Global Buddhist Summit

❖ Context

➢ Prime Minister will inaugurate the first Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi this week.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The Ministry of Culture in collaboration with its grantee body **International Buddhist Confederation will host the two-day Summit.**
- Eminent scholars, Sangha leaders and Dharma practitioners from all over the world will attend the Conference.
- The theme of the Global Buddhist Summit is - **Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis.**
- Discussions will be held on how to deal with contemporary challenges, with the help of Buddhist Philosophy and thought.

❖ Significance Of the Summit:

- This global Summit will mark the significance and importance of India in Buddhism, as **Buddhism was born in India.**
- This global summit will also be a medium **to enhance cultural and diplomatic relationships with other countries.**
- The prime vision of the Summit is to look into the **teachings of the Shakyamuni Buddha** that have been continuously enriched over the centuries with the practice of Buddha Dhamma.

❖ Buddha's Important Teachings:

- Buddha taught the Four Noble Truths:
  - existence is suffering,
  - suffering arises from craving,
  - suffering ends when craving ends,
  - the **path to the end of suffering is the Noble Eightfold Path.**
    - Right Understanding,
    - Right Intention,
    - Right Speech,
    - Right Action,
    - Right Livelihood,
    - Right Effort,
    - Right Mindfulness,
    - and Right Concentration.
- He also emphasized non-attachment, compassion, and the impermanence of all things.

International Big Cats Alliance

❖ Context

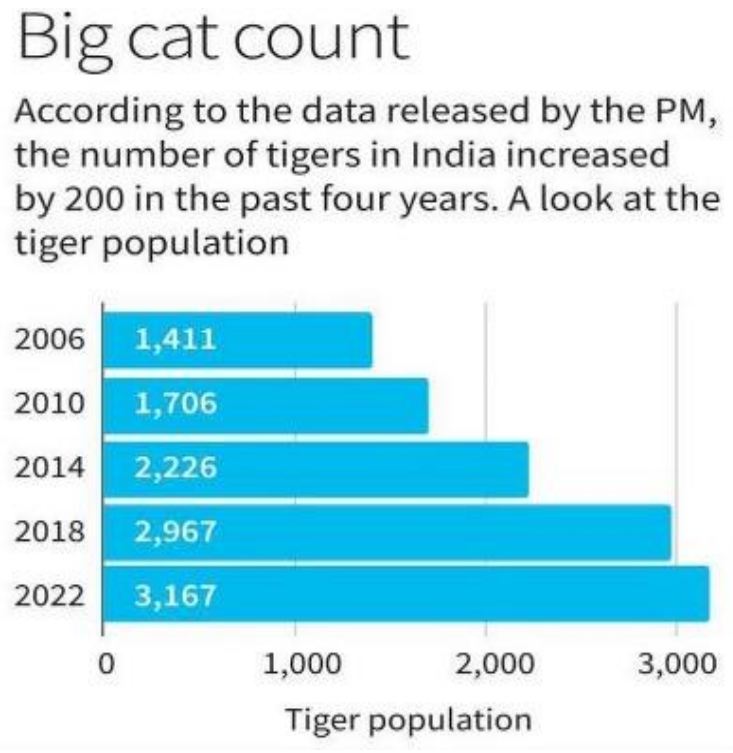
➢ Nepal has become a founding member of the **International Big Cats Alliance.**

❖ Key Highlights:

- Launched by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the alliance aims to conserve seven big cat species, including **tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma.**
- India has pledged support for the alliance with guaranteed funding of $100 million over five years.
- The tiger population in Nepal has shown significant growth, with the number of tigers increasing from **121 in 2010 to 335 in 2022.**
- This success is attributed to the collaborative efforts **of the government, local communities, security agencies, and conservation partners** in implementing effective conservation strategies.

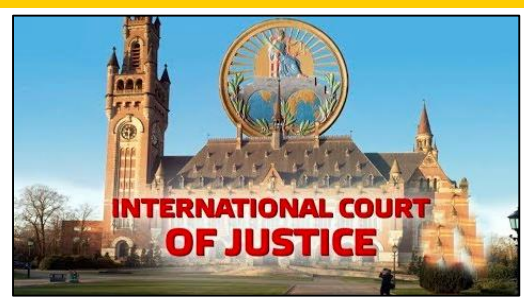
❖ Significance:

- This initiative is a significant step towards the conservation of big cats, which face various threats, **including habitat loss, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict.**
- Nepal's commitment to being a founding member of the alliance showcases its **dedication to conservation** efforts and the protection of wildlife.



Steady rise: A tiger at Van Vihar National Park in Bhopal on Sunday. PTI

International Court of Justice



❖ Context

➢ Earlier this month, the **International Court of Justice at The Hague** rejected the **Myanmar junta's appeal** for a 10-month reprieve to file a counter-memorial - or reply - to The Gambia's case that Myanmar was in breach of the international Genocide Convention.

❖ Key Highlights

- The case relates to the Myanmar military's "clearing" operations in 2017 in Rakhine state.
- In that operation many **Rohingya were killed** or subjected to atrocities, and lakhs were forced to flee to Bangladesh.

❖ International Court of Justice

- It is a principal **judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).**
- **Established** in June 1945.
- Successor to the **Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ).**
- **Headquarter :** Hague.
  - The only one of the six principal organs of the UN that is not located in New York City.
- The judges of the court are **assisted by a Registry**, the administrative organ of the ICJ.
- **English and French** are the ICJ's official languages.
- **All members of the UN** are automatically parties to the **ICJ statute.**
  - But this **does not automatically give the ICJ jurisdiction** over disputes involving them.
- The ICJ gets jurisdiction only if both parties consent to it.
- The judgment of the ICJ is **final and technically binding** on the parties to a case.
  - **No provision of appeal.**
- **Judges of the court :**
  - The ICJ has **15 judges** who are elected to **nine-year terms** by the UN General Assembly and Security Council, which vote simultaneously but separately.
  - To be elected, a **candidate must receive a majority of the votes** in both bodies.
  - A third of the court is elected **every three years.**
  - The **president and vice-president** of the court are elected for **three-year terms** by secret ballot.
  - Judges are **eligible for re-election**.
  - **Four Indians** have been members of the ICJ so far.
  - Justice Dalveer Bhandari, former judge of the Supreme Court, has been serving at the ICJ since 2012.
- **Functions :**
  - To **settle legal disputes** submitted by States in accordance with established international laws.
  - To act as an **advisory board** on issues submitted to it by authorized international organizations.

Group of Seven (G7)

❖ Context

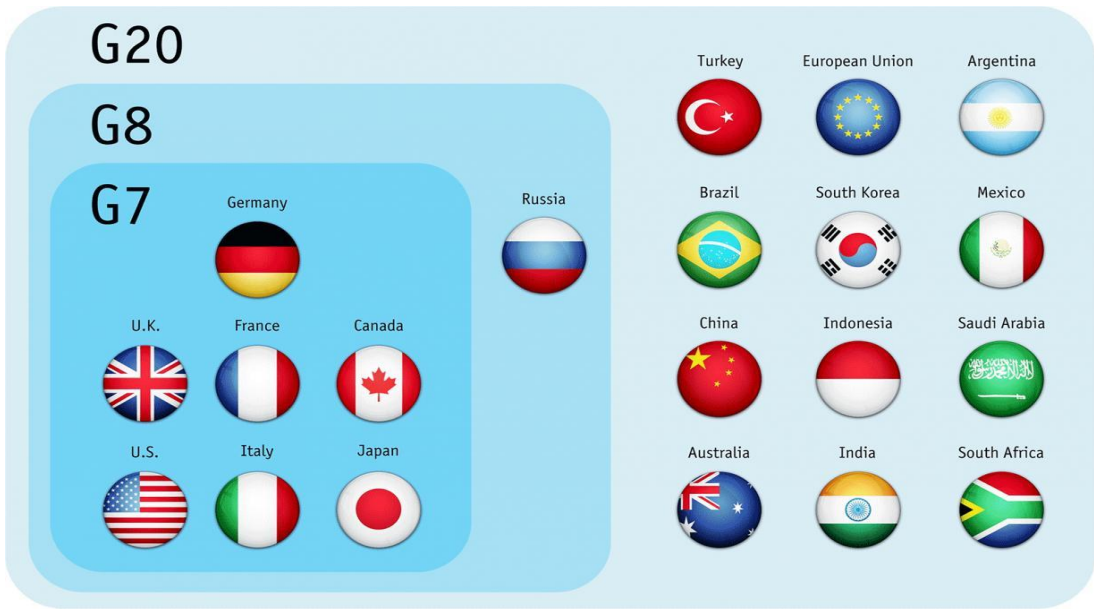
➢ Climate and Energy Ministers and envoys from Group of Seven (G7) countries on April 16, 2023 committed to work towards **ensuring carbon-free electricity production by 2035 and "accelerating" the phase-out of coal.**

❖ Key Highlights

- This was part of an agreement by the countries at the end of a two-day conference in Sapporo, Japan, ahead of the G7 summit in Hiroshima this May.
- Environment Minister of India had also participated in the summit with India being invited as a 'guest', in the context of its presidency of the G-20.

❖ About G7

- The G7 (Group of Seven) is an **organization of the world's seven largest so-called "advanced" economies.**
- They dominate global trade and the international financial system.
- Together the member countries represent **40% of global GDP and 10% of the world's population.**
- They are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the United States.
- **Russia joined in 1998,** creating the G8, but **was excluded in 2014** for its takeover of Crimea.
- The **EU is not a member of the G7** but attends the annual summit.
- The G7 has **no legal existence, permanent secretariat or official members.**
- It also has no binding impact on policy and all decisions and commitments made at G7 meetings need to be ratified independently by governing bodies of member states.



News in Between the Lines

Heat Stroke

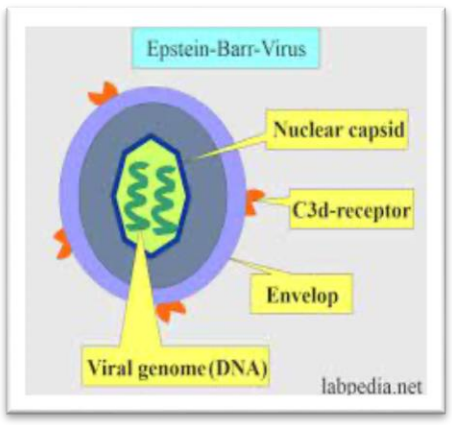
❖ **Context**

- Recently, Eleven people died due to heatstroke after they attended a large public gathering in the open in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- A heat stroke o**r sunstroke is the result of overheating of the body as a result of exposure to high temperatures and humidity**, or due to prolonged physical exertion at high temperatures.
- A heat stroke is considered to be a medical emergency that requires prompt attention.
- When the **body fails to sweat and is therefore unable to lose heat** by **evaporation**, there is an increase in the core temperature of the body.
- If the **body fails to cool down**, its core temperature can shoot up to 106 degrees Fahrenheit within a few minutes.
- This can cause severe health implications including death.
- Persons suffering from heat exhaustion experience fatigue, dizziness, headache, nausea, vomiting, hypotension (low BP) and tachycardia (increased heart rate).

Epstein-Barr virus (EBV)



❖ **Context**

- Recently, a study published in the journal Nature shows that a **virus that is primarily spread through saliva can evolve into cancer.**

❖ **Key Highlights**

- The virus is called **Epstein-Barr virus or EBV** and it is the cause of infectious mononucleosis or mono and other infections.
- This virus can be **transmitted when people kiss, or share drinks or food** and affects more than 90 per cent of the world's population.
- The virus frequently comes with **no symptoms.**
- Most EBV infections are small and transient, however, in some cases, the virus can go dormant and reactivate later.
- Long-lasting latent infections, i.e., infections by an organism that has for some time been inactive in the body, are associated with a number of cancers as well as several chronic inflammatory disorders.
- The virus induces cleavage of human chromosome 11, and triggers genomic instability, which can activate a leukaemia-causing oncogene and reduce the function of a major tumour suppressor.
- There is **no vaccine** to protect against EBV infection.

Sudan

❖ **Context**

- Recently, a power struggle between Sudan's army and a notorious paramilitary force has rocked the country, with more than 50 civilians reported dead.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- It was the **largest and one of the most geographically diverse states** in Africa, until its **split into two countries in 2011** after southern Sudan voted for independence.
- This followed decades of struggle by the mainly Christian and Animist south against rule by the Arab Muslim north.
- Modern Sudan has long been beset by conflict and instability since independence, with two lengthy north-south civil wars and a protracted war in the western region of Darfur.
- **Key Facts :**
  - Capital: Khartoum.
  - Area: 1,886,068 sq km.
  - Population: 47.9 million.
  - Languages: Arabic, English.
- **Land :** Sudan is bounded on the north by Egypt, on the east by the Red Sea, Eritrea, and Ethiopia, on the south by South Sudan, on the west by the Central African Republic and Chad, and on the northwest by Libya.
- Sudan is mainly composed of vast plains and plateaus that are drained by the Nile River and its tributaries.

Garra Laishrami

❖ **Context**

➢ In a significant discovery, researchers from Central University of Odisha & Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have found **a rare freshwater fish in the Koraput district.**

❖ **Key Highlights**

- The cyprinid fish species which can be consumed have been seen so far in **Kolab river,** one of the major **tributaries of Godavari.**
- After careful examination of the fish and others of Garra genus, the researchers identified the species and named it **'Garra Laishrami'.**
- The species was named after Dr Laishram Kosygin of the ZSI to honour his remarkable contributions to understanding the taxonomy of Indian freshwater fishes.
- Fishes of genus Garra are characterised by the presence of a gular disc developed from tissues of the gular region that exhibit variation in the size, shape, and arrangement of the snout tubercles.
- These groups of fishes are generally **distributed from Borneo, southern China and southern Asia through Middle East Asia, Arabian Peninsula and East Africa to West Africa.** The Garra Laishrami has been found so far in **Kolab river only.**
- The maximum length of the fish is **76 mm to 95.5 mm.**
- The species is **edible and local people consume it.**

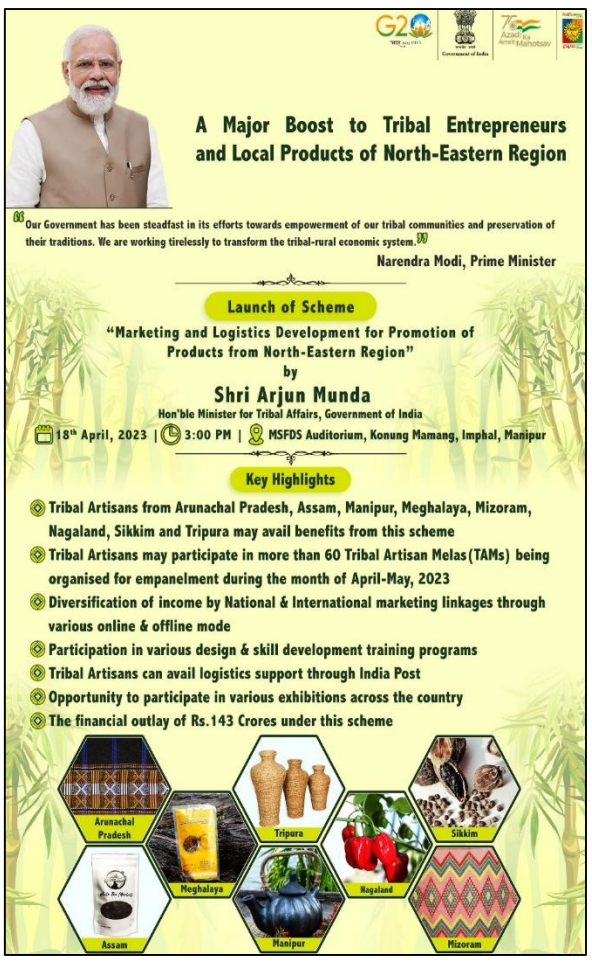
PTP-NER Scheme

❖ **Context**

➢ Tribal Affairs Minister recently launched **Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products** from North-Eastern Region (PTP-NER) scheme in Manipur.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- The scheme has been introduced for the benefit of **Scheduled Tribes of the North-Eastern Region.**
- It has the vision to strengthen livelihood opportunities for tribal artisans through increased efficiency in **procurement, logistics and marketing of tribal products** from North Eastern States.
- The scheme will apply to the States of **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.**
- As part of the scheme, it is planned to initiate empanelment of tribal artisans from North Eastern Region by organizing **68 Tribal Artisan Melas** in various districts of the region.



CL-Flam

❖ **Context**

➢ IIT Indore, NASA-Caltech, and Sweden's University of Gothenburg have developed a low-cost camera setup called CL-Flam for capturing **multispectral images of four chemical species in a flame using a single DSLR camera.**

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- The CL-Flam device can revolutionize scientific imaging by simplifying the complex system that previously required four cameras to capture the same data.
- The international team behind the device is looking to explore its applications in biomedical imaging, ultrafast imaging, multidimensional, and other advanced studies.
- The primary objective of the research behind CL-Flam was to **study the combustion of fuels and improve the efficiency** of engines and burners while reducing carbon emissions.
- The device can help companies analyze :
  - the **elements released due** to fuel combustion in industrial burners and engines,
  - allowing for necessary improvements in engines and burners to ensure optimum and environment-friendly use of fuels during combustion.

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