

### M.P Special

#### Indore Join the list of 31 Wetland Accredited Cities Network



Indore and Udaipur are the first Indian cities to be globally recognized as accredited wetland cities under the Ramsar Convention.

#### Key point

- ❖ Indore: Sirpur Lake, a Ramsar Site, is known for attracting water birds and is being developed as a bird sanctuary.
- ❖ Udaipur: Surrounded by five major wetlands—Pichola, Fateh Sagar, Rang Sagar, Swaroop Sagar, and Doodh Talai.
- ❖ Wetland City Accreditation (WCA) is a voluntary system allowing cities to gain international recognition for conserving natural or human-made wetlands.
- ❖ WCA was approved at COP12 of the Ramsar Convention in Uruguay (2015).
- ❖ Accreditation lasts for six years and is renewable if the city meets six criteria.
- ❖ WCA promotes wetland conservation, wise use, and sustainable socio-economic benefits for local communities.
- ❖ It encourages cities near wetlands, especially Ramsar Sites, to strengthen ties with these ecosystems.
- ❖ WCA supports India's Amrit Dharohar initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- ❖ The Ramsar Convention, an intergovernmental treaty, provides guidelines for wetland conservation and sustainable use.
- ❖ It was adopted in 1971 and enforced in 1975, with India currently having 85 Ramsar sites.

## Sports

### ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2024



Azmatullah Omarzai, the Afghanistan all-rounder, was named ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2024.

#### Key point

- ❖ Omarzai is recognized for his dynamic pace bowling and powerful batting.
- ❖ He built on an impressive 2023 to become one of the world's leading ODI performers in 2024. He also had a strong year in T20s and franchise cricket but excelled most in ODIs.
- ❖ ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year is a prestigious annual award recognizing the best performer in One-Day Internationals.
- ❖ Virat Kohli received his ICC ODI Player of the Year in 2023.

## Miscellaneous

### GI Samagam event



GI Samagam event held in New Delhi, on 22 January organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the India Today Group.

#### Key point

- ❖ Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal, has set an ambitious target to grant 10,000 Geographical Indication (GI) tags by 2030.
- ❖ Currently, the number of GI tags awarded stands at 605, but with a "whole of government" approach, Goyal aims to significantly ramp up the figure. To monitor the progress, a committee will be formed to oversee the implementation of this ambitious initiative.

### WAVES Bazaar, WAH Ustaad challenge and WAVES Awards



Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on 27 January launched WAVES Bazaar, WAH Ustaad challenge and WAVES Awards in New Delhi.

#### Key point

- ❖ The Union Ministers also launched 'Create in India Challenge' Season 1, inviting international participation as a part of WAVES 2025.
- ❖ The upcoming WAVES will be the world's first Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit.
- ❖ India will host the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) for the first time from 5-9 February 2025.
- ❖ It is the world's first convergence event for the entire Media and Entertainment (M&E) sector.
- ❖ It will be a key forum for promoting collaboration, innovation, and discussions among various stakeholders in the Media and Entertainment (M&E) industry.
- ❖ It aims to propel India's Media & Entertainment (M&E) industry to even greater heights.

### Utkarsh Odisha, Make in Odisha Conclave-2025



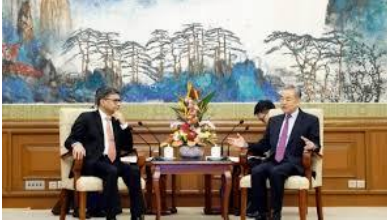
Pradhan mantri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Utkarsh Odisha, Make in Odisha Conclave-2025' at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar on 28 January.

#### Key point

- ❖ Odisha hopes to attract investment exceeding 5 lakh crore rupees, with job creation projected to increase by 3.5 lakh after the two-day-long conclave in which about 100 MoUs are likely to be signed between the Odisha state government and investors. More than 7,000 delegates, including envoys, investors, and industrialists from India and 12 other countries, have been participating in the business conclave.

## Place in News

### Kailash Mansarovar Yatra



India and China agree to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and enhance ties through people-centric steps and direct air services.

#### Key point

- ❖ Kailash Mansarovar is a revered pilgrimage site for Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Bon practitioners.
- ❖ Mount Kailash, considered the abode of Lord Shiva, and Lake Mansarovar hold profound spiritual importance.
- ❖ It lies in the Gangdisê Mountains (also called as Kailash Range) of the Trans Himalaya, in the western part of the Tibetan Plateau.
- ❖ The peak of Mount Kailash is at an elevation of 6,638 m (21,778 ft).
- ❖ Routes to Kailash Mansarovar Yatra
  - Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand):
    - ✓ Located in the Himalayas at the tri-junction of India, Nepal, and China (Tibet).
    - ✓ Situated at a high altitude of approximately 5,334 meters.
  - Nathula Pass (Sikkim): A more accessible and shorter route.
    - ✓ Suitable for older pilgrims due to fewer trekking requirements.
    - ✓ The Nathu La is a part of the ancient Silk Road and is one of the three border trading posts between India and China.
  - Via Nepal: An alternative route through Kathmandu and the Nepal-China border.
  - Popular among international pilgrims for its flexibility.

### About Lake Mansarovar

- ❖ Location: Situated near the foot of Mount Kailash in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China.
- ❖ Type of Lake: A freshwater lake, despite the Tibetan Plateau hosting larger saline lakes.
- ❖ Source of Water: Replenished by the Kailash Glaciers.
- ❖ Ecological Significance
- ❖ The Brahmaputra originates in the Mansarovar lake.
- ❖ The Indus River system also rises near Lake Mansarovar from Bokhar Chu glacier in the Kailash mountain range.

### Person in News

Jitender Pal Singh



The Government of India announced the appointment of Jitender Pal Singh as the next Ambassador to Israel.

#### Key point

- ❖ An Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer from the 2002 batch, Singh is currently serving in the office of the External Affairs Minister and has previously led the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran division within the Ministry of External Affairs since 2020.
- ❖ Jitender Pal Singh appointment comes at a crucial time, as Israel and Hamas have recently agreed to a ceasefire, ending 15 months of conflict that began with the terror attacks of October 7, 2023.
- ❖ Jitender Pal Singh succeeds Sanjeev Kumar Singla, who served as India's Ambassador to Israel from 2019 until his recent appointment as Ambassador to France in October 2024.

### Short News

- ❖ City Union Bank (CUB) has once again demonstrated its technological prowess by winning seven prestigious awards at the 19th Banking Technology Conference, Expo & Citations 2023, organized by the Indian Banks Association (IBA) in Mumbai.
- ❖ In 2024, New Zealand's Melie Kerr stood out in women's cricket by winning the prestigious Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy (ICC Women's Player of the Year), awarded to the best player of the year.
- ❖ The 5th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games concluded on 27 January in Ladakh.
- ❖ In Jammu and Kashmir, the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) organized various events under the "SwachhTantra" campaign across all 80 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) as part of the 76th Republic Day celebrations.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 38th National Games at Maharana Pratap Stadium in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

### Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Which of the following cities became the first Indian cities to be globally recognized as accredited wetland cities under the Ramsar Convention?

- A. Bhopal
- B. Indore
- C. Gwalior
- D. Jabalpur

Answer-B

2. Who among the following became the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2024?

- A. Babar Azam
- B. Kane Williamson
- C. Virat Kohli
- D. Azmatullah Omarzai

Answer-D

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