Tamil Nadu Police – identifies the culprits faster now with a new Fingerprint ID system, ‘FACTS 7.0 (Fingerprint Analysis and Criminal Tracing System)’, developed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)

- The system that costs Rs 1.70 crore has been in use, since Oct 4, 2018
- The fingerprint reading devices are installed at all the district headquarters and police commissionerates, linking them to the state crime records bureau’s (SCRB) data base in Chennai
- 36 Police stations are linked to the data base of the crime records bureau that has more than five lakh fingerprints

The Headquarters of Forest Department – to come up in Velachery at a budget of Rs 30 crore

- The new headquarters will be built in an area of 80,000 sq ft and completed within a period of 2 years
**SCHEMES**

- **Odisha** – launches ‘Nirman Kusuma’ scheme – to provide financial assistance to the children of the construction workers for their education in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and polytechnics in the state

  - Under the programme, an ITI student will be entitled to get financial assistance worth Rs 23,600 and a diploma student will get assistance worth Rs 26,300 per annum
  - Around 1878 students are expected to be benefited from the programme
  - Also, female students from 6th standard to post graduation would get an increase of 20% in their financial assistance
  - The government has also doubled the death compensation paid to the family of a construction worker to Rs 2 lakhs
  - It has also doubled the accident benefit paid to the family of a construction worker to Rs 4 lakhs
  - The total cost of the programme borne by the state government is Rs. 1.09 crore

**STATES**

- **Maharashtra** – launches a ‘website’ and a ‘mobile application’ – to analyse the drought situation in the state by collecting data on rainfall, crop situation and underground water

  - The state’s ‘Relief and rehabilitation ministry’ developed the website called ‘Maha Madat’ with the help of the Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre (MRSAC)
Government – reconstitutes ‘Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA)’
✓ This follows the expiry of the last EPCA on Oct 3, 2018
✓ Bhure Lal, former IAS Officer, will continue to be the Chairman of reconstituted EPCA
✓ EPCA is Supreme Court mandated body constituted to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region
✓ It was notified in 1998 by Environment Ministry, under Environment Protection Act, 1986

Government – launches ‘Closing the Skills Gap Task Force’ in India in collaboration with World Economic Forum (WEF)

✓ Co-chaired by - Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan along with Salil Parekh, MD and CEO of Infosys
✓ Objective – to address the skill gaps in India and to equip Indian workforce for future jobs
✓ India is the 2nd country after South Africa to collaborate with WEF for this prestigious project
✓ During the inauguration, Dharmendra Pradhan released reports on ‘Future of Work in India’, an enterprise survey on future of work in India and ‘Young India and Work’, a survey of youth aspirations in India.
The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) – has signed a MoU with the ‘UN Environment’ for ‘Environmental cooperation’

- It aims to provide a framework of collaboration in areas including environment, climate change, renewable energy, energy efficiency, resource conservation and management, water sanitation, smart cities and urban infrastructure
- The major activity planned under the agreement includes the #Un-plastic Initiative of the CII and UN Environment, that will begin with a ‘Call to Action’ to curb plastic pollution
- The initiative is a follow-up to the World Environment Day, 2018, whose theme was, ‘Beat Plastic Pollution’
- India has already decided to eliminate all single-use plastic in the country by 2022

Indian Railways – signed 2 MoU’s with Russia’s Ministry of Transport - for cooperation in the field of ‘transport education’

- The agreement aims to boost cooperation between the ‘Russian University of Transport’ and the ‘National Rail Transportation Institute’, Vadodara
- The MoU was signed by Indian Railway Board Chairman Ashwani Lohani and Russian Ambassador to India, Nikolay Rishatovich Kudashev
The Barren Island volcano, India’s only active volcano in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands - has begun to erupt on Sep 25 following the recent earthquake in Indonesia

Barren Island volcano

- The last recorded volcanic eruption on Barren Island was in February 2016
- Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad – monitors the earthquakes in the country

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- India – to host 14th International GCA Conference on Media and Communication – on Oct 11 and 12 in the ‘Pink city’ of Jaipur, Rajasthan
  - It is organized by Global Communication Association (GCA)
  - Focus theme 2018 - ‘Digital Inbound: Internet Communications and Beyond’

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- Gaganyaan – ISRO to work together with Russia’s ROSCOSMOS – for the country’s 1st manned space mission
The agreement for the same was signed during the talks between PM, Narendra Modi and Russian President, Vladimir Putin.

As per the MoU, ROSCOSMOS will fly an Indian astronaut to International Space Station (ISS) on board the Soyuz spacecraft in 2022 for a short training mission.

ISS is a habitable artificial satellite in low Earth’s orbit.

Former IAF pilot, Rakesh Sharma was first Indian to travel to space - as part of Soviet Union’s Soyuz T-11 expedition, launched on April 2, 1984 of Intercosmos programme.

Gaganyaan Mission – will send 3 Indian astronauts (Gaganyatris) into space by 2022 – for a period of 5 to 7 days.

India, thus becomes the 4th country in the world after USA, Russia and China to send humans into space.

DEFENCE

- JIMEX 18 – The 3rd edition of Japan-India Maritime Exercise commences at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

- It aims to improve the best practices between the Navies of two countries.
- Duration – Oct 7 to 15, 2018 (8 days) – 4 days each of Harbour phase and Sea phase.
- Indian representation
  - INS Satpura, multipurpose stealth frigate
  - INS Kadmatt, Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette & Missile Corvette
  - INS Shakti, fleet tanker
  - P8I long range maritime patrol aircraft
  - One submarine
  - Integral helicopters
- The Japanese fleet includes JMSDF Ships Kaga, an Izumo Class Helicopter Destroyer and Inazuma, a Guided Missile Destroyer.
- JIMEX – Inaugurated in Jan 2012 off the Japanese coast.
- The last (second) edition of JIMEX was conducted in Dec 2013 off Chennai coast, India.
Government – sanctions 5 new battalions of ‘Rapid Action Force’ (RAF) for anti-riot and crowd control
✓ They will be stationed at –
  ✓ Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)
  ✓ Hajipur (Bihar)
  ✓ Jaipur (Rajasthan)
  ✓ Mangalore (Karnataka)
  ✓ Nuh (Haryana)
✓ RAF - specially trained wing of Central Reserve Police Force to deal with riot control, rescue and relief operations
✓ It was formed in 1992 with its headquarters at New Delhi
✓ The 10 battalions of RAF are based in Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Aligarh, Delhi, Coimbatore, Jamshedpur, Bhopal and Meerut
✓ A Single RAF battalion has a strength of around 1,000 personnel, equipped with gadgets and non-lethal weapons for controlling unrest

ECONOMY

Reserve Bank of India – clears the setting up of ‘Kerala Bank’, a venture proposed by the Kerala Government
✓ Kerala has consolidated the State Cooperative Bank and the 14 district cooperative banks in the state to develop the new Cooperative Bank, ‘Kerala Bank’
✓ It will have all the facilities of a commercial bank, including ATMs
✓ The bank was formed based on the recommendations of an expert committee under M S Sriram

APPOINTMENTS

Pravin Srivastava – appointed as 3rd ‘Chief statistician of India’ (CSI)
✓ He is the current additional director general in the National accounts division with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
Srivastava’s tenure will be until August 31, 2020
He replaces TCA Anant, who retired on Jan 31, 2018 after assuming office on July 1, 2010
Noted Economist, Pronab Sen – was the First CSI appointed in 2007
He worked as a secretary to the Indian Statistical Commission, popularly known as the Rangarajan Commission, which laid the foundation of the modern statistical system
The National Statistical Commission was set up in 2005 on its recommendations

Kim Jong-yang (South Korea) – appointed as ‘Acting President’ of Interpol, the premier global investing agency
His appointment follows the resignation of Meng Hongwei of China, who is under investigation for unspecified illegal conduct in China and is on-the-run currently

A new president will be chosen at the November 18-21 meeting of the organisation in Dubai
Meng was named to the post of Interpol president in late 2016
Interpol is based at Lyon, France

K Ramaseshan, a senior finance executive – was appointed as the CFO (India operations) by the US-based IT major, Cognizant
Ramaseshan is a Chartered Accountant and a Cost Accountant, who started his career as Finance Officer at TVS Motor Company in 1993 in Chennai. Later he had senior financial management stints in Wipro and IBM before becoming the CFO of Tata Elxsi from 2013 to 2017. Currently, he is the CFO and Executive Director at SQS India BFSI, a business assurance and testing specialist focusing on the financial sector.

**AWARDS**

- **‘Mother Teresa Memorial Award - 2018’**
  - Nobel Peace Award 2018 winners and anti-rape campaigners, Nadia Murad and Dr Denis Mukwege – nominated for the Prestigious ‘Mother Teresa Memorial Award 2018’ by the Mumbai-based ‘Harmony Foundation’

  - Recognised officially by the Missionaries of Charity, the award includes a unique silhouette image of ‘St. Mother Teresa’ designed in sparkling crystal and a citation for the winners
  - The past nominees of the award includes Malala Yousafzai, the Dalai Lama, Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Medecins Sans Frontieres International, Malaysia’s Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, UAE’s Abdullah bin Zayed al Nahyan, UK’s Baroness Caroline Cox and India’s Priyanka Chopra
  - The Harmony Foundation was launched in 2005 to foster communal and social harmony through the ‘Mother Teresa Memorial Awards’
Sports

- U-19 Asia Cup, Dhaka, Bangladesh

- **India beat Sri Lanka** to lift the U-19 Asia cup for the Sixth time
- India are the most successful team in the youth Asia Cup history winning titles in 1989, 2003, 2012 (shared), 2014, 2016, 2018.
- Only two other nations -- Pakistan (2012 shared) and Afghanistan (2017) -- also had success in the past
- Indian Bowler, Harsh Tyagi was adjudged as the ‘Man of the Match’
- Indian Batsman, Yashasvi Jaiswal was named as the ‘Man of the Tournament’

- **Lewis Hamilton** (Great Britain, Mercedes) – wins the Japanese Formula One Grand prix
The 4-time Formula One Racing champion now has a 67 point lead over Ferrari’s Sebastian Vettel for the Overall Championships.

This was the 71st win of his career, only 20 behind the record of 7-time World champion, Michael Schumacher.

Finland’s Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes) secured second place while the Dutch driver, Max Verstappen (Red Bull) finished third.

Japanese Grand Prix.

It was started in 1963 and was the Only Asian nation to host a Formula One race until Malaysia joined the calendar in 1999.

Keerthana Pandian (India-Karnataka) – has won the Girls’ title in the IBSF World Under-16 Snooker Championships, St Petersburg, Russia.

This is her maiden international title, defeating her Belarussian rival Albina Leschuk 3-1 in the final.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

86th Indian Air Force Day – October 8.

The day pays rich tribute to the efforts and sacrifices of veterans in the service.

To mark the occasion, the IAF performed a grand Parade cum Investiture Ceremony at the Air Force Station, Hindan (Ghaziabad).

Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa, Chief of the Air Staff reviewed the parade.

In a first, a vintage Dakota aircraft that served the Air Force for over 40 years was displayed as part of the celebrations at Hindon.

The Dakota DC-3 aircraft of 1940 was used till 1988.

It was one of the most versatile transport aircraft of its time.
The air display was carried out by flag bearing sky divers of famous ‘Akash Ganga’ Team, who jumped from an An-32 aircraft.
The Indian Air Force came into force in Oct 8, 1932 as the ‘Royal Indian Air Force’ under the British rule.
The name was changed to Indian Air Force in 1950.
IAF is the fourth largest air force in the world, after the United States, Russia and China.
It has around 1,500 aircraft in its fleet that operates out of 60 air bases.
The Chief of the Air Staff with the rank of air chief marshal is the ‘Commander’ of the Indian Air Force.
The rank of ‘Marshal of the Air Force’ has been conferred by the President of India on one occasion in history, to Arjan Singh.
On 26 January 2002, Singh became the first and so far the only five-star rank officer of the IAF.
The Indian Air Force has five commands across India –
  ✓ Western Air Command with its headquarters in New Delhi
  ✓ Southwestern Air Command at Jodhpur in Rajasthan
  ✓ Eastern Air Command at Shillong in Meghalaya
  ✓ Central Air Command at Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh
  ✓ Southern Air Command at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.

REPORT

“Future of Work in India” report – Released by World Economic Forum (WEF)

✓ Highlights of the Report
✓ One in 3 companies preferred hiring men
✓ One in 10 companies wanted to hire more women
✓ India’s female workforce participation is mere 27%
✓ Currently, 33% of companies had no female employees, 71% have fewer than 10% female workers, and only 2.4% have half or more females
✓ The retail sector had most companies with no female employees at 45%, followed by transport and logistics at 36%.
Companies in both sectors (Retail and Transport) also stated they prefer hiring men most, at 43 and 48% respectively.

75% of freelancers are men, and men with 10 to 20 years experience are paid 30% more than their female counterparts.

Of the companies surveyed, it was found that 22% were to replace permanent workers with contract workers in the next five years.

Less than quarter of companies provide maternity leave for permanent employees and 10% for contract workers.

The report was prepared by WEF and Observer Research Foundation (ORF) after surveying 770 companies across four industries – textiles, logistics and transportation, banking and financial services and retail.

OBITUARY

Natwar Thakkar, Eminent Gandhian (86 years)

Thakkar was fondly known as ‘Nagaland’s Gandhi’
He founded the ‘Nagaland Gandhi Ashram’ at Chuchuyimlang in 1955
He was from Maharashtra and had made Nagaland his home, ever since he arrived in the state in 1955
Due to his initiative and efforts, an extension centre of National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology was started in Chuchuyimlang village in 2006 along with the inauguration of “Mahatma Gandhi Centre of Social Work”
Thakkar was conferred the ‘Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration’ in 1994
He was honoured with numerous other awards including India’s fourth highest Civilian Award, Padma Shri in 1999 by the then President of India, K.R. Narayan
He had been chosen as a member of a committee constituted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the year-long celebration of Mahatma Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary across the country.