

## Prelim Bits 16-03-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### McMahon Line

*The United States recognises the McMahon Line as the international boundary between China and India in Arunachal Pradesh.*

- The bipartisan resolution introduced in the upper chamber of Congress reaffirms that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India.
- **McMahon Line** - The McMahon Line serves as the *de facto* boundary between China and India in the Eastern Sector.
- It specifically represents the boundary between Arunachal Pradesh and Tibet, from Bhutan in the west to Myanmar in the east.
- China has historically disputed the boundary and claims the state of Arunachal Pradesh as part of the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR).
  - **India's stand:** India recognises Simla Convention (1914) and Arunachal is controlled by India.
  - **China's position:** China calls Arunachal Pradesh as 'Zangnan' and refers to 'South Tibet'.



- **History of McMahon Line** - It is named after Sir Henry McMahon, foreign secretary of British India, who drew the line.
- McMahon line is an 890-km border drew between British India and Tibet.
- It was drawn at the **1914 Simla Convention** between the Great Britain, China, and Tibet.
- The border was drawn largely along the crest of the Himalayas, following the 'highest watershed principle'.

- The People's Republic of China occupied Tibet in the 1950s, never recognized the McMahon Line.
- Further China claims approximately 90,000 sq. km of territory in Arunachal Pradesh of India as its own.
- The McMahon Line is in alignment with the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Eastern Sector.

#### Line of Actual Control

- The LAC separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory.
- It is divided into 3 sectors:
  - Eastern Sector (Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim)
  - Middle Sector (Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh)
  - Western Sector (Ladakh)

## References

1. [IE - What is the McMahon Line?](#)
2. [IE - The disputed LAC and China's claims over Arunachal](#)

## Willow Project

*The Joe Biden-led United States administration formally approved the controversial Willow project in Alaska.*

- Willow Project is a massive and decades-long oil drilling venture on Alaska's North Slope in the National Petroleum Reserve.
- The National Petroleum Reserve is owned by the federal government.
- It is located about 320 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle.
- The area where the project is planned holds up to 600 million barrels of oil.
- The project is yet to be constructed and the oil would take years to reach the market.



- **Project Timeline** - The project was proposed by ConocoPhillip, a Houston-based

energy company exploring in Alaska.

- It was originally approved by the Trump administration in 2020 for 5 drill pads, which was reduced to 3 by the Biden administration.
- **Controversy** - The project is hugely controversial for its likely environmental impact.
- The project would generate enough oil to release 278 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year.
- It also raises concerns about danger to freshwater sources and threats to migratory birds, caribou, whales and other animals that inhabit the region.

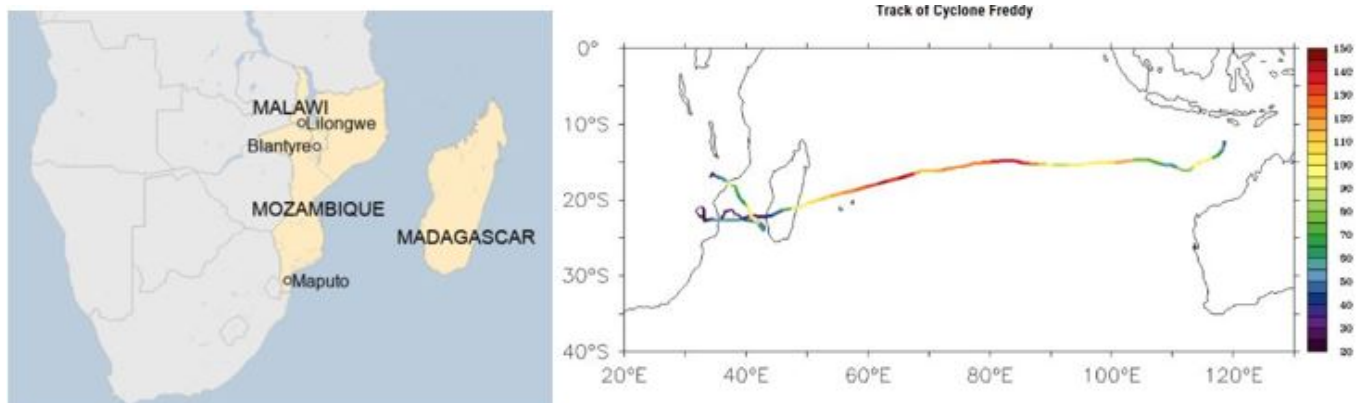
## References

1. [Down To Earth - Biden approves the Willow project](#)
2. [CNN - The Willow Project has been approved](#)

## Cyclone Freddy

*Cyclone Freddy dissipated over Malawi in March 2023 after a record-breaking 37-day stint over the southern Indian Ocean and Africa.*

- **Traverse Path** - Cyclone Freddy first developed off the North Australian coast and tracked across the entire southern Indian Ocean.
- Cyclone Freddy covered a total distance of more than 8,000 km during its lifetime and periodically weakened below the tropical storm status.
- **Landfall** - The cyclone made landfall thrice — once in Madagascar and twice in Mozambique.



- **Records** - The records made by Cyclone Freddy are yet to be validated by WMO.
- Cyclone Freddy is the longest lived [tropical cyclone](#) ever recorded in any of Earth's oceans.
- It lasted for 37 days and broke the record of 31 days set by Hurricane John in 1994.
- It also broke the record for the highest accumulated cyclone energy (ACE) at 87.01 units, breaking the record of 85.27 units by Hurricane Ioke in 2006.
- Cyclone Freddy is the first tropical cyclone ever to experience 7 phases of rapid intensification (RI) over its lifetime. (previous record - 4 RI phases)

*Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) is the total wind energy generated by a tropical cyclone throughout its lifetime and is calculated as the square of peak*

*wind speed, observed, calculated and added every 6 hours.*

*Rapid Intensification (RI) is when a tropical cyclone gains wind speeds of more than 55 kilometres per hour in a period of 24 hours.*

## **References**

1. [Down To Earth - The cyclone that lived longest: Cyclone Freddy](#)

## **Doha Political Declaration**

*The Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) concluded with adoption of the 'Doha Political Declaration'.*

*The Sustainable Development Report 2022 flagged that the LDCs are the worst performers on the progress made towards achieving SDGs.*

- To know about UN list of Least Developed Country - [Click here](#).
- The Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) for the Decade (2022-2031) was agreed upon during the first part of the LDC5 conference at New York in 2022.
- The second part of LDC5 conference held under the theme 'From Potential to Prosperity' at Qatar in March, 2023.
- The declaration adopted in the second part of LDC5 focuses on implementing the DPoA.
- The DPoA is the 10-year plan to put the world's 46 most vulnerable countries back on track to achieving the UN-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- **Focus Area** - DPoA (2022-2031) consisted of 6 key focus areas including



- **Deliverables** - The 5 key deliverables from the DPoA are - an online university, a graduation support package, a food stock holding solution, an investment support centre and a crisis mitigation and resilience building mechanism.
- They will answer key challenges facing the LDCs, and set the path for a more prosperous, equitable future.

## References

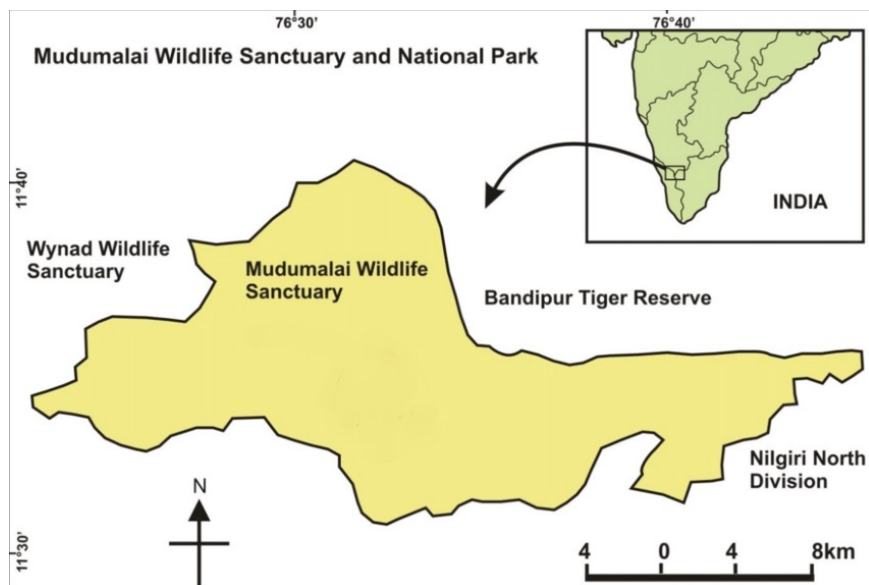
1. [Down To Earth - Doha Political Declaration adopted at LCD5](#)
2. [United Nations - LDC5 - Doha Programme of Action](#)

## Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

*The Oscar for Best Documentary Short was announced for 'The Elephant Whisperers' which revolves around a family who adopts 2 orphan baby elephants in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and rears them.*

- Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) is located in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu.
- It is at the tri-junction of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- The Tiger Reserve comprises of the wildlife sanctuary and the national park of the same name.
- It forms a part of the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve.
- It has a common boundary with [Wyanad Wildlife Sanctuary](#) (Kerala) on the West, Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka) on the North.

- The Moyar River flows downstream into the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and is the natural line of division between Mudumalai and Bandipur Sanctuary.



### Theppakadu Elephant Camp

- Theppakadu Elephant Camp is located deep inside the Mudumalai National Park in the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu.
- The Elephant camp located on the bank of the river Moyar, was established way back in 1927.
- It is the oldest elephant camp in Asia.
- The Camp elephants consist of rescued and captured conflict animals.
- They are tamed at this camp and trained to become 'kumki' elephants meant to help in the capture of wild elephants.
- These elephants are mainly used in Human- Wild animal conflicts, Forest Mansoon patrolling, eco-tourism, elephant conservation, Education etc.

### References

1. [The Hindu - Elephant whisperers Bomman, Bellie move on](#)
2. [The Hindu - Theppakadu camp in Mudumalai](#)
3. [Mudumalai Tiger Reserve](#)