

Daily Current Affairs

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Nakshatra Sabha

- **Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board** has teamed up with **Starscapes, an astro-tourism company**, to introduce **Nakshatra Sabha**, a pioneering initiative aimed at offering a comprehensive **astro-tourism experience**.
- The collaboration seeks to create an engaging platform that brings together astronomy enthusiasts, adventurers, and travellers to marvel at the wonders of the cosmos while enjoying the natural beauty of Uttarakhand.
- **Nakshatra Sabha is an innovative astro-tourism initiative** launched by the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board and Starscapes, aimed at providing a comprehensive celestial experience.



- It goes beyond traditional stargazing, offering activities like special solar observations, astrophotography contests, and camping under the stars. The initiative aims to attract astronomy enthusiasts, adventurers, and travellers to Uttarakhand, fostering engagement with the cosmos while enjoying the state's natural beauty.
- Scheduled to commence in early June at **George Everest in Mussoorie**, Nakshatra Sabha will span until mid-2025, featuring immersive events across Uttarakhand.



- These events will explore **potential night sky sites in districts** like Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh, Nainital, and Chamoli, supplemented by educational seminars and webinars led by field experts.
- Nakshatra Sabha not only offers **professional development opportunities** for local residents but also aims to bolster local economies and advocate for preserving night skies. Through initiatives fostering dark sky conservation efforts and community engagement, the campaign endeavors to implement a region-wide preservation policy, ensuring sustainability for astro-tourism in Uttarakhand.

UNESCO Guillermo Cano Prize 2024

- **Palestinian journalists** covering the crisis in Gaza have been named laureates of the **2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize**. The announcement comes from the recommendation of an **International Jury of media professionals**, emphasizing the courage and commitment of these journalists amidst challenging circumstances.
- Mauricio Weibel, Chair of the International Jury, highlights the immense debt owed to these journalists for their courage and dedication to freedom of expression.
- UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay echoes this sentiment, emphasizing the importance of collective action to support journalists worldwide in their vital role of informing and investigating.



- The ongoing conflict in Gaza has had severe repercussions for journalists, with UNESCO reporting the **deaths of 26 journalists and media workers** since October 7, 2023. Dozens of other cases are under review, underscoring the dangers faced by journalists reporting from conflict zones.
- **UNESCO has been actively supporting journalists** operating in conflict and crisis zones. In Gaza, the organization is distributing essential supplies and establishing safe working spaces. Similar efforts are underway in Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti, and Afghanistan, where journalists receive protective equipment, training, and emergency grants.



- **Established in 1997, the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize** recognizes individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the defense and promotion of press freedom, especially in the face of danger. Named after Colombian journalist Guillermo Cano Isaza, the prize honors his legacy and is funded by various foundations and organizations committed to press freedom.

India & Nepal

- **Girish Chandra Murmu**, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Toyam Raya**, Auditor General of Nepal.
- This agreement **aims to strengthen collaboration** and facilitate the exchange of expertise in auditing practices between the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of both countries.



- The MoU establishes a platform for capacity development, knowledge exchange, and mutual assistance in conducting audits, fostering a closer partnership between the SAIs of India and Nepal.
- Murmu highlighted its significance in reinforcing shared values and objectives. He emphasized the role of the agreement in enhancing professional capacity and advancing collaborative engagement to improve auditing methodologies.
- **Murmu engaged with Nepalese officials**, including Prime Minister C M Prachanda and Finance Minister Barsaman Pun, briefing them about the cooperation between the SAIs of both countries. He discussed the benefits of the MoU and highlighted SAI India's initiatives in adopting new technologies and engaging with parliamentary committees.

Green Oscar Whitley Gold Award 2024

- **Dr. Purnima Devi Barman**, a wildlife biologist from Assam, has been recognized with the prestigious **Whitley Gold Award** for her exemplary conservation efforts aimed at protecting the endangered **Greater Adjutant Stork** and its wetland habitat.

- This accolade, often referred to as the ‘**Green Oscar**’, highlights her remarkable contributions to **wildlife conservation** and underscores the importance of grassroots efforts in safeguarding biodiversity.



- Dr. Barman’s journey in conservation began with her childhood fascination for the **Greater Adjutant Stork, locally known as “Hargila” in Assamese**.
- Her intervention became crucial as the population of Hargila dwindled to a mere **450 birds in Northeast India**.
- Through her pioneering efforts, she **galvanized local communities**, particularly women, to safeguard nests and protect the storks’ habitat.
- The Whitley Gold Award recognizes Dr. Barman’s exceptional impact in reversing the decline of the Hargila population.



- Her collaborative initiatives, in partnership with **local wildlife NGO Aaranyak**, have led to a quadrupling of the stork population, with numbers now exceeding **1,800**.

- Dr. Barman's project focuses on **community-driven conservation** and aims to bolster the number of Greater Adjutant breeding pairs, with a special emphasis on empowering local women as advocates for conservation.
- With a goal to double the global population of the **Greater Adjutant Stork** to 5,000 by 2030, Dr. Barman plans to implement scale-up measures across India and Cambodia, the stork's range.
- Her initiatives include conservation education for Assamese students, as well as knowledge exchange programs between universities, **aiming to raise awareness** and foster a deeperThe Whitley Awards, won competitively through a rigorous selection process, provide winners with **GBP 50,000 in project funding** over one year, along with enhanced visibility, networking opportunities, and training.
- Dr. Barman's achievement not only underscores her individual dedication but also highlights the crucial role of grassroots conservationists in addressing global biodiversity and climate crises.

Tejaswin Shankar

- **India's Tejaswin Shankar** clinched victory in the men's High Jump event at the **USATF Festival in Tucson, Arizona, USA.**



- The National record holder Tejaswin cleared 2.23 metres in his first attempt to secure the top spot at the **World Athletics Continental Tour – Silver** event. With this jump, he equaled his season-best effort. Earnie Sears of USA finished second, while Roberto Vilches of Mexico was third. Another Indian athlete, Sarvesh Kushare cleared 2.13m to finish fifth.

ICC Rankings

- **International Cricket Council (ICC)** issued the annual Men's team rankings update, with **India retaining its top position** in ODIs and T20Is but slipping to the second position in the Test Team Rankings.
- **Reigning ICC World Test Championship** winners Australia have overtaken India to secure the top spot in Test rankings on the back of their stunning 209-run triumph over India in the **World Test Championship** decider at The Oval last year. India (120) is just four points behind Australia (124) and 15 points clear of third-placed England.



- The rankings update only takes into consideration teams' performances after May 2021. In ODIs, India may have lost the World Cup final to Australia but leads the table with 122 points while Australia are on 116 points followed by South Africa at 112 points.
- In the T20 rankings, India is far ahead with 264 points while Australia and England trail at 257 and 252 points respectively.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Which State Launched Nakshatra Sabha**
 - A. Himachal Pradesh
 - B. Uttarakhand
 - C. Gujrat
 - D. Kerala

ANSWER: B

2. Hargila Seen In News Is Species Of

- A. Bird
- B. Spices
- C. Invasive Species
- D. Crocodile

ANSWER: A

3. Which Trade Association Launched A Corporate Governance Charter For Startups

- A. India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)
- B. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- C. ASSOCHAM
- D. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)

ANSWER: B

4. Which State's Education Department Recently Released The 'Guidelines For Elimination Of Corporal Punishment

- A. Telangana
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Gujarat
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: D

5. Which Indian Selected For 'Goldman Environmental Prize 2024'

- A. Rajendra Singh
- B. Tulsi Gowda
- C. Alok Shukla
- D. Ramesh Agrawal

ANSWER: C

6. Indian Government Permitted Exports Of Onion To Which Countries

- A. Bangladesh, UAE, Bhutan, Bahrain, Mauritius, Sri Lanka
- B. Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh
- C. Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Egypt
- D. Singapore, Afghanistan, Maldives, Iran

ANSWER: A

7. Which Organization A Satellite Data Based Analysis On Expansion Of Glacial Lakes In Catchments Of Indian Himalayan River Basins

- A. ISRO
- B. DRDO
- C. CSIR
- D. NDMA

ANSWER: A

8. Which Country Contemplating Lifting Of Vehicle Import Restrictions To Stimulate Economic Growth

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Nepal
- D. Myanmar

ANSWER: B

9. Which Institution Released 'Aging Well In Asia: Asian Development Policy Report'

- A. World Bank
- B. Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- C. European Investment Bank (EIB)
- D. African Development Bank (AfDB)

ANSWER: B

10. Sri Madhava Perumal Temple Is Located In Which State

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: C

11. Which Organization Of India Organized #Playtrue Campaign To Create Awareness About Clean Sports

- A. National Anti-Doping Agency
- B. National Sports Federation
- C. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- D. National Sports Organisation

ANSWER: A

12. Jeremiah Manele Appointed As New Prime Minister Of Which Country

- A. Maldives
- B. Solomon Island
- C. Mauritius
- D. Singapore

ANSWER: B

13. Cricketer Ben Wells Announced His Retirement, Belongs To Which Country

- A. Australia
- B. England
- C. South Africa
- D. Bangladesh

ANSWER: B

14. Which State Launched 'Nakshatra Sabha', India's First Astro Tourism Campaign

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Haryana
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Rajasthan

ANSWER: A

15. Which State Did Supreme Court Order To Halt Illegal Mining In Aravalli Range

- A. Gujarat
- B. Haryana
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Punjab

ANSWER: C

16. Pension Department Launched An Online Portal For Government Retirees.

What Is Name Of Portal

- A. Abhyukt portal
- B. Vriddhi portal
- C. Bhavishya portal
- D. Vikas portal

ANSWER: C

17. NPCI Signed An Agreement With Which African Country For UPI like Instant Payment Services

- A. Namibia
- B. Tanzania
- C. Kenya
- D. Nigeria

ANSWER: A

18. Which Indian Received 'Green Oscar' Whitley Gold Award 2024

- A. Tulsi Gowda
- B. Purnima Devi Barman
- C. Alice Garg
- D. Amrita Devi

ANSWER: B

19. Cabinet Declared Which Day As 'National Space Day' In India

- A. August 20
- B. August 23
- C. August 25
- D. August 27

ANSWER: B

20. The Lowest In Rank In The Maratha Infantry Was Of__

- A. Nayak
- B. Hawaldar
- C. Zumladar
- D. Hazari

ANSWER: B