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7 October 2023

International & National News

<p>Delhi AQI turns 'poor'</p>	<p>Context Recently Stage 1 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was imposed in the National Capital Region (NCR) as its Air Quality Index (AQI) slipped into the poor category.</p> <p>Graded Response Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a set of emergency measures to prevent the deterioration of air quality. • The GRAP was first notified in January 2017 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. • The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has constituted a sub-committee for the operationalization of the GRAP. • GRAP is divided into four stages according to the quality of air • The measures taken under the stages are from stage 1 to stage 4. Stage 4 is the most severe.
<p>Air Quality Index (AQI)</p>	<p>About</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was launched by the central government in 2014. • It was launched as a part of the Swachh Bharat campaign. • The AQI transforms complex air quality data of various pollutants into a single number (index value), nomenclature, and color. • The pollutants measured include- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PM 10 2. PM 2.5 3. Nitrogen Dioxide 4. Ozone 5. Carbon Monoxide 6. Sulfur dioxide 7. Ammonia. • The colour-coded AQI index helps the public and the government understand the condition of the air. • 0-50 is a good category represented by Green • 401-500 is a severe category represented by dark red, it affects healthy people and seriously impacts those with existing diseases.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Person in news: Babloo Loitongbam.



Context

The **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** has recently **intervened** and urged the authorities to protect the family of a **Manipur-based human rights activist**.

Key facts.

- Babloo Loitongbam is a human rights activist in Manipur.
- His house was attacked for criticizing the Meiti group
- He is a lawyer, anthropologist, and **internationally acclaimed human rights activist**.
- He belongs to the Meitei community.
- Bablu Loitongbam has been working to protect human rights in North-East India for more than 20 years.
- Bablu has **prepared a human rights curriculum**.
- Through the curriculum, **he prepares traditional village institutions to organize in new ways against growing human rights challenges in the region**.

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

About

- The Council was **established by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 March 2006**.
- It was established to replace the United Nations Commission on Human Rights
- It is a **United Nations body**.
- Its mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world
- the **Council has 47 members elected for three-year terms** on a regional group basis
- The headquarters of the Council is in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

Two out of five amphibians are facing extinction threat due to climate change: study



Context

A new paper has found that **climate change is emerging as one of the biggest threats to reptiles**(frogs, salamanders, and caecilians) around the world.

Key facts

- The study is based on the **second global amphibian assessment coordinated by the Amphibian Red List Authority**.
- **Amphibian Red List Authority** is a branch of the Amphibian Specialist Group of the **International Union for Conservation of Nature's Species Survival Commission**.
- It is managed by **Re: wild, a wildlife conservation group**.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 1,000 experts across the globe, including scientists and researchers from Assam-based biodiversity conservation organization, Aaranyak, and other Indian institutions, contributed their data and expertise. • These data will be published on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. <p>Did you know? Climate change and habitat destruction are the biggest threats for amphibians in large part because they are particularly sensitive to changes in their environment.</p>
<p>MPC leaves benchmark interest rates unchanged</p>	<p>Context The Monetary Policy Committee decides to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50% amid a high inflation rate.</p> <p>Key facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RBI forecast GDP growth for 2023-24 at 6.5% and its forecast for average CPI inflation for the current fiscal year at 5.4%. • The overall inflation outlook was clouded by uncertainties that included the fall in kharif sowing for key crops. <p>Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decides on key interest rates like repo, and reverse repo. • It has six members—three central bank officials and three government nominees—headed by the RBI governor. • It has the responsibility for fixing key policy rates (interest rates) in the country. • The MPC attempts to contain inflation and accordingly formulates monetary policy measures in order to influence interest rates.
<p>RBI allows tokenization of debit or credit.</p>	<p>Context To secure online transactions, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed to allow banks to “tokenize” debit or credit cards.</p> <p>Card-on-File tokenization(CoF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tokenization is a process by which card details are replaced by a unique token or code. • It allows online purchases to go through without exposing sensitive details. • Card-on-File Tokenization (CoFT) Services will be started from 1st October, 2022.



- Under the system, the **merchants will not be allowed to store your card number, CVV, and expiry date** for processing online transactions.
- Any existing details that were saved by merchants will be deleted.
- The regulation is **applicable to all Debit and credit cards.**
- Once the card is tokenized these **token details will be used to initiate online payments instead of the actual card number** to process transactions.
- A customer will be able to **identify his card number with the last 4 digits and bank name.**
- there is **no limit to the number of transactions** that can be done from a tokenized card.

Nuclear test treaty

Context

Russian lawmakers have informed that they can consider revoking the ratification of a global nuclear test ban.

Key facts

- **Statement comes after the Russian President Vladimir Putin's warning to consider rescinding the ratification of the international pact banning nuclear tests since the United States has never ratified it.**

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

- It is a **global agreement that prohibits all forms of nuclear test explosions across the globe.**
- The Treaty was deliberated at the Conference on **Disarmament in Geneva in 1994.**
- The treaty was later adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.
- The Treaty was opened for signature in 1996 and has since been **endorsed by 184 countries.**
- **India is not one of the signatories** of this treaty.

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