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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

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.

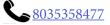
International Criminal Court (ICC)

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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	 Can also prosecute if a situation is referred to by the United Nations Security Council. Membership: 123 member states as of 2023. Notable non-members include the United States, China, India and Russia.
	Functioning: Operates based on the principle of complementarity, meaning it acts only when national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute.
Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI)	 Why in news? Public wifi hotspots under this PM-WANI scheme are nearing the 2 lakh mark in the country. Currently, there are 1,99,896 wifi hotspots available in India, according to government data.
	About PM-WANI:
	Objective:
	Enhance broadband internet access across India.
	Provide affordable and accessible internet services in
	public areas.
	Key Components:
	Public Data Office (PDO): Establishes, operates, and
	maintains Wi-Fi access points.
	 Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA): Manages and
	authorizes multiple PDOs.
	 App Provider: Develops and maintains an app for users to
	discover and connect to PM-WANI compliant Wi-Fi
	hotspots.
	 Central Registry: Maintains details of app providers,
	PDOAs, and PDOs.
	Implementation:
	No license fee for PDOs.
	Encourages participation from small entrepreneurs,
	ensuring widespread and last-mile connectivity.
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Himalayan Ibex and Bharal

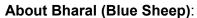


Why in news?

- 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.



- Scientific Name: Pseudois nayaur
- Genus: Only member of the genus Pseudois
- Distribution:
 - India
 - Bhutan
 - o 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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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,
 - o 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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