




10 January 2024

National and International News

<p>'World came close to the critical 1.5 degree Celsius limit in 2023'</p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2023 was a year of unprecedented heat, with the global average temperature hovering just shy of the critical 1.5°C threshold above pre-industrial levels.</li> <li>This proximity to the tipping point serves as a stark warning about the accelerating pace of climate change and the urgent need for drastic action</li> </ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2023 was officially declared the hottest year on record by multiple agencies, surpassing even the scorching temperatures of 2016.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project Tiger</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Tiger has completed 50 years</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Tiger was launched by the <b>Central government on April 1 1973</b> in a bid to promote conservation of the tiger.</li> <li>It was first launched at the <b>Jim Corbett National Park</b>.</li> <li>It was a <b>centrally Sponsored Scheme</b> of the <b>Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change</b> providing central assistance to the tiger States for tiger conservation in designated tiger reserves.</li> <li>It <b>focuses on the conservation of big cats</b> and ensures the preservation of their natural habitat as tigers are at the top of the food chain.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Critical Tiger Habitats</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Critical Tiger Habitats come under the purview of the <b>Wildlife Protection Act of 1972</b>.</li> <li>These habitats are created by keeping the interests of the Scheduled Tribes in consideration along with those people whose livelihoods depend on the forests.</li> <li><b>Critical wildlife/tiger habitats (CWH)</b> are defined by the <b>Forest Rights Act of 2006</b></li> </ul>



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	<p>as areas of <b>National Parks and Sanctuaries</b> that must be protected for wildlife protection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After an open consultation process by an Expert Committee, the Central Government's Ministry of Environment and Forests makes the decision and notifies the public.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Tiger Conservation Authority</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)</b> is a <b>statutory body</b> under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.</li> <li>• It was <b>established in 2005</b> following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.</li> <li>• It was constituted under enabling provisions of the <b>Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972</b>, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it.</li> </ul>
<p><b>International Court of Justice(ICJ).</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b> Israel faces Gaza 'genocide' case by S. Africa at International Court of Justice(ICJ).</p> <p><b>About the International Court of Justice (ICJ):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ICJ, also known as the <b>World Court</b>, is the principal <b>judicial organ of the UN</b>.</li> <li>• It was <b>established in June 1945</b> by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.</li> <li>• The seat of the Court is at the <b>Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands)</b>.</li> <li>• Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York, United States.</li> <li>• The hearings of the ICJ are always public.</li> <li>• <b>French and English</b> are the official languages of the Court.</li> </ul>



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Lunar Trailblazer

Context

- NASA has recently invested in a class of small, low-cost planetary missions called **SIMPLEX**, which stands for **Small, Innovative Missions for Planetary Exploration**.
- These missions save costs by tagging along on other launches as what is called a rideshare, or secondary payload.
- One example is the Lunar Trailblazer.
- Lunar Trailblazer will look for water on the moon.
- Lunar Trailblazer will orbit the moon, measuring the temperature of the surface and mapping out the locations of water molecules across the globe.

Agnipath scheme could mean the end of Nepalese Gurkhas in Indian Army

Context:

- The **Agnipath scheme, introduced by the Indian government in 2022**, has sparked concerns about its potential impact on the long-standing tradition of **Nepalese Gurkhas serving in the Indian Army**.

About:

- **Introduced in June 2022, it's a new recruitment policy for the Indian Armed Forces.**
- Recruits soldiers for a short-term period of four years, with only **25% retained for longer service.**
- **Aims to create a younger and more flexible military force**

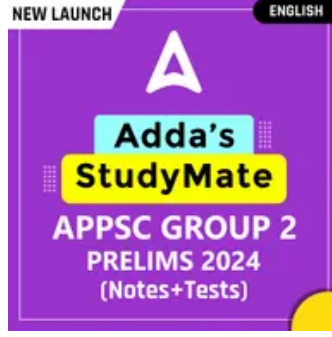


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