

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 26, 2018

TAMIL NADU

- **Vellore Airport – to become operational soon with the proposed installation of a Mobile ‘Air Traffic Control’ Tower**
 - ✓ The mobile ATC are mounted on a trailer truck that can be assembled within 2 hours
 - ✓ Such a kind of system is generally ideal for small airports with one or two operations
 - ✓ The airport, listed under Regional connectivity scheme, will be fully commissioned by April 2019

STATES

- **Meghalaya – Government to set up ‘National Sports Stadium for Differently-abled’ in Meghalaya**



- ✓ It was announced by Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
- ✓ It will be constructed at an estimated cost of over Rs 200 crore
- ✓ The stadium is expected to be completed before the 2022 National Games
- ✓ The Union Social Justice Ministry plans to set up national sports stadium for differently-abled persons in 5 states across the country

NATIONAL

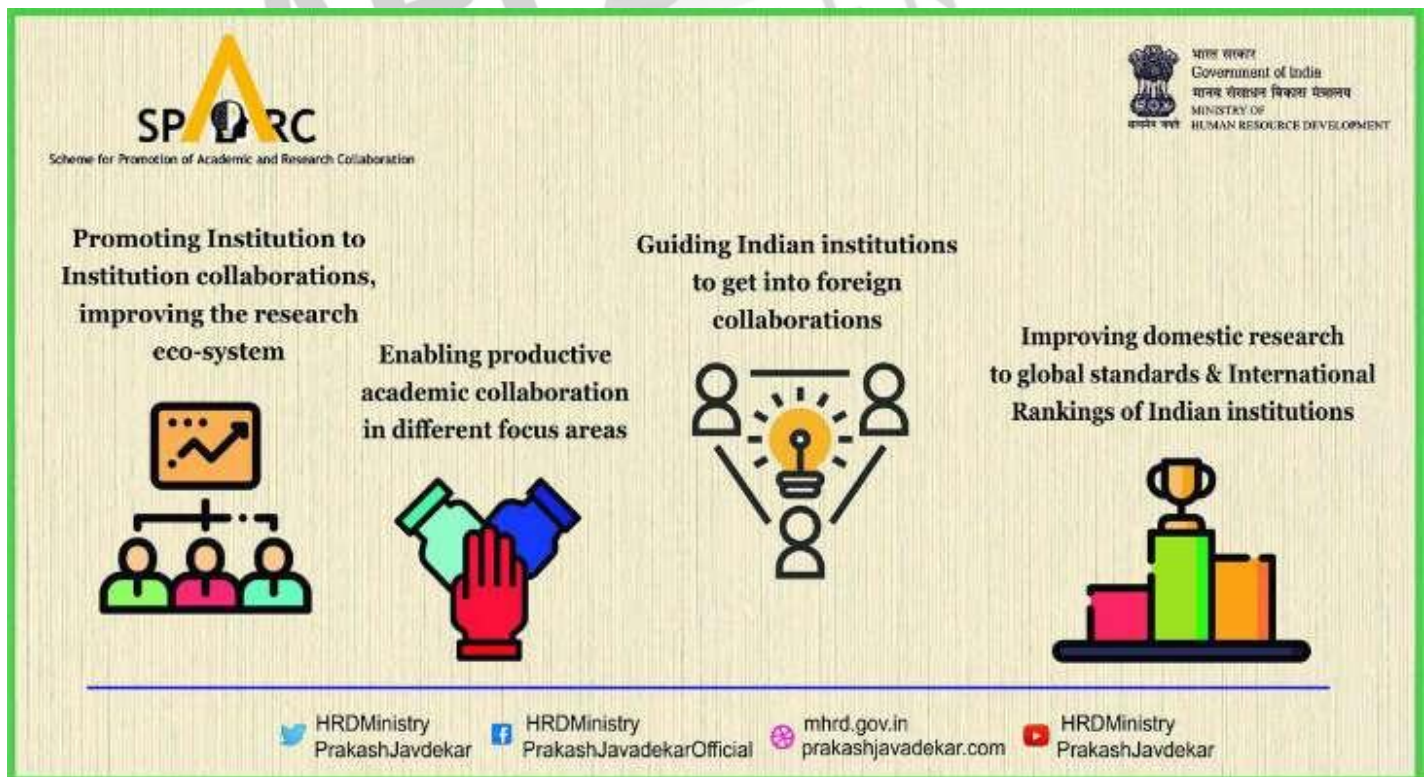
➤ Ministry of Defence – to induct Girls in the Sainik Schools from the academic year 2019

- ✓ The move is aimed at the entry of girls in the prestigious National Defence Academy
- ✓ The Sainik schools are the feeder institutions that prepare future leaders of the Armed forces
- ✓ As of now, Sainik School, Chhingchip in Mizoram gave admission to 6 girls in Class VI in June and Sainik School, Lucknow admitted 15 girls in Class IX in April this year

➤ IDFC Bank – to be renamed as ‘IDFC First Bank Limited’

- ✓ The renaming is proposed following its merger with the non-banking financial company ‘Capital First’
- ✓ After the merger, V Vaidyanathan, Chairman and Managing Director of ‘Capital First’, will succeed Rajiv Lall as the MD and CEO of the combined entity
- ✓ IDFC Bank was officially inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015
- ✓ IDFC was incorporated on January 30, 1997

➤ Ministry of HRD – launches the web portal of ‘SPARC’ scheme



The infographic features the SPARC logo (Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration) on the left and the Government of India logo with the text 'भारत सरकार Government of India मानव संसाधन विकास विभाग MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT' on the right. The central content is divided into three columns, each with a title and an icon. The first column is titled 'Promoting Institution to Institution collaborations, improving the research eco-system' and has an icon of a computer monitor with a graph and three people. The second column is titled 'Enabling productive academic collaboration in different focus areas' and has an icon of three hands shaking. The third column is titled 'Guiding Indian institutions to get into foreign collaborations' and has an icon of a lightbulb with lines connecting it to three people. To the right of this is another column titled 'Improving domestic research to global standards & International Rankings of Indian institutions' with an icon of a trophy on a bar chart. At the bottom, there are four social media and website links: HRDMinistry PrakashJavdekar (Twitter), HRDMinistry PrakashJavdekarOfficial (Facebook), mhrd.gov.in prakashjavadekar.com (Website), and HRDMinistry PrakashJavdekar (YouTube).

- ✓ SPARC - “Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)”
 - ✓ The scheme aims to improve the research ecosystem of the higher educational institutions by means of collaborations with other renowned global institutions
 - ✓ The scheme was approved by the Indian Government in August 2018 at a total cost of Rs 418 crore
 - ✓ It will be implemented up to March 31, 2020
 - ✓ Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur has been chosen as the National Coordinating Institute to implement the programme
 - ✓ Under the scheme, 600 joint research proposals will be awarded for 2 years
 - ✓ All Indian Institutions ranked in the overall top-100 or category-wise top-100 in the India Rankings (NIRF) are eligible to apply
- **India’s Meenakshi Chaudhary – was crowned as the 1st runner-up at the Miss Grand International 2018 pageant held in Myanmar**



- ✓ Paraguay’s Clara Sosa was crowned as the winner of the pageant

INTERNATIONAL

- **Pakistan – to send its first astronaut to space in 2022 with the assistance of China**
- ✓ Earlier this year, Pakistan launched 2 indigenous satellites into orbit using a Chinese launch vehicle

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- 2nd edition of India Mobile Congress – held in New Delhi between October 25 and 27, 2018



- ✓ Organisers - Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Cellular Operators Association of India
- ✓ Theme - *“New Digital Horizons. Connect. Create. Innovate”*
- ✓ Over 2,00,000 professionals from Telecom industry are participating in the exhibition
- ✓ The inaugural edition of IMC was held in September 2017

APPOINTMENTS

- Ethiopia – appoints the senior diplomat, Sahle-Work Zewde as its first-ever female President



- ✓ She was appointed by the Ethiopian lawmakers through a unanimous vote
- ✓ Prior to her appointment, she was serving as the special representative of the United Nations Secretary General to the African Union
- ✓ She had previously served as Ethiopia's ambassador to France, Djibouti, Senegal and the regional bloc, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- ✓ She replaces Mulatu Teshome Wirtu, who resigned on October 24
- ✓ The position of the President is largely ceremonial in the country

AWARDS

- **Ministry of Culture – announces the winners of ‘Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony’ for the 3 years, 2014, 2015 and 2016**



- ✓ **Awardees**

- ✓ 2014 - Rajkumar Singhajit Singh, doyen of Manipuri Dance
- ✓ 2015 – Chhayanaut, Cultural Organisation
- ✓ 2016 - Ram Vanji Sutar, a renowned sculptor

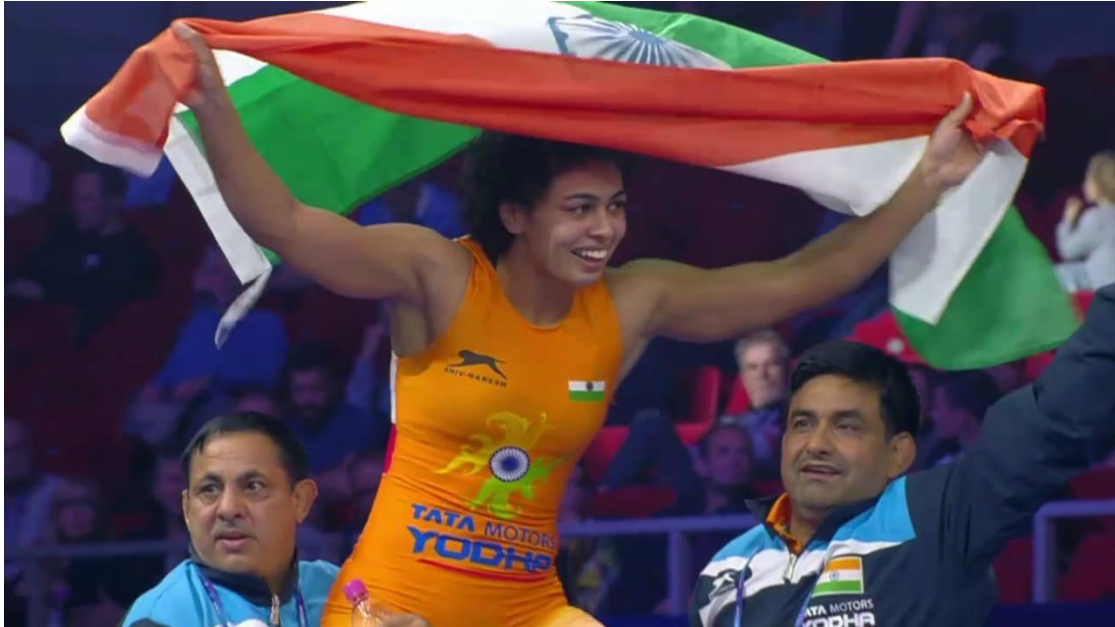
- ✓ Rajkumar Singhajit Singh is also a famous performer, teacher and choreographer
- ✓ Chhayanaut was established in 1961 in Bangladesh - It has promoted Tagore's works in Bengali culture, music and literature within Bangladesh and globally
- ✓ Ram Vanji Sutar, a Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awardee, was the sculptor of 45-foot Chambal monument at the Gandhi Sagar Dam in Madhya Pradesh
- ✓ **Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony**
 - ✓ Instituted – 2011, on the eve of 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore
 - ✓ Past winners – Pandit Ravi Shankar (2012) and Zubin Mehtar (2013)

- **India – wins Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) Award, 2018**

- ✓ It was announced at the Annual General Members Meet held at Georgetown, Guyana
- ✓ **Indian awardees**
 - ✓ Unnayan Banka initiative of Banka District, Bihar – won under the category ‘Innovation Incubation’
 - ✓ Unified Agriculture Markets of Karnataka – won under the category ‘Innovation in Public service management’ – It has also been awarded overall Gold Award for CAPAM Awards, 2018
- ✓ **CAPAM**
 - ✓ CAPAM is non-profit association of over 1100 senior public servants, heads of government, leading academics and researchers located in over 50 different countries across the Commonwealth
 - ✓ It announces its International Innovations Awards (IIA) bi-annually, since 1998

SPORTS

- Pooja Dhanda – wins Bronze in the World Wrestling Championships, Budapest



- ✓ She becomes the 4th Indian women to win the Bronze medal, after Alka Tomar (2006), Geeta Phogat and Babita Phogat (2012)