



18 Oct 2024

National and International News

<p><b>International Solar Alliance Assembly</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The curtain raiser for the <b>Seventh Session</b> of the <b>International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly</b> was recently hosted in <b>New Delhi</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>About International Solar Alliance Assembly:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Apex decision-making body</b> of the <b>International Solar Alliance (ISA)</b>.</li><li>• Represents each Member Country and makes decisions on the ISA Framework Agreement and coordinated actions.</li><li>• <b>Key Functions:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Selects the Director General and <b>oversees the functioning of the ISA</b>.</li><li>○ Approves the operating budget and <b>assesses the deployment of solar energy</b>.</li><li>○ <b>Evaluates solar energy programmes</b> in terms of performance, reliability, cost, and scale of finance.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Meetings:</b> Held <b>annually</b> at the ministerial level at the ISA's seat.</li><li>• <b>Membership:</b> <b>120 countries signed</b> the ISA Framework Agreement; 102 countries have ratified it to become full members.</li><li>• <b>Leadership:</b> The <b>Republic of India serves as President of the ISA Assembly</b>, and <b>France holds the position of co-president</b>.</li><li>• <b>Seventh Session Focus:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Empower Member Countries to adopt solar energy.</li><li>○ Support solar entrepreneurs for universal energy access.</li><li>○ Mobilize finance to accelerate solar deployment.</li></ul></li></ul>
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<p><b>Third-Party Litigation Funding (TPLF)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Third-Party Litigation Funding (TPLF)</b> has rapidly become a game-changer, <b>providing access to the courtroom for those previously unable to pursue legal action.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About TPLF:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>financial arrangement</b> where a <b>third party</b>, with no prior connection to the litigation, <b>funds the plaintiff's legal claim.</b></li> <li>• In return, the <b>third-party funder receives a portion of the proceeds if the case is successful.</b></li> <li>• <b>Plaintiffs do not have to repay the funding if the lawsuit is unsuccessful.</b></li> <li>• <b>Purpose and Advantages:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Allows entities to pursue lawsuits without bearing the financial risks</b> of litigation.</li> <li>○ <b>Levels the playing field between parties</b> with differing financial resources.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Key Drivers of TPLF:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Escalating legal costs.</li> <li>○ Increased complexity of modern litigation.</li> <li>○ Desire to support under-resourced plaintiffs in high-stakes legal disputes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>TPLF in India:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Not expressly prohibited in India.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Several judgments recognize the benefits of TPLF</b> and emphasize the need for regulation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>SAMARTH Scheme</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>central government has extended the Samarth Scheme for two years</b> (FY 2024-25 and 2025-26) with a budget of Rs. 495 crore to train 3 lakh individuals in textile-related skills.</li> </ul> <p><b>About SAMARTH Scheme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scheme:</b> SAMARTH (<b>Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Type:</b> Demand-driven and placement-oriented umbrella skilling programme.</li> <li>• <b>Aim:</b> To <b>incentivize and supplement industry efforts in job creation in organized textile and related sectors</b>, excluding Spinning and Weaving.</li> <li>• <b>Focus:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Covers the entire value chain of textiles.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Includes both entry-level skilling and upskilling/reskilling to improve productivity, especially in Apparel &amp; Garmenting segments.</li> <li>● <b>Nodal Ministry:</b> Ministry of Textiles.</li> </ul>
Kaziranga National Park	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Kaziranga National Park (KNP) in Assam</b> is home to over 446 butterfly species, making it the <b>second-highest butterfly habitat in India</b>, after <b>Namdapha National Park in Arunachal Pradesh</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Kaziranga National Park:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Location:</b> Situated in the north-eastern part of India in the districts of <b>Golaghat</b> and <b>Nagaon, Assam</b>.</li> <li>● <b>Significance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The single largest undisturbed and representative area in the Brahmaputra Valley floodplain.</li> <li>○ Declared a <b>UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Rivers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Difalu River</b>, a tributary of the Brahmaputra, flows through the core tiger habitat.</li> <li>○ <b>Moradifalu River</b> flows along the southern boundary.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Flora:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Known for dense, tall elephant grass and small swamplands.</li> <li>○ Water lilies, water hyacinths, lotus, and Rattan Cane (a climbing palm) are found here.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Fauna:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Home to endangered species</b> like the one-horned rhinoceros, tiger, eastern swamp deer, elephant, buffalo, hoolock gibbon, capped langur, and Gangetic River dolphin.</li> <li>○ <b>World's largest population of one-horned rhinoceroses resides here.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

Why in the news?

- The Centre's air pollution control panel recently directed state governments in Delhi-NCR to implement the first stage of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

About GRAP:

- GRAP (Graded Response Action Plan) is a framework to combat air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region.
- It serves as an emergency response mechanism triggered when the AQI reaches "poor" levels, especially important during winter months.
- Who Implements GRAP?
  - Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and adjoining areas oversees the implementation.
  - Collaborates with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- Stages of GRAP:
  - Stage I: "Poor" air quality (AQI: 201-300)
  - Stage II: "Very Poor" air quality (AQI: 301-400)
  - Stage III: "Severe" air quality (AQI: 401-450)
  - Stage IV: "Severe+" air quality (AQI > 450)

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