



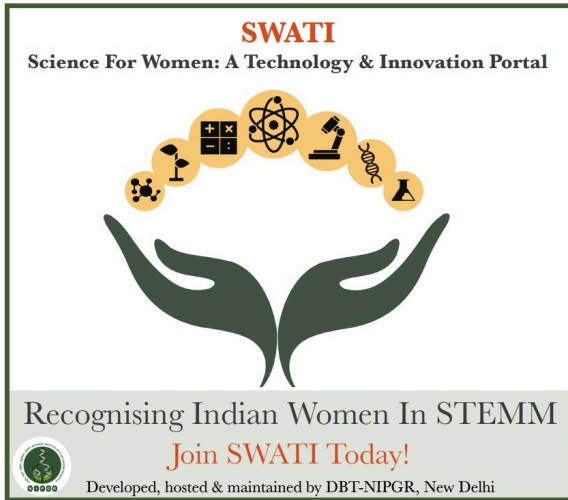
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13 February 2024

National & International News

SWATI Portal: Empowering Women in STEMM



Context:

- The Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India launched the "**Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)**" Portal.

About SWATI Portal:

- **Purpose:** Represents and showcases Indian women and girls' contributions in STEMM fields.
- **Database:** Comprehensive database aiding policymakers in addressing gender gap challenges.
- **Interactive Features:** Designed to be interactive, facilitating easy access and contribution to the database.
- **Development:** Developed, hosted, and maintained by the **National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR)** in New Delhi.

Objectives:

- **Exponential Scaling:** To include every Indian woman in science across all career stages and subjects.
- **Research Support:** Compilation of a comprehensive database to support long-term research on equality, diversity, and inclusivity.
- **Active Search Engine:** Easy access to information about women scientists, their affiliations, areas of interest, and achievements.

Do you know?

- **National Women's Day in India is celebrated every year on 13 February.**
- The day marks the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu, an eminent freedom fighter and poet, also known as the "**Nightingale of India**".

Sangeet Natak Akademi

Context:

- **Sangeet Natak Akademi to have South India centre in Hyderabad.**
- Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA): A national institution **founded on 31 May 1952.**
- **Aim:** To preserve and promote India's rich cultural heritage in music, dance, and drama.

Key points:

- Apex body for performing arts, collaborating with governments and art academies.



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- Established institutions like Manipur Dance Academy and Kathak Kendra.

Awards and Recognitions

- Sangeet Natak Akademi Award: Highest recognition for artists and scholars.
- SNA Fellowship (Ratna Sadsya): For distinguished individuals.
- Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar: For young artists.
- Tagore Ratna and Tagore Puraskar: Honoring Rabindranath Tagore.
- Kala Deeksha Initiative: Continuing Guru Shishya Parampara.

Amrit Darohar Initiative: Strengthening Communities and Conservation at Ramsar Sites

Context:

- The Centre has launched the fourth phase of training under the 'Amrit Darohar' capacity-building scheme.
- This initiative is targeted towards people residing close to the **Bhitarkanika National Park**.

Key points:

- Collaboration:** The initiative involves collaboration between **IITM-Bhubaneswar**, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Tourism (MoT), and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- Objective:** The aim is to build the capacity of 60 local community members around the Ramsar site to strengthen nature tourism and provide alternative livelihoods.
- Training:** Local community members will be trained and certified as nature guides.

About:

Goal: The goal of Amrit Dhrohar is 'to promote unique conservation values of Ramsar Sites'.

Purpose

The purpose is to maintain a healthy and effectively managed network of Ramsar Sites which:

- To provide water and food security
- To buffer the landscape from floods, droughts, cyclones and other extreme events
- To generate local employment and support livelihoods
- To provide habitats for species of local, national and international conservation significance
- To maintain and enhance carbon sinks
- To conserve and celebrate rich cultural heritage.





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India – UAE Relations

Context:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the **UAE signifies the importance of the bilateral relationship.**
- Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit the UAE from **February 13-14, 2024.**
- He will inaugurate a temple built by the **Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha in Abu Dhabi.**

Overview of India – UAE relationship:

- India's relationship with the UAE has become one of its most significant bilateral relationships, evolving into a strategic partnership.
- The UAE has become an **important partner for India's engagement in the Gulf region.**
- There's a close rapport between UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Mr. Modi.
- **The BAPS temple, constructed on a 27-acre plot donated by the UAE President, is the second big Hindu temple to be inaugurated in the UAE recently.**
- Mr. Modi will also address the World Government Summit on February 14 in Dubai as the 'Guest of Honour'.

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