

October – 27

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The 2018 WETEX (Water, Energy, Technology, and Environment Exhibition) has started at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Dubai.
- ❖ The 15th edition of International Dance Festival “Udbhav Utsav 2018” was held in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The Government of India (GoI) has recently constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine the existing legal and institutional frameworks for dealing with the matters of sexual harassment of women at the workplace.
 - It will be chaired by the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.
- ❖ The President of India inaugurated the International Arya Maha Sammelan – 2018 in Delhi.
- ❖ The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave in New Delhi on the theme: ‘Nuclear Power- Towards a Clean & Base Load Energy’.
 - It was organized by the Indian Energy Forum (IEF).
- ❖ NASA scientists have devised a new set of 21 modern gamma-ray constellations and named them after fictional characters such as the Hulk and Godzilla. The names also include famous landmarks, such as Sweden’s recovered warship Vasa, the Washington Monument and Mount Fuji in Japan.
- ❖ Saurabh Kumar was appointed the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Union of Myanmar. At present, he is the Ambassador of India to Iran. He will succeed Vikram Misri.
- ❖ Satish Kumar Gupta was appointed managing director and CEO of Paytm Payments Bank. He replaces Renu Satti.
- ❖ The Haryana Government has introduced the ‘Pashu Sanjeevni Sewa’ scheme to provide free of cost health care services to livestock in the state through mobile veterinary clinics.
- ❖ Former Prime Minister, HD Deve Gowda was conferred with Maharshi Valmiki Jayanti Award, on the occasion of Valmiki Jayanti (24 October), in Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
 - He is awarded for his contributions to the welfare of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes communities.

- ❖ K N Radhakrishnan has been appointed as Director and CEO at TVS Motors - for a period of five years commencing starting 23rd October, 2018.
- ❖ The Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018 opened in New Delhi. The theme of the 2-day summit is, 'Connecting Farmers to Market'.
- ❖ The Prime Minister inaugurated the 36th Indian Carpets Expo at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

INTERNATIONAL

South Asia Regional WASH innovation

- ❖ India's legend cricketer and UNICEF Ambassador for South Asia, Sachin Tendulkar gave away prizes to the winners of South Asia Regional WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) innovation in Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan.



- ❖ The event was organised by UNICEF in association with BRAC, a Bangladesh based international organisation.
- ❖ Two teams from Bangladesh and one from Pakistan got top three places.

ECONOMY

6-member panel set up to resolve stressed assets

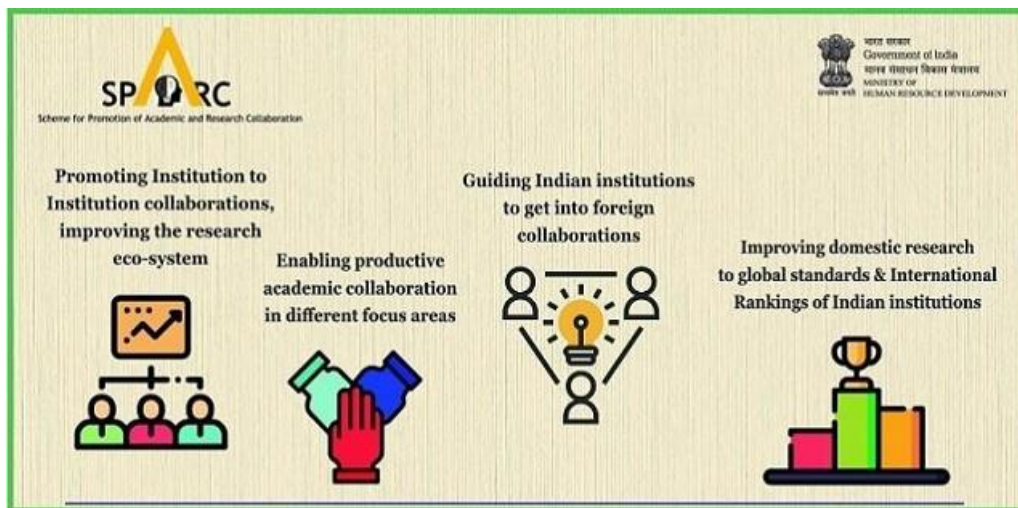
- ❖ The Overseeing Committee (OC) that is formed up under the inter-creditor agreement (ICA) for resolution of stressed assets will have 6 members.

- ❖ The OC is set up under the administration of Indian Banks' Association (IBA). It will approve resolution plans for stressed assets submitted by lead lenders.
- ❖ The members of OC include:
 - Janki Ballabh (former Chairman, State Bank of India),
 - MBN Rao (former Chairman & Managing Director, Canara Bank),
 - M Damodaran (former Chairman, SEBI) and
 - HR Khan (former Deputy Governor, RBI).
- ❖ The OC will also include a senior Tata Group executive from power sector and a Bombay High Court Judge.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Web portal of the SPARC launched

- ❖ Ministry of Human Resource & Development has launched the web portal of the “Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration” (SPARC) in New Delhi.

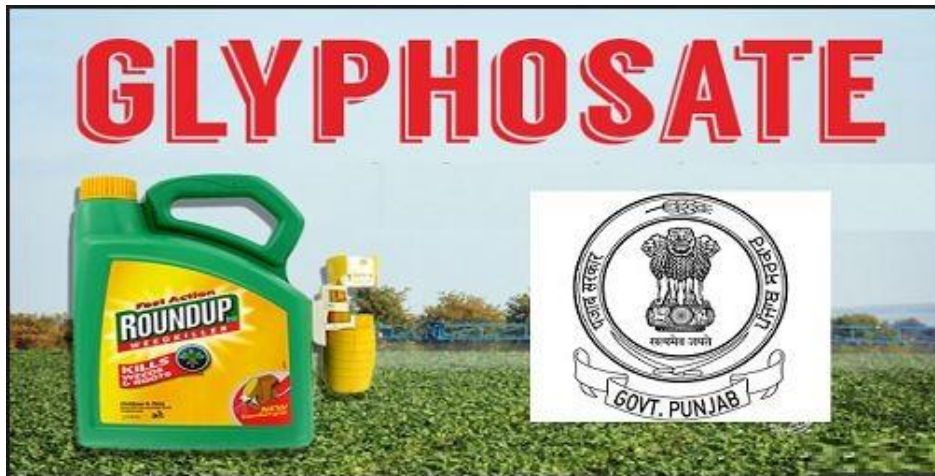


- ❖ The web portal is available at www.sparc.iitkgp.ac.in.
- ❖ SPARC scheme aims to improve the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by enabling academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.

STATES

Glyphosate banned in Punjab

- ❖ The Punjab government banned the sale of “cancer causing” weedicide glyphosate.
- ❖ The systemic herbicide is a group 2A cancer causing material and has the potential to damage the human DNA.



- ❖ Punjab was the fourth State after Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra to regulate the sale of herbicide.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

ICFA's first-ever World Agriculture Prize

- ❖ The Agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan received the first World Agriculture Prize instituted by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Vice-President presented the award at a special session, named ‘Swaminathan Global Dialogue on Climate Change and Food Security’ organised by the ICFA.
- ❖ He has been recognised worldwide for his basic and applied research in genetics, cytogenetics, radiation and chemical mutagenesis, food and biodiversity conservation.



- ❖ He has been hailed by the UN Environment Programme as ‘The Father of Economic Ecology’.

World Agriculture Prize

- ❖ The prize has been instituted by the ICFA with an aim to recognise individuals who have served humanity through agriculture.
- ❖ It will carry a cash component of \$1,00,000 and it will be an annual prize.

INSA Teachers Award 2018

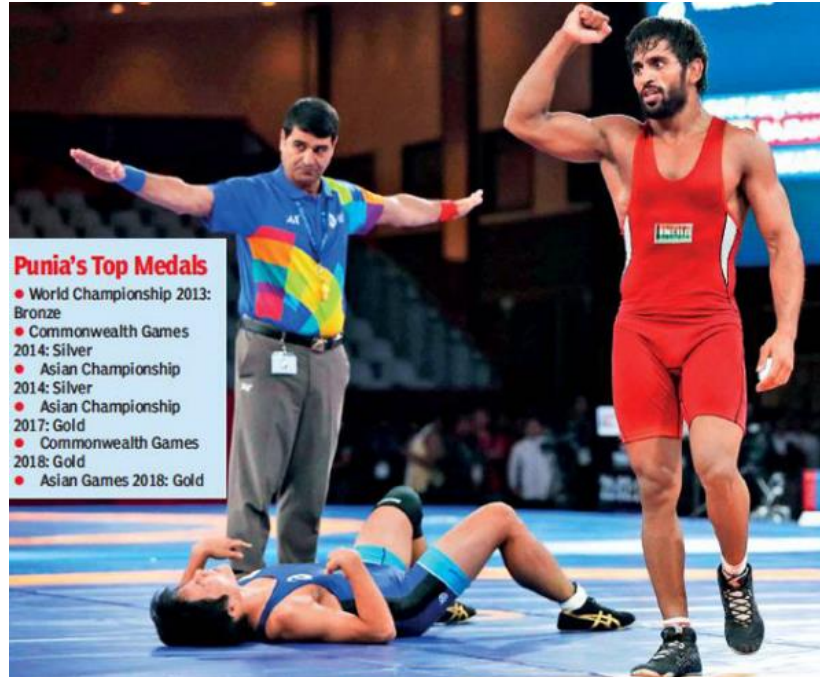
- ❖ The Indian National Science Academy (INSA) has selected Tezpur University professor Ashis Mukherjee for the prestigious “Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Teachers Award (2018)”.
- ❖ He was selected for his consistent and high-level of teaching, and inspiration and mentoring students to take up careers in Science and Technology.
- ❖ He will be conferred the award at the Anniversary General Meeting of the Academy in December 2018.
- ❖ This award founded by Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi is one of the highest recognitions for science and technology teachers in the country.

SPORTS

Wrestling World Championships

- ❖ Wrestler Bajrang Punia won the silver medal after he lost to Japan’s Takuto Otoguro in the 65kg final of the Wrestling World Championships in Budapest, Hungary.
- ❖ It is his second medal at the Worlds. Bajrang had won a bronze in 2013 edition.

- ❖ He is only the 4th Indian ever to make it to the World Championships final match.
- ❖ Otaguru became Japan's youngest World Champion at the age of 19.

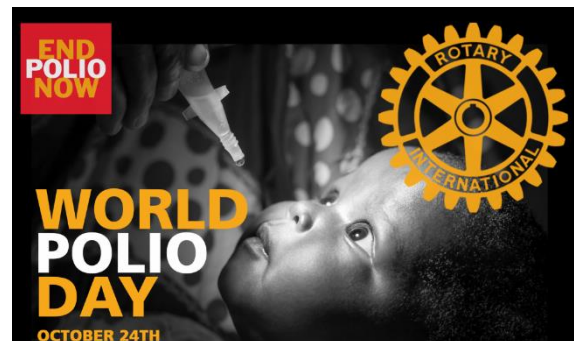


- ❖ Sushil Kumar, country's greatest ever wrestler, is the lone Indian to win a gold medal at the Worlds, achieving the feat in 2010 in Moscow in the 66kg category.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Polio Day – October 24

- ❖ The World Polio Day is observed annually across world on 24 October to create awareness about hazards of the crippling Polio disease.
- ❖ The theme for World Polio Day 2018 is 'End Polio Now'.
- ❖ The occasion commemorates the birth of American medical researcher and virologist Jonas Salk, who discovered the first successful vaccine (IPV) for poliomyelitis or polio in 1955.
- ❖ As per WHO, 'Global Polio Eradication Initiative' (Established in 1988) has eradicated Polio by 99%.



- ❖ As of today, only 3 countries in the world, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria have still reported the disease.
- ❖ There are 2 forms of vaccine available to eradicate polio.
 - Oral polio vaccine (OPV) and
 - Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV)
- ❖ OPV was developed by Albert Sabin.

MISCELLANEOUS

UTS (Unreserved Ticketing System) mobile app

- ❖ Indian Railways' UTS (Unreserved Ticketing System) mobile app for buying unreserved tickets online will be available throughout India, from 1 November 2018.
- ❖ This scheme was introduced 4 years ago. It received wide response only in Mumbai. Then, it was launched in Delhi-Palwal and Chennai city.
- ❖ A passenger needs to be around 25-30 metres away from the station to use the UTS app. A user can book only 4 tickets at a time through the app.
