

Daily Current Affairs

06 February 2024

Grammy Awards 2024

- Prominent Indian musicians **Shankar Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain's** fusion band Shakti bagged the prestigious **Grammy award**.
- They clinched the award in **Best Global Music Album category** for their latest album **This Moment**.
- The **album This Moment** was released in June last year. The album consisted of eight songs by John McLaughlin, Zakir Khan, Shankar Mahadevan, V Selvaganesh and Ganesh Rajagopalan.



- Meanwhile, **Zakir Hussain also bagged** the Grammy in Best Global Music Performance category for his contribution to Pashto alongside Bela Fleck and Edgar Meyer, featuring Rakesh Chaurasia.
- Moreover, **Veteran Indian classical flute artist Rakesh Chaurasia** managed to win dual Grammy for his collaborative album **As We Speak** in the Best Contemporary Instrumental and Best Global Music Performance categories.
- The 66th Annual Grammy Awards 2024 are being held at Crypto.com Arena in **Los Angeles**.

Uniform Civil Code Bill

- The Uttarakhand Cabinet, under the leadership of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, has **approved the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** bill, marking a significant milestone.
- This bill, formulated based on recommendations from a government-appointed committee, is set to be introduced in the Uttarakhand Assembly on February 6.



- If ratified, **Uttarakhand will become the first state post-Independence** to embrace the Uniform Civil Code, with the objective of **standardizing civil laws** for all citizens regardless of their religious beliefs.
- **Ban on Polygamy and Child Marriage:** The committee advocates for a comprehensive ban on polygamy and child marriage to ensure uniformity in personal laws.
- **Common Marriageable Age:** The proposal includes advocating for a consistent marriageable age for girls across all religious backgrounds to establish equality and eliminate discrepancies.
- **Uniform Grounds and Procedures for Divorce:** The committee suggests implementing similar grounds and procedures for divorce to promote standardized legal processes.
- **Special Assembly Session,** In order to deliberate on the UCC bill, a special four-day session of the Uttarakhand Assembly has been scheduled from February 5 to 8. This session aims to facilitate thorough discussions before the legislation is passed.

India's Woman Robot Astronaut "Vyommitra"

- In a pioneering leap for India's space endeavors, **Vyommitra, the woman robot astronaut** developed by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, is set to embark on an uncrewed mission in the **third quarter of this year**.
- The mission, named after the Sanskrit words "Vyoma" (Space) and "Mitra" (Friend), signifies a significant stride towards the **ambitious Gaganyaan mission**, the country's **maiden manned space flight**, slated for **2025**.



- **Vyommitra, equipped with** advanced capabilities, is designed to monitor module parameters, issue alerts, and execute life support operations.
- This female robot astronaut simulates human functions in the space environment, interacting seamlessly with the Life Support System.
- Its tasks include **operating six panels** and responding to queries, showcasing its versatility for space exploration.

Shankar Smriti Award

- **Priest Ishwari Prasad Namboodiri**, the chief priest (Rawal) of the world-renowned **Badrinath Dham in Uttarakhand**, was honoured with the Shankar Smriti Award in Kerala.
- This recognition marks a significant acknowledgement of his dedication and service to the spiritual domain, enhancing the rich tapestry of Indian religious practices.
- Badrinath Dham, often referred to as the earthly **abode of Lord Vishnu**, is a key pilgrimage site for Hindus around the world.



- The appointment of its chief priest, Ishwari Prasad Namboodiri, to receive the Shankar Smriti Award has brought joy and pride to the religious community and the Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee (BKTC).
- Awarded annually during the **103rd Malliyoor Bhagavat Hamsa Smarana Utsav** in Kerala's Kottayam district, the Shankar Smriti Award celebrates outstanding contributions to spirituality, art, and service.
- The Malliyoor Bhagavat Hamsa Smriti Trust presents this award to individuals who have shown exceptional dedication to ritual practice, meditation, and the pursuit of spiritual service.
- The award comprises a **cash prize of one lakh rupees, a plaque, and a citation**, all of which were presented to Namboodiri as a token of appreciation for his lifelong commitment to divine service.

Oleg Kononenko

- **Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko** achieved a historic milestone by setting a world record for the **most time spent in space**, surpassing his compatriot **Gennady Padalka's previous record of 878 days** in orbit, as reported by Russia's space corporation, Roscosmos.



- At 0830 GMT, Oleg Kononenko officially broke the record, marking a significant achievement in the history of space exploration.
- His dedication and contributions to space missions have positioned him as a prominent figure in the realm of human spaceflight.
- Oleg Kononenko is anticipated **to reach a remarkable milestone of 1,000 days** in space on June 5. By late September, he is expected to further extend his record, clocking an unprecedented 1,110 days in space.
- These milestones underscore Kononenko's enduring commitment to advancing space exploration.



- The 59-year-old cosmonaut surpassed the previous record held by Gennady Padalka, who accumulated a total of **878 days, 11 hours, 29 minutes, and 48 seconds in space**. Kononenko's achievement highlights the ongoing legacy of Russian contributions to space exploration.

Public Examinations Bill, 2024

- The Government introduced the **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024** in the Lok Sabha.
- The Bill is intended to **prevent unfair means in the public examinations**. Minister of State for Personnel Dr Jitendra Singh introduced the legislation.
- The objective of the Bill is to bring greater transparency, fairness and credibility to the public examination systems and to reassure the youth that their sincere and genuine efforts will be fairly rewarded and their future is safe.



- It is aimed at **effectively and legally deterring persons**, organised groups or institutions that indulge in various unfair means and adversely impact the public examination systems for monetary and wrongful gains.
- **Candidate** as defined in the Bill will **not be liable for action within the purview** of the Bill and will continue to be covered under the extant administrative provisions of the concerned public examination authority.
- The Bill will serve as a **model draft for States to adopt** at their discretion.
- This will aid States in preventing criminal elements from disrupting conduct of their State level public examinations.

- Besides, the **Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024** was also introduced in the Lok Sabha. The Bill seeks to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000 and the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000. Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai introduced the Bill in the Lower House.

Israeli Scientists Find New Underwater Canyon

- The **Geological Institute of Israel** uncovered an underwater canyon near Cyprus. The canyon, **known as Eratosthenes** for the underwater mountain it is near.
- It dates back to the Messinian Event that transpired about **5.5 million years ago**. The canyon is about **10 km wide and 500 m deep** and was buried at the **beginning of the Messinian period** before the deposition of the salt layer.



- It was created when the **level of the Mediterranean Sea decreased** at the same time there was a rise in the salinity of the water, which apparently created gravity currents or dense solutions that caused the destabilization of the submarine slopes and subsidence of the seabed.
- The Institute said that in a broader aspect this work reveals the environmental conditions of **high salinity and lower sea level in the deep Mediterranean basin** at the beginning of the Messinian event.
- Also known as the **Messinian salinity crisis**, the Messinian event was a geological event during which the Mediterranean Sea went into a cycle of partial or nearly complete desiccation.

Operation Smile-X

- In January, 2024 a **total of 3,479 child labourers** were rescued from across the **Telangana State** through **Operation Smile-X**, a month-long operation organised by the Telangana police.



- The State police carries out this **operation in January every year** to trace and **rescue missing and trafficked children**.
- In January 2024, Operation Smile-X rescued a **total of 3,479 child labourers** across Telangana.
- The operation is organized annually in January by the Telangana police to trace and rescue missing and trafficked children.
- The **Cyberabad police alone** rescued 718 children – 301 boys and 28 girls from within the state; 360 boys and 29 girls belonged to other states.
- Most children were rescued from child labour (640), but one missing child was also rescued by the Cyberabad police.



- Seven missing children were rescued at the state level. **The police worked in coordination with the departments of Women Development and Child Welfare, Labour and Health; Child Welfare Committees; District Child Protection Units; and NGOs to identify 'black spots', where children were found in vulnerable conditions, according to a press release.**

Justice Ritu Bahri

- **Justice Bahri** has been sworn in as the **first woman Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court** by Governor Lieutenant General Gurmeet Singh (Retd.) at Raj Bhavan.
- The post had been vacant since the **retirement of Justice Vipin Sanghi** in October 2023.
- Justice Bahri was serving as a **Judge at the Punjab and Haryana High Court** before being appointed as Chief Justice of Uttarakhand.



- She is the first woman to hold the position of Chief Justice in the state.
- Justice Bahri enrolled as an **Advocate with the Bar Council of Punjab & Haryana** in 1986 and started practicing law in the Punjab & Haryana High Court.
- She was appointed **Assistant Advocate General of Haryana** in March 1992. Subsequently, she was appointed **Deputy Advocate General of Haryana** in August 1999 and **Senior Advocate General of Haryana** in December 2009.
- As the State counsel for Haryana, she handled several cases related to service matters, land acquisition, taxation, revenue, labour and motor accident claims. She was elevated as a Judge of the Punjab & Haryana High Court on August 16, 2010.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who Won Grammy Award 2024

- A. Sonu Nigam
- B. Vishal Mishra
- C. Shankar Mahadevan
- D. Salim Merchant

ANSWER: C

2. Who Set World Record For Most Time Spent In Space

- A. Oleg Kononenko
- B. Gennady Padalka
- C. Ashwin Vasavada
- D. Sunita Williams

ANSWER: A

3. Operation Smile X Is Launched By

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Gujarat
- D. Telangana

ANSWER: D

4. Who Is Appointed As Chief Justice Of Uttrakhand

- A. Preeti Tanwar
- B. Ritu Bahri
- C. Vipin Sanghi
- D. Ritu Sanghi

ANSWER: D

5. Theme Of 20th National Good Governance Webinar Series For 2023-2024

- A. Advancing Agricultural Practices For Sustainable Growth
- B. Enhancing Educational Opportunities Through Digital Initiatives
- C. Promoting Excellence In Sports And Wellness Through Khelo India Scheme
- D. Strengthening Healthcare Infrastructure For Public Welfare

ANSWER: C

6. Operation Black Gold', Is Related To Which One Of The Following

- A. Crude oil smuggling
- B. Gold smuggling
- C. Black money smuggling
- D. Drugs smuggling

ANSWER: B

7. What is eROSITA, Recently Mentioned In The News

- A. Drone
- B. X-ray telescope
- C. Artificial Intelligence tool
- D. Submarine

ANSWER: B

8. What Are Tidal Disruption Events, Recently Seen In The News

- A. Events Related To Ocean Tides
- B. Astronomical Phenomena Involving A Star And A Black Hole
- C. Weather Disturbances On Exoplanets
- D. Supernova Explosions

ANSWER: B

9. Main Objective Of 'Ministry Of Education-AICTE Investor Network

- A. Providing Infrastructure Mainly In Rural Areas
- B. Digitalize The Education Sector
- C. Strengthening The Support Ecosystem For Edu-tech Innovators
- D. Promoting Yoga Education To Students

ANSWER: C

10. Which State Of India Has Recorded Highest Number Of Ramsar Sites

- A. Kerala
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: C

11. In The Interim Budget 2024-25, Which Of The Following Crops Are Taken Into Consideration For 'Atmanirbhar Oil Seeds Abhiyan

- A. Mustard, Groundnut, Sesame, Soybean & Sunflower
- B. Palm, Coconut, Canola & Castor
- C. Peanuts, cotton & flax
- D. Rapeseed & Palm

ANSWER: A

12. Where Was The 'National Arogya Fair' Inaugurated

- A. Gandhinagar
- B. New Delhi
- C. Chandigarh
- D. Jaipur

ANSWER: B

13. Which One Of Following Best Describes Term 'Blue Economy 2.0'

- A. Sustainable Development Related To Oceans, Seas, And Coasts
- B. Providing New Agricultural Practice Methods
- C. Improving Urban Infrastructure
- D. Renewable Energy Sources

ANSWER: A

14. What Are 'Manatees', Recently Mentioned In The News

- A. Large aquatic mammals
- B. Invasive plants
- C. Asteroid
- D. Ancient irrigation system

ANSWER: A

15. Wheat Blast, Is A Disease Of Wheat Crop Caused By Which One Of Following

- A. Fungus
- B. Bacteria
- C. Helminths
- D. Virus

ANSWER: A

16. Researchers Recently Uncovered A New Genus And Five New Species Of 'Millipedes' In Which Country

- A. Australia
- B. Africa
- C. Russia
- D. China

ANSWER: B

17. What Is Cygnus X-1, Recently Seen In The News

- A. Asteroid
- B. Black hole
- C. AI tool
- D. Submarine

ANSWER: B

18. Who Has Taken Charge As Chief Hydrographer To The Government Of India

- A. Adhir Arora
- B. Karambir Singh
- C. Lochan Singh Pathania
- D. Sunil Lamba

ANSWER: C

19. Which State Of USA Has Been Hit By 'Atmospheric River Storm

- A. California
- B. Florida
- C. Alaska
- D. Georgia

ANSWER: A

20. Mustatils Are Stone Structures That Have Been Recorded In Which Country

- A. UK
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. China
- D. Japan

ANSWER: B