



05 February 2024

National and International News

<p>66th Annual Grammy Awards</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 66th Annual Grammy Awards, hosted by Trevor Noah, showcased the music industry's elite at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, California. <p>Best Global Music Album: Shakti's "This Moment"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musicians Shankar Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain's fusion band Shakti won the Grammy Award for Best Global Music Album with their latest release, "This Moment." The group, including guitarist John McLaughlin and others, received recognition for their exceptional contribution to global music. <p>Album of the Year: Taylor Swift's "Midnights"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift secured the highly anticipated Album of the Year award for her album "Midnights," surpassing notable nominees such as SZA, Jon Batiste, and others. <p>Record of the Year: Miley Cyrus' "Flowers"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Miley Cyrus' hit "Flowers" bagged the Record of the Year award, adding to the night's diverse musical achievements. <p>Song of the Year: Billie Eilish's "What Was I Made For?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Billie Eilish's soulful ballad "What Was I Made For?" from Greta Gerwig's fantasy comedy Barbie was named the Song of the Year, contributing to the celebration of musical excellence. <p>Trevor Noah's Fourth Hosting Stint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South African comedian and writer Trevor Noah hosted the Grammy Awards for the fourth time, infusing humor and charisma into the evening.
<p>India Energy Week 2024</p>	<p>Context:</p>



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Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate India second edition of **Energy Week 2024 in Goa** on Tuesday.

Overview:

- The Energy Week, scheduled from February 6 to 9, will be India's largest energy exhibition and conference.
- It aims to achieve '**aatmanirbharta**' in energy and will include a roundtable with global oil & gas CEOs, emphasizing India's energy transition goals.
- Around **17 energy ministers** from different countries are expected to attend, showcasing a global perspective.
- **The event will focus on encouraging and integrating startups into the energy value chain, fostering innovation.**
- The Energy Week will have six dedicated country pavilions- **Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Russia, the UK and the USA.**
- Organized by the **Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry** under the aegis of the **ministry of petroleum and natural gas**, India Energy Week, 2024 would provide a platform for discussions, knowledge exchange, and collaboration among industry experts, policy makers, academia and entrepreneurs.

Micro Credentials - In Higher Education

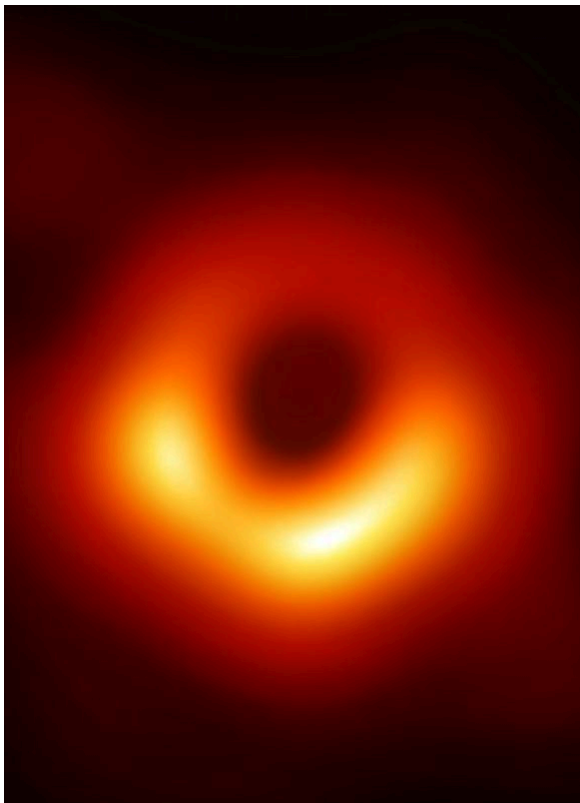
Context:

- **Higher education institutes (HEIs)** in India are urged to actively **address the employability gap** among students by connecting them with future career opportunities.
- The disparity between knowledge acquired in HEIs and the skills needed for employment highlights the need for innovative solutions.

Understanding Micro-Credentials:

- Micro-credentials are **short-duration learning activities** with validated outcomes, offered online, physically, or in hybrid modes.
- Unlike traditional degrees, which require several years of study, **micro-credentials provide a 'just-in-time' approach** to acquiring modern skills.
- They cater to lifelong learners, including working professionals unable to attend formal degree programs.
- **Micro-credentials**, being portable and



	<p>stackable on digital platforms like the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), offer students the flexibility to integrate diverse skills into their education.</p> <p>Way forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian HEIs(Higher Educational Institutions) must embrace the role of agents of transformation by incorporating micro-credentials into their strategic goals. • Regulators and HEIs should collaborate to harmonize micro-credentials with existing academic programs, establishing clear validation metrics.
<p>Ergosphere: making a black hole work</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotating black holes, also known as Kerr black holes, originate from massive stars that exhaust their fuel, leading to a supernova explosion. • The remaining core collapses under its own gravity, forming a black hole. <p>Nature of Black Hole Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The core of a black hole contains a gravitational singularity, where the principles of general relativity break down. • The immense gravitational pull of a black hole originates from this singularity. <p>Event Horizon and Singularity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The event horizon, a spherical boundary around the singularity, prevents anything from escaping once inside, unless it surpasses the speed of light—an impossibility. • The gravitational pull of the black hole is experienced beyond this boundary. <p>Ergosphere:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beyond the event horizon, rotating black holes possess an ergosphere, a larger sphere allowing objects to enter and exit if moving rapidly, but still below the speed of light. • The term 'ergosphere' is derived from the Greek word 'ergon,' meaning 'work.' • It is named so because matter and energy can be extracted from the ergosphere, unlike beyond the event horizon.
<p>C-CARES Web Portal</p>	<p>Context:</p>



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Union Minister of Coal, Mines, and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pralhad Joshi, recently inaugurated the C-CARES web portal developed by C-DAC for CMPFO.

Key points:

- C-CARES, designed by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**, addresses the digitalization challenges of CMPFO, aiming to modernize its record-keeping and operational processes.
- Established in **1948** under the Ministry of Coal, **CMPFO is an autonomous organization** managing Provident Fund and Pension schemes for coal sector workers.
- Currently, it serves 3.3 lakh Provident Fund subscribers and 6.1 lakh pensioners in the coal sector.

Kerala Regional News

World Cancer Day



Context:

- **World Cancer Day is observed annually on February 4th**
- It was **initiated on February 4, 2000**, at the **World Summit Against Cancer for the New Millennium in Paris**.
- It aims to **unite the world** in the fight against cancer.
- **Between 2022 and 2024**, the focus of **World Cancer Day is to help “Close the cancer gap.”**
- The **theme** for this year is **“Together, we challenge those in power”**.
- This theme encompasses the global demand for leaders to prioritize and invest in cancer prevention and care and to do more to achieve a just and cancer-free world

About:




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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancer is a complex group of diseases characterized by uncontrolled cell growth that can invade and damage surrounding tissues. • It often arises from genetic mutations within cells, leading to abnormal proliferation and disruptions in the body's natural regulatory mechanisms. • While cancer can affect any part of the body, various factors influence individual risk and specific types.
<p>Kerala govt hikes honorarium of over 26,000 ASHA workers</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kerala government has hiked the honorarium of over 26,000 ASHA workers in the state by Rs 1000. • A total of Rs 31.36 crore has been sanctioned for the distribution of the wages of ASHA workers during the months of January and February. • With this, the remuneration of ASHA workers in the state would go upto Rs 7,000 and 26,126 people would benefit. • The hike is retroactive from last December.
<p>Preliminary report on Thiruvananthapuram metro project submitted</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A preliminary report about the detailed project report (DPR) of the metro rail project in the capital has been submitted to the Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). • The project will be a medium metro similar to Kochi Metro, spanning 27.4 km in phase 1 and 14.7 km in phase 2.
<p>Collaboration between RINK of KSUM and IAV</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In an effort to collaborate the startup ecosystem with research and development institutions (R&D) in the state, the Research Innovation Network Kerala (RINK) of Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) had a productive interaction with the scientific community at the Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV) in Thiruvananthapuram • As part of this, an exposure visit was made by RINK recently to the IAV campus at Life Sciences Park in the state capital. • IAV is an autonomous institute under the



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	<p>Department of Science and Technology under the state government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The visit provided a platform for startups to explore opportunities for incubation and co-development of products and services with the Institute, besides receiving valuable insights from accomplished scientists and experts in the field.
<p>Azhikkal port in Kannur obtains ISPFs certification</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Azhikkal port in Kannur has achieved a significant milestone by obtaining the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPFs) Code. The ISPFs certification by the Union government is part of the entry of foreign passenger ships and cargo ships into the port and the implementation of various systems, including immigration clearance. The code, focusing on the security of ships, seafarers, ports, and port workers, mandates adoption of preventive measures in the face of security threats.

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