TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu Government – announces ‘scheme’ for protection of Neela Kurinji Plants that flowers once in 12 years – to prevent the commercial packaging and selling of them.

- It is native to Shola forests in Western Ghats also seen in Shevroys Hills in Eastern Ghats, Anamalai hills and Agali hills in Kerala and Sanduru hills in Karnataka.
- It grows at height of 30 to 60 cm on hills slopes at an altitude of 1300 to 2400 meters.
- The flowers has no smell, no medicinal value and because of these ‘unique’ flowers which doesn’t grow anywhere in the world, Nilgiris is called as ‘Blue mountains’.
✓ In ancient Tamil literature, kurinji flowers symbolize ‘love’
✓ Paliyan tribe people living in Tamil Nadu calculates ‘age’ based on the flowering of this plant

➢ Tamil Nadu Government – to constitute a new ‘Water Resources Conservation and River Restoration Corporation’ - to help implement water schemes
✓ The new department will help out Public Works department to draft innovative projects and schemes to improve water sources
✓ The new department will conceive special projects, prepare detailed project reports and access funding from external agencies such as World Bank
✓ It will work on reclaiming tanks and rivers, de-silting water bodies and dams, intra-linking of rivers and river basins, and strengthening and modernising existing irrigation infrastructure
✓ It intends to have engineers and consultants from outside the state also, to provide more inputs to the schemes

➢ Registration department – increases the number of slots from 50 to 100 everyday across all the 575 Sub registrar offices in the state from Sep 22nd, 2018
✓ The development comes after 5 days of the introduction of First-in-First-Out system

➢ IIT, Madras – signs MoU with Nanyang Technological university, Singapore – for a Joint PhD Programme

✓ Infosys co-founder, Kris Gopalakrishnan, an alumnus of IIT Madras, will sponsor five IIT Madras students annually for travel and stay for up to 18 months as part of the programme
IIT, Madras – to set up a Rs 500 crore to Rs 1000 crore corpus fund by 2020—after record donations received from alumni and donors during the FY 2017-18
✓ It had received Rs 73 crore in 2017-18 alone, when compared to a previous high of Rs 18 crore
✓ The fund will be utilized for array of activities including Research, social projects, innovation promotion and world-class infrastructure to reach out Global rankings
✓ It has to be recalled that Indian Institute of Technology, Madras is the top-ranked engineering institute for the third consecutive year in the Union HRD ministry’s NIRF rankings

Chennai MTC buses – displays ‘Minimum Rs 5’ stickers in the windshield for easy identification of the ordinary buses by the passengers

Naren Gowtham Nagarajan (India) – wins the International Tamil Elocution competition – coordinated by Thanjavur Tamil University in Yangon, Myanmar
✓ This competition was started in 2016 between students of various Colleges in different countries
✓ Muhammed Dhurves (India) – also won the joint 3rd prize in the event

Winners from Tamil Nadu in the National Sport Awards 2018
✓ G Sathiyan – Table Tennis – Arjuna Award
✓ A Srinivasa Rao – Table Tennis – Dronacharya Award

Romania – to open a new consulate in Chennai
✓ This was decided in a meeting between VP, Venkaiah Naidu and Romania PM, Viorica Dancila in Bucharest
STATES

- Odisha – Cyclone ‘Daye’ crosses coast near Gopalpur

NATIONAL

  - It intends to check objectionable ‘explicit’ online content and lodge complaints without disclosing the identity
  - The complaints registered through this portal will be handled by police authorities of respective State/UTs
  - National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) will play a major role as a nodal agency in the overall process

- Insurance regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) - raises the minimum ‘Accident protection’ insurance cover for 2 wheeler and car owner/driver - to Rs 15 lakh for an additional premium of Rs 750 per annum to the existing premium
  - The current insurance cover is Rs 1 lakh and 2 lakh for 2 wheeler and Cars, respectively

- Indian Railways – increases the Price of Tea and Coffee sold in Trains & Stations after a period of 6 years
  - The new price of a 150 ml cup of tea with teabag and a 150 ml cup of coffee is Rs 10 (Earlier Rs 7)
  - Standard readymade tea will be served at Rs 5 per cup
  - Tea and Coffee earlier sold in Pots, of 285 ml at Rs 10 and Rs 15 respectively, will be discontinued

INTERNATIONAL

- Saudi Arabia – to join as 3rd Strategic partner in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)
This will pave the way for more Saudi investments to tide over huge debt crisis of Pakistan due to the loans received from China for CPEC

Saudi Arabia had earlier loaned Pakistan $1.5 billion in 2014 to strengthen its rupee and bailed it out from economic crisis

CPEC is $50 billion flagship project of China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

It aims to support Pakistan’s industrial development as a manufacturing hub by 2030

It will link ‘Gwadar’ in South Western Pakistan to China’s ‘Xinjiang’ in North Western region through vast network of highways and railways

**COMMITTES**

- **Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) – constitutes a committee under its Chief GM, ‘Randip Singh Jagpal’** - to identify key regulatory issues and gaps regarding Fin-tech in insurance

**CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

- **1st General Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) – to be held on 2nd October, 2018 in New Delhi**
  - It will be followed by ministerial level assembly of ISA on the next day in Greater Noida
  - ISA was jointly launched by India and France in November 2015 at Paris on the side lines of ‘COP21’ UN Climate Change Conference
  - Its Framework Agreement came into force in December 6th, 2017 and inaugurated on 11th March, 2018 jointly by PM, Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron in New Delhi
  - It is headquartered at the campus of National Institute of Solar Energy, Gurugram, Haryana
United Nations is the Strategic partner of ISA and 47 countries are signatories to it, till date
It intends to take on-board prospective 121 ‘solar-rich’ countries that lie fully or partially between Tropic of Cancer and Capricorn
It also aims to mobilize investments of around $1000 billion by 2030 for massive deployment of solar energy

1st ever Mizoram International Short Film Festival - inaugurated by Mizoram CM, Lal in Aizawl, Mizoram

It is organised by Government of Mizoram and Innovations India with the support of the Mizo Film Forum

PERSONALITIES

Sachin Tendulkar – refuses to accept the honorary ‘D Litt’ Doctoral degree from Jadavpur University, West Bengal
He has earlier declined to receive the Doctoral degree from Oxford University too
In his place, Mary Kom was announced to receive the honour from the university

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

ISRO – setting up 3rd Launch pad at Sriharikota, Andhra pradesh for the Gaganyaan Mission
Gaganyaan Mission will be India’s first manned space mission that will send 3 persons (Gaganyatris) into space by 2022 (75th Independence year) for a period of 5 to 7 days
India will be fourth nation in the world after USA, Russia and China to launch human spaceflight mission
ISRO will use its GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle which can carry heavier payload of Gaganyaan from the new 3rd launch pad

- **India’s 1st Indigenous 500-MW ‘Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor’ (PFBR) at Kalpakkam – to achieve ‘criticality’ in 2019**
  - This was announced by Sekhar Basu, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy - at 62th General Conference of International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria
  - The PFBR at Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu is a pool-type reactor with 1,750 tonnes of sodium as coolant and can have an operational life of 40 years
  - It will generate power by burning mixed uranium-plutonium MOX fuel, a mixture of PuO2 and UO2
  - Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam (Bhavini), a public sector company under DAE, has built this reactor
  - India is planning to build 21 such reactors by 2030

- **NASA’s ‘TESS’ – discovers 2 earth-like exoplanets ‘Super-Earth’ and ‘Hot-Earth’**
  - TESS, Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite – launched in April 2018 to detect exoplanets
  - It is a one year mission with a budget of $337 million
  - **Super-Earth**
    - It is named as Pi Mensae c
    - It is 60 light-years away
    - It orbits its sun every 6.3 days
  - **Hot-Earth**
    - It is named as LHS 3844 b
    - It is 49 light-years away
    - It orbits its sun every 11 hours
    - Both the planets are too hot to support life

- **ISRO – plans to send India’s 2nd Lunar mission ‘Chandrayaan-2’ on January 3, 2019**
  - Chandrayaan-2 will have an orbiter, lander and rover and will attempt ‘soft-landing’ for the first time on the Moon’s south pole region

**ECONOMY**
India’s GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal increased to 7.8% from 7.4% - As per Fitch Rating’s latest report on Global Economic Outlook

But, the growth forecasts for FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021 has been cut by 0.2% points to 7.3%

**APPOINTMENTS**

- **Anil Kumar Chaudhary** – has been appointed as new Chairman of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL)

- **Anindo Majumdar** – appointed as new ‘Secretary’ of Central Vigilance commission
He was the chief secretary of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and appointed as financial commissioner of Delhi in July

**AWARDS**

- Lucknow Metro Rail – becomes the 1st ever Metro Rail in India – to bag the International 'Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents' (RoSPA) Award

  - It has been given the ‘Silver Award’ for its Phase 1A (North-South Corridor) in the ‘Project/Infrastructure’ category for the year 2018

**SPORTS**
Glenmark 72nd National swimming championship, Thiruvananthapuram - 5 National Record set on Day 2 in a single day

Richa Mishra (36 years - Delhi) - became the first Indian woman to breach the five-minute mark in women’s 400m Individual Medley

- She clocked 4:59.17 to set the new National record
- She had previously held the best Indian time of 5:01.08 (set in 2007) and also the meet record (5:02.96, 2009)
- Srihari Natraj (Karnataka) – sets a new national record in 50m backstroke event
- Saloni Dalal (Karnataka) – sets a new national record in 200m breaststroke event
- Advait Page (Madhya pradesh) - sets a new national record in 1500m freestyle event
- Sports Federation of India – sets a new national record in 4x100m medley relay event

Day 3 – National Records

- Sajan Prakash (Kerala) – sets a new National record in Mens 400m freestyle event
- He smashed the meet record by clocking 3:54:93 and beat the best Performance time of 3:56.17s set by Saurabh Sangvekar in 2014
- Srihari Natraj (Karnataka) – sets a new national record in Mens 200m backstroke event

INTERNATIONAL DAY
World Alzheimer’s Day – September 21

This day is observed to create awareness about the Alzheimer’s disease
- It was observed since 2012
- September is observed as World Alzheimer’s Month
- Alzheimer’s disease is a group of disorders that affects memory and other mental functions

World Rose Day – September 22

World Rose Day

22nd September, is Rose Day
a special day for remembering and sharing a cancer patient’s trauma.

REAL LOVE, CARE AND CONCERN
The day is observed in the memory of 12-year-old Melinda Rose from Canada, who was diagnosed with Askin’s Tumour, a rare form of blood cancer. Although doctors predicted her days, she lived for 6 months due to her willpower and spirit.

This day intends to remind all cancer patients that they can face this disease with their spirit and will power.

REPORT

- **Victims of Terror Attacks and Terror Groups – Report by US Department of State**
  - India is the third largest victim of terror attacks across the world after Iraq and Afghanistan, for the 2nd year in a row.
  - Till 2015, Pakistan was the third most affected country in the world.
  - CPI-Maoists, which carried out 53% of the total attacks in India, is the fourth deadliest terror group after Islamic State, Taliban, and Al-Shabaab.
  - Maoists were involved in 295 total attacks in India, while the other groups, Al-Shabaab had 353 attacks, Taliban had 703 attacks and Islamic State had 857 attacks under their name.
  - Jammu & Kashmir alone witnessed a 24% increase in terror attacks in 2017 and an 89% increase in the number of people killed in those attacks.
  - Interestingly, for the first time, West Bengal witnessed a 215% increase in terror attacks, from 6 incidents in 2016 to 76 in 2017, mostly owing to Darjeeling unrest due to Gorkha Janmukti Morcha and Gorkha Liberation Army last year.
OBITUARY

- Tran Dai Quang, President of Vietnam (61 years)

✅ He was sworn in as the President of the communist country in April 2016
✅ Earlier, he had also served as the ‘Minister of Public Security’ from 2011 to 2016 of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
✅ He was also a police general and member of decision-making Politburo of Vietnam