Tamil Nadu

- 15th Finance Commission under N K Singh in Chennai

- Tamil Nadu reiterated its opposition to the use of 2011 population data by the 15th Finance commission for the devolution of funds.
- It emphasized that the panel must use only 1971 population data for the funds devolution.
- Government sought Rs 71,105 crore as Grants, including Rs 4,800 crore for Chennai.
- Rs 23,465 crore for Road maintenance and Rs 7,800 crore for Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar intra-linking project.
3rd European Tamil Research Conference, Paris – K Pandiarajan, Education Minister to inaugurate on Sep 8, 2018
- The Minister will also hand over a Memorandum to UNESCO for announcing ‘Thirukkural’ as the ‘Book of the World’

A Shanmugasundaram – to take charge as ‘District Collector’ for Chennai on 6th Sep 2018

SCHEMES

Government – to make ‘Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana’ an open-ended scheme and add more incentives to encourage people to open more bank accounts

- The flagship scheme of the Government was earlier launched in Aug 2014 for a period of 4 years
- **Highlights of new incentives**
  - Upper age limit for enrolling increased to 65 from the earlier 60 years
  - Overdraft limit has been doubled to Rs 10000
  - Free accident insurance limit doubled to Rs 2 lakhs, for the accounts opened after Aug 2018
- Currently, there are approximately 32.41 crore Jan Dhan accounts across the country, having a total deposit balance of Rs 81,200 crore.
- Among the account holders, 53 per cent are women
Government – has extended ‘Atal pension yojana’ indefinitely due to its huge patronage

- It was launched in June 2015 and got lapsed in Aug 2018

- Recently, the Government has revised the upper age limit for participation from 60 years to 65 years, keeping the age criterion between 18 to 65 years
- All accounts opened after Aug 2018 to have accident insurance limit of Rs 2 lakhs instead of the earlier limit of Rs 1 lakh
- Atal pension yojana – is a popular social security scheme for the unorganized workforce, which constitutes about 85% of the workforce in the country
- It had replaced the earlier scheme of ‘Swavalamban’

Official Website and App for Kumbh Mela, 2019 Launched

- Launched by – Piyush Goyal, Min of Railways and Yogi Adityanath, CM of Uttar Pradesh
Kumbh Mela 2019 to be held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on 15\textsuperscript{th} January 2019

The website is ‘www.kumbh.gov.in’

It will provide all the necessary details to tourists and pilgrims regarding the location, trains, weather, accessibility and accommodations

**PRESIDENT’S VISIT**

- **India & Bulgaria – signed 4 MoU’s – in the field of Civil Nuclear cooperation, investment, Tourism and establishment of Hindi chair at Sofia University**

  - The 2 countries also signed a program of Cooperation on science and Technology
  - These agreements were signed after the discussions between President Ramnath Kovind and his Bulgarian counterpart Rumen Radev, in Sofia, capital of Bulgaria
  - It has to be recalled that the Indian president is on a 3 nation visit currently (Cyprus, Bulgaria and Czech republic)
  - President Kovind was 5th Indian President to visit Bulgaria and 1st in the last 15 years
  - Bulgaria supported India on issues like entry into Nuclear Suppliers Group and permanent membership of UN Security council
COMMITTEES

♦ Bimal Jalan, former RBI Governor – to head the panel to select the next ‘Chief Economic Advisor’ of the country

✔ Other Members
  ✔ C Chandramouli, Secretary of Department of personnel and training
  ✔ Subhash Chandra Garg, Secretary of Economic affairs
✔ The last CEA is Arvind Subramaniam, who resigned from his office in July 2018, citing personal reasons
✔ The maximum age limit for the position is 56 years
✔ The final decision of the committee is expected by Dec 2018

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

♦ PM - to inaugurate India’s 1st ever Global Mobility summit ‘MOVE’ in New Delhi on Sep 7, 2018
The 2 day summit is being organized by NITI Aayog and focuses on steps to promote electric vehicles and shared mobility, thereby making the cities pollution-free.

5 Themes of the Summit
- Electrification and alternative fuels
- Reinventing public transport
- Goods transport and logistics
- Data analytics
- Mobility

The summit will see the participation of over 2,000 representatives from various countries, industries, academia and civil society.

The major companies representing the event includes Mahindra Electric, Hero Cycles, Tata Motors, Tata Power, Ola, Maruti Suzuki, Honda, Toyota, Bosch and Sun Mobility.

6th edition of Bangalore Space Expo – inaugurated by Dr K Sivan, Chairman of ISRO at Bengaluru, Karnataka

The 3 day event is expected to highlight the participation of Industries in the space programme of India.

India and France are the strategic partners in the Space programme, with France providing space medicines for Indian astronauts who will be part of India's first Manned Space Mission ‘Gaganyaan’.

It has to be recalled that the Government has already allocated Rs 10,400 crores for the manufacturing of PSLV launch vehicle.
1st India Ideas Summit – held in Mumbai

- Organised by – USIBC (United states-India Business council), an American business advocacy group
- Duration – 2 days (Sep 5 and 6, 2018)
- Inauguration by – Devendra Fadnavis, CM of Maharashtra
- Theme - ‘US and India connecting our future’
- This is the 1st edition of the Summit and USIBC will hold it every year, in future
- It was held on the eve of maiden ‘2+2 India-US dialogue in New Delhi’ on September 6, 2018

3rd ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons – held in Seoul, South Korea
Organised by - South Korea and National Human Rights Commission of Korea
Attended by – Various institutions such as United Nations, EU, ASEAN, NGO’s etc.,
Indian representation – Thaawarchand Gehlot, Min of social justice and empowerment
ASEM – officially established in Mar 1996 and conducted its 1st summit in Bangkok, Thailand
It has 53 members, including 2 entities, EU and ASEAN

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

♦ Google – has unveiled its new search engine for Scientific community ‘Dataset Search’

![Google Dataset Search](image)

- It will assist scientists, data journalists to find the data required for their work and satisfy their intellectual curiosity from several sources, ranging from webpages to digital libraries
- It is designed on the lines of ‘Google scholar’, which is the popular search engine for the academic studies.

**DEFENCE**

♦ SLINEX-2018 – Joint Naval exercise to be conducted by India & Sri Lanka – at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka from Sep 7 to 13, 2018

![SLINEX-2018](image)
The exercise focuses on exchange of training and expertise between both the country’s navy personnel.

The exercise was started in 2005 as a 2-year event, but now it has become an annual exercise.

The exercise takes place in 2 stages, one in harbor and another in Sea.

India has sent 3 ships, 2 maritime patrol aircrafts and 1 helicopter for the event.

Earlier, SLINEX 2017 was held in Vishakapatnam during Sep 2017.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh – was re-elected as Regional Director for South East Asia of World Health Organisation.

She will be in charge for the next 5 years starting from Feb 2019.

Earlier, she became the 1st woman to be elected to this position in Feb 2014.

Prior to this position, she held several senior profiles in World bank and WHO.

The various countries that are members in South east Asia region of WHO are - Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste.

Akshay Kumar, Actor – appointed as 1st ‘Honorary Ambassador’ of Lal bahadur shastri Memorial Foundation.
✓ Akshay Kumar will support the ‘Jai Jawan Jai Kisan’ motto for the welfare of the soldier (jawan) and the farmer (kisan)
✓ The foundation is established by the family of Lal bahadur shastri, 2nd PM of India
✓ Vinamra Shastri, Grandson of Lal bahadur shastri is the current president of the foundation

♦ Mary Kom, Indian boxer – signed as ‘Brand ambassador’ of BSNL for a period of 2 years

![BSNL]

✓ A budget of Rs 30 lakhs is allocated to be spent for promotion during the period

**AWARDS**

♦ Indian Navy – wins the KAKADU-18 Cup in Australia beating 22 teams

![Indian Navy]

✓ The Navy won this award while taking part in the KAKADU multinational maritime exercise off the Darwin coast in Australia
✓ INS Sahyadri participated from the Indian side

**SPORTS**

♦ ISSF Shooting World Championships, Changwon

![ISSF Shooting World Championships]
Saurabh Chaudhary (16 years) – broke his own 10m Air pistol World record with a score of 245.5 points to become ‘Junior World Champion’

He had won Asian Games Gold medal last month in 10m Air pistol event

REPORT

Nuclear Security Index - released by US-based, Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI)

- India ranks 19th in the ‘Theft Ranking’ for countries with weapons usable nuclear materials (India ranked 20th in 2016 rankings)
- Australia topped the rankings for the 4th successive time in the biennial ranking index (Earlier Australia topped in 2012, 2014 and 2016)

Unbroken arrows
Nuclear Security Index, change in theft score, 2012-18, out of 100

Source: NTI Nuclear Security Index

*Excludes Belarus and Italy

The Economist
✓ Finland, New Zealand, and Sweden tied for the top ranking among countries with less than one kilogram of or no weapons-usable nuclear materials
✓ Argentina and Poland have joined the list of countries that have removed all highly enriched uranium
✓ Since 2012, 22 countries have weapons-usable nuclear materials, compared with 32 in the first released Index
✓ NTI Index – Background
✓ The NTI assesses the state of nuclear security in countries that possess nuclear materials
✓ The theft ranking assesses the security conditions of nuclear materials in two kinds of countries.
✓ First, 22 countries with one kilogram or more of weapons-usable nuclear materials and second, 154 countries with less than one kilogram or no weapons-usable nuclear materials