Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu Government – signs MoU with the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (Nimhans), Bengaluru, to conduct a Rs 10 crore ‘Wellness programme’ for police personnel to help them cope with stress.

- An estimated 1.2 lakh police personnel and 3.6 lakh of their kin will benefit from the programme, the 1st of its kind in the entire country for the Police personnel.

- Tamil Nadu Government – to take its Treasury operations completely ‘online’ from 1st November, 2018.
The state to implement an ‘Integrated financial and human resource management system’ (IFHRMS) developed at a budget of Rs 289 crore to usher paperless transactions.

IFHRMS is being executed with Wipro as the system integrator, Accenture Services as project consulting agency and PriceWaterhouseCoopers as the third party audit agency.

Puducherry – to have ‘Casino’s very soon, similar to Goa, to boost the tourism – as per Tourism Minister of Puducherry, Malladi Krishna Rao, who was inaugurating a one-day seminar on “challenges and opportunities” organised by the Tourism Department.
STATES

- Odisha – to name the newly-built ‘Jharsuguda airport’ after noted freedom fighter ‘Veer Surendra Sai’

- Punjab – to launch a special programme to curb ‘oral cancer’ in the state
  - This was announced by Brahm Mohindra, state’s Health and Family Welfare Minister - on the occasion of Annual Reorientation Session-2018 held for Dental Medical Officers

NATIONAL

- Ministry of Home Affairs – signs MoU with ISRO – for setting up state-of-the-art ‘Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response’ in Ministry of Home affairs
  - The control room will oversee both disaster management as well as internal security
  - It is expected to be established in next one-and-a-half year
  - The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) was set up at Ahmadabad in 1969 by Prof Vikram Sarabhai as its Chairman
  - It comes under Department of Space, which comes under the authority of the Prime Minister

- World Bank – approves ‘Country Partnership Framework’ to support India’s transition to ‘High-Middle Income country’ by 2030
  - The framework focuses on World Bank’s engagement with India for the period of FY18-22 for the transition
  - The framework is expected to bring financial support worth $25-30 billion from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International
Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)

✓ India has gone from a ‘low-income’ country status to a ‘low-middle’ income and now, it is entering the economic transformation from ‘low-middle’ income to ‘high-middle’ income country

➢ BRICS Bank – approves a loan of $525 million for infrastructure projects in Madhya Pradesh
✓ The loan will be provided by the New Development Bank (NDB) of BRICS countries to Madhya Pradesh government
✓ It will be used for rehabilitating major district roads, with a total length of about 2,000 km, by connecting them with the national and state highway networks
✓ The Shanghai-based NDB was set up by the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) nations to promote green and infrastructure projects in the member countries

➢ Airports Authority of India – to commence its first development project of ‘Palaly Airport’ in Sri Lanka
✓ The detailed report of the project would be completed in 3 months

➢ India – to contribute $1 million – for installation of solar panels on the roof of the imposing UN building at the world body’s headquarters in New York
✓ The contribution will help reduce carbon footprint and promote sustainable energy
✓ India was the “First responder” to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres call for climate action

➢ Min of Health – signs MoU with Tata Trusts and Dell to provide a technological platform for nationwide prevention, control, screening and management program of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)
✓ Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare released the user manual for NCD application under ‘Comprehensive Primary Health Care’ (CPHC) IT Solutions

➢ UGC – asks all its universities to celebrate ‘Surgical Strike Day’ on 29th September
✓ It also directed NCC units of all varsities to hold a special parade to mark the day and encourage students to pledge their support for the armed forces
✓ On this day in 2016, the Indian Army carried out surgical strikes on seven terror launch pads across the LoC inflicting “significant casualties” on terrorists preparing to infiltrate from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)

➢ Belgium’s National carrier, ‘Brussels Airlines’ – to officially stop all its flights to India from January 7, 2019 due to economic reasons
✓ It had started its Mumbai-Brussels route in March 2017, venturing for the first time into the Indian subcontinent
✓ Earlier in 2016, Jet Airways announced its decision to close its hub in Brussels which had been opened in 2007.

DEFENCE

➢ Prahaar – India’s indigenous surface-to-surface short-range tactical ballistic missile was successfully test-fired by DRDO from launch pad 3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, near Balasore off Odisha coast on 20th Sep 2018

✓ It has operational range of 150 km and is capable of carrying multiple types of warheads weighing around 200 kg
✓ It fills the vital gap between multi-barrel rocket Pinaka and medium-range ballistic missile Prithvi
✓ It was the second test of the missile, which was first tested on July 21, 2011
✓ The missile is equipped with state-of-the-art navigation, guidance and electromechanical actuation systems with an advanced onboard computer
APPOINTMENTS

- Vijay Amritraj – elected as 12th ‘President’ of Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA)
- The new office-bearers will serve a three-year term until 2021

AWARDS

- Anushka Sharma, Actress – received ‘Smita Patel’ award for ‘Best Actor’ during the 34th anniversary of Priyadarshni Academy Global Award, in Mumbai
Mumbai-born Vasan Bala’s superhero movie, *Mard ko Dard Nahin Hota* (The Man Who Feels No Pain) - has won the Toronto film festival’s prestigious ‘Grolsch People’s Choice Midnight Madness’ Award

- It becomes the first ever Indian film to be screened in the Toronto festival’s ‘Midnight Madness’ programme
- London-based Indian director Sandhya Suri won the Best International Short Film Award for ‘The Field’ shot in India

**BOOKS & AUTHORS**

- **Sundeep Mishra**, journalist, author and filmmaker – to write a book on sprinter *Dutee Chand*, who won two silver medals at the 2018 Asian Games
  - The book is titled ‘Story so far’ and will be released in 2019
  - It would be published by Westland Books
  - The book will narrate the hardships and controversies Dutee Chand has come across and how she has emerged as a rising star

**OBITUARY**

- **Ki.Tha. Pachaiyappan**, Tamil scholar and Freedom fighter (Age 85)

- Pachaiyappan is a native of Puducherry and lives in Chennai
- He participated in Freedom struggle to liberate Puducherry from French annexion
- He worked as Tamil teacher in Government Schools and retired as ‘Head Master’
- He was the editor of the magazine ‘Tamizhiyakkam’ and was also associated with the magazine ‘Tamizh Osai’
- He was instrumental in identifying Tamil words for ‘Kanini’ (Computer) and ‘Sel pesi’ (Mobile phone)
**SPORTS**

- Shahbaz Nadeem (Jharkhand cricketer) – recorded the best ever bowling figures (10-4-10-8) in List A cricket
  - He is a left-arm orthodox spinner and obtained the record during the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Rajasthan in Chennai

![Shahbaz Nadeem](image)

**BEST BOWLING FIGURES IN LIST A CRICKET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCORE</th>
<th>PLAYER</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-10</td>
<td>SHAHBZ NADEEM (Jharkhand v Rajasthan)</td>
<td>2018/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-15</td>
<td>RL SANGHVI (Delhi v Himachal Pradesh)</td>
<td>1997/98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-19</td>
<td>WPUJC VAAS (Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe)</td>
<td>2001/02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-20</td>
<td>DT KOTTEHEWA* (NCC** v Ragama Cricket Club)</td>
<td>2007/08</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-21</td>
<td>MA HOLDING (Derbyshire v Sussex)</td>
<td>1988</td>
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</tbody>
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*Including two hat-tricks; **Non-descript Cricket Club

- He has topped the wicket takers list in consecutive Ranji Trophy seasons (2015 and 2016) and a regular for India ‘A’ team

- Football - World Cup Winners, France and third-placed Belgium become the first teams ever to share Top spot in the FIFA rankings’ 25-year history
  - Top 10 FIFA rankings 2018 -
    1. France and Belgium
    2. Brazil
    3. Croatia
    4. Uruguay
    5. England
    6. Portugal
    7. Switzerland
    8. Spain
    9. Denmark
INTERNATIONAL DAY

➢ International Day of Peace – September 21

✓ It recognise the efforts of those who have worked hard to end conflicts and promote peace
✓ This day is also observed as the ‘Day of Ceasefire’
✓ Theme for 2018 - “The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70”
✓ This year’s theme celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on December 10, 1948
✓ The Universal Declaration is the most translated document in the world, available in more than 500 languages
✓ The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by resolution 36/67 of the United Nations General Assembly to coincide with the opening session of the assembly, which was held annually on the third Tuesday of September
✓ The first International Day of Peace was observed in September 1982
✓ In 2001, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/282, which established 21st September as an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire as well

- Highlights of the Report
- The Report stresses on the international commitments needed to end Tuberculosis (TB) by 2030
- The United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on the fight against tuberculosis is about to take place on September 26th 2018
- Since 2000, a 44% reduction in TB deaths has been witnessed among people infected with HIV
- An estimated 10 million people developed TB in 2017 with a reduction of 2% every year
- Of the 10 million people who fell ill with TB in 2017, only 6.4 million were officially recorded, leaving 3.6 million people undiagnosed, or detected but not reported
- Ten countries accounted for 80% of underreporting and under-diagnosis, with India, Indonesia and Nigeria topping the list
- In 2017, 5,58,000 people developed disease resistance to Rifampicin, the most effective first-line TB drug, leading to the emergence of Multi Drug resistant-TB (MDR-TB)
- Globally, MDR-TB treatment success remains low at 55% often due to drug toxicity
- To improve detection, diagnosis and treatment rates, WHO along with the Stop TB Partnership and the Global Fund launched the new initiative ‘Find. Treat. All. #EndTB’ in 2018, providing quality care to 40 million people with TB from 2018 to 2022
2018 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) - Released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)

LAUNCH OF
THE 2018 GLOBAL
MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX
Hosted by Achim Steiner, Administrator, UNDP
Thursday, 20 September 2018

✓ Highlights of the Report
✓ The report observes that about 1.3 billion people live in multidimensional poverty globally, which is almost 25% of the population of the 104 countries for which the 2018 MPI is calculated
✓ Of these 1.3 billion, almost half, 46%, are living in severe poverty
✓ In India, more than 270 million people moved out of poverty in the decade since 2005-06 and the poverty rate in the country nearly halved falling from 55% to 28% over the 10-year period between 2005-06 and 2015-16
✓ India is the first country for which progress over time has been estimated