TAMIL NADU

- Government – has chosen 5 Police officers for ‘Gandhi Adigal Police medals’ on Oct 2, 2018 – in recognition of their meritorious work in curbing illicit liquor
  - The medals, along with a cash award of Rs 40000 will be awarded by the Hon’ble CM on the occasion of Republic day on Jan 26, 2019.
  - Selected officers
  - R Vetharethinam, additional superintendent of police, prohibition enforcement wing, Cuddalore,
  - A Prakash, inspector, prohibition enforcement wing, Hosur, Krishnagiri district,
  - G Rajendran, sub-inspector, Vikkiramangalam police station, Ariyalur district,
  - R Thirukumar, head constable, Gandhi Market police station, Trichy city on deputation at central investigation unit, Trichy
  - P Gopi, head constable, Sendamangalam police station, Namakkal district

- Southern Railways – operate the country’s only existing Steam locomotive train between Ooty and Kethi – on the eve of Mahatma Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary celebrations
  - This steam engine was developed in the year 1914 and run at Nilgiris in 1918, whose centenary falls in the current year, incidentally

- A new edition of ‘Thirukkural’ – will be released on Oct 5, 2018
  - ‘Sivalayam J. Mohan’ will release the new edition exactly 165 years after it was first published
  - Vedagiri Mudaliar, who taught Tamil in Madurai Tamil Sangam, set up a printing press exclusively for this purpose at Kalathur
  - He printed the first copy of ‘Thirukkural’ with commentaries in 1850
  - The revised and final version of the book was released in 1853
**STATES**

- Odisha – launches its own ‘Food security scheme’ for the benefit of those who were left out of ‘National Food security Act’ (NFSA)
  
  ✭ The ‘State Food Security Scheme’, launched by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, will benefit around 25 lakh poor people who were left out
  ✭ The government will spend Rs 442 crore per year for implementation of the scheme
  ✭ The NFSA was implemented in the state in 2014
  ✭ Under the scheme, the beneficiaries will get 5 kg of rice per person per month at the rate of Rs 1 per kg similar to NFSA

- Andhra Pradesh – Tirupati bans Plastic from Oct 2, 2018
  ✭ The move follows the Smart city proposal for the District

- Kerala – to launch ‘Nefertiti’, a new Egyptian-themed luxury vessel in the last week of October at Kochi

  ✭ The vessel, costing around Rs.16.42 crore, has several sophisticated features including a 3D theatre, air-conditioned hall, sun deck, banquet hall, bar lounge, and recreational space
  ✭ The luxury cruise can carry 200 passengers up to 20 nautical miles at a speed of 9 knots (16 km per hour)
Prime Minister – inaugurates the first Assembly of International Solar Alliance at Vigyan Bhawan

The inauguration of the 2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting and the 2nd Global RE-Invest (Renewable Energy Investors’ Meet and Expo) were also done simultaneously

The Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Antonio Guterres, was present on the occasion

During the inauguration, the PM stressed that ISA will replace OPEC in future as the Principal supplier of Energy

The International Solar Alliance was launched jointly by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande on the first day of the COP-21 summit at Paris in 2015

Sustainable Mountain Development Summit VII – to be held in Shimla from Oct 3-5, 2018

Jointly organized by - Integrated Mountain Initiative in New Delhi, Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment in Shimla and Shoolini University of Solan

Around 150 delegates from India are expected to participate

Prime Minister – addressed the concluding session of ‘Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention’ in New Delhi

The 4-day International conference hosted the sanitation ministers of various countries around the world

The Prime Minister visited a ‘Digital Exhibition’, along with the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Antonio Guterres

The dignitaries also launched commemorative postage stamps on Mahatma Gandhi, and a medley CD based on Mahatma Gandhi’s favourite hymn – “Vaishnav Jana To”
“Swachh Campus rankings 2018”

* **Cleanest Government universities**
  1. Maharashi Dayanand University, Haryana
  2. Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar, Punjab
  3. Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), New Delhi
  4. Algappa University in Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu
  5. Acharya Nagarjuna University in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh

* **Cleanest residential campuses of private universities**
  1. Symbiosis International University, Pune
  2. OP Jindal Global University, Sonipat
  3. KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research, Belagavi
  4. Manipal University, Jaipur

* **Cleanest non-residential campuses of private universities**
  1. ITM University, Raipur
  2. Northcap University, Gurugram
  3. Dr CV Raman University, Bilaspur

* **Cleanest technical institutions**
  1. Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore
  2. IIT, Guwahati
  3. Siksha ‘O’ Anusandhan University, Bhubaneshwar
  4. Indian Institute of Information Technology, New Delhi

Government – to offer 2 ‘Offline tools’ for Aadhaar Verification – QR Code and Paperless KYC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QR CODE OPTION</th>
<th>PAPERLESS LOCAL eKYC</th>
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<tr>
<td>➤ Aadhaar printouts offer 3 QRS codes for offline verification. Two have demographic info plus photo, one only demographics. Code is tamper proof. UID number is not revealed.</td>
<td>➤ Aadhaar offers downloadable offline eKYC which is a digitally signed secure document. It contains as much demographic info as you want, with five options. Apart from name and address, other demographics like gender, date of birth, mobile, email and photo are optional.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➤ Can be downloaded from Aadhaar site, presented to any service provider who can download QR code reader application or procure scanner.</td>
<td>➤ Advantage of both QR code and paperless eKYC is that there is no submission of biometrics and authentication through UIDAI server, addressing fears of data tracking and collection and safeguarding individual privacy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➤ QR code eliminates need for fingerprint or iris authentication, does not involve Aadhaar server. Other ID documents like passport, PAN card or driving licence do not have such offline verification.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>➤ QR code eliminates risk of forgery, fraud, photoshop of eAadhaar.</td>
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</table>
- **India & Asian Development Bank** – signs $240 million loan – for providing ‘Safe drinking water’ services in West Bengal
  - The Agreement will benefit around 1.65 million people in 3 affected districts in West Bengal – Bankura, North 24 Parganas and Purba Medinipur – due to high Arsenic, fluoride and Salinity levels in drinking water

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** - launches a National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign, ‘**Udyam Abhilasha**’ in 115 Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog across 28 States
  - The campaign would provide training to around 800 persons who will further impart entrepreneurship training to the aspiring youths in the state
  - The initiative is done on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

- **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** – chooses Lonar Lake in Maharashtra and St. Mary’s Island and Malpe beach in coastal Karnataka as the Candidates for UNESCO Global Geopark Network status
  - It is a tag similar to “World Heritage Site” wherein the geological features are highlighted on the global stage.
  - **Lonar Lake**
    - Lonar crater is an ancient circular lake created by a meteorite strike in Maharashtra
    - It became a geo-heritage site in 1979, and is 50,000 years old
    - A meteorite weighing two-million-tonnes slammed into the Earth, creating a 1.83-km diameter crater where the lake formed
  - **St. Mary’s Island**
    - St. Mary’s Island off the coast of Udupi in Karnataka, is a hexagonal mosaic of basaltic rocks that was formed by sub-aerial sub-volcanic activity, at a time when Madagascar was attached to India
    - It was declared a national geo-heritage site in 1975 and estimated to be an 88-million-year-old formation, when the rifting of Madagascar started
    - Vasco da Gama was supposed to have reached one of these islands which he called ‘El Padron de Santa Maria’ in 1498, before reaching Calicut
  - **Malpe Beach**
    - It is a scenic beach at a distance of 6 kms from Udupi, situated on the mouth of the river Udyavara
    - It is present at a distance of around 7 kms from St Mary’s Islands
Vice President, M Venkaiah Naidu - inaugurated the world’s largest dome at the Maharashtra Institute of Technology’s ‘World Peace University’ campus at Loni Kalbhor

- It was inaugurated to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
- The ‘World Peace Monument’ dome took nearly 13 years to be built
- The monument is of 160 ft. in diameter and 263 ft tall and is larger in area than the dome at St. Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City
- The dome is built atop the MIT World Peace Library and the World Peace Prayer Hall, which are named after the 13th century poet-saint and philosopher Dnyaneshwar, a pivotal figure of the Bhakti movement in Maharashtra

INTERNATIONAL

Barham Ahmed Saleh – elected as the new President of Iraq

- Saleh, a veteran Kurdish leader, defeated his rival Fuad Hussein with 219 votes to 22 votes from 272 law makers for a resounding victory
- He was former prime minister of Iraq’s semi-autonomous Kurdistan from 2001 to 2004
- According to the Iraqi constitution, the president-elect needs to gather at least two thirds of the votes of the 329 parliament members

- After the win, Saleh immediately named ‘Adel Abdul Mahdi’ as the next ‘Prime minister’
- Mahdi becomes the first elected prime minister in post-Saddam Iraq
- Abdul-Mahdi is a well-known Shiite politician and former oil minister
FESTIVALS

- National Khadi Festival 2018 – organized by ‘Khadi and Village Industries Commission’ in Mumbai

- The festival, which aims to promote Khadi products, was inaugurated on Oct 2 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission – formed under the 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956'

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- Researchers from University of California, Berkeley – have developed ‘Spacesuits’ for Bacteria to allow them survive the space environments, which will kill them otherwise

- The spacesuits, a patchwork of mesh-like pieces called a ‘Metal-Organic Framework’ will be paired with light-absorbing ‘Semiconductors’ - to capture carbon dioxide and convert it into chemicals that can be used in space colonies, similar to Photosynthesis in Plants
- The bacteria used in the experiment are anaerobic, which means they can live in environments without oxygen
- With the suit, the bacteria live five times longer at normal oxygen concentrations, 21% by volume, than without the suits
DEFENCE

- Sahyog-Hop Tac 2018 – A joint Naval exercise between India & Vietnam kicks off the Chennai Coast on Oct 4, 2018
  - The One-day exercise will see three ships, one helicopter and one Dornier plane from the Indian Coast Guard and the visiting ship of the Vietnam Coast Guard, CBS 8001

- Sagar Manjusha of the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) will also participate in the exercise

ECONOMY

- Bombay Stock exchange – becomes the 1st stock exchange in the entire country to launch ‘Commodity derivative contracts’
  - It had launched contracts in popular commodities like gold (1kg) and silver (30kg)
  - So far, commodities are available only in the 2 specialised commodity exchanges in the country, MCX and NCDEX
  - BSE is the Asia’s oldest stock exchange formed in 1875 and granted the permanent approval of the Government on Aug 31, 1957
  - It is the 10th largest stock market in the entire world
  - It is functioning at the iconic ‘Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers’ in Dalal Street at Mumbai, which had received image trademark under Trade Marks Act, 1999
APPOINTMENTS

- Justice Ranjan Gogoi – sworn-in as 46th Chief Justice of India on Oct 3, 2018 at a ceremony in Rashtrapathi Bhavan

- President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath to the 63-year old Justice Gogoi
- He succeeds Justice Dipak Misra, who retired on Oct 2, 2018
- Justice Gogoi is the first person from the Northeast to reach the top position of judiciary
  He will have a tenure of a little over 13 months before retiring on November 17, 2019
  Justice Gogoi hails from Dibrugarh in Assam and was born on November 18, 1954
- Son of former Assam chief minister Keshab Chandra Gogoi, he enrolled as an advocate in 1978 in the Gauhati High Court
- He was appointed as a permanent judge of the Gauhati High Court on February 28, 2001.
- Then, he was appointed as the chief justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court on February 12, 2011 and as a judge of the Supreme Court on April 23, 2012

- Madan Bhimarao Lokur, Senior Supreme Court Judge – appointed as Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA)

- He had earlier served as Additional Solicitor General of India from July 1998 to February 1999
- He was also the former Chief justice of Gauhati High Court and Andhra Pradesh High Court
- He was appointed as Judge of the Supreme Court in June 2012
- NALSA – provides free legal aid to all the persons in custody
- It was constituted under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987
Ravi Venkatesan – appointed as UNICEF’s Special Representative of Young People

Prior to this, he served as the Chairman of the Bank of Baroda between 2015-18
He was also the former chairman of Microsoft India and served as the chairman of Cummins India and co-Chairman of Infosys Ltd

AWARDS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi – receives “UN Champions of the Earth award”, the highest environmental honour of the United Nations on October 3, 2018 from Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General at a special ceremony in New Delhi

The award was announced on September 26, 2018, on the sidelines of 73rd UN General Assembly in New York.
Prime Minister Modi has been selected in the ‘Leadership category’ for his exemplary work in setting up the International Solar Alliance (ISA) along with the French President, Emmanuel Macron
Other Winners
Cochin International Airport in Kerala - world’s first fully solar-powered airport
Joan Carling, Filipino environmental activist
Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods - Plant-based food alternative providers
China’s Zhejiang’s Green Rural Revival Programme – for the transformation of the once polluted area of rivers
The awards were established in 2005 under the United Nations Environment Programme
It recognizes 5-7 laureates annually and so far 84 laureates were bestowed with the honour
Mahatma Gandhi – to be awarded ‘posthumously’ the ‘US Congressional Gold Medal’
☆ The award highlights his contribution towards promotion of peace and non-violence
☆ The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honour given by the US Congress.
☆ The resolution for the award was moved by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney from New York on 23rd September 2018.
☆ It was co sponsored by Indian American lawmakers Tulsi Gabbard, Ami Bera, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ro Khanna and Pramila Jayapal

Nobel Prize 2018 in Chemistry – awarded to Dr Frances H. Arnold (USA) for her work on the ‘Direct evolution of enzymes’ and George P. Smith (USA) and Sir Gregory P. Winter (UK) “for the phage display of peptides and antibodies”

☆ With this Nobel, Dr Frances Arnold becomes the second woman in 55 years and 5th woman overall, to win the prestigious award
☆ Dr Frances H Arnold will be awarded ‘Half’ of the 1.01 million dollar prize money while the remaining half goes jointly to the other winners, George Smith and Gregory Winter
☆ Dr Frances Arnold, 62, is a professor of chemical engineering at the California Institute of Technology
George Smith is from the University of Missouri and Winter, 67, is from the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology at Cambridge
☆ This is the MRC laboratory’s twelfth Nobel so far
Joachim Frank, Richard Henderson, and Jacques Dubochet were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2017 “for developing cryo-electron microscopy for the high-resolution structure determination of biomolecules in solution
SPORTS

- Bajrang Punia (Wrestling) and Vinesh Phogat (Wrestling) – were recommended for Padma Shri, Country’s 4th Highest Civilian Honour – by the Union Sports Ministry

- Both Punia and Phogat were the Gold medal winners in Commonwealth Games, Gold Coast and Asian Games, Jakarta

- 3rd Asian Paralympic Games, Jakarta (Oct 6-13, 2018)
  - Thangavelu Mariappan (Tamil Nadu), a Gold medallist in Rio Paralympics – to be the Flag-bearer of Indian contingent

- The Indian contingent comprises of around 302 persons including the Players, officials etc.,
- 24th Senior Women’s National Football championship, Cuttack
  - Manipur defeated Odisha to claim the championship

- It is the 19th instance the team from North east has won the coveted trophy

- ICC releases the updated version of ‘Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS)’ System along with the new ‘ICC Code of Conduct’ and ‘ICC Playing Conditions’
  - These changes will come into effect from 30 September, 2018 when the first ODI between South Africa and Zimbabwe was played in Kimberley
  - This is the third version but second update of the DLS System since its introduction into international cricket in 2014

- Manu Bhaker (16 years old, Haryana), acclaimed Women’s Shooter – was named as the ‘Flag-bearer’ of the Indian contingent at the 3rd Youth Olympic Games to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from Oct 6th to 18th, 2018

- A contingent of 68 members, including 46 athletes, will compete in 13 sports during the prestigious event
- This will be India’s largest contingent for the Games which were first held in 2010
- In the previous two editions, India have managed to win 10 medals (seven silver, three bronze)

- India ranks 5th among 206 countries in terms of ‘Largest’ Pictorial warning on cigarette packs
- In India, 85% of both sides of cigarette packets are covered with warnings
- Top 10 Countries with Largest Pictorial Warnings
  1st - Timor Leste (92.5% warning on front and back)
  2nd - Nepal and Vanuatu (90% warning)
  3rd - New Zealand (87.5% warning)
  4th - India, Hong Kong and Thailand (85% warning)
  5th - Australia (82.5% warning)
  6th - Uruguay (80% warning)
- 118 countries have made picture warnings on cigarettes mandatory, which was 100 countries earlier in 2016
- 107 countries in the world have made pictorial warnings larger than at least 50% mandatory
- Plain packaging has been adopted in nine countries
- In India, the pictorial warnings on packages of cigarettes and other tobacco products came into effect in April 2016 on the directions of the Rajasthan High Court and subsequently the Supreme Court