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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

07 October 2023

### National and International News

<p><b>Delhi AQI turns 'poor'</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b> Recently the <b>Stage 1 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)</b> was imposed in the National Capital Region (NCR) as its <b>Air Quality Index (AQI)</b> slipped into the <b>poor category</b>.</p> <p><b>Graded Response Action Plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is a <b>set of emergency measures</b> to prevent the deterioration of air quality.</li><li>• The GRAP was first notified in January 2017 by the <b>Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change</b>.</li><li>• The <b>Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)</b> has constituted a sub-committee for the operationalization of the GRAP.</li><li>• GRAP is divided into <b>four stages according to the quality of air</b></li><li>• The measures taken under the stages are from stage-1 to stage-4. <b>Stage-4 being the most severe</b>.</li></ul>
<p><b>Air Quality Index (AQI)</b></p>	<p><b>About</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It was launched by the central government in <b>2014</b>.</li><li>• It was launched as <b>a part of the Swachh Bharat campaign</b>.</li><li>• The AQI transforms complex air quality data of various pollutants into a single number (index value), nomenclature and color.</li><li>• The pollutants measured include-<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>PM 10</b></li><li>2. <b>PM 2.5</b></li><li>3. <b>Nitrogen Dioxide</b></li><li>4. <b>Ozone</b></li><li>5. <b>Carbon Monoxide</b></li><li>6. <b>Sulphur dioxide</b></li><li>7. <b>Ammonia</b>.</li></ol></li><li>• The <b>colour-coded AQI index</b> helps the public and the government understand the condition of the air.</li><li>• <b>0-50 is good category represented by Green</b></li><li>• <b>401-500 is a severe category represented by dark red</b>, it affects healthy people and seriously impacts those with existing disease.</li></ul>



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Person in news: Babloo Loitongbam.



### Context

The **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** has recently **intervened** and urged the authorities to protect the family of a **Manipur-based human rights activist**.

### Key facts.

- Babloo Loitongbam is a human rights activist in Manipur.
- His house was attacked for criticizing Meiti group
- He is a lawyer, anthropologist and **internationally acclaimed human rights activist**.
- He belongs to the Meitei community.
- Bablu Loitongbam has been working to protect human rights in North-East India for more than 20 years.
- Bablu has **prepared a human rights curriculum**.
- Through the curriculum **he prepares traditional village institutions to organize in new ways against growing human rights challenges in the region**.

**United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**

### About

- The Council was **established by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 March 2006**.
- It was established to replace the United Nations Commission on Human Rights
- It is a **United Nations body**.
- Its mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world
- the **Council has 47 members elected for three-year terms** on a regional group basis
- The headquarters of the Council is in **Geneva, Switzerland**.



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Two out of five amphibians are facing extinction threat due to climate change: study



### Context

A new paper has found that **climate change is emerging as one of the biggest threats to reptiles**(frogs, salamanders, and caecilians) around the world.

### Key facts

- The study is based on the **second global amphibian assessment coordinated by the Amphibian Red List Authority.**
- **Amphibian Red List Authority** is a branch of the Amphibian Specialist Group of the **International Union for Conservation of Nature's** Species Survival Commission.
- **It is managed by Re:wild, a wildlife conservation group.**
- More than 1,000 experts across the globe, including **scientists and researchers from Assam-based biodiversity conservation organization, Aaranyak,** and other Indian institutions, contributed their data and expertise.
- **These data will be published on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.**

### Did you know?

Climate change and habitat destruction are the biggest threat for amphibians in large part because they are particularly sensitive to changes in their environment.

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**MPC leaves benchmark interest rates unchanged**

### Context

Monetary Policy Committee Decides to keep the **policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50%** amid high inflation rate.

### Key facts

- The RBI forecast GDP growth for 2023-24 at 6.5% and its forecast for **average CPI inflation for the current fiscal year at 5.4%**.
- The overall inflation outlook was clouded by **uncertainties that included the fall in kharif sowing for key crops**.

### Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) **decides on key interest rates like repo, reverse repo**.
- It has **six members**—three central bank officials and three government nominees—**headed by the RBI governor**.
- It has the responsibility for **fixing key policy rates (interest rates) in the country**.
- The MPC attempts to contain inflation and accordingly formulates monetary policy measures in order to influence interest rates.

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RBI allows tokenization of debit or credit.

### Context

To secure online transactions, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **proposed to allow banks to “tokenize” debit or credit cards.**

### Card-on-File tokenization(CoF)

- Tokenization is a process by which **card details are replaced by a unique token or code.**
- It allows online purchases to go through **without exposing the sensitive details.**
- Card-on-File Tokenization (CoFT) Services **will be started from 1st October, 2022.**
- Under the system, the **merchants will not be allowed to store your card number, CVV and expiry date** for processing online transactions.
- Any existing details that were saved by merchants will be deleted.
- The regulation is **applicable to all Debit & Credit cards.**
- Once the card is tokenized these **token details will be used to initiate online payments instead of actual card number** to process transactions.
- A customer will be able to **identify his card number with the last 4 digits and bank name.**
- there is **no limit to the number of transactions** that can be done from a tokenized card.



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### Nuclear test treaty

#### Context

Russian lawmakers have informed that they can consider revoking the ratification of a global nuclear test ban.

#### Key facts

- **Statement comes after the** Russian President Vladimir Putin's **warning to consider rescinding the ratification of the international pact** banning nuclear tests **since the United States has never ratified it.**

#### Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

- It is a **global agreement that prohibits all forms of nuclear test explosions across the globe.**
- The Treaty was deliberated at the Conference on **Disarmament in Geneva in 1994.**
- The treaty was later adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.
- The Treaty was opened for signature in 1996 and has since been **endorsed by 184 countries.**
- **India is not one of the signatories** of this treaty.

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