R Sathy, Headmistress of Madukkarai Panchayat union Primary school in Coimbatore – received the ‘National award’ for best teacher in 2017 from Vice president, Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi.

∗ She was the only teacher from Tamil Nadu to receive the award this year.
Tamil Nadu – Hon’ble CM gave away the ‘Dr Radhakrishnan Award’ for best teachers to 373 teachers and ‘Kamarajar Award’ to 960 school students

- He also gave ‘Clean School Award’ to 40 select schools

- On the occasion, the CM released the Tamil language of the ‘Experiential Learning’ book based on the Principles of ‘Nai Talim’ of Gandhiji

Tamil Nadu – passes a new Government order ending Penal action on Doctors in case of Maternal deaths

- However, it said that a separate audit will be conducted as ‘systematic correction’ for maternal deaths, which is already in practice since 2004
- In Tamil Nadu, the maternal death rate is around 50 per 1 lakh
- Maternal death – Death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy
Chennai corporation - to replace 70,000 sodium vapour lamps and 17,000 cement poles with LED streetlights

- It plans to save Rs 30 crore annually, following the initiative

**CLEAR AS DAY**

- Number of streetlights in city | 2.7 lakh
- Number of LED streetlights | 1.85 lakh
- For 17,000 new galvanized iron posts and street lights | ₹80 cr
- Funding | ₹140 cr is capital grant
- ₹80 cr is under Tamil Nadu sustainable urban

**STATES**

Kerala – has been sanctioned Rs 80.37 crore under ‘Swadesh Darshan scheme’ to develop Theme-based ‘Cruise tourism’ in the state

- The project is to be called as ‘Malanad Malabar cruise tourism project’
- The 3 approved cruises in Kannur district are
Malabari Cuisine and Culinary Cruise (Muthappan Cruise)
Valapattanam River- Theyyam Cruise
Mangrove Cruise
All these cruise circuits are to be operated under Public-Private partnership (PPP) model involving Central Public Sector Undertakings and corporate sector
At present, there are 13 thematic circuits that are developed under ‘swadesh darshan’ scheme
They are Buddhist Circuit, North-East India Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit

NATIONAL

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) – to supply 7 Long range Surface-to-air missiles (LRSAM) to Indian Navy

BEL had entered into contract, in this regard, with Mazagon Dock Limited and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers
The Contract is worth Rs 9,200 crore and it is the biggest single-value order bagged by BEL, achieving Rs 50,000 crore business for the first time in a single financial year
Indian Navy to equip its naval ships such as INS Kolkata, INS Chennai, INS Kochi with Barak 8 LRSAM, jointly developed by DRDO and IAI, Israel

Barak 8 has high maneuverability with maximum operational range of 70km and can travel at ‘Mach 2’ speeds

Bengaluru based Navaratna, BEL is one of the 9 PSU’s coming under the Min of Defence specialized in design, manufacture and supply of various military systems to the armed forces

Draft bill for ‘Ganga Clean-up’ – proposed by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

Key Features

- A special Armed force called as ‘Ganga Protection Corps’ to be set up, which has powers to arrest any person who has committed offence of polluting River Ganga

- It proposes imprisonment for 2 years or fine of Rs 2 lakh or both for commercial fishing or aqua culture activities in Ganga and any of its tributaries

- It recommends 2 year imprisonment or fine up to Rs 50 lakh or both for construction of permanent structure for residential or commercial purpose in active flood plain area of Ganga River
It proposes 5 year prison term or fine of Rs. 50,000 per day or both for person or municipal authority, which builds structures discharging sewage into the river.

All these recommendations in the Draft bill are proposed by a committee under Justice Girdhar Malviya.

India – to participate in International ‘PISA 2021’ competency test for 15-year old school students – ending the boycott of PISA

PISA - Programme for International Student Assessment - Background

It was introduced in the year 2000 by Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD)

It’s a competency test in the subjects of Mathematics, Science and Reading for 15-year old school students

As on date, around 80 countries participate in this ‘once-in-every’ 3 year test

In 2015, Singapore, Japan and Estonia were ranked as top three countries, in that order.

India participated in 2009 ‘PISA’ with 16000 students from 400 schools across Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh, but ranked poorly at 72nd place among 74 participant countries

Hence, India decided to boycott the subsequent PISA tests

PISA 2021 – Chandigarh

The test to be administered only in ‘Chandigarh’ schools in 2021, apart from KV’s and NV’s funded by the centre.
Cabinet – approves permanent campus for 7 new IIM’s at Amritsar, Bodh Gaya, Nagpur, Sambalpur, Sirmaur, Vishakhapatnam and Jammu

* The total expenditure for these would be Rs 3775.42 crore
* These IIMs have already started functioning from the year 2015-16 & 2016-17
* The construction of the permanent campus would be completed by June 2021

IIT-JEE Main – New Regulations from 2019

* The merit list to be based on Percentile scores, and not on ‘raw’ marks
* The candidate can have the choice of taking it twice a year (Jan and April cycles)
* It has to be recalled that ‘National Testing Agency’ is the sole authority for conducting the exam
The 5 Judge constitution bench overruled the ‘Suresh Kaushal’ judgement in 2013, based on the interpretation of 4 Articles -

- Article 14 (Right to Equality)
- Article 15 (prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth)
- Article 19 (Freedom of Speech and Expression)
- Article 21 (Right to Life and Right to Privacy)

The bench comprised of Chief Justice Dipak Misra, Justices R F Nariman, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Indu Malhotra

Section 377 – History

- It exists right from 1860, when the Indian penal code came into existence
- It criminalises any unnatural carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal, providing a punishment with imprisonment for life, or for a term which may extend to 10 years, and shall also be liable to pay a fine.
Main Petitioners

- Naz Foundation
- Bharatnatyam dancer, Navtej Singh Johar
- Chef, Ritu Dalmia
- Business executive, Ayesha Kapur
- Hoteliers, Aman Nath and Keshav Suri
- Journalist, Sunil Mehra
- Activist, Harish Iyer and
- A group of IIT alumni

INTERNATIONAL

- Bangladesh – imposes a new rule ordering the petrol pumps not to issue Petrol for those who are not wearing ‘Helmets’ in its capital, Dhaka

'NO HELMETS NO FUEL'

- It also imposed the condition that only one pillion rider to be allowed in every two wheeler
**1st Edition of ‘India-US’ 2+2 Dialogue**

- India & US – have signed “Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)” in New Delhi on September 6, 2018
- It enables US to sell more sensitive, critical and encrypted ‘US military equipment’ to India

**Talks held between** –
- Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister
- Nirmala Sitharaman, Defence Minister
- Michael Pompeo, US Secretary of State
- James Mattis, US Secretary of Defense

- The next 2+2 meeting is scheduled to be held in the United States in 2019
- The 2+2 talks were agreed upon by US President, Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi during their meeting in June 2017
- It was later postponed twice, 1st in April and then in July
**DEFENCE**

♠ Indian Air Force – successfully carries out 1st ever ‘Mid-air’ refueling of indigenously developed Light combat aircraft (LCA) ‘Tejas’

This is as part of the overall 10 tests that are to be carried out to provide final operational clearance of ‘Tejas’

✈ LCA Tejas is the world’s smallest and lightest supersonic fighter aircraft in its class.

✈ It is a single-seater, single-engine Multi-role Jet fighter developed by Hindustan Aeronautical Limited and Aeronautical Development Agency

✈ It was named as ‘Tejas (Radiance)’ by former PM, Atal Bihari Vajpayee

✈ The LCA Programme in India was started in 1980’s to replace MiG-21 fighter aircrafts

✈ Tejas has taken 20 years to build from 1993 to 2013, with its maiden flight in 2001

✈ It was inducted into IAF in 2016 and commenced its operations from Sulur Air Force Station in Tamil Nadu in July 2018 as part of ‘Flying Daggers’ of 45 Squadron of IAF
Cyient Solutions & Systems Pvt. Ltd - has got Indian Army’s order to supply “SpyLite mini UAV” (unmanned aerial vehicle) systems for high altitude aerial surveillance

🌟 It is a Joint venture of Cyient, an IT company and BlueBird Aero Systems of Israel
🌟 SpyLite is an advanced, combat-proven UAV, that has an endurance of 4-5 hours and maximum flight ceiling of 30,000 feet
🌟 It can be used for Covert operations in both day and night environments by Indian army

Tata Advanced Systems Limited - has entered into Agreement with Lockheed Martin, American security and aerospace leader – to manufacture Wings of F-16 fighter jets in India under ‘Make in India’ initiative of the Government

🌟 Lockheed has agreed to move its entire F-16 manufacturing base to India
🌟 Lockheed Martin and Tata - have already entered into partnership for C-130J (Super Hercules airlifter) and S-92 (helicopter)
BOOKS & AUTHORS

‘Experiential Learning — Gandhiji’s Nai Talim — Released by Prakash Javadekar, Min of HRD – to mark the Teachers day

★ He also released the new curriculum on ‘Experiential learning’ in 13 languages.
★ ‘Nai Talim’ means ‘Basic education’ – It was the principle promoted by Mahatma Gandhi which states that knowledge and work are not separate.
★ The curriculum was brought out in 13 languages — Assamese, Tamil, Bengali, Odiya, Kannada, Malyalam, Punjabi, Marathi, Telugu, Gujarati, Urdu, Hindi and English

SPORTS

★ RSL Kharkiv Badminton International challenge in Kharkiv, Ukraine
★ Anoushka Parikh and Saurabh Sharma – won the Mixed doubles title
★ Krishna Prasad Garaga and Dhruv Kapila – won the Mens doubles title
The report is based on the survey from 358 population groups in 168 countries, covering 1.9 million participants.

**Key points – Insufficient activity**

- Atleast 34% of Indians are ‘Insufficiently’ Active (Women-48% and Men-22%)
- Globally, 1.4 billion adults belong to this category with one in three women (32%) and one in four men (23%) are at the risk of diseases due to ‘Less’ activity
- High rates of ‘Insufficient activity’ - Kuwait, American Samoa, Saudi Arabia and Iraq (More than 50% of population)
- Comparatively, around 40% of adults in United States, 36% in UK and 14% in China were insufficiently active
- India – Ranked at 52nd among 168 countries (with 1st being highly inactive and 168th being highly active)
- Countries with Insufficient Physical activity in Men in 2016

Countries with Insufficient Physical activity in Women in 2016
Figure 2: Mortality due to poor quality versus non-utilisation of health care by condition type

44% of Indian women not sufficiently active

% of population with insufficient physical activity

Least physically active

Kuwait 67%
American Samoa 52%
Saudi Arabia 53%
Iraq 52%

Most physically active

Uganda 6%
Mozambique 6%

In India, large difference in insufficient physical activity between

Women 44% & Men 25%

Worldwide, around 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men do not do enough physical activity
There is no improvement in global levels of physical activity since 2001
Insufficient physical activity: Not doing at least 150 minute of moderate intensity, or 75 minute of vigorous intensity physical activity per week or any equivalent combination of the two

Analysis was done on the basis of data from 358 surveys across 168 countries, including 1.9m participants