

20th December 2024

38th National Games

Uttarakhand Chief Minister had launched the mascot, logo, jersey, torch, anthem and the tag line of the 38th National Games.

Key Points

- ❖ These games are scheduled to take place in the state from January 28 to February 14, 2025.
- ❖ **Tagline:** Tagline of the games is **Sankalp Se Shikhar Tak** (From Resolution to Zenith).
- ❖ **Mascot:** The mascot of the National Games is 'Mouli' inspired by the state bird of Uttarakhand, the Himalayan Monal. This mascot symbolises the state's uniqueness and motivates young athletes to aim high.
- ❖ **Logo:** The logo, featuring the Himalayan peaks framed by the arc-shaped wings of the Monal bird shining under sunlight, captures the essence of Uttarakhand's natural beauty.
- ❖ **Torch:** The newly designed torch incorporates motifs of the perennial holy river Ganga and the state flower, Brahma Kamal, also known as the "Lotus of the Darks."



E-Campaign for Income & Transaction Mismatches

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had launched an Electronic Campaign to address income and transaction mismatches for FY 2023-24 and FY 2021-22.

Key Points

- ❖ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had launched an **electronic campaign to assist taxpayers in resolving mismatches between the income and transactions reported in the Annual Information Statement (AIS)** and those disclosed in Income Tax Returns (ITRs) for the financial years 2023-24 and 2021-22.

- ❖ This campaign also **targets individuals having taxable income** or significant high-value transactions reported in their AIS but have not filed ITRs for the respective years.
- ❖ The initiative is part of the implementation of the **e-Verification Scheme, 2021**.

Way Ahead

- ❖ This initiative reflects the **Income Tax Department's commitment** to leveraging technology to simplify compliance and ensure transparency.
- ❖ By utilising third-party data, the department aims to create a more efficient, taxpayer-friendly system that aligns with the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Startup on Space Debris

India, Japan startups collaborate to tackle space debris

Key Points

- ❖ Two space startups, namely **India's InspeCity and Japan's Orbital Lasers**, are partnering to explore using lasers on satellites to clear space debris.
- ❖ Their goal is to **develop a system where a laser removes or moves old and dangerous space junk to keep space safer**.
- ❖ The collaboration will examine **Orbital Lasers' technology**, which employs laser energy to stabilize space debris by vaporizing small portions of its surface.
- ❖ The companies plan to **demonstrate this system in space after 2027**, subject to regulatory approval from both nations.
- ❖ This project comes as the world faces more space debris. It is also part of broader efforts between India and Japan to work together on space exploration, which includes a joint lunar mission and initiatives in rocket and satellite technology.

Ganges River dolphin

Indian scientists successfully tag the Ganges river dolphin for the first time in Assam.

Key Points

- ❖ For the **first time**, India has tagged a **healthy male Ganges river dolphin (Platanista gangetica)** in Assam.
- ❖ The tagging was made possible by **advancements in technology – the lightweight tags emit signals compatible with Argos satellite systems** even with limited surfacing time. The satellite tag is designed to minimize interference with dolphin movement.
- ❖ The initiative has been **conducted under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** and implemented by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in collaboration with the Assam Forest Department and biodiversity organisation Aaranyak, with funding from the National CAMPA Authority.

Way Ahead

- ❖ This will help chalk out a **long-term conservation plan for the endangered species**.
- ❖ The tagging exercise will help in understanding **their seasonal and migratory patterns**, range, distribution and habitat utilization, particularly in fragmented or disturbed river systems.

- ❖ The **Ganges River Dolphin, India's National Aquatic Animal**, is unique in its ecology, being nearly blind and relying on echolocation for its biological needs.
- ❖ Approximately 90% of the species' population resides in India, historically distributed across the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli river systems. However, its distribution has drastically declined over the past century.

- ❖ Despite its wide range, significant knowledge gaps remain regarding this species due to its elusive behaviour. It surfaces for only 5-30 seconds at a time, posing a significant challenge in understanding the ecological needs of the species and for any scientifically sound conservation interventions.

Person in News- Appointment

Rama Mohan Rao Amara

- ❖ He has been appointed as the **new Managing Director of the State Bank of India (SBI)** for a **three-year term**. Amara was currently serving as the Deputy Managing Director.



Person In News- Sports

Ravichandran Ashwin

- ❖ He is India's ace **spinner**. He has **announced his retirement from international cricket** on December 18, 2024 after the end of the third Test match against Australia in Brisbane.



Person In News- Worldwide

Shankar Sharma

- ❖ He has been **reappointed as Nepal's Ambassador to India**.
- ❖ Sharma has been appointed to the post for the **second time** at the recommendation of the Council of Ministers.
- ❖ His previous term was from March 2022 to July 2024.



Species in News

Wroughton's free-tailed bat

- ❖ It is a highly rare species of molossus bat. It has been spotted at the Delhi Development Authority (DDA)'s Yamuna Biodiversity Park, marking a unique sighting.
- ❖ **Description:** Wroughton's Free-tailed Bat, first described in 1913 by British zoologist Dr M R Oldfield Thomas. It is large in size, prominent ears extending beyond its muzzle and its bicolored, velvety fur.
- ❖ **Habitat:** This bat species is primarily found in the Western Ghats, where there is only one known breeding colony. Small colonies have also been recorded in Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya, and a single individual was noted in Cambodia. It primarily roosts in caves or dark, damp spaces in moderate colony sizes.
- ❖ **Feed:** While limited information is available on its feeding habits, its distribution suggests that it likely consumes a variety of insects and is capable of flying long distances while foraging.



Important News- Other States

Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ To make the **100th celebration of the Tansen Music Festival memorable**, a Guinness Book of World Record was created by playing 9 musical instruments simultaneously for 9 minutes in the music city of Gwalior in MP.
- ❖ **536 male and female artists from Madhya Pradesh** and the country participated in this presentation.

- ❖ A musical tribute was paid to the king of voices, Tansen, through a collective presentation. The presentation included three ragas composed by Tansen: Malhar, Miyan ki Todi and Darbari

Uttarakhand

- ❖ Uttarakhand will make history as the **first Indian state to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** from next year, a significant step towards legal uniformity in personal laws.
- ❖ The **UCC aims to bring all citizens under a common framework for marriage, divorce, adoption, and inheritance, irrespective of their religion.**

Important News- Worldwide

Russia

- ❖ Russia has developed an **mRNA-based vaccine targeting cancer**. The vaccine is slated to be available to patients at no cost by 2025.
- ❖ Unlike traditional vaccines that often rely on weakened or inactivated pathogens, **mRNA vaccines harness the body's own cellular machinery** to generate a precise immune response tailored to the specific cancer being treated.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, **Tesla CEO Elon Musk** became the first person in history to exceed the net worth of \$500 billion.
 - Musk is the CEO of Tesla, the most valuable automobile manufacturer in the world that offers solar batteries and electric cars.

- ❖ In Chess, **India's Pranav Venkatesh** made history by clinching both the FIDE World Under-18 Youth Rapid and Blitz titles in Slovenia.
- ❖ Ace India pacer **Jasprit Bumrah** broke former India captain Kapil Dev's record, to become the bowler with the most **Test wickets for India in Australia**.
- ❖ England's all-rounder **Nat Sciver Brunt** made history by scoring the fastest century in women's Test cricket.



UPPSC
WALLAH

