Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu Government – to establish a ‘Faculty Training centre’ at the Government College of Technology, Coimbatore
- The centre will provide training and development programs for teachers from colleges across the state
- The construction of Rs 9-crore training centre will be completed by December 2018 and it is expected to start functioning from June 2019.
The centre will conduct industry-oriented training programs for the faculty members from Government, Government-aided and self-financing colleges across the state.

It is being built with various facilities like Seminar halls, virtual classrooms, a mini auditorium, a library and a video conferencing facility along with a separate hostel for outstation faculties.

NATIONAL

- 2nd Edition of IndiaSkills 2018, India’s biggest Skill competition – concluded in New Delhi

- Duration - 4th to 6th October 2018

- Objective – Aiming to identify, promote and reward the best talents in different skills

- Organized by - The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

- Around 450 participants took part in 46 competition trades and 10 demonstration trades

- Winners will be given more training and will represent India at the 45th WorldSkills Competition at Kazan, Russia in 2019

- Disabled winners will also be representing India at the World level competition in Abilympics in China
Country’s 1st Methanol-based Cooking fuel Project – inaugurated in Assam on Oct 5, 2018

The ‘Green and Clean Fuel Pilot Project on Methanol cooking Stove’ utilises Methanol-based cooking Oil

The program was inaugurated by Dr V K Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog and Chairman, Methanol Apex Committee at the Assam Petro-chemicals campus at Namrup

The project is launched by Namrup-based ‘Assam Petrochemicals Limited’ (APL)

Ritu Bordoloi of Namrup, Assam became India’s first owner and user of a cooking stove fuelled by methanol

Initially the product will be available only in the Northeastern Region

In the first Pilot project, APL handed over a stove with two 1.2-litre canisters of methanol to 500 households inside the Assam Petro Complex

It will be later expanded to around 40,000 households in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Goa and Karnataka

It is the first of its kind initiative under NITI Aayog’s programme of ‘Methanol Economy’

The ‘Methanol Economy’ programme aims to replace 20% of the crude imports with methanol alone

It also reduces the pollution by 40% and is already adopted in various countries like Japan, China, Italy, Sweden, US, Israel, Australia etc.

In Africa, around 5.5 lakh people and 8 million in China use methanol as cooking fuel

APL is India’s first public sector producer of methanol and formalin from natural gas as the feedstock, for the last 30 years
✓ The special Cooking stove using Methanol is based on Swedish technology and does not have any piping system or regulator
✓ The gaseous form, Methanol - DME, can be blended in 20% ratio with LPG
✓ This LPG-DME blending program is expected to kickstart in the country by next year.

➢ **India’s Atal Innovation Mission – signs MoU with Russia’s SIRIUS Educational Foundation** – to promote innovative cooperation between students of India and Russia

![Image](image_url)

✓ The AIM and SIRIUS Education Foundation were represented by Mission Director R Ramanan and Elena Shmeleva respectively
✓ The MoU was signed in the presence of the PM, Narendra Modi and the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, in New Delhi on 5th October 2018
✓ **About AIM-SIRIUS Innovation Festival 2018**
✓ Young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs and SIRIUS Educational Foundation came together at a four-day ‘Indo-Russian ATL innovation boot-camp’ from October 1st to October 4th
✓ The boot-camp was organized by Atal Tinkering Labs, Atal Innovation Mission, with support from Department of Design, IIT Delhi

➢ **The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) – confirmed that ‘CDV’ (Canine Distemper Virus), a highly contagious and life-threatening viral infection was responsible for the death of five out of the 23 Asiatic lions in Gujarat’s Gir forest, since September 12**
✓ The disease was confirmed after a complete CDV genome test was done by the scientists of ICMR and its main laboratory, National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune
The government has imported 300 shots of CDV vaccine from US for the Asiatic lions in Gir forests.

- Canine distemper virus is known mainly to cause a severe infection in dogs that could possibly turn fatal.
- Dogs are considered the primary source of infection and virus transmission.
- The lions could have contracted the “contagious disease” after eating “contaminated food.”
- In early 1994, CDV wiped out 30% of the total lion population in the Serengeti forest areas in East Africa.
- As per the forest department’s 2015 census, Gujarat was home to 523 lions — the count having almost doubled since 1990, when it was 284.

- **Election commission –** announces Poll dates for 5 state assembly elections

![Map of India with polling dates for five states](image)

- **Southern Railways –** has announced that all the unmanned railway crossings under its jurisdiction were removed

![Image showing a busy railway crossing](image)

- There were 1054 such LCs on the Southern Railway in 2010, which was reduced to 311 as on Sep 1, 2017.
The deadline to eliminate them was September 30, 2018 as per the current minister of railways, Piyush Goyal

INTERNATIONAL

- Ukraine – launches its 1st Solar power plant – in the abandoned area around Chernobyl Nuclear power station

- In April 1986, a failed test at the Soviet plant caused a major disaster that ultimately killed thousands of people and spread radiation across Europe and Russia
- The 1 MW solar plant is a joint project by Rodina, an Ukrainian company and Enerparc AG of Germany with a budget of around $1.2 million
- It is the first time that the site has produced Power since 2000, when the nuclear plant was finally shut down

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- International Conference on Women’s Health, Wellness and Empowerment - was held in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh on Oct 6th, 2018
Organised by - The Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India & The Kanpur Obstetric and Gynaecological Society

Theme of the conference - “Give her wings and let her soar”

President, Ram Nath Kovind – addressed the Conference

He also unveiled a statue of the late freedom fighter ‘Shyamlal Parshad’ in Kanpur

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- NASA – has announced that the World’s First crewed flight by a SpaceX rocket to the International Space Station (ISS) will take place in June 2019
- A flight on Boeing spacecraft is set to follow in August 2019
- It will be the first manned U.S. launch to ISS laboratory since the space shuttle program was retired in 2011
- SpaceX will use its Falcon 9 rocket for its launch
- Boeing’s Starliner ship will be propelled into space by an Atlas V rocket made by the United Launch Alliance, a joint venture with Lockheed Martin
- In the long term, NASA will use SpaceX and Boeing to take astronauts to the ISS for regular missions, which last about six months

APPOINTMENTS

- Srinivasan Swamy – appointed as ‘Chairman and world president’ of the International Advertising Association (IAA) for 2 years - at an event in Bucharest, Romania

- He is the first Indian to hold the chairman and world president post of IAA
- He replaces Felix Tataru
- In his new role, he will lead a team of 25 Executive Committee members from various countries
- Also, India will host the 44th edition of ‘IAA World Congress’, in Cochin in 2019
Srinivasan Swamy is the current Chairman of RK Swamy Hansa Group
He has received Global Champion award by the IAA and was inducted into the IAA India Chapter Hall of Fame in 2017
He is also Vice Chairman of Asian Federation of Advertising Associations

**Hima Das – Joins Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) as HR Officer (Grade A)**

She will be posted at her state office in Guwahati, Assam
IOCL will provide the necessary support for her training activities
Hima Das had won 3 medals, including gold in 4x400m women’s relay in Asian Games 2018
She had won a gold medal at the U 20 World Championship in Finland
She also received Arjuna award in 2018

**Ravi Sawani, former International Cricket Council (ICC) anti-corruption unit chief - appointed as the head of ‘Anti corruption unit’ for ‘Premier Badminton League’ (PBL)**
✓ He has been appointed as the ‘Chief anti-corruption and integrity commissioner’ for PBL.
✓ The league, featuring nine teams, will start in Mumbai on December 21 and will be played in five cities with Pune, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Bengaluru completing the line-up.

➢ Justice K Ramakrishnan, former Judge of Kerala High court – appointed as a member of the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

✓ He will be serving at the principal bench of NGT in New Delhi for a couple of months before being posted as a judicial member in Chennai.
✓ The tribunal has five places of sitting at New Delhi, Bhopal, Chennai, Kolkata and Pune.
✓ The southern bench of NGT had moved into the historic Kalas Mahal a year ago.
✓ However, it became defunct after the retirement of the lone judicial member, MS Nambiar on January 4 this year.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

➢ “Feisty At Fifty” authored by Sudha Menon - was released at the Pune International Literary Festival recently.
The book, which speaks about different phases of a woman’s life, was published by Pan Macmillan India.

It will be available in bookstores from October 22, 2018.

Sudha Menon has also authored the books –

- Leading Ladies: Women Who Inspire India
- Devi, Diva or She-Devil: The smart career woman’s survival guide

**SPORTS**

- **Fenesta Open National Tennis Championships, New Delhi**

![Image of two tennis players holding trophies]

- Men’s singles winner - Siddharth Vishwakarma
- Women’s singles winner - Mahak Jain
- Boys’ under-18 singles winner – Siddhanth Banthia
- Girls’ under-18 singles winner - Humera Shaik

- **3rd Edition of Summer Youth Olympic Games 2018** - began on October 6 in Buenos Aires, Argentina

- It will see thousands of athletes aged between 15 and 18 from over 200 countries compete in various categories.
- India is represented with a contingent of 68 members, including 46 athletes, who will compete in 13 sports during the prestigious event.
✓ Manu Bhaker (Haryana, 16 years old) - is the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent in the opening ceremony for the games

✓ The previous two summer events were held in Singapore (2010) and Nanjing, China (2014)
✓ The countries, South Sudan and Kosovo are making their debut at the Youth Olympics this year
✓ This year also marks the first time when Summer Youth Olympic Games are being held outside of Asia
✓ It is also the first youth game for either winter or summer, which is being held outside Eurasia