TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu – sets up 24-hour helpline – to investigate the issues faced by Inter-caste couples and to offer them necessary protection and assistance

STATES

- West Bengal – to organize a ‘World class Exhibition’ on 4 Eminent personalities of Bengal – at National Library in Kolkata
  - Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore
  - Netaji Subha Chandra Bose
  - Rishi Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
  - Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee
Punjab – to develop ‘Virasat-e-Khalsa’, a museum of Sikhs – at Anandpur Sahib, Punjab – as per Mr Navjot singh sidhu, Min of Tourism and cultural affairs, Punjab

Uttar Pradesh – launches the concept of ‘Digital volunteers’ in Police stations to check rumours and fake news

Tripura – observes 7-day long ‘Kharchi Puja’, a traditional tribal’s festivity

Kerala - Cochin Port – to develop the new state-of-the-art ‘Cruise Terminal’ at Ernakulam Wharf by Feb 2020

This terminal is designed to handle upto 5000 tourists at a cost of Rs 25.72 crores.
Maharashtra – Top Beverage companies including PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, Bisleri to initiate a **buy-back programme** for all Pet bottles sold in the State

- The cost of buy-back set by the companies is Rs 15 per kg for PET bottles
- The companies are working with ‘Gem Enviro’ for setting up of the Reverse vending machines and collection centres for the buy-back programme
- Maharashtra – enforced single use plastic ban in March 2018
- India – to eliminate all forms of single use plastic by 2022

**SCHEMES**

- **Bharatmala Scheme**

  - India – is planning to build **1,911 kms** of International Roads by 2022 – as per Mr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Min of State for Road Transport and Highways
    - Target – 83,677 kms of Road highways at Rs 5.35 lakh crores budget

- **Student Police cadet programme** – launched nationally by Mr Rajnath singh, Union Home minister

  - The programme aims to build relationship between the police and the people through the school students, who will be trained in ‘ethics and values’ & ‘Crime prevention and control’
  - The programme targets the school students in the classes 8 and 9, without affecting the regular studies
✓ The programme has a budget of Rs 67 crores from the Centre

**NATIONAL**

- Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahirramani of Bombay High court – to be the new Chief justice of Madras high court

✓ Present Chief Justice of Madras High court, Indira Banerjee - is set to be one among the 3 new judges for Supreme court

✓ Others 2 judges recommended
* Justice Vineer Saran, Present chief justice of Orissa high court
* Justice K M Joseph, Present chief justice of Uttarakhand high court

**27th No Confidence Motion**

- Moved by – Telugu Desam party
- Overall time taken – 12 hours
- Strength – Only 451 MP’s out of 534 present in the floor (Majority Mark – 226)
- Final verdict – 325-126 in favour of NDA
- Parties that didn’t participate in the NCM – Shiv sena and BJD; TRS didn’t vote but participated

**SUPREME COURT VERDICT**

**Supreme court verdict**

- No New vehicle to be sold from September 1 – without the Mandatory Third party insurance cover – for a 3 year and 5 year premium for Four wheel and Two wheel vehicles respectively

  * **Background** – The verdict is based on the recommendations of the Justice K S Radha Krishnan committee on Road Safety

  * The committee noted that only 6 crore vehicles out of 18 crore has the third party insurance, thereby making it ‘Mandatory’ for the accident victims to claim compensation
**INDIA & NEIGHBOURS**

- **Austin Fernando** – named as new Srilankan High commissioner to India
  - He replaces Chitrangani Wagiswara

**CONFERENCES/SUMMITS**

- **28th Meeting of GST Council, New Delhi**
  - Chaired by – Mr Piyush Goyal, Min of Finance, Railways and Coal
  - **Key points approved**
    - Exemption of Sanitary napkins from GST from the earlier 12% levy of tax
    - Reduction of Slab for Lithium-ion batteries used in Electronic items from 28% to 18%
  - GST was rolled out on July 1, 2017
➢ **4th BIMSTEC summit** – to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal – from 30\textsuperscript{th} to 31\textsuperscript{st} Aug, 2018

✓ BIMSTEC - Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation.

✓ Formed - 1997

✓ Countries - Bangladesh, Bhutan India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.

✓ Current chair of BIMSTEC – Nepal

➢ **8th BRICS Health Ministers’ Meeting** - at Durban, South Africa

✓ India – to eliminate TB by 2025 – as per Mr J P Nadda, Union Health Minister

**COMMITTEE**

➢ **Prof R C Deka Committee** – Constituted by UGC – to regulate fee for Medical courses in Deemed Universities
Meghalayan Age – The Newest Phase in the History of Earth is named after the discovery of the Stalagmite in a cave of Meghalaya

Other 2 New phases in the Earth’s History are named as:

* Middle Holocene Northgrippian Age
* Early Holocene Greenlandian Age

The Meghalayan Age – begins around 4200 years ago

Middle Holocene Northgrippian Age – began around 8,300 years ago

Early Holocene Greenlandian Age – began around 11,700 years

All these 3 ages belongs to a part of longer period known as Holocene Epoch – which began around 11,700 years ago

NASA – launches ‘Remote sensing Toolkit’ to promote Commercial use of Satellite data

NASA - National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters – Washington DC, United states

Founded – 29 July 2958

Founded by – Dwight D Eisenhower

Athena – The new satellite to be launched by Facebook in 2019

Objective – to provide broadband connections to rural areas
2-Wheeler Mode of Google Maps – Launched in India in 2017 – now expands to other Asian countries, Indonesia, Singapore, Phillipines, Taiwan, Hongkong, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam

ECONOMY

FICCI – projects India’s GDP growth at steady 7.5% in the current FY

- FICCI - Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
  - It is the association of Business establishments in India
  - Headquarters – New Delhi
  - Established – 1927

‘Shopper Audience Network’ – a New ‘Video advertisement platform’ started jointly by Flipkart and Hotstar

- Objective – to provide personalized video advertisements in Hotstar targeting potential customers of Flipkart
**APPOINTMENTS**

- **Arman Ali** – appointed as Executive Director of ‘National Centre for promotion of employment of Disabled people’ (NCPEDP)

  ✓ He succeeds Javed Abidi from Oct 2018

  ✓ NCPEDP – Headquarters – New Delhi

**AWARDS & HONOURS**

- **Vivek Srivastava** - Co–Founder & CEO, Healthcare at HOME (HCAH) - Awarded "Entrepreneur of the year" Award - for healthcare services - at 8th Annual Entrepreneur India awards, New Delhi
26th Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly Awards 2018 (ESPY), Los Angeles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy V Award for Perseverance</td>
<td>Jim Kelly, Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Male Athlete</td>
<td>Alexander Ovechkin, Washington Capitals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Female Athlete</td>
<td>Chloe Kim, Snowboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best International Men’s Soccer Player</td>
<td>Cristiano Ronaldo, Real Madrid/Portuguese National Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best International Women’s Soccer Player</td>
<td>Sam Kerr, Chicago Red Stars/Australian National Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Male Tennis Player</td>
<td>Roger Federer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Female Tennis Player</td>
<td>Sloane Stephens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SPORTS

- **14th Women’s World Cup Hockey Tournament** – starts in London – from July 21 to Aug 5, 2018
  - India – Last appeared in World Cup Hockey in 2010, Argentina and finished 9th
  - India – grouped in Pool B, along with England, Ireland and USA
  - India – currently ranked at 10th place in the overall rankings of the countries
  - Netherlands – Current World Champion

- **Alison Becker (Brazil)** – becomes the world’s most expensive Goalkeeper in Football’s history– after his record transfer amount of 56 million Pounds to Liverpool (England) from Roma (Italy)
Shubhankar Sharma (India) – becomes the youngest Indian Golfer to ‘make the Cut’ in any Major Golf tournament at 147th Open championship, Scotland

✓ Making the cut – Golf – means ‘When the players exceed or match a certain score to remain in the final 2 rounds of a 4 round tournament’

IOC – adds 7 new medal events to 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics

✓ 1 - Women’s mono bob
✓ 2 & 3 - Big Air freestyle skiing (For men and women)
✓ 4 - Mixed team events in short track speed skating,
- 5 - Ski jumping,
- 6 - Ski aerials
- 7 – Snowboard cross

**IOC – International Olympic committee**

* Headquarters – Lausanne, Switzerland
* Founded – 1894 in Paris
* 2020 Summer Olympics – Tokyo, Japan
* 2024 Summer Olympics – Paris, France

**28th Shooting Hopes junior International Championship**, Pilsen, Czech Republic

**Indian Shooters gets 11 Gold medals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manu Bhaker</td>
<td>10 m Pistol Junior Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manu Bhaker, Devanshi Rana,</td>
<td>10 m Pistol Junior Female team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shreya Agrawal,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manu Bhaker, Anmol Jain</td>
<td>10 m air pistol mixed team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manu Bhaker, Gaur, Muskan</td>
<td>25 m Pistol Junior female team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elavenil Valarivan</td>
<td>10 m Rifle ISSF Junior Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu</td>
<td>25 m Pistol Junior Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Event</td>
</tr>
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<td>----------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu, Vijayveer Sidhu, Udhayveer Sidhu</td>
<td>25 m Pistol Junior Male (team)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saurabh Chaudhary</td>
<td>10 m Pistol Junior male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arjun Singh Cheema</td>
<td>50 m Pistol Junior male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arjun Singh Cheema, Anmol Jain, Rana</td>
<td>50 m Pistol Junior male team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elavenil Valarivan, Divyanish Singh Panwar</td>
<td>10 m rifle ISSF Mixed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

✔ **India’s Manu Bhaker** won a record 9th International Gold medal in the span of One Year
RANKINGS

➢ The joint UN Agency on AIDS (UNAIDS) Report - "Miles to go - closing gaps, breaking barriers, righting injustices"
✓ **India – 2010 to 2017**

* New HIV infections - dropped from 1, 20,000 in 2010 to 88,000 in 2017
* AIDS-related deaths - reduced from 1, 60,000 to 69,000 in the same time period
* People living with HIV - decreased from 23,00,000 to 21,00,000 in the same time period.

✓ **Asia**

* HIV infections – Increases in Pakistan and Phillipines
* HIV infections - decreased in India, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam

✓ **Global**

* New HIV infections – shows a decrease of 18% - from 2.2 million in 2010 to 1.8 million in 2017.

✓ **UN Global Target** – Less than 5,00,000 by 2020