



18 May 2024

National & International News

<p>Swachhata Pakhwada</p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)</b> has taken a significant <b>step towards promoting cleanliness and environmental sustainability</b> with the launch of <b>Swachhata Pakhwada</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>About Swachhata Pakhwada:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Initiative:</b> Swachhata Pakhwada is a <b>cleanliness campaign initiated by the Government of India</b>.</li><li>• <b>Objective:</b> The campaign <b>aims to promote cleanliness and sanitation across the country</b>.</li><li>• <b>Launch Year:</b> April <b>2016</b>.</li><li>• <b>Duration:</b> The campaign <b>runs for a fortnight (14 days)</b> in different ministries and departments.</li><li>• <b>Focus Areas:</b> Activities include <b>cleanliness drives, waste management, and spreading awareness about hygiene practices</b>.</li><li>• <b>Involvement:</b> Various government departments, public sector undertakings (PSUs), and educational institutions actively participate in Swachhata Pakhwada.</li><li>• <b>Monitoring:</b> Ministries and departments are required to upload action plans and achievements on the <b>Swachhata Pakhwada portal</b>.</li><li>• <b>Themes:</b> Each ministry or department focuses on specific themes related to cleanliness and sanitation during their designated period.</li><li>• <b>Impact:</b> The initiative aims to <b>instill a sense of responsibility towards cleanliness and contribute to the broader Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission)</b>.</li></ul>
<p>PREFIRE Mission</p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>NASA</b> is undertaking a <b>polar mission to enhance understanding of the Arctic and Antarctic regions</b>.</li><li>• The mission <b>aims to study how these regions are shedding heat upward into space</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>About PREFIRE Mission:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-InfraRed Experiment (PREFIRE) polar mission involves <b>twin satellites, each equipped with one instrument</b>.</li><li>• These <b>satellites measure the poles approximately six hours apart</b>.</li><li>• The objective of the PREFIRE mission is to <b>reveal the full spectrum of heat loss from Earth's polar regions for the first time, which will help make climate models more accurate</b>.</li></ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The PREFIRE mission aims to <b>fill the knowledge gap and provide data to improve predictions of climate change and sea level rise.</b></li><li>• The mission will <b>provide new information on how Earth's atmosphere and ice influence the amount of heat being radiated out to space from the Arctic and Antarctic.</b></li></ul>
<b>Digital Arrest</b>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There have been <b>increasing reports of “digital arrests” by cybercriminals.</b></li><li>• The <b>Central government has collaborated with Microsoft to tackle this issue.</b></li><li>• More than 1,000 Skype IDs have been blocked.</li><li>• These IDs were used for online intimidation, blackmail, and extortion.</li></ul> <p><b>About Digital Arrest:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Cybercriminals</b> have employed a <b>new and innovative tactic to defraud victims and extort money.</b></li><li>• The <b>modus operandi involves fraudsters posing as law enforcement officials</b> such as police, Enforcement Directorate, CBI, etc.</li><li>• They <b>manipulate victims into believing that they have committed some serious crime.</b></li><li>• In some cases, <b>victims are “digitally arrested” and forced to stay visible over Skype</b> or other video conferencing platforms until the criminals' demands are met.</li><li>• The <b>cybercriminals deceive the victim into believing that they are under ‘digital arrest’ and will be prosecuted if they do not pay a large sum of money.</b></li><li>• Often, the <b>cybercriminals trick the victims into self-arrest or self-quarantine</b>, making them believe that they are under ‘digital arrest’ and <b>cannot leave their house unless they pay up.</b></li></ul>
<b>Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX)</b>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>India-Japan partnership</b> is planning a <b>joint moon mission called the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX).</b></li><li>• The primary objective of LUPEX is to <b>explore the lunar surface and search for subsurface water.</b></li></ul> <p><b>About LUPEX:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Objective:</b> To <b>explore the polar regions of the Moon, specifically targeting the lunar poles.</b></li><li>• <b>Mission Type:</b> Robotic exploration mission.</li><li>• <b>Primary Goals:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Investigate the presence of water ice</b> and other volatiles in the lunar polar regions.</li><li>○ <b>Study the topography, geology, and composition of the lunar poles.</b></li></ul></li></ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Assess the suitability of these regions for future human exploration</b> and potential resource utilization.</li></ul>
<b>International Court of Justice (ICJ)</b>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The United Nations' top court, the <b>International Court of Justice</b>, started <b>hearings on the Israeli military's incursion into Rafah</b>.</li><li>● The <b>hearings were initiated by</b> a request from <b>South Africa</b>.</li><li>● <b>South Africa alleges</b> that <b>Israel's military action</b> in its war with Hamas in Gaza <b>amounts to genocide</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>About ICJ:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Establishment:</b> The ICJ was <b>established in 1945</b> by the <b>Charter of the United Nations</b> and began its work in April 1946.</li><li>● <b>Location:</b> It is <b>headquartered in the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands</b>.</li><li>● <b>Function:</b> The ICJ is the <b>principal judicial organ of the United Nations</b>. It <b>settles legal disputes between states</b> and <b>gives advisory opinions on international legal issues referred to it by the UN</b>.</li><li>● <b>Composition:</b> The court comprises <b>15 judges elected to nine-year terms</b> by the <b>United Nations General Assembly</b> and <b>Security Council</b>. <b>No two judges can be from the same country</b>.</li><li>● <b>Languages:</b> The official languages of the ICJ are <b>English and French</b>.</li><li>● <b>Jurisdiction:</b> The ICJ has jurisdiction in two types of cases:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Contentious Cases:</b> Legal disputes between states submitted by them.</li><li>○ <b>Advisory Opinions:</b> Legal questions referred to it by duly authorized international organs and agencies.</li></ul></li></ul>

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