



25 April 2024

National and International News

<p>Global report on food crises</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Almost 282 million people suffered from acute hunger in 2023, according to a UN-led report.• The report said that conflicts, extreme weather events and economic shocks were fueling food insecurity worldwide. <p>About Global report on food crises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Food Security Information Network (FSIN) released a global report on food crises, describing the outlook as “bleak”.• The report noted an increase of 24 million people facing food insecurity in 2023 compared to 2022.• The report was a joint effort by several UN agencies, the European Union, various government bodies, and NGOs.• Major food crises were ongoing in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Syria, and Yemen.
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<p>ASEAN Future Forum</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The External Affairs Minister of India (EAM) spoke at the First ASEAN Future Forum virtually. • He highlighted the synergy between India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IIPOI) and the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP). <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This synergy provides a strong framework of cooperation, addressing challenges to comprehensive security. • EAM emphasized that ASEAN is central to India's Act East policy and is a crucial pillar in India's wider Indo-Pacific mission. • He called for the global south to present its perspective and assume a greater role in international affairs. • He stressed the importance of respecting and facilitating freedom of navigation, overflight, and unimpeded commerce.
<p>National Career Service (NCS) portal</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Central government has plans to upgrade the NCS portal. • The upgrade aims to link millions of youths with prospective employers. • The ultimate goal is to prepare a future-ready workforce. <p>About NCS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Career Service (NCS) is a mission-mode project under the E-Governance Plan, launched in 2015. • The portal provides online career counseling and vocational guidance to its registered users. • It aims to help jobseekers make informed career choices based on their qualifications, skills, and interests. • NCS provides a nation-wide online platform for job seekers and employers for efficient and responsive job-matching.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NCS portal is implemented by the Directorate General of Employment, Ministry of Labour & Employment.
<p>Pink hydrogen generation</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nuclear energy can be utilized to stimulate the production of 'pink' hydrogen in India. This can be achieved by amending the nuclear law. <p>About Pink hydrogen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pink Hydrogen is generated through electrolysis powered by nuclear energy. It can also be referred to as purple hydrogen or red hydrogen. The very high temperatures from nuclear reactors could be used in other hydrogen productions by producing steam for more efficient electrolysis or fossil gas-based steam methane reforming. Nuclear power offers significant advantages for pink hydrogen production, including reducing production costs and emissions. Applications of Pink Hydrogen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promising replacement for fossil fuels in the cement industry, steel industry, aviation and heavy transportation. Can be used as a feedstock and energy source with no greenhouse gas emissions.



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National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research

Why in news?

- The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research report details the conditions that have led to significant changes in Antarctic ice.
- These conditions have caused an unprecedented hindrance in the expansion of Antarctic ice.
- Additionally, these conditions have led to the retreat of Antarctic ice.

About National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research:

- It is an autonomous research institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), established in 1998.
- It is India's premier R&D institution responsible for the country's research activities in the Polar and Southern Ocean realms.
- The institute is tasked with planning and executing polar expeditions and scientific research in Antarctica, Arctic, Himalayas and Southern Ocean.
- It undertakes research on strategically vital projects like mapping of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), continental shelf margins and the Deep Ocean Mission.
- It is located in Vasco da Gama, Goa and was formerly known as the National Center for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR).



Kerala Regional News

<p>National Smart Metering Plan</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerala's rejection of the national smart metering initiative disrupts India's project to replace conventional meters by March 2025. • This move underscores doubt regarding smart meter reliability and grid synchronization. <p>About National Smart Metering Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Smart Metering Plan is aimed at upgrading energy management and grid reliability through the use of smart meters. • The main goal is to replace traditional utility meters with smart meters to enable real-time data on energy usage, improve energy efficiency, and support the integration of renewable energy sources.
<p>Withholding of assent</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kerala Government has filed a lawsuit against the President and Governor over withheld Bills. • The state alleges that the President's arbitrary withholding of assent violates Constitutional articles 14, 200, and 201. • The state contends that the Union Government's advice to withhold assent disrupts the federal structure and encroaches on the State's domain.



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<p>Natural rubber</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The price of natural rubber has fallen in both the international and domestic market, causing uncertainty for farmers in India. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent rain in some of the southern and central Kerala rubber growing areas has raised the prospects of the supply situation improving domestically. • The Rubber Board had also instituted an Export Promotion Council to utilise the higher price in the international market.
<p>Iris</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KTCT Higher Secondary School in Kerala has introduced Iris, an AI-powered humanoid teacher. • Iris was unveiled in collaboration with Makerlabs Edutech Private Limited. <p>About Iris:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was built as part of the Atal Tinkering Lab project to enhance students' extracurricular activities. • Iris can speak three languages, answer difficult questions, and features voice assistant capabilities. • It is equipped with Robotics and Generative AI technologies for seamless performance.
<p>Shaili app</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government of Kerala is set to launch an Android App named 'Shaili'. • The app is aimed at diagnosing and controlling lifestyle diseases among the people in Kerala. • 'Shaili' has been set up as part of the population-based screening project launched by the Health Department under the Nava Kerala Karma plan. • The app would primarily collect information about diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, lung diseases, other lifestyle-related ailments, and cancers.



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