Tamil Nadu

- Asian Development Bank – sanctions Rs 500 million (Rs 3,600 crore) – to revamp Water, Drainage facilities in 10 Tamil Nadu cities

$169M TO BE 1ST TRANCHE FROM ADB

- Ambur, Chennai, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Rajapalayam, Tuticorin, Trichy, Tirunelveli, Tiruppur, and Vellore to be covered
- Climate-resilient drainage infrastructure to be developed in at least 8 cities
- Plan includes a first-of-its-kind solar-powered sewerage treatment plant to be set up in Coimbatore
- Smart features to improve water supply systems in five cities in the state will be part of the scheme

- The ADB will release the fund in three tranches till March 2022
- Apart from the funding, the Centre, the Tamil Nadu government, the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, and the urban local bodies concerned would contribute an additional $766.4 million (Rs 5,500 crore) for the project
- The first tranche of $169 million would be for target Chennai, Coimbatore, Rajapalayam, Trichy, Tirunelveli, and Vellore
- A $2 million grant from the Asian Clean Energy Fund, established by the Government of Japan, will fund the solar energy pilot project
- The scheme translates into ‘Vision Tamil Nadu 2023’ scheme, released in 2012, to develop world class cities in the state

- Tamil Nadu School Education Department – signs MoU with ACT Fibernet, a private internet service provider – to provide ‘Free’ internet services to 100 select Public libraries in Chennai, Coimbatore, Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram for the next 5 years
Nilgiris police – to promote traditional ‘kurumba’ painting

The police will adopt tribal villages in the forest areas along Kerala-Tamil Nadu border in Nilgiris to create an awareness about the dying ‘art’ form

Tamil Nadu – won the award for ‘Best State in Rural development’ at the 6th Edition of the ET Rural Strategy Summit 2018, held on 26th & 27th September 2018 in New Delhi

The award was received by S P Velumani, Min for Municipal Administration and Rural Development

Tamil Nadu Government – to digitize land record documents from the year 1865 to July 5, 2009 – by allocating a budget of Rs 89.17 crore

1st Puducherry International Film festival – kicks off in Puducherry on 26th Sep, 2018

The inaugural session was followed by the screening of National Award Winner for best Tamil Film in 2018 ‘To Let’ directed by Chezhyian

PIFF is scheduled from September 26 to 30 by Pickurflick, a Cinema streaming platform in association with Puducherry Tourism
**SCHEMES**

- **Assam** – to introduce ‘Universal Old Age Pension Scheme’ - to cover all Ration card holders above the age of 60 years
  - The scheme would be launched on October 2 during the launch of 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi

**STATES**

- **Haryana** – to institute ‘Kalpana Chawla Haryana Solar Award’, named after the India-born US astronaut - to encourage the participation of scientists in the solar sector
  - The main objective of the award scheme is to encourage participation of scientists in the solar energy sector
  - Kalpana Chawla was the first Indian-origin woman to travel to space
  - She was one of the seven crew members who died in the Space Shuttle ‘Colombia’ disaster in 2003 when the spacecraft disintegrated during its re-entry into the Earth’s atmosphere.

**NATIONAL**

- **Union Cabinet** – approves National Digital Communications Policy-2018
  - It has also renamed ‘Telecom Commission’ as ‘Digital Communications Commission’
  - It replaces existing National Telecom Policy-2012
  - **Highlights of the Policy**
    - Create 40 lakh new jobs and attract $100 billion investment, by 2022
    - Ensure 100% broadband connectivity to all with 50 Mbps speed & 5G services, by 2022
  - **Creation of New Schemes**
    - BharatNet - Providing 1 Gbps to all by 2020 and upgradable to 10 Gbps by 2022
    - GramNet - Connecting all key rural development institutions
    - NagarNet - Establishing 1 million public Wi-Fi hotspots in urban areas
    - JanWiFi - Establishing 2 million Wi-Fi hotspots in rural areas
To create infrastructure and services that target to bring down overall levies from 30% to below 10%
Create regulatory reforms to enable telecom sector contribution to 8% by 2020 from 6% in 2017
To offer higher data capacity and speeds faster than 10 GB per second to deploy 5G for consumers by 2020
Expand Internet of Things (IoT) ecosystem to 5 billion connected devices
Target to improve Inclusive Development Index (IDI) ranking from 134 in 2017 to be within ‘Top 50 nations’ in ICT Development Index
To establish National Digital Grid by creating National Fibre Authority

Government – to set up a separate Committee with new ‘Board of Governors’ to run the Medical Council of India (MCI) – till the Parliament passes legislation to replace MCI with National Medical Commission

Members of the new Committee
VK Paul, Niti Aayog member
Randeep Guleria, AIIMS Director
Jagat Ram, PGIMER’s Director
BM Gangadhar of NIMHANS Bengaluru
Nikhil Tandon, AIIMS Professor
Doctors S Venkatesh and Balram Bhargava
Ex-officio members
S Venkatesh, Director General, Health services
Balram Bhargava, Director General, ICMR

Vice President – inaugurates ‘Smart city Expo India 2018’ in Jaipur, Rajasthan

Around 6000 delegates from different countries, researchers, CEO’s of different Smart cities, Mayors and corporates are participating in the expo
The 3 day long expo discusses about the challenges of technology, town planning, capacity management and networking in the Smart City sector

TRAi (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) – to be renamed as ‘Digital Communications Regulatory Authority of India’
This was announced by Manoj Sinha, Telecom Minister at the Annual General Meeting of telecom infrastructure body, TAIPA
COURT VERDICTS

- **Ayodhya Case**
  - Supreme court – declined to refer the ‘1994 Ismail Farooqui judgment’ to a larger 5-Judge Bench – and concluded that the present case on Ayodhya land dispute shall be decided on its own facts by the Supreme court
  - A 3-Judge bench (Chief Justice Deepak Misra, Justice Ashok Bhushan, Justice Abdul Nazeer) with a majority of 2-1 delivered the verdict, with Justice Abdul Nazeer disagreeing with the majority judgement

- **Background**
  - **1994- Ismail Farooqui Judgement**
    - It was delivered in a case of Land acquisition in and around Babri Masjid
    - The Supreme court observed that a mosque was not an essential part of the practice of the religion of Islam and namaz could be offered anywhere, even in the open.
  - **2010-Allahabad High Court Ruling**
    - In a 2:1 majority ruling, it had ordered that the 2.77 acres of land be divided equally among the three concerned parties -the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla represented by the Hindu Maha Sabha
    - The court had referred to the 1994 Ismail Farooqui Judgement while delivering its verdict, which was challenged in Supreme Court by the Muslim organizations as the land under the dome has gone to the Hindus

- **Sep 27, 2018 – Supreme Court Verdict**
  - Now, the Supreme Court has decided to hear the Ayodhya land dispute case separately on Oct 29, without referring the 1994 Judgement to a larger bench for further proceedings
Supreme Court – strikes down 158-year-old, ‘Section 497’ of Indian Penal Code as ‘unconstitutional and arbitrary’ – and declares ‘Adultery’ is not a criminal Offence

The unanimous verdict is delivered by a 5-Judge bench comprising of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices R F Nariman, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Indu Malhotra

The court observed that the Section 497 is violative of right to equality and right to equal opportunity to women and disallows them from making their own choices

Currently, the offence of adultery entailed a maximum punishment of five years or fine or both

INTERNATIONAL

Indra Jatra festival - commences in Kathmandu, Nepal

It is observed to worship Lord ‘Indra’, who ushers rain and good harvest

The 8 day long annual festival marks the end of monsoon and beginning of harvest season and festivity
INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- India & Morocco – signs MoU to enhance cooperation in the field of Defence and Cyber Security
  - This follows the discussion between Moroccan Defence Minister Abdeltif Loudyi and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi

- Cabinet approves the MoU between India & Uzbekistan - on mutual cooperation in combating illicit trafficking in narcotics, drugs and psychotropic substances, Law & Justice, Tourism, Establishment of the Uzbek-Indian Free Pharmaceutical Zone in the Andijan Region of Uzbekistan, Agriculture and allied sectors, Health and medical sciences
  - The MoUs will be signed during the high-level delegation visit from Uzbekistan to India on October 1, 2018

- Cabinet approves the MoU between India & South Korea - on cooperation in Applied Science and Industrial Technology
  - The MoU was signed in New Delhi on July 9, 2018 during the visit of the President of South Korea to India

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- Vorombe Titan – named as World’s Largest ever bird - by Zoological Society of London’s ‘Institute of Zoology’
  - Vorombe Titan (meaning ‘big bird’ in Malagasy and Greek) is believed to have weighed up to 800 kg and was 3 metres tall
  - It is an extinct Madagascan species and belongs to ‘Elephant’ bird category
  - Elephant birds (belonging to the family Aepyornithidae) are an extinct group of colossal flightless birds that roamed Madagascar during the Late Quaternary, with two genera (Aepyornis and Mullerornis) previously recognised by scientists.
DEFENCE

- **Indian Air Force** – successfully tests ‘Astra’, indigenous ‘Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile’ from Su-30 fighter Aircraft at Kalaikunda Air Force Station, West Bengal

- The missile had undergone more than 20 trials so far and this is part of the series of Final pre-induction trials
- It is developed by DRDO with a payload capacity of 15 kg conventional explosives
- It can be launched from different heights and can reach both short range (up to 20 km) and long range (up to 80 km) targets
- It has a speed of Mach 4 (4 times the speed of sound) and has a high ‘Single Shot Kill Probability’
- It has many advanced features such as radar guidance, smokeless propulsion, electronic counter-measures making it difficult to track and internal guidance system
- It can be integrated with all fighter aircrafts like Sukhoi-30 MKI, Mirage-2000, MiG-29, Jaguar and the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)

- **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** – to add 4 more battalions to its existing 12
  - The new battalions will be stationed in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and NCR Delhi
  - NDRF has allocated Rs 250 crore for the creation of ‘National Disaster Response Reserve’ in all its battalions to distribute relief materials during emergencies
  - NDRF – Established in 2006 under The Disaster Management Act, 2005 with its headquarters at New Delhi
  - It functions under Union Ministry of Home Affairs and works under National Disaster Management Authority

- **Indian Navy** – signs Contract with ‘Hindustan Shipyard Limited’ to construct 2 ‘Diving support Vessels’ (DSV)
  - These vessels will assist in Submarine Rescue capabilities of Indian Navy and can be employed upto 650 metres of depth
  - These vessels will be equipped with ‘Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel’ for Rescue operations
  - They will function at Vishakhapatnam and Mumbai
  - Hindustan Shipyard Limited – Founded in 1941 with its headquarters in Visakhapatnam
Government – hikes import duties of 19 Non-essential items – to restrict their imports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Old import duty rates (%)</th>
<th>New import duty rates (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Air conditioners</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Household Refrigerators</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Washing machines less than 10 Kg</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Compressor for air conditioners and refrigerators</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Speakers</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Footwears</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Radial Car tyres</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Non industrial diamond (other than rough diamonds), i.e., cut and polished diamond</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Diamonds-semi processed, half cut or broken</td>
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<td>7.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Lab grown diamonds</td>
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<td>7.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Cut and polished Colored gemstone</td>
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<td>7.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Articles of jewellery and parts thereof, of precious metal or of metal clad with precious metal</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Articles of Goldsmith or silversmith wares and parts thereof of precious metal or of metal clad with precious metal</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Bath, shower bath, sink, wash basin, etc. of plastics</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Articles of plastics for conveyance and packing such as boxes, case, containers, bottles, insulated ware etc.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Tableware, kitchenware and other household items of plastics</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Miscellaneous items of plastics such as office stationery, fitting for furniture’s, decorative sheets, statuettes, beads, bangles etc.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Trunks, Suitcase, Executive cases, Brief Cases, travel bags and other bags etc.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Aviation turbine fuel</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Government – to convert ‘Goods and Service Tax Network’ (GSTN) into a 100% Government-owned Company by acquiring 51% stake held so far by the Non-Government institutions
- It had also increased the total number of Directors in the Board of GSTN to 11
- GSTN is the IT backbone of GST regime, mainly responsible for registration, filing of returns, payment of taxes, processing of refunds etc.,
- GSTN was set up in Mar 28, 2013 as a non-Government, private limited company
- It is a Section 8 company under the new Companies Act and hence is a not-for-profit entity
- In GSTN, the Centre and states together hold 49% stake (24.5% each) and the balance 51% stake is held by 5 private financial institutions, ICICI Bank, NSE, HDFC Ltd, HDFC Bank and LIC Housing Finance Ltd
- GST was rolled out from July 1, 2017 across India

Asian Development Bank – keeps India’s GDP forecast unchanged at 7.3% for 2018

- It also predicted 7.6% growth for 2019

AWARDS

PM Narendra Modi – awarded with “UN Champions of the Earth Award 2018”, the highest Environmental honour of the United Nations
- The award was jointly conferred to PM Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron in the ‘Policy Leadership category’ for their efforts to create the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- PM Modi was also acknowledged for his resolve to eliminate all single use plastic in India by 2022
Cochin International Airport, Kerala - also won the ‘2018 Champions of the Earth Award’ for its Entrepreneurial Vision in the use of sustainable energy.

- Cochin International Airport is the World’s 1st Fully Solar-Powered Airport.
- The Awards will be presented during the ‘Champions of the Earth Gala’ in New York City, on the sidelines of the 73rd UN General Assembly.
- The Champions of the Earth award, the UN’s highest environmental recognition, was founded in 2005.

Tenzing Norgay National Adventure awards 2017 – Presented by the Hon’ble President in New Delhi.

- Award Winners

- INSV Tarini All-women crew
- Lt. Commander Vartika Joshi
- Lieutenant P. Swathi
- Lieutenant Pratibha Jamwal
- Lieutenant Vijaya Devi
- Sub Lieutenant Payal Gupta
- Lieutenant B Aishwarya
- Other Winners
- Dr AnshuJamsenpa- Mountaineer
- Late Shri Ravi Kumar – Mountaineer
- Capt Udit Thapar – Skydiver
- SonamWangyal – Mountaineer (Life time)
- The award is the highest national recognition for remarkable achievements in adventure on land, sea and air.
INTERNATIONAL DAY

- World Contraception Day – September 26

- It was observed since 2007
- The idea behind the celebration of this day is to create an awareness about several methods of contraception available around the world
- WHO Theme 2018 - “The day’s mission is to improve awareness of all contraceptive methods available and enable young people to make informed choices on their sexual and reproductive health”

- International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons – September 26

- It was observed since 2014, after the UN General Assembly’s declaration on 26 Sep 2013
- The day intends to create public awareness on nuclear disarmament, educate people on the potential threat by nuclear weapons and the need for their total elimination
REPORT

1st ‘Tycoons of Tomorrow’ List – Published by Forbes India

- It is a qualitative selection prepared by Forbes India team and a six-member jury.
- It lists 22 young achievers in the fields of business, acting and sports.
- **Tycoons of Tomorrow**
  - PV Sindhu, Badminton player and Olympian
  - Vicky Kaushal, Actor
  - Bhumi Pednekar, Actress
  - Karan Adani, chief executive of Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone
  - Anant Goenka, group executive director of Indian Express
  - Ashni Biyani, managing director of Future Consumer
  - Ananya Birla, Birla Scion and founder of Svaatantra Microfinance, co-founder, CuroCarte and co-founder of Mpower
  - Radha Kapoor Khanna, the daughter of Yes Bank CEO Rana Kapoor and founder of ‘The Three Sisters’ Institutional Office
  - Nadia Chauhan of Parle Agro fame
  - PC Musthafa, co-founder of iD Fresh Food
  - Girish Mathrubootham, founder of Freshworks
  - Nikhil Kamath and Nithin Kamath, the co-founders of Zerodha
  - Ameera Shah of Metropolis Healthcare
  - Siddharth Bindra of Biba Apparel
  - Anant Goenka of Ceat
  - Upasna Kamineni Konidela of Apollo Hospitals
  - Vikram Shroff of UPL
  - Abhishek Lodha of Real estate developer Lodha group’s
  - Archit Gupta, founder of Cleartax
  - Zorawar Kalra, founder of Massive Restaurants
  - Ankur Jain, founder of Bira 91 beer
  - Ritesh Agarwal of Oyo Rooms

Women Airline Pilots in the World – Report released by International Society of Women Airline Pilots
✓ According to the report, India has seen the maximum growth in number of women commercial pilots in recent times
✓ In percentage terms, India has among the highest ratio of female pilots working for schedule airlines globally
✓ India has, in fact, seen the number of women pilots almost double in last four years

- Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indian institutes in top 600</th>
<th>2019 rank</th>
<th>2018 rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IISc</td>
<td>251-300</td>
<td>251-300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IIM Indore</td>
<td>351-400</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IIT Bombay</td>
<td>401-500</td>
<td>351-400</td>
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<tr>
<td>IIT Roorkee</td>
<td>401-500</td>
<td>501-603</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jagadguru Sri Shivanthamma University</td>
<td>401-500</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World top 5</th>
<th>2019 rank</th>
<th>2018 rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Oxford</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Cambridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stanford University</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Institute of Technology</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Indian Institute of Science retains lead - but IIT Indore becomes India's second highest-ranked university in impressive debut entry
- US still dominates definitive global listing - now in its 15th year - signs of stagnation cut across Europe, US and Australia as global competition intensifies
- Oxford claims top position for third year; Cambridge retains second, but Japan surpasses UK as second most-represented nation
- China's new number one becomes top in Asia: overtakes New York University and London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), surpasses Princeton, Yale and MIT for research
- Tsinghua University becomes mainland China's new number one - and supplants the National University of Singapore as Asia's top institution
- China is fourth most-represented globally in the table, with 72 universities (up from 63) - and retains seven in the elite top 200
- Yale is the highest riser in the top 20, scaling four places to join the top 10, in eighth
- India increases its presence again, claiming 49 places this year, up from 42 - the fifth best-represented nation in the world
- The annual ranking lists more than 1,250 higher education institutions globally, up from just over 1,100 last year, and features 86 countries