



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

First Sundarban Bird Festival

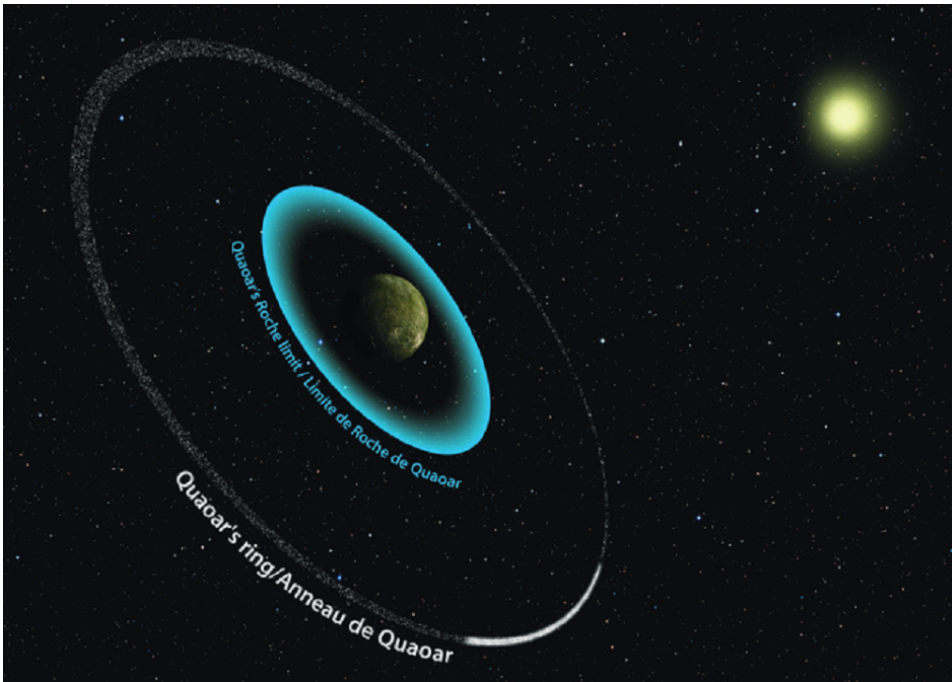


Recently, 145 different bird species **were sighted during the first Sundarban Bird Festival**. The first-ever festival was **organised by the Sundarban Tiger Reserve (STR)** division of the West Bengal Forest Department, where several teams visited different areas inside the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve. **The Bird Festival provides baseline data on Sundarbans' bird species diversity.**

The [Zoological Survey of India \(ZSI\)](#) in 2021, had recorded 428 bird species in the Sundarbans which is **one-third of all the avian species** (derived from birds) **found in the country.**

Read More: [Importance of Sundarbans](#), [Biosphere Reserves in India](#), [International Day for Biosphere Reserves](#)

Mysterious Ring on a Dwarf Planet



In a new study, **astronomers have found a ring around a dwarf planet**, located in the Kuiper Belt at the solar system's edge, **called Quaoar**. Astronomers believe the **new study points to the possibility of discovering more rings around smaller planets** like Quaoar in the outer solar system, which **might expand our understanding of planetary ring systems**.

Quaoar (named after a god of creation in Native American mythology) is **roughly half the size of Pluto and orbits beyond Neptune**. It also has a moon of its own, which is **known as Weywot**. The **rings of the planet are positioned at a distance of over seven planetary radii** (distance between a planet's centre and its surface) which is **much further away from other planets that possess rings**.

According to the study, **the ring lies far away from the Roche limit** — a mathematically determined distance beyond which rings aren't supposed to exist.

Planetary rings possess small chunks of ice and other materials that orbit a larger object. Only Saturn, Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune, including two other minor planets, Chariklo and Haumea, **are known to possess rings**.

Read More: [Pluto](#)

The Paalam Project

The **Paalam Project or the City Livelihood Centre in Tamil Nadu's** Karur district is successfully **placing educated unemployed youth in good jobs**. And unlike most government employment exchanges, **this one focuses mostly on private jobs**.

Karur, located near the textile hub of Tirupur in western Tamil Nadu, **is known for its industries, but it is more popular for its domestic textile products**. The project began in 2022.

The **aim of the Paalam Project was to act as a bridge between job seekers and employers**.

Essentially, the Paalam Project **was not to come up with an innovative idea but to utilize the many known and unknown government schemes and opportunities available**.

Read More: [India's Unique Job Crisis](#)

Exercise TARKASH

The **exercise named TARKASH** by the National Security Guard (NSG) and US Special Operations Forces (SOF) **is currently underway in Chennai.**

With chemical and biological warfare being recognised as a coming threat to the world, an ongoing Indo-US joint exercise has **for the first time included a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN)** terror response in its drill.

The **objective of the joint exercise** was to rapidly neutralise the terrorists, rescue the hostages safely and deactivate the chemical weapons being carried by the terrorists

CBRN weapons, which are **also classified as Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs)**, have been used by States and terror elements in the past. **The most recent use of CBRN in the form of a sarin gas attack was witnessed in Syria in 2017.**

According to the UN, the prospect of non-state actors, including terrorists and their supporters, gaining access to and using WMDs or CBRNs is a serious **threat to international peace and security.**

Read More: [Biological Weapon and Chemical Weapon Conventions](#), [India-US Relations](#)

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