**TAMIL NADU**

- Tamil Nadu – hikes Floor space index (FSI) from 1.5 to 2
  - The move by the Housing and urban development department will increase vertical growth of buildings by adding 33.33% additional built-up area
  - It is also expected to further reduce the price of large apartments and houses

- Coimbatore – gets India’s first Police booth with Bio toilet
  - It is set up at the Coimbatore Medical College traffic signal on Avinashi Road
  - Coimbatore based Park Group, in collaboration with Pathfinder Business Analysis Private Limited, is setting up the facility at an estimated Rs 4 lakh as a corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative
**STATES**

- **Maharashtra - Government proposes to develop the Coastline of ‘Maharashtra’ as a Tourism Hotspot**
  - This was announced by Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation
  - The proposal includes:
    - Scuba diving and domestic cruise tourism - at Angria Bank
    - Underwater tourism and submarine tourism - in Sindhudurg
    - Setting up India’s largest aquarium - in Sindhudurg
    - Strengthening IISDA as an accredited Institute for innovation and skill development in the aquatic tourism sector
    - IISDA - Indian Institute of Scuba Diving and Aquatic Sports, Sindhudurg, Maharashtra

- **Gujarat – Vijay Rupani, CM flags off the ‘Ro-Pax’ (Roll on/off-Passenger) ferry service - between Ghogha in Saurashtra and Dahej in south Gujarat**
  - The inaugural vessel, Voyage Symphony, will pass through Gulf of Cambay
  - It can carry 60 trucks, five to seven buses, 35-40 cars and an equal number of bikes in addition to 525 passengers
  - It was operated by Surat-based Indigo Seaways Pvt Ltd (ISPL) and Gujarat Maritime Board under the public-private partnership model
  - In October 2017, PM Narendra Modi launched the passenger ferry, Island Jade between Ghogha (Bhavnagar district) and Dahej (Bharuch district)

- **Punjab – joins with the Central Government to stop Stubble burning**
  - The Government purchases 2 seeder machines for various initiatives
  - CII, in collaboration with ‘ReNew Power’, an independent Power producer - launches a new project ‘Clean air better life’ - to make 5,000 acres stubble-burning free in the state
Odisha – launches the first-of-its-kind ‘EWDS’ system – to inform people in advance about any upcoming natural calamities

- Naveen Patnaik, CM of Odisha inaugurated the system on the occasion of Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day
- EWDS - Early Warning Dissemination System
- It is the automatic public address system to alert the people about the possible cyclone, tsunami, etc.
- It will warn the people living along the coast of Odisha from Bhubaneswar through alert siren system from towers installed at 122 locations
- Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day is observed every year on October 29 - the day on which Super Cyclone ‘BOB 6’ hit Odisha in 1999 and killed more than 10,000 people.

NATIONAL

- Indian Railways – plans to use for the first time in the country - Aircraft-like Pressurised coaches in the proposed World’s highest Rail track in Leh
  - The proposed trains in the Bilaspur-Manali-Leh line along the India-China border will have Pressurised Coaches to avoid breathing difficulties
  - Currently, the Pressurised coaches are used only in the Quinghay-Tibet Railway Line in China
  - At a height of 5,360 metres above the sea level, the 465-km Railway line is planned at a cost of Rs 83,360 crore

- Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi – to launch its own ‘Community Radio station’ as part of its CSR initiative
  - It will cater to the residents of nearby areas around the university
  - The Special Centre for Disaster Research (JNU) will sign a pact with Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) to launch the community radio service
✓ The radio service will keep people informed about the environment-related issues and the local issues
✓ IIMC students will work as RJs and provide logistical support to the radio station

➢ Nitin Gadkari, Union Transport Minister & Pinarayi Vijayan, Kerala Chief Minister – to lay the foundation stone for India’s largest “Dry Dock” in Kerala

✓ Currently, the Cochin Shipyard has two dry docks, one for ship building and one for repair
✓ The new Dry Dock, to be used for both shipbuilding and repair, is to be constructed at a cost of Rs 1799 crore
✓ The project is expected to be completed by May 2021
✓ Once the project competes, Cochin Shipyard will be a major hub for all repair needs in South East Asia

➢ Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) labs – have developed ‘Green’ crackers – as announced by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest & Climate Change
✓ They are named as –
  ✓ SWAS - safe water releaser
  ✓ SAFAL - safe minimal aluminium
  ✓ STAR - safe thermite cracker
✓ He also said that for the first time in India, an Emission testing Facility has been established at CSIR-NEERI
✓ The new crackers have been developed by scientists of two national labs—
  ✓ Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI) in Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu
  ✓ National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) in Nagpur
✓ Field trials were conducted at Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu
✓ The new crackers have less noise, less Particulate emissions, less smoke and also cheaper
India’s 1st Inland Waterway Container movement – undertaken between Kolkata and Varanasi

- PepsiCo India – moved 16 containers in the vessel MV RN Tagore on river Ganga (National Waterway I)
- The government is developing NW-1 (River Ganga) from Haldia to Varanasi (1390 Km) with the help of World Bank at a cost of Rs 5369 crore

WhatsApp – collaborates with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) - to train small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs on using the messaging platform

- This will be done through CII’s SME Technology Facilitation Centre that was set up in November 2016
- The on-ground training will explain about the WhatsApp Business app, that was launched in January 2018
- The training material will be available on the CII SME website
SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- Supreme Court – prohibits the plying of 15-year-old petrol and 10-year-old diesel vehicles in the Delhi-NCR region
  - The move is intended to deal with the "very critical" and "horrible" pollution situation in the region
  - It directed that a list of all such vehicles to be published in the website of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and transport departments of the NCR area
  - A bench of Justices Madan B Lokur, S Abdul Nazeer and Deepak Gupta asked the authorities to seize such vehicles, if found on roads
  - National Green Tribunal (NGT) on April 7, 2015 banned plying of 15-year-old petrol, 10-year-old diesel vehicles in Delhi-NCR
  - The ruling was given by a bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar

INTERNATIONAL

- Seychelles – becomes the first country in the world to launch ‘Sovereign Blue bond’
  - Blue bond is an initiative that combines public and private investments for the expansion of marine protected areas, fisheries and the development of the Seychelles' blue economy
  - The bond raises $15 million from international investors
  - The World Bank assists the country in developing the Blue Bond
  - The Seychelles is an archipelagic nation consisting of 115 granite and coral islands in the Indian Ocean, off East Africa

- World’s largest airport terminal under one roof - inaugurated in Istanbul, Turkey
  - It has the capacity to serve 90 million passengers
  - It has 77 boarding gates and 143 aero-bridges
  - It is planned to be completed in 4 phases, with a total capacity of 200 million passengers, within the next 10 years
  - The project cost of the just completed phase-I alone is 7.5 billion Euro
Indonesian Plane, Lion Air JT 610 – with 188 passengers and crew - crashes in the Java sea
✓ It was commanded by New-Delhi based Indian pilot, Bhavye Suneja, who also lost his life

✓ Captain Suneja had been working at Lion Air since March 2011 and has 6,000 flight hours

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

✓ India & Qatar – to set up a Joint Commission – to review all bilateral, global and regional issues

✓ The commission will be co-chaired by the Ministers of External Affairs and Foreign Affairs of the two countries or their representatives
✓ Indian External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj is currently on a 2-nation tour of West Asia which includes Qatar and Kuwait
✓ The India-Qatar bilateral trade stood at $9.9 billion in 2017-18
✓ Qatar is home to around 700,000 expatriate Indians
India-Japan Annual Summit – PM Modi’s visit to Japan

- India & Japan – signed 32 MoU’s including $75 billion currency swap agreement and agreed to ‘2+2’ dialogue
- Japan had earlier offered $50 billion currency swap in 2013 to boost Indian economy
- Equally, Japan can also seek dollars from India in exchange for yen
- Japan – to provide loans of about 316.458 billion yen for 7 major infra projects in India
- Both the sides also agreed for a 2+2 dialogue between Foreign Ministers and Defence Ministers
- Japan Joins the International Solar Alliance (ISA), becoming the 71st country to sign and 48th country to ratify the ISA Framework Agreement
- PM also addressed the ‘Make in India: India-Japan partnership in Africa and digital partnership’ seminar in Tokyo

PERSONALITIES

- German Chancellor, Angela Merkel – to step down in 2021 following recent election losses
  - Merkel, who has been Chancellor since 2005, announced that she will not occupy any other Political office after 2021
  - She also said that she would not seek re-election as leader of the centre-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party in December
  - She is the leader of the party since 2000
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- United Arab Emirates’ first locally made satellite, the KhalifaSat – launched into space by a Japanese rocket, H-2A
  - The launch was done by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries from the Tanegashima Space Center
  - KhalifaSat is an Earth observation satellite
  - H-2A also carried an Ibuki-2 greenhouse gas observation satellite for Japan.
  - UAE plans to send its first two astronauts to the International Space Station in 2019
  - It also plans to send a probe to Mars in 2020 and to build a science city there by 2117

- France & China – jointly launches a new satellite to study Climate change
  - The satellite, which will study ocean surface winds and waves, was launched aboard a Long March 2C carrier rocket from China
  - This is the first satellite jointly built by China and France
  - It has 2 radars and will be helpful in predicting the cyclones

- World’s first bio brick developed from Urine – by the scientists at University of Cape Town, South Africa

  - It has been developed through a natural process called microbial carbonate precipitation
  - This finding is the result of waste recycling and upcycling
  - The bio-brick process produces nitrogen and potassium as by-products, which are important components of commercial fertilisers.
  - The overall process would result in zero waste, as urine is converted into three useful products (bio brick, nitrogen and potassium)
APPOINTMENTS

- Jair Bolsonaro – elected as the new President of Brazil

- The far-right leader won 55.1% of the votes against 44.8% of his left-wing opponent, Fernando Haddad
- He will be sworn into his new post on January 1, 2019
- The largest democracy in Latin America, Brazil, was governed by the left-wing party for 13 years between 2003 and 2016
- He replaces the conservative, Michel Temer

SPORTS

- Asian Champions Trophy Hockey Tournament, Muscat, Oman

- India and Pakistan’s men’s hockey teams were declared as ‘Joint winners’ after the final was called off due to heavy rain
- Defending champions India ended the tournament without losing a single game
- Before this edition, both India and Pakistan had won the tournament twice each
- India had won the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy in 2011 and 2016
- Sreejesh and Akashdeep Singh (Both India) were declared as the best goalkeeper and best forward of the tournament
- Akashdeep Singh was also adjudged as the Player of the tournament
- India’s Harmanpreet Singh finished the tournament as the second-highest scorer with six goals to his name
- Indian cricket team – records their biggest ODI win against West Indies

![Image of Indian cricket team](image)

  - Event – Amateur World wrestling championship
  - Organiser - United World Wrestling
  - Duration – October 20 to 28, 2018
  - India finished 19th overall in the medals tally with 1 silver and 1 bronze
  - Bajrang Punia won the silver medal in the 65 kg Men’s freestyle category
  - Pooja Dhanda won Bronze medal in the 57 kg Women’s freestyle category
  - She became the 4th Indian woman to win a medal at the World Championships after Alka Tomar in 2006, Geeta Phogat and Babita Phogat in 2012

- Final Medals Tally – Top 20 countries

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INTERNATIONAL DAY

World Thrift (Savings) Day – October 30

- The day was instituted on October 31, 1924, during the 1st International Savings Bank Congress (World Society of Savings Banks) in Milano, Italy
- The day is devoted to the promotion of savings all over the World
- The first World Thrift Day was celebrated in 1925

REPORT

20-year Air passenger Forecast Report – released by International Air Transport Association (IATA)

- Highlights of the Report
  - India to become the 3rd largest Aviation Market in the world by 2024, surpassing UK
  - India ranked at 7th position currently in the Global aviation market
  - By 2037, the number of air passengers around the world will double to 8.2 billion
  - China will displace US as the world’s largest aviation market in the mid-2020
  - Home passenger traffic in India is growing at around 18.28% to reach 243 million in 2018-19 and 293 million in 2020
  - International travel in India grew by 10.43% to reach 65 million in 2018 and 76 million in 2020
  - The Asia-Pacific region is expected to see the fastest growth at the rate of 4.8%, followed by Africa (4.6%) and West Asia (4.4%)
- IATA – Association of World Airlines
  - Established – 1945
  - Headquarters – Montreal, Canada
OBITUARY

Qazi Abdussattar, Urdu Writer and Professor (85 years)

- He was the former head of Aligarh Muslim University’s Urdu department
- He had won Padma Shri in 1974
- He was the first recipient of Ghalib Academy Award in 1978
- He is the author of many short stories and historical novels, which includes “Peetal Ka Ghanta”, “Darashiko”, “Khalidbinwalid” and “Ghalib”
Swami Dayananda Saraswati was the founder of Arya Samaj. He was a social reformer and a great Hindu religious preacher.

Dayananda Saraswati formed Arya Samaj in 1875 A.D. He formed this ‘Samaj’ for the resurgence of Hindu society.

He was born in a Brahmin family of Gujrat. He was a Sanskrit pundit. He did not know English. He came in contact with Keshab Sen after being Saint. After that he appointed himself during his last 8 years of life in reform work of religion and the society.

He urged Indians to “Go back to the Vedas”. We have nothing to learn from the West. Because our Veda is self-sufficient in respect of all knowledge and teaching.

He was against the deity worship, child marriage and caste system and was a great supporter of women education, widow marriage and sea voyages.
He fulfilled his movement by writing two books namely ‘Satyarth Prakash’ and ‘Vedabhasya’.

He propagated the religious ideologies among the common. The main difference with Brahmo Samaj was that he was not educated in western education.

He started ‘Suddhi movement’ for reconverting the Hindus who were detached from it.

The Arya Samaj movement gradually spread over entire India. It spread in Punjab, Rajputana, Uttarpradesh and Gujarat.

Historian K.M. Panikkar thinks that Arya Samaj had an important role in strengthening Hindu religion in Northern India.

Swami Dayananda died 1883 A.D. His followers tried to continue to propagate his ideologies. The important representatives of Arya Samaj were Lal Hamsaraj, Pandit Guru Datta, Lala Lajpat Rai and Swami Shraddhananda.

Lala Hansaraj founded ‘Anglo Vedic College’ in Lahore.

Shraddhanand founded ‘Gurudal Arya Vidyalaya’ in Haridwar in 1902 A.D. Their main object was to propagate the ideology of Veda.