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Shubhanshu Shukla of IAF selected as primary Gaganyatri for ISS mission

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced the names of the two Indian Gaganyatri (astronauts) for the forthcoming joint India -United States of America (USA) mission to the International Space Station (ISS).



Key Points

- ❖ According to the ISRO, the National Mission Assignment Board has selected Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla as the prime Gaganyatri and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair as the backup Gaganyatri.
- ❖ Rakesh Sharma was the first and only Indian to go to space. On 3 April 1984, he travelled to space onboard the Soviet rocket Soyuz T-11.

Gaganyatri and Gaganyaan Mission

- ❖ ISRO conceived the Gaganyaan Mission in 2007, which involved sending Indians to space for a three-day mission and successfully bringing them back.
- ❖ The project was launched in 2018 with a budget of Rs 10,000 crore.
- ❖ Four Indian Air Force pilots were selected for the mission, and they underwent training in Russia.
- ❖ An astronaut training facility has been set up by ISRO in Bengaluru for this purpose.
- ❖ Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan and Angad Pratap are the four selected gaganyatri.
- ❖ These four gaganyatri were awarded the Antriksh Yatri Pankh in February at the ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre.
- ❖ These pilots are from the Air Force Test Pilot School, which is part of the Bengaluru-based Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE).

Novak Djokovic Clinches First Olympic Gold Medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics

Novak Djokovic of Serbia won his first Olympic gold medal at the Paris 2024 Games. The 37-year-old tennis great defeated Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in a

thrilling men's singles final at Roland Garros.



Key Points

- ❖ It marks his first Olympic gold medal in his fifth Olympic appearance.
- ❖ The win adds to his impressive tally of 24 Grand Slam singles titles.
- ❖ Djokovic becomes the fifth player to achieve the Career Golden Slam, joining the ranks of Steffi Graf, Andre Agassi, Rafael Nadal, and Serena Williams.
- ❖ At 37, he becomes the oldest man to win singles gold since tennis returned to the Olympics in 1988.

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi Becomes Next ACC President

Mohsin Naqvi, Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), is poised to become the Asian Cricket Council's (ACC) next president later this year (2024). His two-year term will begin in January 2025.



Key Points

- ❖ Jay Shah, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary, is the current ACC president, and he

received a one-year extension in January 2024 for a third term.

- ❖ Naqvi is expected to take charge of the Asia Cup in 2025 (T20I) in India and the 2027 edition in Bangladesh (ODI).
- ❖ ACC is a cricket organization to promote and develop the sport of Cricket in Asia, was established in 1983.

Six New Species of Bent-Toed Gecko Discovered from Northeast India

Researchers in Northeastern India found six new species of bent-toed gecko, a type of tiny lizard. Out of the six new species, two are from Arunachal Pradesh (AR) and Nagaland, and one each from Manipur and Mizoram.



Key Points

- ❖ The six new species are: Namdapha bent-toed gecko; Siang-valley bent-toed gecko; Kiphire bent-toed gecko; Barail Hill bent-toed gecko; Ngengpui bent-toed gecko; and Manipur bent-toed gecko.
- ❖ The discoveries on these species were reported in *Vertebrate Zoology*, a scientific magazine published by the Museum of Zoology Dresden in Germany.

- ❖ The 6 new species of bent-toed gecko belongs to the genus *Cyrtodactylus*.

ACC Announced India as Host of T20 Men's Asia Cup in 2025 & Bangladesh as host of ODI Men's Asia Cup in 2027

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has formally named India as the host of the **2025 Men's Asia Cup cricket event in the Twenty20 (T20) format**, while Bangladesh will host the 2027 Asia Cup tournament in the One Day International (ODI) format.



Key Points

- ❖ According to the IEOI for the sponsorship rights document issued by the ACC, both the Asia Cup tournaments in India and Bangladesh will feature 13 games each, totaling 26 matches.
- ❖ In 2015, ACC announced that Asia Cup tournaments, the biennial men's tournament, would be played on rotation basis in ODI and T20I format. The first Asia Cup tournament in T20 was held in 2016.
- ❖ Previously, India hosted the 4th edition of the Asia Cup in 1990/91. India has won the Asia Cup eight times which includes 7 ODI(1984, 1988;1991;1995; 2010; 2018 & 2023) and 1 T20I (2016).

Short News

- ❖ Dr. Grinson George Appointed Director of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).
- ❖ 14th India-Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue Held in New Delhi
- ❖ RBL Bank Launches RuPay Credit Cards With UPI And NCMC Functionalities
- ❖ Jharkhand launches Mukhyamantri Maiyaan Samman Yojana for women
- ❖ Germany Joined UN Command in South Korea as 18th Member State
- ❖ Government of India (GoI) and the World Bank (WB) have signed a USD 500 million agreement to construct the Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP).
- ❖ RBI Approves Re-appointment of Inderjit Camotra as MD & CEO of Unity Small Finance Bank

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. In which year is India scheduled to host the T20 Men's Asia Cup?

- (a) 2023
- (b) 2024
- (c) 2025
- (d) 2026

Answer- (c)

2. Which Indian Air Force officer has been selected as the primary Gaganyatri for the ISS mission?

- (a) Rajiv Singh
- (b) Shubhanshu Shukla
- (c) Ankit Sharma
- (d) Vikram Patel

Answer- (b)



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