



13 June 2024

National & International News

New craters on Mars

Why in the news?

- Scientists from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad have made a discovery on Mars.
- They have found three new craters on the planet.

Key points:

- These craters are located in the Tharsis volcanic region (around 21.0 S, 209 W) on Mars.
- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature has approved the naming of these three craters, based on the recommendation of the PRL.

About International Astronomical Union (IAU):

- **Formation Date:** The IAU was founded in 1919.
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France.
- **Objective:**
  - To promote and safeguard the science of astronomy through international cooperation.
  - To coordinate, develop, and promote astronomical research.
  - To ensure that astronomical observations and theoretical studies are shared and discussed globally.
- **Membership:**
  - Comprises over 13,500 individual members from 107 countries.
  - Members are professional astronomers.
- **Major Functions:**
  - Naming and defining astronomical objects and phenomena.
  - Organizing scientific meetings, such as the General Assembly held every three years.
  - Providing guidelines and recommendations on astronomical standards and practices.



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

<p><b>Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions increased by 40% between 1980 and 2020.</li><li>• The largest emitter of N<sub>2</sub>O is China, followed by India and the US.</li></ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>Global Carbon Project</b>, a network of climate scientists, conducted a study.</li><li>• The study found that <b>74 per cent of the nitrous oxide emissions</b> in the past decade were due to agriculture.</li><li>• The main sources of these emissions were the use of <b>nitrogen fertilizers</b> and <b>animal manure</b> in agriculture.</li><li>• The <b>top 10 emitters</b> are <b>China, India, the US, Brazil, Russia, Pakistan, Australia, Indonesia, Turkey, and Canada.</b></li><li>• <b>N<sub>2</sub>O is the third most significant greenhouse gas</b> after carbon dioxide and methane and is <b>273 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub></b> over 100 years.</li><li>• To keep the global temperature rise below <b>2 degrees Celsius, N<sub>2</sub>O emissions</b> from human activities must decrease by at least <b>20% from 2019 levels by 2050.</b></li></ul>
<p><b>Atomic Clock</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Researchers have built a <b>portable optical atomic clock.</b></li><li>• This clock can be <b>used onboard ships.</b></li><li>• According to the researchers, it is the <b>most performant optical clock at sea.</b></li></ul> <p><b>About Atomic Clock:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An atomic clock is a <b>device that measures time using the vibrations of atoms.</b></li><li>• It specifically <b>uses the oscillations of the electrons in atoms</b> to keep time.</li><li>• It is the <b>most accurate time-keeping device available, with a margin of error of just a few billionths of a second per day.</b></li><li>• Atomic clocks are far <b>more precise than conventional clocks</b> because atomic oscillations have a much higher frequency and are much more stable.</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They are <b>used</b> in many applications that require very precise timing, such as <b>GPS systems</b>, <b>telecommunications networks</b> and <b>scientific research</b>.</li></ul>
<p><b>Notified disasters</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There is an ongoing spell of <b>extreme heat</b> in many parts of the country.</li><li>• This situation has reopened discussions on the <b>inclusion of heatwaves as one of the notified disasters</b>.</li><li>• This inclusion is being considered under the <b>Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>About Notified disasters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>Disaster Management Act, 2005</b> in India <b>defines a disaster as a catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence arising from natural or man-made causes</b>.</li><li>• <b>The Act includes 12 categories of notified disasters:</b> Cyclone, Drought, Earthquake, Fire, Flood, Tsunami, Hailstorm, Landslide, Avalanche, Cloudburst, Pest attack, Frost and cold waves.</li><li>• These <b>notified disasters are eligible for relief assistance</b> under the <b>State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)</b> and <b>National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)</b>.</li><li>• <b>Heatwaves are not currently included as a notified disaster under the Act</b>, despite being a significant concern in India.</li><li>• <b>Criteria for notifying a disaster under the Act:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The <b>event must be a catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence</b>.</li><li>○ It must arise from <b>natural or man-made causes</b>.</li><li>○ It <b>must result in substantial loss of life, destruction of property</b>, or <b>damage</b> to the environment.</li><li>○ It must also be of such nature which is <b>beyond the coping capacity of the community</b>.</li></ul></li></ul>



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International Organization of Migration (IOM)

Why in the news?

- A boat carrying migrants capsized off the coast of Yemen.
- The U.N. migration agency, the International Organization of Migration (IOM), reported the incident.

About IOM:

- **Establishment:** The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was established in **1951**.
- **Headquarters:** IOM's headquarters are located in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **Membership:** Currently, IOM has 175 member states and 8 observer states.
- **Objective:** The primary purpose of IOM is to **promote humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all**, by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.

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