Keeladi, Korkai and Adhichanallur – to get ‘Onsite’ Museums – to display ancient artefacts excavated from the places of Archaeological importance – as per Thiru K Pandiarajan, Min for Tamil language and culture, Tamil Nadu

Nagercoil Temple Jewellery with Peculiar Gems and Stones – gets GI tag – from Geographical Indications registry of Government of India

TANGEDCO – Purchases a record 10.41 crore Units of Electricity from Wind Mills – on July 18, 2018 (Average purchase – 4600 MW from Wind mills)

- Earlier record was set in Aug 2017 – when TANGEDCO purchased 10.26 crore units of Electricity on a single day
- Tamilnadu – has 11,800 wind mills producing 7,800 MW of electricity
**STATES**

- **Odisha** – launches a Police drive to identify ‘**Pangolin**’ smuggling racket within the state
  - Pangolin – is the only scaly mammal in the world.
  - Types – 8 out of which only 2 are available in India, Indian pangolin and Chinese pangolin, both are listed as ‘Endangered’ species by UN.

- **Bihar** – to provide **Reservation in Promotions** – to SC/ST personnel in its Services

**NATIONAL**

- **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana** – The Government has reduced the minimum yearly deposit to Rs 250 from the earlier Rs 1000 - for opening up the account
Medini Puraskar Yojna – a scheme to award Indian authors for their work in ‘Hindi’ on Environment, Pollution and Climate changes – Reintroduced by the Min of Environment

1st Mizo Hnahthlak International Cultural Festival – organized in Aizawl, Mizoram

NCERT – to introduce QR codes in its textbooks
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

TreadWill – an online tool developed by IIT, Kanpur – to help people deal with Mental health issues

DEFENCE & MILITARY

Army – to get 2 types of Artillery guns in Sep 2018

- **K-9 Vajra-T** from South Korea – 155mm, 52 calibre, 40km range self-propelled artillery gun
- **M777** ultralight howitzer from United States – 155mm, 39 calibre, 24 km range towed artillery gun
ECONOMY

Top 3 States with Surplus GST collections

1 Manipur
2 Mizoram
3 Arunachal Pradesh

AWARDS & HONOURS

All India Football Federation Awards 2017

- Sunil Chhetri – Player of the Year
- Kamala Devi – Woman Player of the Year
- C R Srikrishna (Tamil Nadu- Coimbatore) – Best Referee (3rd Award)
- Kerala Football Association – Best Grassroots Development Programme
- Anirudh Thapa – Emerging player of the year
- E Panthoi – Emerging Woman Footballer of the year
**APPOINTMENTS**

- **Amit Anand Apte** – appointed as President of ‘The Institute of Cost Accounts of India’

![Image of Amit Anand Apte and colleagues]

**BOOKS & AUTHORS**

- **The Dravidian Years**
  - Politics and Welfare in Tamil Nadu
  - By S. Narayan
SPORTS

Mohammad Anas Yahiya (India) – sets a new National record of 45.24 seconds in 400m race – at the Cena Noveho Mesta nad Metuji Meet in Prague, Czech Republic

Fakhar Zaman (Pakistan) – becomes the fastest player to reach 1000 runs in ODI’s in 18 innings – during the ongoing ODI series against Zimbabwe

- He broke the record of Sir Viv Richards, West Indian cricketer (21 innings)
- He scored 210 runs in 4th match against Zimbabwe to register the 1st double century by a Pakistan cricketer in ODI’s
Sports Authority of India (SAI) – shortlists 734 young players – for KHELO INDIA Talent identification development scheme, a scholarship program for school students

Tokyo 2020 Olympics – Mascots unveiled

- Olympic Mascot – Miraitowa – Blue checked
- Para Olympic Mascot – Someity - Red checked
➢ Tokyo 2020 Olympics - to be held between July 24 and Aug 9
➢ Tokyo 2020 Para Olympics – to be held between Aug 25 to Sep 6

❖ Lakshya Sen (India-Uttarakhand) – clinches Asia Junior Badminton title at Jakarta, Indonesia – becoming 3rd Indian shuttler to win Gold in Asian Junior Championships
➢ He defeated current World junior champion, Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailand)
➢ Other Indians to win Asian Junior Championships
➢ Late Gautam Thakkar (1965)
➢ P V Sindhu (2012)

❖ Junior Asian Wrestling Championship, New Delhi
➢ India wins 8 medals – 2 Gold, 3 Silver and 3 Bronze – and finished 2nd (1st – Iran)

❖ Gold medal winners
✓ Sachin Rathi – 74 kgs
✓ Deepak Punia – 86 kgs
2019 FIFA Women’s World cup Football – to be held in France – between 7th June to 7th July 2019

- United States – Current World champion
- Chile – to take part for the 1st time
- No of teams – 24 (6 groups)
- Official Slogan – Dare to shine
- Official Mascot – Ettie
Mohit Kumar (Haryana) – sets new U-18 decathlon National record with 6707 points - in 15th National youth athletics championships, Vadodara, Gujarat

Manu Attri and Sumeeth Reddy (India) – retains Mens doubles title – at Lagos International Badminton tournament in Nigeria

Lewis Hamilton (Britain - Mercedes) – wins the German Grand Prix Formula 1 championship
INDICES

Public Affairs Index 2018

Best Governed States – Top 5 (Large States)

1 Kerala (Topping the index for the 3rd time)
2 Tamil Nadu
3 Telangana
4 Karnataka
5 Gujarat

Small States – Top 5 (With population less than 2 crores)

1 Himachal Pradesh
2 Goa
3 Mizoram
4 Sikkim
5 Tripura

States Providing better living conditions for Kids – Top 3

1 Kerala
2 Himachal Pradesh
3 Mizoram
Index Released by – Public Affairs Centre (Bengaluru)

Since – 2016

Objective – to improve governance in the States

Global Slavery Index – Released by Walk Free foundation

40.3 million people subjected to ‘Modern slavery’ in 2016

- North Korea – tops the list with 1 in 10 people in this condition

OBITUARY

Jonathan Gold, a food critic – Won ‘Pulitzer prize’ for criticism in 2007

- He worked for Los Angeles Times as a ‘Restaurant critic’
REMEMBERING BALAGANGADHAR TILAK AND CHANDRA SEKARA AZAD ON THEIR BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

23 July

Bal Gangadhar Tilak
23 July 1856 - 1 August 1920

Chandrashekhar Azad
23 July 1906 - 27 February 1931
ROLE OF TILAK

Father of Extremist Movement

Bala Gangadhar Tilak (1856–1920) was the Father of the Extremist Movement in India. He embodied the spirit of radical Indian nationalism. Though a law graduate of Bombay University, Tilak was not enamoured of the Government service. Instead he dedicated himself to the service of his country. He helped in the establishment of the Poona New English School, the Deccan Education Society and the Ferguson College. These educational institutions were started with a view to imbue the Indian youth with the ideals of services and sacrifice. Similarly, he started the Marathi weekly, the Kesari, and the English newspaper, the Mahratta, with a view to propagate his nationalistic views.

Social Reformer

Tilak firmly believed that political freedom should precede social reform. On that score he basically differed from Gokhale and Agarkar, who believed that social reform should march hand in hand with political reform. However, Tilak’s zeal for social reform was no less important. He strongly supported women’s education and raising the age of marriage for boys and girls. He protested against the Age of Consent Bill (1890), not because he disagreed with its principle but because he considered it outside legislative interference in Indian social customs. He used it a convenient handle to attack the British. The Age of Consent Bill agitation brought Tilak name and fame.

Activator of Religious Festivals

In order to activise nationalism Tilak utilized religious festivals. He believed that better results could be achieved through these festivals than through public meetings. With this end in view, he inaugurated the Ganapathi Festival in 1893. The festival lasted for several days, when giant images of God Ganapathi were carried through the streets, Hindu Youths marched in formation singing religious songs and lectures were given on Hindu tenets. The festival appealed to all sections of people. By 1896 it spread to almost all towns in Maharashtra. In 1895 he started Festivals in honour of Chatrapathi Sivaji. Tilak also encouraged the formation of anti-cow killing societies, lathi clubs and akharas. Through such festivals, celebrations and clubs Tilak surreptitiously introduced political activities in the villages and among the masses.7
Promoter of Melas

The Ganapathi and Sivaji festivals gave rise to militant secret societies in the form of Melas. They were revolutionary societies. They mostly centered round Poona and its suburbs. The Hindu youth who had come under the spell of Tilak joined the Melas in strength. They swore allegiance to defend their tradition through all means and personal sacrifice. The mela members underwent physical training including the use of fire arms. They supplied firearms to the marchers during the Ganapathi and Sivaji festivals. Natu Brothers-Balwant Ramachandra Natu and Hari Ramachandra Natu- played a prominent role in the Mela movement. Tilak considered them as his allies in a common struggle against the foreigners. Thus, by skillfully combining religion, tradition and politics Tilak had by the mid-nineties of the 19th century emerged as the most powerful politician in Maharashtra and demi-God to the Maharashtrians.

An Activist

Tilak attracted Government’s attention by his activities during the outbreak of bubonic plague in Poona in 1897. He called for massive public relief to alleviate the suffering of the victims. He deployed agents to the countryside to collect information and to organize no-tax campaign. He wrote stirring articles in the Kesari and the Mahratta. After the assassination of W.C. Rand, the Plague Commissioner and his assistant Lt. Ayerest, the Government accused Tilak of having incited sedition and violence. Tilak was tried, found guilty and sentenced to 18 months rigorous imprisonment! His incarceration earned him the well-deserved title Lokmanya.

Aggressive Politician

When Tilak was set free he involved himself in political activities with redoubled vigour and energy. He extended his whole-hearted support to the anti-Partition agitation in Bengal (1905). He urged the country to rally round the Bengalis in their hour of trial. He enthusiastically welcomed the Swadeshi Movement, particularly the boycott programme. For Tilak boycott was more than an economic weapon; it was a weapon of political warfare, a substitute for the bullet. Since Indians could not go to war as the Boers did in South Africa, the next best thing for them was of refuse to buy British goods or cooperate with the British rulers. He called upon fellow Maharashtrians to extend all help to the struggling Bengalis. He himself organized a bonfire of British cloth in October 1905. Several Swadeshi institutions were founded to promote the sale of Swadeshi goods. Tilak visited Bengal and urged the Bengalis to discard the methods of protests, prayers and pleadings and follow radical methods. “Look to the examples of Ireland, Japan and Russia and follow their methods.”
Father of Unrest

Tilak’s aggressive politics alienated him from other Congress Moderates. The Extremists demonstrated their strength at the annual Congress session held at Benaras in 1905. To avoid a split Dadabhai Naoroji had to be brought from England to preside over the 1906 Calcutta Congress. The irreconcilable conflict between the Extremists headed by Tilak and the Moderates led by Gokhale resulted in the inevitable split in the Congress in December 1907 at Surat. Taking advantage of the Split the Government cracked down on the Extremists. Tilak was again charged with sedition in 1908, tried, found guilty and sentenced to six years rigorous imprisonment. He was sent to Mandalay prison in Burma. His imprisonment provoked serious unrest in the country. He came to be called the Father of the Indian Unrest. It was in the Mandalay prison Tilak wrote his Gita Bahasya and The Arctic Home of the Vedas.

Hard Headed Realist

Tilak was a hard headed realist. When he returned to India after his release from the Mandalay prison on 30th August 1914 he appealed to his compatriots to help Britain in all possible ways. But the Government did not reciprocate this gesture of Tilak. Disappointed Tilak changed his stand and in 1916 he formed a League to fight for Home Rule. His attempt was ably supported by Annie Besant, S.Subramania Iyer and C.R.Das. The same year Tilak and the Extremists rejoined the Congress and approved of the Congress-League Pact of 1916. Tilak was prosecuted for delivering seditious speeches. He was asked to furnish a personal bond of Rs.20,000. He was ordered not to enter Delhi and the Punjab.

Born Fighter

Tilak participated in the War Conference held at Delhi in April 1918 as a provincial leader. But when the Governor cut short his speech Tilak walked out of the meeting. On 16th June he organized a mammoth procession and demonstration and observed Home Rule Day. In September he left for England and carried on a whirlwind campaign in support of Home Rule. On 27th November E.S.Montague met Tilak and sought his support for his Reform proposals. He was in favour of giving the Montford Reforms a trial. Tilak even formed the Congress Democratic Party in order to contest the elections under the Reforms Act. Tilak was to become the President of the special Calcutta session in September 1920 but he passed away on August 1920. The mantle of Tilak fell on Gandhi.
Tilak was a born and sworn fighter all throughout his life. He fought against social injustice. He fought against the British Government. He fought against the diehard Congress Moderates. He fought against Sir Valentine Chirol who had defamed him. He fought against sedition cases. He fought with his pen, through the press, and from the platform. He fought for the freedom of the country and in the process he Indianised the struggle and brought in the masses. Tilak was truly a Lokmanya Tilak who proclaimed “Swaraj is our birth right and we shall have it” was indeed a hero prophet of India’s struggle for freedom.

INDIAN REVOLUTIONARY CHANDRA SEKARA AZAD

"FOR WHAT IS THE FLUSH OF YOUTH, IF IT IS NOT OF SERVICE TO THE MOTHERLAND."

EARLY LIFE

Azad was born as Chandrashekhhar Tiwari on 23 July 1906 in Bhavra village, in the present-day Alirajpur district of Madhya Pradesh.

His mother wanted her son to be a great Sanskrit scholar and persuaded his father to send him to Kashi Vidyapeeth, Banaras, to study.
AZAD

In December 1921, when Mohandas K. Gandhi launched the Non-Cooperation Movement, Chandra Shekhar, then a 15-year-old student, joined. As a result, he was arrested. On being produced before a magistrate, he gave his name as "Azad" (The Free), his father's name as "Swatantrata" (Independence) and his residence as "Jail". From that day he came to be known as Chandra Shekhar Azad among the people.

REVOLUTIONARY LIFE

After suspension of the non-cooperation movement in 1922 by Gandhi, Azad became more aggressive. He met a young revolutionary, Manmathnath Gupta, who introduced him to Ram Prasad Bismil who had formed the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA), a revolutionary organisation.

KAKORI ROBBERY 1925

Bismil was impressed by Azad, when Azad reportedly put his hand over a lamp and did not remove it until his skin burnt. He then became an active member of the HRA and started to collect funds for HRA.

Most of the fund collection was through robberies of government property. He also wanted to build a new India based on socialist principles. He was involved in the Kakori Train Robbery of 1925, in the attempt to blow up the Viceroy of India's train in 1926, and at last the shooting of J. P. Saunders at Lahore in 1928 to avenge the killing of Lala Lajpat Rai.

Despite being a member of Congress, Motilal Nehru regularly gave money in support of Azad.
BAGAT SINGH & HSRA

The Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) was formed by Bismil, Chatterji, Sachindra Nath Sanyal and Shachindra Nath Bakshi in 1924. In the aftermath of the Kakori train robbery in 1925, the British clamped down on revolutionary activities. Prasad, Ashfaqulla Khan, Thakur Roshan Singh and Rajendra Nath Lahiri were sentenced to death for their participation. Azad, Keshab Chakravarthy and Murari Sharma evaded capture. Chandra Shekhar Azad later reorganised the HRA with the help of revolutionaries like Sheo Verma and Mahaveer Singh.

Azad and Bhagat Singh secretly reorganised the HRA as the HSRA in September 1928. so as to achieve their primary aim of an independent India based on socialist principle.

MARTYRDOM OF AZAD

Azad died at Alfred Park in Allahabad on 27 February 1931. The police surrounded him in the park after an unknown informant told them he was there. He was wounded in the process of defending himself and Sukhdev Raj and killed three policemen and wounded some others. His actions made it possible for Sukhdev Raj to escape. After a long shootout, holding true to his pledge to never be captured alive, he shot himself dead with his last bullet.