

October- 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and World Bank have jointly released report on Strengthening Forest Fire Management in the Country.
 - It discusses policies on forest fire prevention and management (FFPM) at national, state and local levels.
- ❖ The Vision Award 2018 of the FAO was conferred upon the TEEBAgriFood, an initiative of “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity” (TEEB) by UN Environment.
 - TEEBAgriFood developed a comprehensive evaluation framework for food systems to value food more accurately.
- ❖ The country’s first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC), an entrepreneurial technology hub, was launched in Bengaluru. The IIIC is a significant step towards facilitating penetration of Israeli companies in India.
- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed an MoU with the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) in Jammu for setting up of the Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science in the University
 - This is the first of its kind institute coming up in Jammu and Kashmir.

TAMIL NADU

Thamirabarani Maha Pushkaram

- ❖ Thamirabarani Maha Pushkaram has begun on Oct 11, 2018 at Papanasam in Tirunelveli district and it will be observed till October 23.
- ❖ The event was last organised in 1864 on the Thamirabarani river course.
- ❖ The Pushkaram is being organised once in every 12 years for the 12 zodiac signs.
- ❖ Since the pushkaram is being organized after 144 years (after completion of 12 zodiac cycles) it is called a maha pushkaram.



INTERNATIONAL

Iran Passes Counter Terrorist Financing Bill

- ❖ Iran's Parliament approved a Bill to counter terrorist financing.
- ❖ It was strongly opposed by conservatives but seen as vital to salvaging the nuclear deal with European and Asian partners.
- ❖ The objective of the Bill is to bring Iran's laws in line with international standards and allow it to join the UN Terrorism Financing Convention.
- ❖ The Bill, that was put forward by Iran's government, is a bid to meet demands by the international Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

First female major general - Bangladesh

- ❖ Bangladesh has appointed a female officer, Dr Susane Giti, as a major general for the first time in the country's 47-year history.
- ❖ Giti joined the medical wing of the Bangladesh armed forces in 1986 as a captain.

New Chief of ISI - Asim Munir

- ❖ Lt Gen Asim Munir was recently appointed as the new chief of Pakistan's powerful spy agency ISI.
- ❖ Munir, who previously served as the head of the Military Intelligence (MI), was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General.
- ❖ He replaces Lt Gen Naveed Mukhtar.
- ❖ He was conferred Hilal-i-Imtiaz, the second highest civilian award, in March 2018.

World's first minister for suicide prevention

- ❖ On the occasion of World Mental Health Day (10 Oct), the United Kingdom has appointed the world's first minister for suicide prevention.
- ❖ Britain's PM Theresa May has appointed Jackie Doyle-Price, a Conservative MP and current health minister, as the minister of suicide prevention.



- ❖ According to a new report by WHO, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death globally for young people aged between 15 and 19, with at least one death every 40s.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

India's first 2 EMV chip debit cum credit card

- ❖ IndusInd Bank has launched the IndusInd Bank Duo Card which is India's first 2 EMV chip debit cum credit card.
- ❖ This 2-in-1 Duo Card with 2 Magnetic Stripes & 2 EMV Chips brings the functionalities of both debit and credit cards to the Indian consumer, on one plastic.
- ❖ The card design uses the anagram technique to enhance and highlight the singularity of the Duo Card.

ENVIRONMENT

Dravyavati River Rejuvenation Project

- ❖ Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje inaugurated the ambitious Dravyavati River Rejuvenation Project.
- ❖ The project, which has been executed by Tata Projects Limited, is spread across a 47.5-km-long rain fed riverfront of Dravyavati river, which flows through Jaipur city.

1st ever National Environment Survey (NES)

- ❖ India's first ever National Environment Survey (NES) will be kicked off from 55 districts across 24 states and three Union Territories in January, 2019.
- ❖ It is aimed at ranking all the districts on their environmental performance and document their best green practices.
- ❖ The first set of documents of the survey will be available in 2020.
- ❖ This survey will be carried out by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)- through the Environmental Information System

- ❖ The skilled manpower required for the survey will be provided from persons skilled and trained under **MoEFCC's Green Skill Development Programme**.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

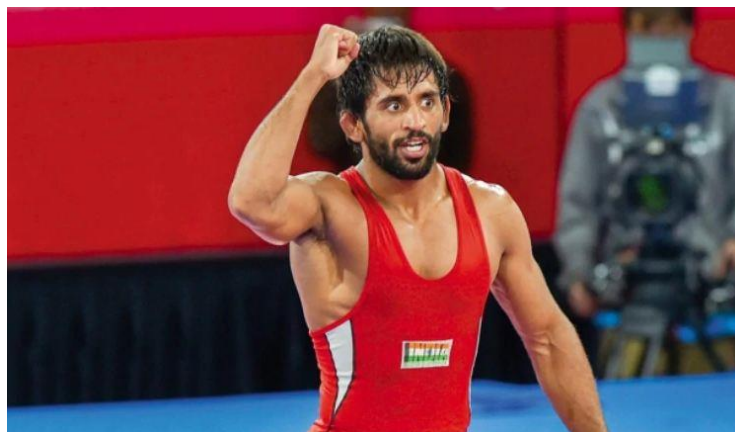
FAO's Future Policy Award 2018

- ❖ North-eastern state Sikkim has won the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Future Policy Award 2018 for being the world's first 100 percent organic state.
- ❖ Sikkim defeated 51 nominated policies from 25 countries and won the Gold Prize of the Future Policy Award 2018, also known as “Oscar for Best Policies”.
- ❖ In 2015, Sikkim was announced as the first organic state in the world.
- ❖ This year's award was co-organised by
 - The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),
 - The World Future Council (WFC) and
 - IFOAM – Organics International.

SPORTS

1st Indian wrestler to get seeded at the World Championship

- ❖ CWG and Asian Games gold medallist Bajrang Punia has become the 1st Indian wrestler to get seeded at the World Championship that will be held in Budapest, Hungary.



- ❖ In the 65kg category of men's freestyle event, Bajrang Punia has been seeded third, with 45 points in the ranking list released by United World Wrestling.
- ❖ Turkey's Selahattin Kilicsallayan is seeded first with 50 points in the 65 kg category, followed by Russia's Ilias Bekbulatov in 2nd spot.
- ❖ United World Wrestling, the parent body of wrestling, has launched the seeding system for the first time in the World Championship.
- ❖ It is based on the pre-championship performance ranking points.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Migratory Bird Day - 13 October

- ❖ World Migratory Bird Day was observed all over the world on 13th October 2018.
- ❖ In 2017, International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) and World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) were merged.
- ❖ From 2018, World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated twice a year, on the second Saturday in May and in October.
- ❖ In 2018, it was celebrated on 12th May and now on 13th October.
- ❖ The theme for WMBD 2018 was 'Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation' and also "Year of the Bird".

MISCELLANEOUS

Official mascot - Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup

- ❖ Turtle 'Olly' has been declared as the official mascot for the Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup, which will be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Odisha.
- ❖ 'Olly' represents the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles.
- ❖ 'Olly' was also the mascot for Asian Athletics Championships held at the Kalinga Stadium in Odisha in 2017.
