15th Finance Commission – to visit Tamil Nadu from Sep 5 to 8, 2018 – to understand the economic growth and development of the state

- The Commission will be led by the Chairman N.K. Singh will meet the CM and other officials along with its members, Dr. Anoop Singh, Dr. Ashok Lahiri, Dr. Ramesh Chand and Secretary Arvind Mehta
- It may be recalled that Tamil Nadu will be the 2nd state in South India after Kerala to be visited by the Commission
- Between 2012 & 2017, Tamil Nadu’s average share of agriculture and allied sector was 10.9%, industry was 35% and services was 54.6%
- As per RBI study of state budgets, Tamil Nadu has a fiscal deficit of over 4% and debt to GDP ratio at 22.31% in 2016-17
Tamil Nadu – Teacher's Day celebrations on Sep 5, 2018

- 363 teachers to be conferred with Dr Radhakrishnan Awards
- For the first time, 960 students (30 students per district) to be awarded Kamaraj Awards

Chennai – to launch the initiative of fixing ‘Camera’ in the uniforms of Police personnel within a month

- The project is to be implemented at a cost of Rs 1.5 crores
- Initially 200 cameras are to be fitted in the uniforms of Police, who are in-charge of collecting ‘fines’ for traffic violations
- These cameras can work continuously for 8 hours, has 34 GB storage capacity, can cover up to 120 degree range, has 1080 pixel clarity and a separate ‘encoding format’ for saving the recorded videos
SCHEMES

- ‘Mil-Bache’ scheme – launched by Madhya Pradesh

It is the first-of-its-kind initiative launched in all the Government schools of the state – to create education and learning awareness among the children.

- The initiative will develop language skill up-gradation, reading textbooks and co-curricular activities in government schools

STATES

- Jharkhand – announces change in the name of Railway station and a town after Lord Krishna
✓ Nagaruntari in Garhwa district – to be renamed as ‘Banshidhar Nagar’ after the famous Banshidhar Temple, dedicated to Lord Krishna, in the district
✓ The Nagaruntari railway station – also to be renamed as ‘Banshidhar Nagar railway station’
✓ The Raghubar Das-led, Jharkhand government plans to make ‘Banshidhar Nagar’ part of the Lord Krishna religious circuit and plans to rope in ISKCON ((International Society for Krishna Consciousness) to tie-up with the state
✓ The state government wants to develop the town on the lines of Mathura and Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh to boost tourism in the city.
✓ It has to be recalled that the Mughalsarai railway junction was renamed recently after Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Robertsang railway station as Sonbhadra in Uttar Pradesh
✓ All the renaming proposals of the states to be approved by the Min of Home affairs

NATIONAL

➢ **Draft Rules for sale of drugs by E-pharmacies** – notified by Min of Health – to regulate the sale of medicines ‘online’
**Highlights of the Draft**

✓ All the online pharmacies should compulsorily register under ‘Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation’ and obtain trade licence from any state Government to operate all over the country

✓ They must also ‘Register’ with Central Licensing authority for a sum of Rs 50,000, which will be valid for a period of ‘3’ years

✓ The E-pharmacies should keep the medical history of the patient ‘confidential’ except with central/state governments

✓ They must comply with Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Information Technology Act, 2000

✓ Sale of tranquillisers, psychotropic drugs, narcotics and habitual drugs are barred

✓ All the cash or credit ‘sale’ memos should be maintained as ‘records’

✓ The E-pharmacy business premises will be inspected every two years, by a team of officers authorised by Central Licensing Authority

The E-pharmacy cannot advertise any drug on radio or television or internet or print or any other media for any purpose

✓ The E-portals should compulsorily have 24/7 call centres

✓ The E-pharmacies should deliver drugs in specific time as informed to the patient during the time of purchase

➢ National Nutrition month – September 2018

![National Nutrition Month 2018](image-url)
✓ The aim of celebrating Sep 2018 as ‘National nutrition month’ is to mark the fight against Malnutrition issues such as stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth weight in children
✓ The month will focus on adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers to eliminate their health deficiencies
✓ The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development to organise various programmes to spread awareness on various issues by reaching about 11 crore women and children during the month
✓ The decision to celebrate the month of Sep ‘every year’ as National nutrition month was taken during the 2nd meeting of National Council on India’s Nutrition Challenges under the Poshan Abhiyaan held in July 2018
✓ The National Nutrition Mission was launched by PM Narendra Modi on March 8, 2018 in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan to reduce stunting of children in the age group of 0-6 years from 38% to 25% by 2022, with an outlay of Rs 9046.17 crore commencing from 2017-18
✓ Initially, 315 districts will be covered in 2017-18, 235 districts in 2018-19 and the remaining districts will be covered in 2019-20

INTERNATIONAL

➢ Egypt – ratifies a ‘law’ to provide the authorities with a right to monitor Social media users in the country
✓ The measure is as part of the country’s efforts to tighten internet controls
✓ The ‘Supreme Council for Media Regulations’ will track the followers of the social media and is empowered to suspend or block any personal account which publishes or broadcasts fake news or any other information violating the law or propagating violence or hatred

➢ France – bans Mobile phones completely in its Primary and Middle schools

✓ It also empowered French high schools, which take pupils aged 15 and over, to put their own rules in place
✓ The government passed a law banning the mobile phone use during the school day, with exceptions for disabled children and in case of an emergency
✓ Tablets and Smart watches are also banned
3rd Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), Beijing, China

- China – to provide a financial assistance of $60 billion to Africa – to support industries, fight hunger and enhance security in the continent
- FOCAC, established in 2000 in Beijing, is an official forum between China and all the states in Africa (except Eswatini)
- China has committed to support Africa to achieve general food security by 2030
- It has to be recalled that China has already established naval base in Djibouti on the edge of the strategic Gulf of Aden, which links the Red Sea and Arabian Sea

71st session of WHO Regional committee for South-east Asia, New Delhi
✓ Inaugurated by – JP Nadda, Min of health and family welfare
✓ The minister highlighted the following important schemes of the Government –
✓ Launch of ‘Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya scheme’ (or) ‘Ayushman Bharat’
✓ Implementation of ‘National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis’ and target to remove TB by 2025 (ahead of 2030 set by WHO)
✓ Universal screening for prevention and management of 5 common NCDs including hypertension, diabetes and three common Cancers of oral cavity, breast and cervix
✓ Launch of AMRIT Deendayal (Affordable Medicines & Reliable Implants for Treatment) centres to provide medicines for cancer and cardiovascular disease and cardiac implants at reduced prices
✓ Opening of Jan Aushadhi (peoples’ medicines) stores for affordable medicine

PERSONALITIES

George Mathew (India) - has won a first prize of around Rs 23 crores (12 million Dirhams) in ‘Big Ticket Abu Dhabi’ Lottery scheme

✓ Earlier, in July 2018, Thajo Mathew (Kerala) won the 1st prize in the lottery ticket scheme, continuing the tradition of Indians winning the prize money
UAE – to send 2 Astronauts to International space station on a mission

- The 2 new astronauts are 34-year-old Hazza al-Mansouri and 37-year-old Sultan al-Neyadi
- The country had already announced plans to become the first Arab country to send an unmanned probe to orbit Mars by 2021, naming it "Hope"
- The first Arab in outer space was Saudi Arabia’s Sultan bin Salman Al-Saud, who flew on a US shuttle mission in 1985
- In the long-term, the UAE plans to build a "Science City" to replicate life on Mars and aims to create the first human settlement on the red planet by 2117.
‘Rapid Trident’ – Annual joint military exercise conducted by Ukraine with United States and other NATO member countries, kicked off in Lviv region of Ukraine

✓ The exercise will be taking place in the western Ukrainian village of Starychi from 2\textsuperscript{nd} to 15\textsuperscript{th} Sep, 2018
✓ It will involve around 2,200 soldiers from 14 countries, Ukraine, the United States, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, the United Kingdom, Georgia, Denmark, Canada, Lithuania, Moldova, Germany, Romania, Poland, Turkey
✓ Ukrainian Border Guard Service and National Guard troops are expected to take part for the first time in these exercises
✓ It has to be recalled that ‘Vostok 2018', Russia's biggest military exercise since 1981, are to be held between September 11-15 in eastern Russia with the participation of China and Mongolia
‘IOWave18’ – A multination Indian ocean-wide Tsunami Mock exercise began on Sep 4, 2018 in Indian ocean – to be participated by India along with other 23 nations

- Organised by - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO
- The 2-day exercise involves the evacuation of thousands of people from coastal areas in various states such as Odisha, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Goa
- It aims to improve the response coordination efforts in case of a Tsunami apart from creating an awareness about Tsunami preparedness at the grass root level
- In this exercises, Hyderabad based Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) will be the Nodal participating agency
- Countries participating - Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tanzania and Yemen
- Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC), functioning from INCOIS, Hyderabad was set up in Oct 2007
- It has to be recalled a massive Tsunami struck beneath the Indian ocean on Dec 26, 2004 claiming more than 2 lakh lives, triggered by a 9.1 magnitude earthquake off the west coast of Sumatra in Indonesia
RBI’s Internal Ombudsman Scheme 2018

- RBI has asked all the commercial banks with more than 10 branches to appoint an ‘Internal Ombudsman’ under Section 35 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- An ombudsman functions as an authority investigating and addressing public complaints or violation of rights.
- Regional Rural Banks are exempted from this directive by the RBI.
- The objective of appointing ‘Internal Ombudsman’ in banks is to strengthen the internal grievance redressal system and also to ensure that the customer complaints are redressed at the level of the bank itself.
Sports

- **World Youth Boxing, Budapest**
  Sakshi Choudhary, former Junior World champion – clinches Gold medal in the women’s 57 kg category

- Manisha and Anamika – won the silver medals in the 64 kg and 51 kg categories
- Jony, Astha Pahwa, Bhavesh Kattimani, Ankit Khatana, Neha Yadav and Sakshi Gaidhani - won bronze medals in various categories

- **ISSF World Shooting championships, Changwon, Korea**
  Anjum Moudgil – clinched ‘Silver’ medal in women’s 10m air rifle event and booked a ‘Quota place’ for 2020 Olympics along with ‘Apurvi Chandela’, who finished 4th in the event

- This is the 1st instance when 2 Indians won ‘Quota place’ together
- Earlier, Abhinav Bindra (2006), Manavjit Singh Sandhu (2006), Gagan Narang (2010) and Jitu Rai (2014) had won quotas at the World Championships