




22 April 2024

National and International News

<p><b>World Earth Day 2024</b></p> 	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earth day is dedicated to <b>demonstrating support for environmental protection.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About World Earth Day 2024:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Date:</b> Earth Day will be observed on <b>April 22, 2024.</b></li> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> The theme for 2024 is "<b>Planet vs. Plastics</b>", focusing on <b>reducing plastic pollution and its impact on human and environmental health.</b></li> <li>• <b>Goals:</b> The aims include a <b>60% reduction in plastic production by 2040, phasing out single-use plastics by 2030, and promoting innovative technologies for a plastic-free future.</b></li> <li>• <b>Negotiations:</b> Concurrent with Earth Day, the fourth round of negotiations for the <b>United Nations Global Plastic Treaty</b> will take place, aiming for stringent commitments against plastic pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Think:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know about the <b>Global Plastic Treaty.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Global Financial Stability Report 2024</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>International Monetary Fund (IMF)</b> released the latest <b>global financial stability report.</b></li> <li>• The report warns about <b>risks to the global financial system from several factors:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Persistent high inflation</li> <li>○ Rising lending in the unregulated credit market</li> <li>○ Increasing cyber-attacks on financial institutions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Key points of report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Geopolitical risks</b>, such as the <b>ongoing war in West Asia and Ukraine</b>, could <b>affect aggregate supply and lead to higher prices.</b> This might <b>prevent central banks from lowering rates</b> in the near future.</li> <li>• In 2023, <b>India was the second-largest recipient of foreign capital after the U.S.</b> However, this could change quickly if western central banks indicate that they</li> </ul>



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	<p>could maintain high interest rates for a prolonged period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The report also highlights <b>concerns about the growing unregulated private credit market</b>, where <b>non-bank financial institutions lend to corporate borrowers</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Did you know:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IMF also publishes <b>World Economic Outlook (WEO)</b> twice a year, typically in <b>April</b> and <b>October</b>.</li> <li>• It Provides <b>detailed analysis of global economic performance and projections</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Places in news: Rafah crossing</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Israeli strikes</b> occurred overnight in the <b>southern Gaza city of Rafah</b>.</li> <li>• The strikes resulted in the death of 22 people.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Rafah crossing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location and Function:</b> Rafah Crossing is the <b>only border crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip</b>. It serves as the <b>primary passage for Gazans to access the outside world</b> and for the delivery of humanitarian aid.</li> <li>• <b>Control:</b> The crossing is controlled by <b>Egypt</b>, following an <b>agreement with Israel made in 2007</b>.</li> </ul>



**Longevity India Initiative**

**Why in news?**

- The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** has announced the launch of a project called the **Longevity India Initiative**.

**About Longevity India Initiative:**

- The initiative is aimed at **extending the human health span**, the period during which a person remains healthy, and **tackling ageing-related challenges**.
- It is a **Multidisciplinary Collaboration**.
- It seeks to **develop interventions** that can **effectively manage age-related diseases** and promote healthy ageing across India.
- **Research areas include**
  - Identifying biomarkers of ageing,
  - Early disease indicators, and
  - Developing new therapeutics and technologies.

**Mpox or Monkeypox**

**Why in news?**

- A study published on April 18 by **Nature Communications** extensively **sequenced the genome**



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	<p>of the mpox virus implicated in the <b>2022 outbreak</b> using advanced genome sequencing technologies.</p> <p><b>About Mpox:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a <b>DNA virus</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Cause:</b> Mpox is caused by the <b>monkeypox virus</b>, which is a member of the <b>Orthopoxvirus</b> genus in the family <b>Poxviridae</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Transmission:</b> The virus can spread from person to person through close contact with respiratory secretions, skin lesions of an infected person, or recently contaminated objects. Transmission can also occur via droplets during prolonged face-to-face contact.</li> <li>• <b>Vaccination:</b> Vaccines used for smallpox such as the <b>JYNNEOS</b> (also known as Imvamune or Imvanex) vaccine are effective against Mpox.</li> </ul> <p><b>Think:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know about <b>genome sequencing technologies</b>.</li> </ul>
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## Kerala Regional News

<p><b>Arattu festival</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The annual 'arattu' procession of <b>Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple</b> is scheduled at <b>Shankhumukham</b>.</li> <li>• The procession will see a reroute to protect the eggs of the <b>Olive Ridley sea turtles</b> laid along the beach shores.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Arattu festival:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arattu is celebrated mainly in <b>Kerala</b>.</li> <li>• It takes place <b>twice a year</b>, during the months of <b>Meenam</b> (March-April) and <b>Thulam</b> (October-November), coinciding with the <b>Malayalam calendar</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Cultural Significance:</b> The festival is associated with <b>Hindu temples</b>, particularly those dedicated to <b>Lord Vishnu</b>. It marks the <b>ceremonial procession and the ritual bathing of the deity's idol</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Cultural Displays:</b> Traditional music and dance</li> </ul>
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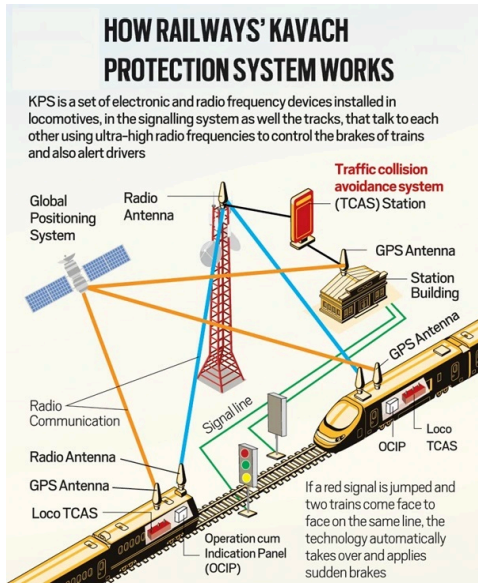


performances, such as **Kathakali** and **Kalaripayattu** (a martial art form), are significant features of the festival.

Think:

- Know about **Olive Ridley sea turtles**.

**Kavach, the anti-collision system**



**Why in news?**

- **Southern Railway** has decided to install **Kavach**, an anti-collision system for trains.
- The system will be installed for 2,216 km of tracks across **Tamil Nadu** and **Kerala**.

**Key Kavach:**

- **Kavach System Overview:** Developed by the **Indian Railways Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO)**, Kavach is a cab signalling and train control system with **anti-collision features**.
- **Functionality:** It alerts the loco pilot if a 'red signal' is unnoticed and the train is at risk of overshooting the signal.
- **Warnings and Automatic Actions:** The system provides warnings on the loco pilot's display and will automatically apply brakes if the train does not slow to below **15 kilometers per hour**, thereby **stopping the train to prevent accidents**.

**One Health initiative**

**Why in news?**

- The **Health department, Kerala** is preparing to release detailed **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** for the **outbreak investigation and control of at least eight diseases as part of the One Health initiative**.
- This is the **first time that state-level guidelines for infectious diseases outbreak investigation** are being prepared on the One Health platform.

**Key points:**

- The **SOPs cover a range of diseases including**
  - water-borne diseases (like acute diarrhoeal diseases, Hepatitis A and E),
  - food-borne infections,
  - mosquito-borne diseases (like dengue, chikungunya, and zika),
  - Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (Japanese encephalitis and West Nile fever),



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD),</li> <li>○ Nipah, leptospirosis, and</li> <li>○ Avian influenza.</li> </ul>
<p><b>CSPACE</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ‘CSPACE’, <b>India’s first state-run over-the-top (OTT) platform, was launched by Kerala Chief Minister.</b></li> <li>● The platform is managed by the <b>Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC).</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About CSPACE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Platform Objectives:</b> The platform aims to <b>showcase a variety of content, including award-winning films, documentaries, and short films.</b></li> <li>● <b>Funding and Revenue Model:</b> The platform operates on a <b>pay-per-view model.</b></li> <li>● The <b>revenue generated is shared with content creators</b>, providing them with a part of the income from streaming.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>7th Session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)</b> took place recently.</li> <li>● The session was held in <b>Kochi.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● During the session, the committee <b>finalised and recommended quality standards for five spices.</b></li> <li>● The spices for which standards were finalised are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Allspice,</li> <li>○ Juniper berries,</li> <li>○ Star anise,</li> <li>○ Turmeric, and</li> <li>○ Cardamom.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>About Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The CCSCH is an <b>international body</b> that strives to <b>create global standards for spices and culinary herbs.</b></li> <li>● The <b>CCSCH</b> was established in 2013 by the <b>Codex Alimentarius Commission</b>, which is a <b>joint venture of the World Health Organization (WHO)</b> and the <b>Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)</b> of the United</li> </ul>



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Nations.

- **India serves as the host country** for the CCSCCH, with the **Spices Board India** providing secretariat support.

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