




7 October 2023

National and International News

Delhi AQI turns 'poor'	<p>Context Recently the 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 being the most severe.
Air Quality Index (AQI)	<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. Sulphur dioxide 7. Ammonia. • The colour-coded AQI index helps the public and the government understand the condition of the air.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-50 is 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 disease.
<p>Person in news: Babloo Loitongbam.</p> 	<p>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.</p> <p>Key facts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babloo Loitongbam is a human rights activist in Manipur. • His house was attacked for criticizing Meitei 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.
<p>United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)</p>	<p>About</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Two out of five amphibians are facing extinction threat due to climate change: study</p>	<p>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.</p>



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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.**
- 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.**

Did you know?

Climate change and habitat destruction are the biggest threat for amphibians in large part because they are particularly sensitive to changes in their environment.

MPC leaves benchmark interest rates unchanged

Context

Monetary Policy Committee Decides to keep the **policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50% amid high inflation rate.**

Key facts

- 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.**

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) **decides on key interest rates like repo, reverse repo.**
- It has **six members**—three central bank officials and three government nominees—**headed by the RBI governor.**



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 the 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 & Credit cards. • Once the card is tokenized these token details will be used to initiate online payments instead of 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.
<p>Nuclear test treaty</p>	<p>Context Russian lawmakers have informed that they can consider revoking the ratification of a global nuclear test ban.</p> <p>Key facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement comes after the Russian President Vladimir Putin’s warning to consider rescinding the ratification of the international pact banning nuclear



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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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