Tamil Nadu – Registration offices in the state will have ‘First-In-First-Out’ (FIFO) system to eliminate prioritization of Document registration

- The FIFO system was introduced in nine sub-registrar offices on August 16, 2018
- The slots will be allotted when land documents are registered online
- The Government plans to bring all 575 offices under the FIFO system, with effect from September 17, 2018

Tamil Nadu – builds its 4th Open Air prison at Thirumalaisamudiram village in Thanjavur district
The prisons department had already established such a facility in Coimbatore, Salem and Sivaganga districts.

The concept of open air prison is to relieve congestion in walled prisons, train inmates in proper methods of agriculture for future rehabilitation and make prisons self-sufficient in agri-production.

**Tamil Nadu – to launch the construction of a new Hydro Electric power plant at Kollimalai**

- The Power plant will be completed within 3 years and a budget of Rs 270 crore is earmarked for the same.
- The Power plant will be capable of producing up to 20 MW of power.

**Nilgiris, Udhagamandalam – blossoms with Blue Kurinji flower, which occurs once in every 12 years**

- The district has decided to celebrate Sep 12th as ‘Kurinji Flower Day’ to celebrate the seasonal event.
- There are totally 9 different types of Kurinji flower that blossoms in Nilgiris and overall 32 types in the entire India.
Govindan Lakshamanan, Tamil Nadu Runner – was rewarded Rs 10 lakh by Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Union Sports Minister – to acknowledge his performance in the 10,000 metres race in which he was dramatically disqualified after finishing third.

Lakshmanan had stepped off the track momentarily, as he was hit by the spike of another athlete.

PM to launch - The Swachhata hi Seva Campaign 2018, a Jan Andolan for Swachhata - on September 15, 2018.
It will be observed in the run-up to the 4th anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) on October 2, 2018.

It will culminate with the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention from September 29 to October 2, 2018 marking the launch of 150th birth year celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.

The various events scheduled as part of the campaign includes:

- Sep 15 - School Engagement ‘Cleanliness Shramdaan’
- Sep 16 - Swachhata Sabhas in villages
- Sep 17 - Seva Diwas led by Ministers
- Sep 22 - Railways Swachhata Divas
- Sep 25 - Antyodaya Divas by Swachhagrahis


It was organized by the state’s Directorate of Family Welfare and inaugurated by the state’s Deputy Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar.

The scheme provides a coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family annually, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.

The scheme will be launched across the country on September 25 by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.
**STATES**

◆ **Odisha Assembly – passes resolution to create a new ‘Legislative council’ (2\textsuperscript{nd} house of Legislature or Vidhan parishad)**

✦ The resolution will be tabled by the Centre for approval in both houses of parliament followed by Presidential assent
✦ Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly
✦ India has bicameral system of Legislature.
✦ Just like the Parliament, which has 2 houses, states can also have 2 houses as per Article 171 of the constitution
✦ Currently 7 states in the country have 2 houses

![States with two houses](image)

✦ Tamil Nadu Government had earlier passed law to set up Legislative Council but has withdrawn it in 2010
✦ Andhra Pradesh Legislative council was created in 1958, then abolished in 1985 and again set up in 2007
✦ Proposals to create Councils in Rajasthan and Assam are pending in Parliament
✦ Legislative Council of state cannot have MLCs more than one-third of total number of MLAs of state assembly and not less than 40 members, as per Article 171
Jammu & Kashmir is an exception to this, with the Assembly having 87 members and Legislative Council, 36 members.

The tenure of Member of Legislative Council (MLC) is 6 years (similar to Rajya Sabha MPs), with 1/3rd of members retiring every two years.

MLCs cannot vote in elections for President and Vice President.

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**Oil and Natural Gas Commission – discovers Oil and Gas in Madhya pradesh and West Bengal**
They are classified as ‘Category-III’ basins having Hydrocarbon, opening up 2 new sedimentary basins

India currently has 26 sedimentary basins, of which only 7 in Category I are approval for commercial production of Oil and gas

- **Category I basins** (7) - Cambay, Mumbai Offshore, Rajasthan, Krishna Godavari, Cauvery, Assam Shelf and Assam-Arakan Fold Belt
- **Category II basins** (4) – Kutch, Mahanadi-NEC (North East Coast), Andaman-Nicobar, Kerala-Konkan-Lakshadweep
- **Category III basins** (6) – Himalayan Foreland Basin, Ganga Basin, Vindhyan basin, Saurashtra Basin, Kerela Konkan Basin, Bengal Basin
- **Category IV basins** (9) - Karewa, Spiti-Zanskar, Satpura–South Rewa–Damodar, Chhattisgarh, Narmada, Deccan Synclise, Bhima-Kaladgi, Bastar, Pranhita Godavari and Cuddapah

**India & France – signs an Implementation Agreement on ‘Mobilise your city’ in New Delhi**

- The agreement aims to support 3 Indian cities to reduce Green House Gas emissions
- The selected cities on a pilot basis are - Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad
- The Agreement will support the planning and implementation of sustainable urban transport projects
The initiative is a part of an international initiative, which is supported by the French and the German Governments.

It was launched at 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) meeting in December 2015.

PRESIDENT’S INTERNATIONAL VISIT

India & Czech Republic – signs 5 Agreements on defence, scientific and industrial research, laser technology, agriculture and diplomatic visa waiver.

They were signed after the mutual discussions between Indian President Ram Nath Kovind and Czech Republic counterpart Milos Zeman in Prague, capital of Czech Republic.

President Kovind visited Czech Republic on final leg of his state visit to 3 European nations – Cyprus, Bulgaria and Czech Republic.
INTERNATIONAL

♦ Pakistan – could become the World’s 5th largest Nuclear Weapons state after Russia, United States, France and China in terms of possession of total nuclear warheads

- Pakistan has currently 140-150 nuclear warheads, which is expected to touch 220-250 by 2025 (overtaking UK) considering the current trend of its proliferation

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

♦ NITI Aayog’s 1st Global Mobility Summit 2018: MOVE, New Delhi (Sep 7 and 8, 2018)
- PM Modi - unveiled a mobility road map for more investments in manufacturing electric vehicles and increased use of public transport for travel
He explained his vision for the future of mobility in India with 7C’s –
- Common
- Connected
- Convenient
- Congestion-free
- Charged
- Clean
- Cutting-edge

The PM also unveiled the Government's plan to launch a policy on e-vehicles to boost their sales in the next five years.

Osamu Suzuki, Chairman of Suzuki Motor corporation – announced that they will test 50 e-vehicles in India in October and plans to launch them in 2020 in a tie-up with Toyota Motor corporation.

He also said that they will commence production of lithium-ion batteries used in electric-vehicles, at its Gujarat plant in 2020.
**Space Suit**

- Developed by – ISRO at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram
- Colour - Orange
- Features – Has 1 oxygen cylinder, allowing an astronaut to breathe in space for 60 minutes
- No of suits to be developed – 3 (as 3 astronauts will travel to space by 2022)

**Crew Model**

- In the crew model capsule, the three astronauts will be living for 5 to 7 days in a 400 km orbit from the Earth's surface
- The capsule is expected to land in the Arabian Sea, just off the coast of Gujarat where Indian Navy and Coast Guards will be on standby
The capsule will have a thermal shield, maintaining its temperature at 25 degrees.
The capsule is expected to rotate around the Earth every 1.5 hour or every 90 minutes and astronauts will be able to witness sunrise and sunset.
The astronauts can see India from space twice every 24 hours.
The capsule will take 16 minutes from take-off to reach the desired orbit and 36 minutes while returning back to Earth.

Sports

India Blue – wins 2017-18 Duleep Trophy by defeating India Red at Dindigul, Tamilnadu

Himachal Pradesh batsman Nikhil Gangta was named man of match for his superb knock of 130.
Duleep Trophy was instituted in 1961-62 by BCCI and is played between teams representing geographical zones of India.
It is named after Kumar Shri Duleepsinhji of Nawanagar.
The teams are selected by BCCI and is played in day/night format with Pink ball.
ISSF Shooting World Championships in Changwon, South Korea

- **Hriday Hazarika**, 16 years – Wins Gold in the Junior men’s 10m air rifle

- **Elavenil Valarivan (Tamil Nadu)** – won Silver in junior women’s 10m air rifle event

- **Shreya Agarwal** – won Bronze in junior women’s 10m air rifle event

- **Elavenil, Shreya and Manini Kaushik** – wins Gold with a new Junior World Record in Junior Women’s 10m Air Rifle Team event
**RANKINGS**

**12th annual Education World India School Rankings – Conducted by Education World Magazine**

- **Best Government Schools**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalaya, Dwarka, Delhi (Day school)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Kendriya Vidyalaya, IIT Madras, Tamil Nadu (Day school)
- 1<sup>st</sup> - Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Alleppey, Kerala (Boarding school)

- **Best Private Schools (Co-ed)**
  - 8<sup>th</sup> – The School KFI, Adyar
  - 10<sup>th</sup> – Shishya School, Adyar

- **Best Boys Schools**
  - 6<sup>th</sup> - DAV Boys’ Senior Secondary School, Gopalapuram

- **Best International residential schools**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Good Shepherd International School, Ooty
  - 5<sup>th</sup> - Kodaikanal International School

- **Best Special Need schools**
  - Sankalap and Alpha to Omega, Chennai – figure in the Top list

- **Top Private Day School in the Country**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – Jointly held by
    - Vasant Valley School, Delhi
    - DPS, RK Puram, Delhi
    - JB Petit High School for Girls, Mumbai
    - Campion School, Fort, Mumbai
INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ 52nd International Literacy Day 2018 – September 8
The day highlights the improvement made in world Literacy rates and the existing Literary challenges

Theme - *Literacy and skills development*

The day marks the hosting of 2018 UNESCO International Literacy Prize awards ceremony in Paris, UNESCO’s headquarters

The ceremony will confer 5 different prizes, namely International Reading Association Literacy Award, Noma Literacy Prize, UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize, The Malcolm Adiseshiah International Literacy Prize and UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy

The day was given its status by UNESCO in its 14th session in November 1966

**REPORTS**

*World Air Transport Statistics (WATS) for 2017 – Released by International Air Transport Association (IATA)*
Airlines – Regional Rankings

1. Asia-Pacific 36.3% market share
2. Europe 26.3% market share
3. North America 23% market share
4. Latin America 7% market share
5. Middle East 5.3% market share
6. Africa 2.2% market share

Top 5 International Airlines – Passenger Travel

1. American Airlines (324 million)
2. Delta Air Lines (316.3 million)
3. United Airlines (311 million)
4. Emirates Airline (289 million)
5. Southwest Airlines (207.7 million)

Nationality of Passenger – Rankings

1. United States of America (632 million, representing 18.6% of all passengers)
2. People’s Republic of China (555 million or 16.3% of all passengers)
3. India (161.5 million or 4.7% of all passengers)
4. United Kingdom (147 million or 4.3% of all passengers)
5. Germany (114.4 million or 3.4% of all passengers)

NEWS IN PICTURES

World’s Most Ambitious Ocean Cleanup Starts Today

Boyan Slat (24-year old, Netherlands) - will start his 8-year old dream project of cleaning the Plastics in Ocean today
**THE MISSION:** In 2013, when Slat was 18, he launched The Ocean Cleanup, a nonprofit, based in his hometown Delft. It is developing advanced tech to eliminate ocean plastic.

**THE METHOD**

- Slat and team have devised a means of using ocean currents to their advantage.
- Their ‘passive drifting system’ (the first one is called System 001) consists of a 600-metre-long floater at the surface of the water with a tapered 3-metre-deep skirt attached below.
- The floater prevents plastic from flowing over it, while the skirt stops debris from escaping underneath.
- As the system moves through the water, the plastic continues to collect within the boundaries of the system as it takes a U-shape.

**1 CAPTURE**

Once the drifting system has rounded up the garbage, a ship can be used to gather it and take it away for processing.

**2 ACCUMULATION**

The Ocean Cleanup proposes to turn the mix of dirty, sometimes smelly, plastic into material that can be used for new products.

**3 EXTRACTION**

**THE MONSTER**

Ocean Cleanup’s maiden cleaning venture is directed at the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a zone lying between Hawaii and California, where plastic waste has accumulated. This zone covers an estimated surface area of 1.6 million sq km, an area twice the size of Texas or three times the size of France.

**80k tonnes**

The approximate mass of plastic in the Patch, equivalent to the weight of 500 jumbo jets.

**1.8 trillion**

Total number of plastic pieces estimated to be floating in the Patch, that is equivalent to 250 pieces of debris for every human in the world.

- The GPGP is the largest of five such gyres across the world’s oceans where ocean currents concentrate plastic waste. A gyre is a circular pattern of currents in an ocean basin.
- Slat and Co. say that a full-scale rollout could clean 50% of the Patch in just five years.
- The Ocean Cleanup claims it will be able to remove 90% of ocean plastic by 2040 after fleets of systems are deployed into every ocean gyre combined with checking of plastic pollution at source.

Source: The Ocean Cleanup