their income
✓ Partner states – Haryana and Jharkhand
✓ Partner Countries – Japan and Israel
✓ It has to be recalled that the Government is planning to set up a Rice Research Centre in Varanasi

➢ **Southern Railways** – to introduce the ‘Live feed’ relay of the Food preparation in IRCTC Kitchen – to boost the confidence of its passengers about the quality of food served
✓ This relay will be available in IRCTC Website by installing cameras in kitchens
✓ Southern Railways is also facilitating electronic payments at catering units to boost digital transactions

➢ **India & Israel** – signs a deal of $777 million for advance Missile systems
✓ It was signed between India’s Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) of Israel
✓ Under this deal, the IAI will supply Barak 8 Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) Air and Missile Defence (AMD) systems for 7 ships of the Indian Navy
CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- International Arya Mahasammelan – 2018 – inaugurated by the President, Ram Nath Kovind at New Delhi on October 25, 2018

- The 4-day long Global convention of Arya Samaj is the 11th Mahasammelan since 2006
- The Mahasammelan is the platform for Arya Samaj to discuss caste-related issues and problems concerning backward sections of society
- One of the highlights of the Mahasammelan was the mass ‘yagna’ attended by at least 10,000 devotees

- 10th Nuclear Energy conclave – inaugurated by Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister at New Delhi

- He declared that North India’s first Nuclear plant will be coming up at Gorakhpur, Haryana during his inaugural address at the Conclave
- He also announced that, “Hall of Nuclear Power”, India’s first permanent exhibition on nuclear power, has been built in New Delhi
- Theme - ‘Nuclear Power- Towards a Clean & Base Load Energy’
- It was organized by Indian Energy Forum (IEF)
During the occasion, it was announced that Kaiga Atomic Power Station has set a new world record among Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) with one of its units operating uninterrupted for 895 days.

It has to be recalled that ISRO has recently set up 2 Space Study Centres, one at Jammu in North India and the second at Agartala in Northeast India.

The Government has also recently amended the ‘Atomic Energy Act’ to allow new nuclear/atomic plants to be set up as joint-ventures with the PSUs.

2nd International Conference on Primary Health Care (PHC) towards UHC & SDGs - concludes in Astana, Kazakhstan

Theme - “The Future of Primary Health Care”


It was co-hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan, WHO and UNICEF.

It intends to renew the commitment to primary health care to achieve universal health coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

DEFENCE

ICGS Varuna, a Coast Guard ship – launched by Reliance Naval and Engineering
The 3000 tonne and 105-metre long vessel is the largest ever built for the ICG. It was built with a budget of Rs 220 crore at the Reliance’s shipyard at the Pipavav port in Amreli district of Gujarat. It would be delivered to the ICG by May 2019. Reliance is also constructing 5 naval offshore patrol vessels and 14 fast patrol vessels.

Trident Juncture Military exercise – kicks off in Norway

It is the NATO’s biggest military drill since the 1990s and will be held till November 7. The drill will be conducted in central and eastern Norway, the North Atlantic and the Baltic Sea. Nearly 50,000 personnel from all 29 NATO allies along with partners Finland and Sweden, are taking part.

APPOINTMENTS

Sanjay Kumar Mishra – appointed as the next chief of Enforcement Directorate (ED)

He is the current Principal special director with an additional charge of Director, ED.
✓ His appointment is made for a period of 3 months till his empanelment as ‘Additional secretary’, which is the minimum designation required to be promoted as the Head
✓ He replaces Karnal Singh, whose tenure ended on Oct 26, 2018

➢ Wipro – has appointed Arundhati Bhattacharya, former State Bank of India chairman - as an independent director from January 1, 2019

✓ The appointment is for a period of five years
✓ Recently, she was also appointed to Infosys board and the board of Reliance Industries Limited
✓ Bhattacharya had left her chairmanship at SBI on October 06
✓ She has the distinction of not just the 1st lady CEO in a state-owned bank but also being the first woman to lead an India-based Fortune India 500 company
✓ She was declared the 25th most powerful woman in the world by Forbes in 2016
✓ In the same year, she was named among the FP Top 100 Global Thinkers by Foreign Policy magazine
✓ She grabbed fourth spot as the powerful women in Asia Pacific by Fortune
✓ Last year, she was ranked at 19th in India’s 50 Most powerful people of 2017 list

AWARDS

➢ Mangaluru-based ‘Corporation Bank’ – has won the ‘Best MSME Bank-Winner 2018’ Award instituted by the Assocham
✓ Shivanand Hebbar, DGM, received the award from Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad K Sangma at the ‘6th Assocham SMEs Excellence Award – 2018’ in Delhi
✓ The award was conferred based on the bank’s performance in SME (small and medium enterprise) sector
✓ The Karnataka Bank - bagged the Excellence Award under Excellent Service (Private Sector) category
✓ Assocham - Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India
SPORTS

- Virat Kohli, Indian cricket captain – has become the first Indian cricketer and the first Captain of any country – to hit 3 consecutive centuries in One Day Internationals

- He also holds the record of Most runs, Most centuries and the highest average for the year 2018
- He is the 10th player in the history of cricket to get 3 straight centuries in ODI
- Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka) – has hit 4 centuries in a row to lead the list

- Ayhika Mukherjee – wins Silver medal in the ITTF Challenge Belgium Open in the Under-21 Women’s Singles Table Tennis category

- Anthony Amalraj (Tamil Nadu) & Sanil Shetty (Mumbai) – bagged Bronze in the men’s doubles category
INTERNATIONAL DAY

- International Animation Day – October 28, 2018

- The day celebrates the art of Animation
- It commemorates the first public performance of Charles-Émile Reynaud’s ‘Théâtre Optique’ at the Grevin Museum in Paris on 28th October 1892, considered as the birth of animation
- In 2002, ASIFA declared the day to be observed
- Every year, ASIFA invites an important animator to create a poster for the day
- This year, it was created by René Castillo of ASIFA Mexico and his studio of animators.
- ASIFA - Association Internationale du Film d’Animation (International Animated Film Association)
- Established - 1960

- World Day for Audiovisual Heritage – October 27

- In 2005, UNESCO declared October 27 as the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage
- It highlights the importance of audiovisual documents and the need to preserve them in digital form
- Theme 2018 - “Your Story is Moving”