



Implementing the Street Vendors Act 2014 | Uttar Pradesh | 03 May 2024

Why in News?

A decade has passed since the [Street Vendors \(Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending\) Act, 2014](#) came into effect on 1st May 2014, marking a significant milestone after nearly four decades of legal jurisprudence and the tireless efforts of street vendor movements across India.

Key Points

- The Act was enacted in order to legalise the vending rights of [street vendors \(SVs\)](#).
- It aimed to **protect and regulate street vending in cities**, with State-level rules and schemes, and execution by [Urban Local Bodies \(ULBs\)](#) through **by-laws, planning, and regulation**.
- The Act clearly **delineates the roles** and responsibilities of both vendors and various levels of **government**.
- It commits to **accommodating all 'existing' vendors in vending zones and issuing vending certificates (VCs)**.
- The Act establishes a participatory governance structure through **Town Vending Committees (TVCs)**.
 - It mandates that **street vendor representatives** must constitute **40% of TVC members**, with a **sub-representation of 33% of women SVs**.
 - These committees are tasked with **ensuring the inclusion of all existing vendors in vending zones**.
- Additionally, the Act outlines mechanisms for addressing grievances and disputes, proposing the establishment of a **Grievance Redressal Committee chaired by a civil judge or judicial magistrate**.
- It provides that the **States/ULBs conduct a survey to identify SVs** at least once **every five years**.

Government's Initiatives for Street Vendors

- **SVANidhi Scheme:**
 - [SVANidhi Scheme](#) was launched to benefit over **50 lakh street vendors** who had been **vending in urban areas** including those from **surrounding peri-urban/rural areas**.
 - It also aims to **promote digital transactions** through **cash-back incentives** up to an amount of Rs. 1,200 per annum.
 - **National Association of Street Vendors of India:**
 - NASVI is an organization working for the **protection of the livelihood rights of thousands of street vendors across the country**.
 - The main objective was to bring together the **street vendor** organizations in India so as to collectively struggle for macro-level changes.
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Green Lynx Spider | Rajasthan | 03 May 2024



Why in News?

Recently, **Green Lynx Spider** was discovered in **Tal Chhapar, Rajasthan**. The spider species has been named **Peucetia chhaparajirvin**.

Key Points

- The spider was found in [Tal Chhapar Wildlife Sanctuary](#) in **Churu district** during fieldwork by Nirmala Kumari.
- The specimens have been deposited in the **entomology lab at the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur**.
- The species was **identified and described** in the **Spider Research Lab at JD Patil Sangludkar Mahavidyalaya, Daryapur**, in the Amravati district.
- This spider is found on the green leaves of the **Vachellia nilotica (babul) tree**. Their green hue aids in blending within surroundings and ambushing prey, while their long legs allow them to move quickly.
 - This spider is **nocturnal and feeds on small insects**. The climatic conditions in the sanctuary area are extreme, with very hot summers and very cool winters.
 - They are significant **insect predators in low shrubs and herbaceous plants**, being crucial for controlling plant-damaging insects and forest ecosystem pests.
 - The spiders **prey on various types of moths and their young**, such as bollworm moth, leafworm moth, and looper moth.

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NEVER SEEN BEFORE	
<p>➤ Green lynx spider species spotted in Tal Chhapar Wildlife Sanctuary in Churu district of Rajasthan</p>	
<p>➤ It was discovered by Nirmala Kumari during fieldwork</p>	
	<p>➤ Species identified by Atul Bodkhe in the Spider Research Lab at JD Patil Sangludkar Mahavidyalaya, Daryapur</p>
	<p>➤ It is found on the green leaves of the babul tree</p>

The Tal Chhapar Sanctuary

- It is situated on the **border of the Great Indian Thar Desert**.

- Tal Chhapar is a **distinctive shelter** of the most graceful Antelope seen in India, “**the Blackbuck**”.
- It was given **the status of a sanctuary in 1966**.
 - Tal Chhapar was a **hunting reserve of the erstwhile royal family of Bikaner**.
- The “**Tal**” word is a Rajasthani word meaning **plane land**.
- This Sanctuary has **nearly flat territory and a combined thin low-lying region**. It has open and wide grasslands with spread **Acacia and Prosopis plants** that offer it a **look of a characteristic Savanna**.

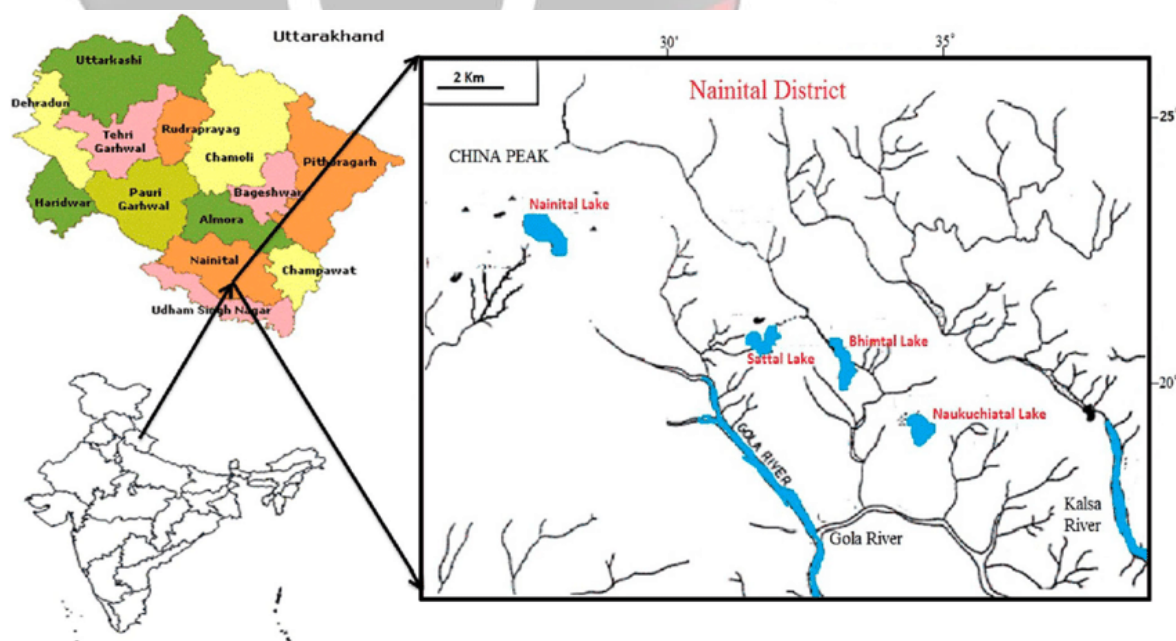
Bhimtal Lake | Uttarakhand | 03 May 2024

Why in News?

In response to a severe forest fire close to **Nainital district** headquarters the state government deployed the **Army's MI 17 helicopters** to fetch water from Bhimtal Lake and spray it over the affected forests.

Key Points

- Bhimtal Lake is the **largest lake in the Nainital district**, in the state of **Uttarakhand**. It is the largest lake in the **Kumaon region**, known as the “**lake district of India**”.
 - It is named after the second **Pandava called Bhima** of the famous epic Mahabharata.
- It is a **natural lake** and its origin is attributed to **several faults** that occurred due to the shifting of the **Earth's crust**.
- The lake was built during **British time in 1883** and has a **masonry dam** built on it.
- The lake has rich flora and fauna around it and thick forests of **pine and oak** cover the hill slopes around the lake.
 - It is home to **a number of migratory birds** in the winter months.
 - Famous species found in the area include **bulbul, wall creeper, Emerald Dove, Black Eagle, and Tawny fish owl**.
- The lake has **an island at its centre** developed as a tourist attraction **with an aquarium**.



Nakshatra Sabha | Uttarakhand | 03 May 2024

Why in News?

The **Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board** has joined hands with **Starscapes**, a leading astro-tourism company, to introduce [Nakshatra Sabha](#), a new initiative to provide a comprehensive **Astro Tourism** experience to people.

Key Points

- The campaign will **offer a range of activities**, including stargazing, special solar observations, astrophotography contests, camping under the stars, and more.
- The initiative aims to bring together **astronomy enthusiasts**, adventurers, and **travellers** to marvel at the wonders of the **cosmos**.
 - Uttarakhand is well-positioned to attract Astro Tourists worldwide with its abundant forest cover, nature-based tourism, convenient access to major cities, and well-established hospitality sector, including homestays.
- **George Everest in Mussoorie** is set to host Nakshatra Sabha from early June until mid-2025, presenting a range of engaging events at different spots throughout Uttarakhand.
 - These events will **explore potential night sky sites** in districts such as **Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh, Nainital, and Chamoli**, along with seminars and webinars led by experts in the field.
- By creating a community of advocates committed to **conserving dark skies** in Uttarakhand, the Nakshatra Sabha campaign aims to promote professional training, skill development, and support local economies while advocating for the preservation of night skies.
 - It plans to establish a policy for preserving dark skies across the region in 2025.

Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB)

- It is a government body responsible for promoting tourism in the state of Uttarakhand.
- It was **established in 1976** and is **headquartered in Dehradun**.
- The UTDB works to **develop and promote tourism** infrastructure, attract investment, and market Uttarakhand as a tourist destination.

NGT Issues Notice to Thermal Power Plant in Jharkhand | Jharkhand | 03 May 2024

Why in News?

The [National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#) has requested a reply from the concerned authorities, which includes the administrative chief of **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) North Karanpura super thermal power plant** in Jharkhand's Chatra district, concerning the significant fire that consumed a unit in April 2024.

Key Points

- The NGT addressed a case where it had taken notice about a fire at a material yard in unit 3 of a power plant.
 - The plant, a **coal-based 660X3 MW unit of NTPC**, the country's largest power producer, was under scrutiny.
 - NGT considered the case a significant matter concerning **environmental regulation compliance**.
- The tribunal roped in various authorities like the plant's administrative head, member secretaries of [Central Pollution Control Board \(CPCB\)](#) and **Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB)**, as well as Chatra's deputy commissioner for the issue.
- The [tribunal](#) directed for specific parties like the plant's administrative head and the deputy commissioner to be served notices to respond to the matter.

National Green Tribunal (NGT)

- It is a specialised body set up under the **National Green Tribunal Act (2010)** for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- With the establishment of the NGT, **India became the third country in the world to set up a specialised environmental tribunal**, only after **Australia and New Zealand**, and the first developing country to do so.
- NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing the same.
- The NGT has five places of sittings, **New Delhi** is the Principal place of sitting and **Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai** are the other four.

National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)

- NTPC is **India's largest power utility** with an installed capacity of 68,961.68 MW plans to become a 130 GW company by 2032.
- Established in 1975, NTPC aims to be the **world's largest and best power major**.
- NTPC has **comprehensive Rehabilitation & Resettlement and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** policies well integrated with its core business of setting up power projects and generating electricity.
- The company is **committed to generating reliable power at competitive prices** in a sustainable manner by optimising the use of multiple energy sources with innovative eco-friendly technologies thereby NTPC is contributing to the economic development of the nation and upliftment of the society.