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National and International News

<p>Swachhata Pakhwada</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) has taken a significant step towards promoting cleanliness and environmental sustainability with the launch of Swachhata Pakhwada. <p>About Swachhata Pakhwada:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiative: Swachhata Pakhwada is a cleanliness campaign initiated by the Government of India. Objective: The campaign aims to promote cleanliness and sanitation across the country. Launch Year: April 2016. Duration: The campaign runs for a fortnight (14 days) in different ministries and departments. Focus Areas: Activities include cleanliness drives, waste management, and spreading awareness about hygiene practices. Involvement: Various government departments, public sector undertakings (PSUs), and educational institutions actively participate in Swachhata Pakhwada. Monitoring: Ministries and departments are required to upload action plans and achievements on the Swachhata Pakhwada portal. Themes: Each ministry or department focuses on specific themes related to cleanliness and sanitation during their designated period. Impact: The initiative aims to instill a sense of responsibility towards cleanliness and contribute to the broader Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission).
<p>PREFIRE Mission</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NASA is undertaking a polar mission to enhance understanding of the Arctic and Antarctic regions. The mission aims to study how these regions are shedding heat upward into space. <p>About PREFIRE Mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-InfraRed Experiment (PREFIRE) polar mission involves twin satellites, each equipped with one instrument. These satellites measure the poles approximately six hours apart. The objective of the PREFIRE mission is to reveal the full spectrum of heat loss from Earth's polar regions for the first time, which will help make climate models more



	<p>accurate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aim of the PREFIRE mission is to fill the gap in knowledge and provide data to improve predictions of climate change and sea level rise. • The mission will provide new information on how Earth's atmosphere and ice influence the amount of heat being radiated out to space from the Arctic and Antarctic.
Digital Arrest	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been increasing reports of “digital arrests” by cybercriminals. • The Central government has collaborated with Microsoft to tackle this issue. • More than 1,000 Skype IDs have been blocked. • These IDs were used for online intimidation, blackmail, and extortion. <p>About Digital Arrest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cybercriminals have employed a new and innovative tactic to defraud victims and extort money. • The modus operandi involves fraudsters posing as law enforcement officials such as police, Enforcement Directorate, CBI, etc. • They manipulate victims into believing that they have committed some serious crime. • In some cases, victims are “digitally arrested” and forced to stay visible over Skype or other video conferencing platforms until the criminals’ demands are met. • The cybercriminals deceive the victim into believing that they are under ‘digital arrest’ and will be prosecuted if they do not pay a large sum of money. • Often, the cybercriminals trick the victims into self-arrest or self-quarantine, making them believe that they are under ‘digital arrest’ and cannot leave their house unless they pay up.
Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX)	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The India-Japan partnership is planning a joint moon mission called Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX). • The primary objective of LUPEX is to explore the lunar surface and search for subsurface water. <p>About LUPEX:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective: To explore the polar regions of the Moon, specifically targeting the lunar poles. • Mission Type: Robotic exploration mission. • Primary Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Investigate the presence of water ice and other volatiles in the lunar polar regions. ○ Study the topography, geology, and composition



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	<p>of the lunar poles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assess the suitability of these regions for future human exploration and potential resource utilization.
<p>International Court of Justice (ICJ)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The United Nations' top court, the International Court of Justice, started hearings on the Israeli military's incursion into Rafah. ● The hearings were initiated by a request from South Africa. ● South Africa alleges that Israel's military action in its war with Hamas in Gaza amounts to genocide. <p>About ICJ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishment: The ICJ was established in 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began its work in April 1946. ● Location: It is headquartered in the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. ● Function: The ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It settles legal disputes between states and gives advisory opinions on international legal issues referred to it by the UN. ● Composition: The court is composed of 15 judges elected to nine-year terms by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. No two judges can be from the same country. ● Languages: The official languages of the ICJ are English and French. ● Jurisdiction: The ICJ has jurisdiction in two types of cases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contentious Cases: Legal disputes between states submitted by them. ○ Advisory Opinions: Legal questions referred to it by duly authorized international organs and agencies.

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