



08 October 2024

National and International News

<p>Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has proposed to notify 3,328 square kilometers around the Gir forest in Gujarat as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ). <p>About Eco-Sensitive Zone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESZ Definition: Land within 10 km of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries is generally notified as an ESZ. Flexibility: The 10-km rule is a general guideline, and the extent of ESZs can vary based on specific ecological needs. Sensitive Corridors: Areas beyond 10 km can also be designated as ESZs if they are crucial for wildlife movement or ecological connectivity. Buffer Zone Function: ESZs serve as a buffer zone around protected areas, allowing wildlife to transition between habitats.
<p>Global Framework on Chemicals Fund</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Global Framework on Chemicals fund has recently launched its first project, aimed at promoting the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste. <p>About Global Framework on Chemicals Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established: During the fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) in September 2023. Purpose: Supports countries in implementing the international agreement on chemicals management. Objective: To finance projects and programs that help developing countries, least developed countries, Small Island Developing States, and countries with economies in transition prevent or minimize harm from chemicals and waste. Executive Board: Made up of representatives from UN regions and donors. Financing: Provides grants of \$300,000 to \$800,000 for up to three years. Funding Source: Voluntary contributions.



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English Channel

Why in the news?

- The French Interior Minister recently reported that **several people, including a child, had lost their lives while attempting to cross the English Channel** from France to England.

About English Channel:

- **Location:** Separates southern **England** from northern **France**.
- **Connection:** Connects to the **North Sea** through the **Strait of Dover**.
- **Name:** English Channel (18th century), previously known as the "**Narrow Sea**" (English) and "**la Manche**" (French).
- **Climate:** **Temperate maritime climate** with **warm summers** and **cold winters**.
- **Importance:** One of the world's busiest shipping areas, accounting for 20% of global maritime trade.





Kawal Tiger Reserve

Why in the news?

- The forest department celebrated **World Wildlife Week 2024** with a **cyclothon**.
- The event took place at the buffer zone of the **Kawal Tiger Reserve**.
- This was the **first cyclothon organized by the forest department**.

About Kawal Tiger Reserve:

- **Location:**
 - North-eastern part of **Telangana State**
 - Along the **banks of the river Godavari**
 - **Deccan Peninsula-central highlands**
- **Status:** Tiger Reserve (declared in 2012)
- **Habitat:**
 - Diverse habitat: dense forests, grasslands, open areas, rivers, streams, water bodies
 - Catchment for **Godavari** and **Kadam rivers**
 - Southernmost tip of **Central Indian Tiger Landscape**
 - Linked to **Tadoba-Andhari (Maharashtra)** and **Indravati (Chhattisgarh) tiger reserves**
- **Vegetation:**
 - Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest
 - Teak and Bamboo
- **Fauna:**
 - Cheetal, Sambar, Barking Deer, Nilgai, Sloth Bear, Indian Bison, Panther, Tiger
 - Reptiles: Crocodile, Python, Monitor Lizard, Star Tortoise, Cobra

Lipulekh Pass

Why in the news?

- Pilgrims have recently had a historic opportunity to see the sacred **Kailash peak from the Old Lipulekh Pass**, which is located within Indian territory.

About Lipulekh Pass:

- **Location:** High-altitude mountain pass in **Kumaon region, Uttarakhand**.
- **Significance:**
 - **Ancient Trade Route:** Connected India and Tibet for centuries.
 - **Religious Significance:** Part of the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra**.
 - **Strategic Importance:** Gateway to higher Himalayan regions.
- **Historical Events:**



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- First Indian border post opened for trade with China in 1992.
- Followed by **Shipki La** and **Nathu La** passes.



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