




23 May 2024

National and International News

<p>International Booker Prize</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenny Erpenbeck, a German author, and Michael Hofmann, a translator, have won the International Booker Prize for fiction. • Their winning work is titled “Kairos”. <p>About International Booker Prize:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initially a biennial prize 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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.
<p>International Criminal Court (ICC)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prosecutors of the International Criminal Court (ICC) are seeking arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and Hamas leaders. <p>About ICC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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:



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can prosecute crimes committed on the territory of a state party or by a national of a state party. ○ Can also prosecute if a situation is referred to by the United Nations Security Council. ● Membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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.
<p>Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. <p>About PM-WANI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enhance broadband internet access across India. ○ Provide affordable and accessible internet services in public areas. ● Key Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No license fee for PDOs. ○ Encourages participation from small entrepreneurs, ensuring widespread and last-mile connectivity.
<p>Himalayan Ibex and Bharal</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wildlife authorities have initiated surveys in the high altitude, cold desert district of Lahaul & Spiti in Himachal Pradesh.



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- 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.**



About Bharal (Blue Sheep):

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

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”** is published by the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.**

Key points:

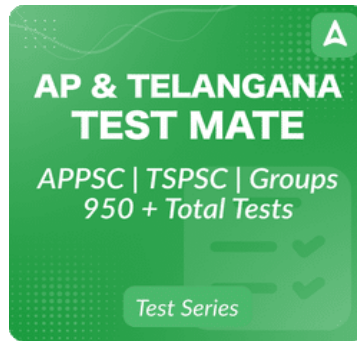


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- The **degradation of Earth's extensive natural pastures and other rangelands is occurring due to overuse, misuse, climate change, and biodiversity loss.**
- This degradation **poses a severe threat to humanity's food supply** and the wellbeing or survival of billions of people.
- **Following Symptoms inhibit the growth of plants:**
 - Diminished soil fertility and nutrients,
 - 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** due to **population growth and urban expansion.**
 - **Other contributing factors include** rapidly rising food, fibre, and fuel demands, excessive grazing, abandonment (end of maintenance by pastoralists), and policies that incentivise overexploitation.



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