Reintroduction of Cheetahs

❖ Context

➢ Recently, the Union Environment Ministry said that **India is all set to bring cheetahs from South Africa to Madhya Pradesh's Kuno-Palpur National Park**.

❖ Key Highlights

- A **10 sq km enclosure** has reportedly been readied in the national park and would **soon house at least 6 cheetahs.**
- With help from the Wildlife Institute of India and the Wildlife Trust of India, the ministry will be translocating around **8-12 African cheetahs** from **South Africa, Namibia and Botswana** over a period of five years as per the Action Plan.
- These Cheetahs would be fitted with **Satellite/GSM-GPS-VHF radio-collars** before their release in the wild so as to enable monitoring remotely.
- The Asiatic cheetah is the **only large carnivore to have gone extinct** in Independent India in the 1950s due to hunting and loss of habitat.
- Asiatic Cheetahs around **40-50 found only in Iran.**
- **Translocation:**
  - The big cats will live at **Kuno Palpur National Park in Madhya Pradesh.**
  - It will be the **most suitable for cheetah translocation** in terms of habitat and an adequate prey base.
- **Significance:**
  - There are **two subspecies of cheetahs** recognized today:
    - The Asiatic (Acinonyx jubatus venaticus).
    - The African (Acinonyx jubatus jubatus).
  - Cheetah has been an **integral part of Indian ecosystems.**
  - It is a **major evolutionary force**, and an important cultural heritage.
  - Their restoration will likely result in **better conservation of open forest, grassland, and scrub ecosystems** for which they will serve as a flagship species.
- **Conservation Status of Asiatic Cheetah:**
  - **IUCN- Critically Endangered (African Cheetah is in Vulnerable Category).**
  - **CITES- Appendix 1 (Same as African Cheetah).**

Guidelines on Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022

❖ Context

➢ The **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** under the Department of Consumer Affairs has notified the guidelines in exercise of the powers conferred by **section 18** of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

❖ Aim

- The guidelines seek to ensure that consumers are not being fooled with **unsubstantiated claims, exaggerated promises, misinformation and false claims**.
- The CCPA has been established under **section 10** of the act for regulating matters relating to violation of the rights of the consumers, unfair trade practices and false or misleading advertisements.
- **Misleading Advertisements** have been defined under **section 2(28)** of the act.

❖ Advertisements Defined Under The Guidelines

- **Bait Advertisement :** an advertisement in which goods, product or service is offered for sale at a low price to attract consumers.
  - Guidelines laid down certain conditions for fulfilment by such advertisement.
- **Surrogate Advertisement :** an advertisement which circumvents an advertisement already prohibited under any rules/law by portraying it to be an advertisement for other goods, product or service, the advertising of which is not prohibited or restricted by law.
  - Guidelines have prohibited such type of advertisement.

❖ Free Claim Advertisements

- Guidelines prohibits advertisements to describe goods, service as 'free' or 'without charge' if :
  - A consumer has to pay for packing,handling, collecting or delivery.
  - Quality or quantity has been reduced.

❖ Children Targeted Advertisements

- Guidelines laid down certain conditions for such advertisements. Some of them are :
  - An **advertisement for junk foods**, including chips, carbonated beverages and such other snacks and drinks shall not be advertised during a program meant for children or on a channel meant exclusively for children.
  - Advertisements must not condone or encourage practices that are detrimental to children's physical health or mental wellbeing.
  - Advertisements must not feature **personalities from the field of sports, music or cinema** for products which under any law require a health warning for such advertisement or cannot be purchased by children.

IN-SPACe

❖ **Context**

- The PM inaugurated the headquarters of **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)** at **Bopal, Ahmedabad**.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- The establishment of IN-SPACe was announced in June 2020.
- It is an **autonomous and single window nodal agency** in the Department of Space for the promotion, encouragement and regulation of space activities of **both government and private entities**.
- IN-SPACe will work with ISRO and NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL), commercial arm of ISRO, to **transfer the technology or use of any facility** through NSIL **to the private sector**. The **global space industry** is worth ₹400 billion currently and is set to touch **₹1 trillion by 2040**. **India's participation is just 2% in this.**
- So far, IN-SPACe has received 67 proposals in the areas of launch vehicles, satellites, space applications, ground systems and research from entities across industries, MSMEs/startups, academia, NGOs and industrial associations and individuals.

Marijuana

❖ **Context**

- **Thailand becomes 1st Asian nation to make marijuana legal for medical use.**

❖ **Key Highlights**

- The government has warned that **smoking in public could still be considered to be a nuisance.**
- Thailand is **not** following the examples of **Uruguay and Canada**, the only two countries so far that have **legalised recreational marijuana** on a national basis.
- **Thailand's tropical climate is ideal for growing cannabis.**
- The country is known for its **Thai Stick variety**, which is named after the way its potent flowers are dried and tied into sticks and is the origin of many strains now grown overseas.

Section 66A

❖ **Context**

- A delegation from India is currently at the second session of the **UN-organised international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes** in **Vienna**.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- **India had proposed** before a United Nations (UN) ad-hoc committee to adopt measures similar to the section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000.
- The proposal was regarding introducing **domestic legislation** in member countries to categorise "**offensive messages" through "communication devices" like social media as 'offences'**.
- However, delegates from the **European Union, the United Kingdom, Georgia and Luxembourg** have **opposed** the country's proposal for being violative of the right to speech. **In 2015, the Supreme Court had struck down the particular section, calling it "unconstitutional".**

❖ **About the Committee**

- The ad-hoc committee was established by the General Assembly through a resolution. UNODC is serving as its secretariat.
- The ad-hoc committee is supposed to **submit a draft convention on countering cybercrime to the General Assembly's 78th session in 2023-24**. If passed, it will then be legally binding on all member nations of the committee.

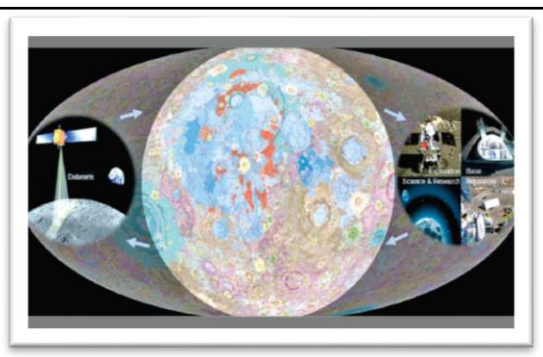
World's "Most Detailed" Moon Map

❖ **Context**

- **China** released the world's 'most detailed' map of the Moon recently.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- The new comprehensive geologic map of the moon is to a **scale of 1:2,500,000**, the "most detailed to date".



- Chinese scientists from multiple research institutes and universities have created the high resolution topographic map based on data from China's lunar exploration **Chang'e project** and other data and research findings from international organisations.
- The map includes 12,341 impact craters, 81 impact basins, 17 rock types and 14 types of structures, providing abundant information about geology of the moon and its evolution.

Dharohar

❖ **Context**

- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs would be dedicating to the nation 'Dharohar' – the **National Museum of Customs and GST** in **Panaji, Goa** as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic Week celebration.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- The museum is housed in Panaji's famous **Blue Building** on the banks of the **Mandovi River**.
- The two storey building, was earlier known as **Alfandega**, during the period of Portuguese rule in Goa. It has been standing at this place for more than 400 years.
- It showcases not only the **artefacts seized by Indian Customs** across the country but also depicts **basic customs procedures** for the knowledge of the general public.
- Notable among its displays are the **handwritten manuscript of Ain-i-Akbari**, replica of Amin pillars, seized metal & stone artefacts, ivory items & wildlife items.

Vale do Javari

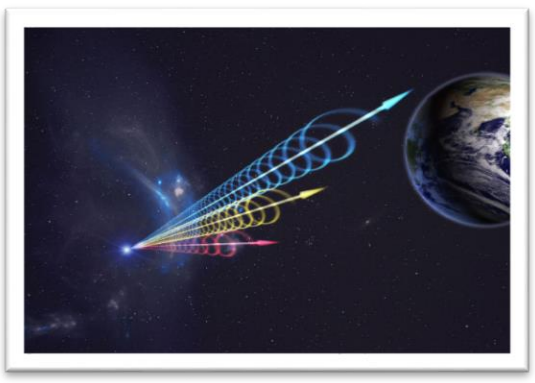
❖ **Context**

- Recently, a British journalist and Brazilian indigenous affairs expert went missing in a remote corner of the Amazon rainforest, called **Vale do Javari**.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- This **region is spread over 85,444 sq km.** It is **home to the greatest concentration of isolated groups** in the Amazon and the world.
- According to Brazil government's indigenous foundation - FUNAI, the area is **home to 14 different indigenous tribes with nearly 6,000 inhabitants**.
- These tribes are known to reject contact with the outside world.
- There are **repeated attempts to forcibly enter** their resource-rich territory.
- The communities living in the **Vale do Javari have been granted exclusive territorial rights** in Brazil's 1988 constitution and then in 2001 under the demarcation of indigenous territory.
- **Vale do Javari also forms part of an international cocaine trafficking route,** with gold being exchanged for drugs and arms, consequently making it a **hotspot for violent crimes.**

Fast Radio Burst (FRB)



❖ **Context**

- Recently, in a **paper published in Nature**, astronomers have **reported a fast radio burst (FRB).**

❖ **Key Highlights**

- Its **characteristics are different from almost all other FRBs** previously detected, except one. **Only one FRB** has been previously **observed to behave this way**. Called **FRB 121102**, it was discovered in 2012.

❖ **About FRB**

- FRBs are **bright flashes of light** that **appear for a few milliseconds** and then vanish. Since the **1st FRB was discovered in 2007**, 140 more were discovered until June 2021.
- Their **origins are unknown,** and their **appearance is unpredictable.** Among the candidates for the **sources of FRBs** are the **superdense neutron stars left over after a supernova**, or **magnetars** (neutron stars with ultra-strong magnetic fields).

- **Recent Study:** The new study in Nature describes FRB 20190520B, first discovered in 2019.
  - What makes it different is that unlike many other FRBs, **it emits frequent, repeating bursts of radio waves.**
  - Between bursts, it **constantly emits weaker radio waves.**

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

❖ Context

- Recently, the **U.N. nuclear watchdog's (IAEA)** 35-nation Board of Governors overwhelmingly **passed a resolution criticizing Iran** for failing to explain uranium traces found at three undeclared sites.

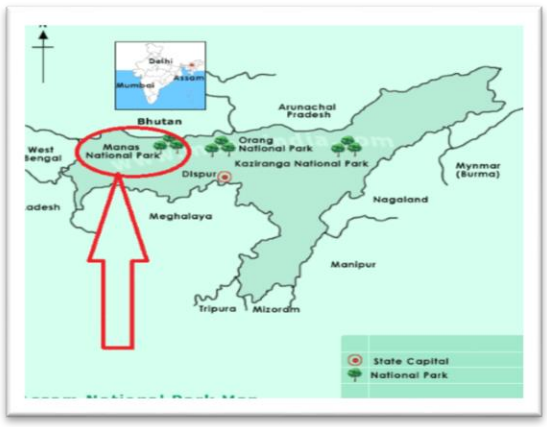
❖ Key Highlights

- **Only two countries, Russia and China, opposed** the text while **30 voted in favor** and **three abstained**.
- **India joined Pakistan and Libya in abstaining** from voting on the resolution.
- The resolution slammed Iran for its lack of cooperation with the global community on the nuclear issue.

❖ International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- The **IAEA was created in 1957** in response to the deep fears and expectations generated by the discoveries and diverse uses of nuclear technology.
- Though established independently of the United Nations through its own international treaty, the IAEA Statute, the **IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.**
- **Headquarter:** Vienna, Austria.
- **Functions:** It is a **nuclear watchdog** of the United Nations.
  - It **promotes the peaceful use of atomic energy** while trying to make sure that the technology is not used for military purposes.
  - The agency also **researches the use of atomic energy** in such areas as agriculture, industry and medicine.
  - It **shares expertise among its members** - especially those in the developing world - and sets safety standards.
  - The IAEA **advises its members** about developing and operating nuclear power stations and disposing of radioactive waste.

Manas National Park



❖ Context

- The **14th Assam rhino estimation census** has revealed that the **one-horned rhinos of western Assam's Manas National Park,** are expected to have **high life expectancy** and significant growth in population.

❖ Key Highlights

- A rhino reintroduction programme under the **Indian Rhino Vision 2020** was started in 2006.
- This entailed the **translocation of rhinos from Kaziranga National Park and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary** besides orphans hand-reared at the Center for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation at Kaziranga.
- The current rhino **population in the park was estimated at 40** after the census in April 2022

❖ Manas National Park

- Manas National Park besides being a **UNESCO world heritage site, is Project Tiger reserve, is biosphere reserve & is an elephant reserve** in Assam, India.
- It is **located in the Himalayan foothills**, it is **contiguous with Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan.**
- **River Manas,** a major tributary of the Brahmaputra, **divides this National Park into two halves** and **forms a border with Bhutan.**
- **Flora:** The combination of **Sub-Himalayan Bhabar Terai** and the **Himalayan subtropical broadleaf forests** makes Manas National Park one of the richest biodiversity in India.
- **Fauna:** The park is famous for its endangered and rare endemic wildlife such as the **hispid hare, Assam roofed turtle, pygmy hog, and golden langur.**
  - This national park is also **famous for its wild water buffalo population.**

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