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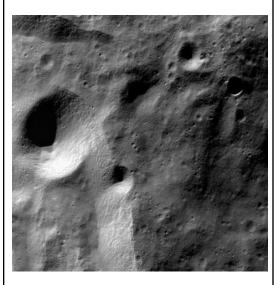


Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

02 May 2024

National and International News

Water ice in polar craters of the moon



Why in news?

- The study was conducted by scientists from ISRO's Space Applications Centre (SAC) in collaboration with researchers from IIT Kanpur, University of Southern California, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and IIT (ISM) Dhanbad.
- The research found evidence of an enhanced possibility of water ice occurrence in the polar craters of the moon.

Key points:

- The study suggests that drilling on the moon to sample or excavate that ice will be crucial for future missions and long-term human presence.
- The extent of water ice in the northern polar region is twice that in the southern polar region.
- The primary source of sub-surface water ice in the lunar poles is believed to be out-gassing during volcanism in the Imbrian period.
- The distribution of water ice is likely governed by mare volcanism and preferential impact cratering.

AUKUS



Why in news?

 South Korea is actively discussing participation in a landmark defence technology pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

About AUKUS:

- AUKUS is a trilateral security pact formed between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, announced in September 2021.
- The pact referred to is AUKUS, which was established in 2021 with two main goals:
 - "Pillar one" aims to provide Australia with nuclear-powered attack submarines. South Korea is not expected to be part of this project.
 - "Pillar two" focuses on developing advanced war-fighting capabilities such as artificial intelligence, undersea drones, and hypersonic missiles.







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The Str	eet Vendors	(Protection of	Ī
Liveliho	od and Regi	ulation of Street	Ċ
Vending) Act		

Why in news?

The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act came into effect on May 1, 2014.

About act:

- The Act was enacted to legalise the vending rights of street vendors (SVs).
- It aims to protect and regulate street vending in cities through State-level rules and schemes, and execution by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- It commits to accommodating all 'existing' vendors in vending zones and issuing vending certificates (VCs).
- It establishes a participatory governance structure through Town Vending Committees (TVCs).
- The Act outlines mechanisms for addressing grievances and disputes, proposing the establishment of a Grievance Redressal Committee chaired by a civil judge or judicial magistrate.

46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46)

Why in news?

- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), through the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), will host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection in 2024.
- These **meetings will take place** from May 20 to 30, 2024, in **Kochi**, **Kerala**.

Key points:

- The 46th ATCM agenda includes strategic planning for sustainable management of Antarctica, biodiversity prospecting, addressing climate change impacts.
- The 26th CEP agenda focuses on Antarctic environment evaluation, impact assessment, management, climate change response, area protection and management plans, and conservation of Antarctic biodiversity.

Do you know:

- India's first Antarctic research station, Dakshin Gangotri, was established in 1983. Currently, India operates two year-round research stations: Maitri (1989) and Bharati (2012).
- These permanent research stations facilitate Indian Scientific Expeditions to Antarctica.
- In 2022, India enacted the Antarctic Act, reaffirming

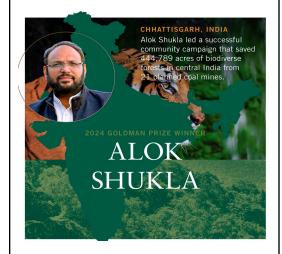


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Goldman Prize from Asia



its commitment to the Antarctic Treaty.

Why in news?

- Alok Shukla has been awarded the 2024 Goldman Prize from Asia.
- He is the convenor of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan.
- He is also a founding member of the Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti.

About Goldman Prize from Asia:

- The Goldman Environmental Prize recognizes individuals for sustained and significant efforts to protect and enhance the natural environment, often at great personal risk.
- It is also known as the Green Nobel.
- The prize recognizes grassroots environmental heroes from the world's six inhabited continental regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Islands & Island Nations, North America, and South & Central America.
- The first Goldman Environmental Prize ceremony took place on April 16, 1990, timed to coincide with Earth Day.

Kerala Regional News

Kerala	has	issued	its	first
orange alert				

Why in news?

- Kerala has issued its first orange alert for heat in Palakkad.
- This alert was issued due to the district recording temperatures above 41°C for three consecutive days.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) confirmed heatwave conditions for the first time in Kerala's history.

About Color-coded Alerts:

- IMD uses a color-coded alert system to indicate the severity of heat conditions:
 - o **Green Alert**: the weather is normal.
 - Yellow Alert (Be Aware): Indicates severe heat but not extreme conditions. Public awareness is advised.
 - Orange Alert (Be Prepared): Warns of hot weather that could impact significantly, requiring preparations for potential health risks.







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	 Red Alert (Take Action): Issued when extremely hot conditions are expected, posing a risk of health emergencies. Immediate action and intervention are necessary. 	
Kerala Administrative Tribunal (KAT)	Why in news? • The Kerala High Court has directed that the Kerala Administrative Tribunal (KAT) order, which quashed the transfer of higher secondary school teachers, should not interfere with the transfers already carried out until June 3.	
	 About KAT: The Kerala Administrative Tribunal was established to handle disputes and complaints related to the recruitment and conditions of service of people employed in public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the State of Kerala. The Tribunal is headed by a Chairperson, who is or has been a judge of a High Court.	
Chengodumala or Coastal Kerala Geckoella	 Why in news? A new species of lizard, named Cyrtodactylus (Geckoella) chengodumalaensis, has been discovered by scientists. The discovery was made by a team of researchers from the Thackeray Wildlife Foundation, Mumbai. Key points: This species is a ground-dwelling gecko found among leaf litter and rocks in forests, orchards, and other areas with canopy cover. The gecko is nocturnal and small in size. It inhabits the coastal forests of northern Kerala, a habitat that supports endemic biodiversity. This species is found on the midland hillock in Kozhikode district, with Chengodumala as its type locality. 	
Mission Arikompan	Why in news? ■ Arikomban is a wild elephant causing chaos in the higher ranges of Idukki district. ■ It is a rogue tusker known for causing destruction.	







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	 Key points: The forest department has initiated 'Mission Arikomban', an operation to capture the rogue tusker with tranquilizer shots and later shift it to an elephant training center. Arikomban's name is derived from its habit of raiding rice shops. It prefers to eat rice, atta, and wheat. The forest department plans to train Arikomban to be a 'kumki', a captive elephant used for operations against other rogue elephants.
Vaikom Satyagraha	 Vaikom Satyagraha in 2024 marked its 101st anniversary. About Vaikom Satyagraha: Vaikom Satyagraha was a nonviolent protest that took place from 30 March 1924 to 23 November 1925. The protest occurred in the Kingdom of Travancore, which is now part of Kerala. It was the first among many temple entry movements in India. The protest was against the rigid and oppressive caste system prevalent in the region. The caste system forbade lower castes, or untouchables, from entering not just the Vaikom Temple but also from walking on the surrounding roads. The protest was led by Congress leaders T. K. Madhavan, K. Kelappan, and K. P. Kesava Menon. The protest was notable for the active support and participation offered by different communities and a variety of activists.

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