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23 May 2024

### National & International News

#### International Booker Prize



#### Why in news?

- Jenny Erpenbeck, a German author, and Michael Hofmann, a translator, have won the International Booker Prize for fiction.
- Their winning work is titled “Kairos”.

#### About the International Booker Prize:

- **Overview:**
  - An annual award for the finest single work of fiction from around the world translated into English.
  - Originated as the Man Booker International Prize in 2005.
- **History:**
  - Initially, a biennial prize was awarded for a body of work, with no requirement for the work to be written in a language other than English.
  - Transitioned to an annual prize focused on a single work of translated fiction.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Works of long-form fiction originally written in any language.
  - The work must be translated into English.
  - Must be published in the UK and/or Ireland.
  - Open to authors of any nationality.

#### International Criminal Court (ICC)

#### Why in news?

- The prosecutors of the International Criminal Court (ICC) are seeking arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and Hamas leaders.

#### About ICC:

- **Establishment:**
  - Established on July 1, 2002, by the Rome Statute.
  - Headquarters located in The Hague, Netherlands.
- **Purpose:** Prosecutes individuals for international crimes such as genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression.
- **Jurisdiction:**
  - Can prosecute crimes committed on the territory of a state party or by a national of a state party.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Can also <b>prosecute</b> if a situation is referred to by the <b>United Nations Security Council</b>.</li><li>● <b>Membership:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>123 member states</b> as of 2023.</li><li>○ Notable <b>non-members</b> include the <b>United States, China, India and Russia</b>.</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Functioning:</b> Operates based on the <b>principle of complementarity</b>, meaning it <b>acts only when national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute</b>.</li></ul>
<p><b>Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Public wifi hotspots</b> under this PM-WANI scheme are <b>nearing the 2 lakh mark</b> in the country.</li><li>● <b>Currently, there are 1,99,896 wifi hotspots available</b> in India, according to government data.</li></ul> <p><b>About PM-WANI:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Objective:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Enhance broadband internet access</b> across India.</li><li>○ Provide <b>affordable and accessible internet services in public areas</b>.</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Key Components:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Public Data Office (PDO):</b> Establishes, operates, and maintains Wi-Fi access points.</li><li>○ <b>Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA):</b> Manages and authorizes multiple PDOs.</li><li>○ <b>App Provider:</b> Develops and maintains an app for users to discover and connect to PM-WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots.</li><li>○ <b>Central Registry:</b> Maintains details of app providers, PDOAs, and PDOs.</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Implementation:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>No license fee for PDOs</b>.</li><li>○ <b>Encourages participation from small entrepreneurs</b>, ensuring widespread and last-mile connectivity.</li></ul></li></ul>



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

### Himalayan Ibex and Bharal



#### Why in news?

- Wildlife authorities have initiated **surveys in the high altitude, cold desert district of Lahaul & Spiti in Himachal Pradesh.**
- The surveys are part of a **census to estimate the population of blue sheep (or bharal) and the Himalayan ibex.**
- **These animals are the main prey of the iconic snow leopard.**

#### About Himalayan Ibex:

- **Scientific Name:** Capra sibirica hemalayanus.
- **Region:** Native to the **Himalayan region** of India, Pakistan, Tibet, and Nepal.
- **Distribution in India:** Primarily in **Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.**
- **Behavior and Social Structure:**
  - **Herds:** Typically found in small herds, sometimes **up to 50 individuals.**
- **Conservation Status:** IUCN Red List: **Near Threatened.**

#### About Bharal (Blue Sheep):

- **Scientific Name:** Pseudois nayaur
- **Genus:** Only member of the genus **Pseudois**
- **Distribution:**
  - India
  - Bhutan
  - China (Gansu, Ningxia, Sichuan, Tibet, Inner Mongolia)
  - Myanmar
  - Nepal
  - Pakistan
- **Behavior:** **Active throughout the day;** alternates between feeding and resting on grassy mountain slopes
- **Conservation Status:**
  - IUCN Red List: **Least Concern**
  - Wildlife Protection Act 1972: **Schedule 1**



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

### Global Land Outlook Thematic Report on Rangelands and Pastoralists

#### Why in news?

- A new report by the United Nations reveals a concerning state of the **world's rangelands, with up to 50% estimated to be degraded.**
- The report "**Global Land Outlook Thematic Report on Rangelands and Pastoralists**" was published by the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.**

#### Key points:

- The **degradation of Earth's extensive natural pastures and other rangelands is occurring due to overuse, misuse, climate change, and biodiversity loss.**
- This degradation **poses a severe threat to humanity's food supply** and the well-being or survival of billions of people.
- **The following Symptoms inhibit the growth of plants:**
  - Diminished soil fertility and nutrients,
  - Erosion,
  - Salinization,
  - Alkalinization, and
  - Soil compaction.
- **These issues contribute to drought, precipitation fluctuations, and biodiversity loss both above and below the ground.**
- **Cause:**
  - The **problem is largely driven by converting pastures to cropland** and
  - Other **land use changes** are due to **population growth and urban expansion.**
  - **Other contributing factors include** rapidly rising food, fiber, and fuel demands, excessive grazing, abandonment (end of maintenance by pastoralists), and policies that incentivize overexploitation.

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