

Daily Current Affairs

04 April 2024

World Bank Projects India's Economy

- The Indian economy is projected to grow at **7.5 per cent** in 2024, the World Bank has said, revising its earlier projections for the same period by **1.2 per cent**.



- According to the World Bank's most recent **South Asia Development Update**, overall growth in South Asia is forecast to be strong at **6 per cent** in 2024, driven mostly by robust development in India and recoveries in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- According to the report, **South Asia is expected** to remain the fastest-growing region in the world for the next two years, with growth projected to be **6.1 per cent** in 2025.

MyCGHS App

- Secretary, **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** Apurva Chandra launched the **myCGHS app** for the **iOS ecosystem of devices** in New Delhi.
- The app is designed to enhance access to **Electronic Health Records**, information, and resources for Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries.
- The App was already available for the Android system. Talking to reporters, Mr Chandra said that the **myCGHS app facilitates** a wide range of services, including

booking and cancellation of online appointments, accessing lab reports from CGHS labs, checking medicine history, checking medical reimbursement claim status, accessing referral details, locating nearby wellness centres and empanelled hospitals among others.



- About the concerns expressed on the issue **linking ABHA Id with CHGS Cards**, the Union Health Secretary also clarified that there is no question of discontinuation of the CGHS scheme. He said, ABHA Ayushman Bharat Health Account- ABHA is the national digital identity for health which is part of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission. He said, that more than 55 crore ABHA Cards have been created.

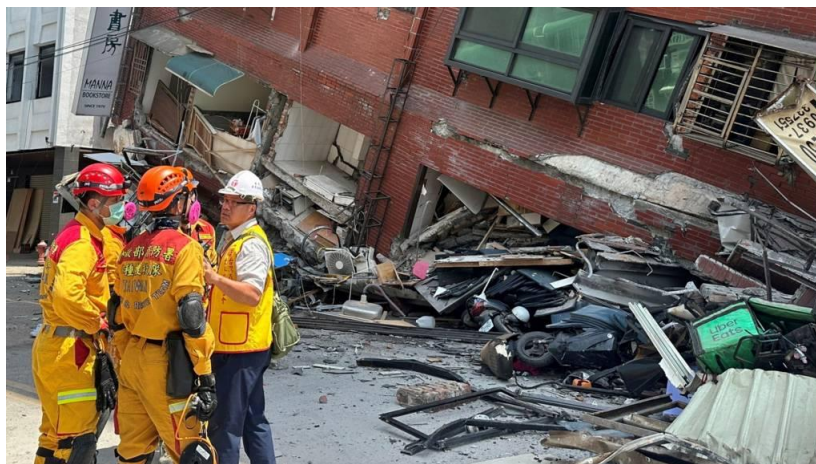


Taiwan Earthquake

- The death toll has risen to nine in the **7.4 magnitude earthquake** in Taiwan, which struck the east coast.
- The tremors severely affected the Hualien region with mountainous terrain and **Capital Taipei**.



- Officials have confirmed the death of nine people and said over 900 are injured in the most powerful earthquake in 25 years.
- Landslides were also triggered by the earthquake. Rescuers are searching for more than **100 people who are still** trapped including 77 people inside the Jinwen and Qingshui mountain tunnels in Hualien county.
- Meanwhile, some of the **tsunami warnings** in neighbouring countries including in Japan have been retracted. Japan has also lifted flight restrictions but people have been asked to remain vigilant.



African Nation's First Woman Prime Minister

- The **Democratic Republic of Congo** appointed **Judith Suminwa Tuluka** as the **African nation's first woman Prime Minister**.
- **President Felix Tshisekedi** of the Democratic Republic of Congo made the appointment. He fulfilled a campaign promise and took an important step towards the formation of a new government after being re-elected late last year.



- The authorities face a raft of challenges including a worsening conflict and humanitarian crisis in eastern regions and the management of Congo's considerable mineral wealth.
- In his first term, Mr Tshisekedi had assured to root **out endemic corruption**, rebuild the economy, tackle deep inequalities and curb the eastern insecurity. Critics say he fell short on all the counts.

India's Top Cargo Handling Port

- **Paradip Port Authority, Odisha**, surpasses Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla, to become India's leading cargo-handling major port in the fiscal year 2023-24, handling **145.38 Million Metric Tons (MMT)** of cargo, marking a 7.4% growth from the previous year.
- **Handled 59.19 million metric tonnes** of coastal shipping traffic. Managed 43.97 million metric tonnes of thermal coal coastal shipping.
- Achieved highest productivity among all major ports in India. Improved berth productivity from 31050 MT to 33014 MT.

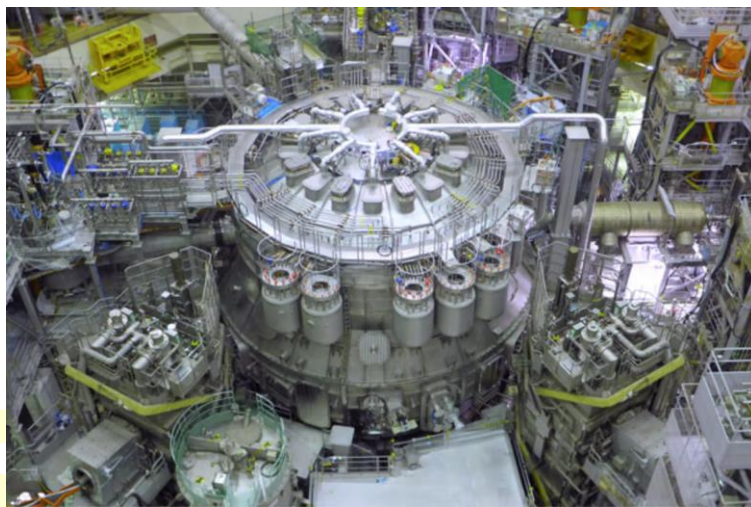


- Offers the lowest tariffs among all Indian ports. Frozen tariff rates for cargo handling for three years starting in 2022 as part of business development plan.
- Established by the **Odisha government in 1962**; taken over by the Indian government in 1965.
- Declared a major port by the Indian government on April 18, 1966, becoming the 8th major port of India.
- Operates as an **autonomous body under the Major Port Trusts Act 1963**, under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, administered by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Government of India.



Artificial Sun

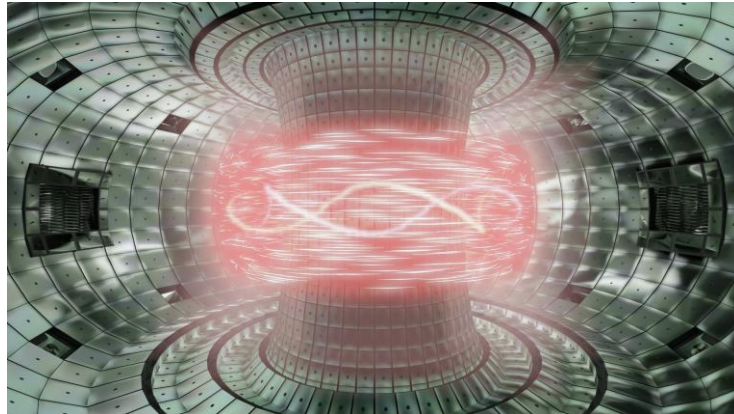
- **Scientists in South Korea** have set a new world record using the **Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (KSTAR)** device, an “artificial sun” nuclear fusion reactor.
- During tests conducted between December 2023 and February 2024, they generated **plasma temperatures of 100 million degrees Celsius** for a duration of 48 seconds.



- The **achieved temperature of 100 million degrees Celsius** is a remarkable seven times hotter than the Sun’s core, which has a temperature of approximately 15 million degrees Celsius.
- **Nuclear fusion aims** to replicate the reaction that powers the Sun and other stars, by fusing two atoms to release immense amounts of energy. Fusion has the potential to provide limitless energy without carbon pollution, making it a promising alternative to traditional energy sources.



- The most common approach to achieving fusion energy involves the use of a **doughnut-shaped reactor called a tokamak**, in which hydrogen variants are heated to extreme temperatures to create plasma.
- Maintaining high-temperature and high-density plasmas for extended durations is crucial for the success of nuclear fusion reactors.



- The **Korean scientists attributed** their success to the tweaking of the process, including the use of tungsten instead of carbon in the “diverters,” which are responsible for extracting heat and impurities produced during the fusion reaction.
- This groundbreaking achievement by the Korean fusion reactor marks a significant step forward in the quest for harnessing nuclear fusion as a clean and virtually limitless energy source. As research in this field continues, the world inches closer to a future powered by the “artificial sun.”

Germany Legalizes Recreational Cannabis

- **Germany became the** largest European Union (EU) nation to legalize recreational cannabis use, despite facing opposition from politicians and medical associations.
- Under the new law, **adults over 18 are now permitted** to carry up to 25 grams of dried cannabis and cultivate up to **three marijuana plants** at home.
- Germany joins **Malta and Luxembourg** as countries with the most liberal cannabis laws in Europe.



- The Netherlands, known for its permissive attitude towards the drug, has recently adopted a stricter approach to counter cannabis tourism.
- Health Minister Karl Lauterbach praised the move as a step towards better addiction help, prevention, and combating the black market.
- From July 1, 2024, “**cannabis clubs**” will be allowed to distribute up to 50 grams of cannabis per person per month to their members, with a maximum of 500 members per club.

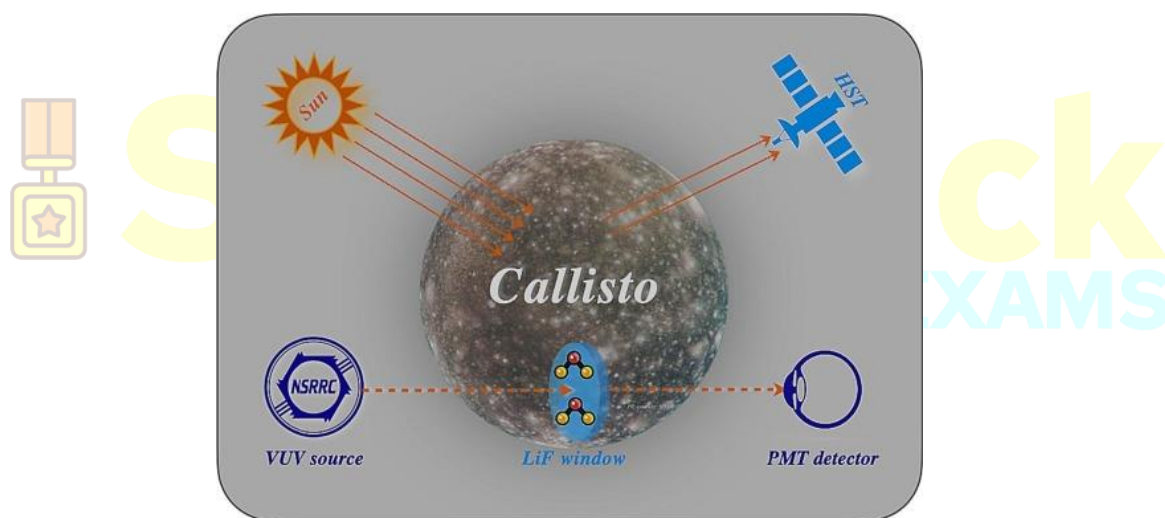


- Medical groups have raised concerns about the **potential increase in cannabis** use among young people, citing risks to the development of the central nervous system and an increased risk of **psychosis and schizophrenia**.

- Police unions have expressed concerns about the potential difficulties in enforcing the new law, anticipating situations of conflict and uncertainty with citizens.
- Conservative opposition leaders have vowed to repeal the law if they form a government after the 2025 elections. Meanwhile, cannabis advocates believe the law could have gone further in decriminalizing cannabis use.

Ozone On Jupiter's Moon Callisto

- **An international team of scientists**, led by researchers from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad, has discovered strong evidence indicating the presence of **ozone on Callisto**, one of Jupiter's largest moons.
- The study, published in the March 2024 issue of the journal *Icarus*, sheds light on the complex chemical processes occurring on the icy celestial body and its potential for hosting life.



- The team, led by **R. Ramachandran** from PRL's Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Physics Division, investigated the **chemical evolution of sulphur dioxide (SO₂)** ice under irradiation, simulating the conditions on Callisto's surface.
- The experiments were conducted at the **National Synchrotron Radiation Research Center (NSRRC)** in Taiwan, which provided access to the high-energy radiation sources needed to recreate the solar radiation reaching the moon's surface.
- The ultraviolet absorption **spectrum of the irradiated SO₂ ice samples** revealed a distinct signature indicating the formation of ozone (O₃).



- This finding suggests the **presence of oxygen on Callisto**, a crucial ingredient for the formation of complex molecules necessary for life.
- The researchers also compared their experimental data with observations made by the **Hubble Space Telescope in 1997**, which had previously suggested the presence of sulphur dioxide and ozone on Calisto's surface.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Taipei Is Capital Of

- A. South Korea
- B. Taiwan
- C. North Korea
- D. Japan

ANSWER: B

2. MyCGHS App Is Related To

- A. Education
- B. Stocks
- C. Health
- D. Export

ANSWER: C

3. Judith Suminwa Tuluka Is Related To

- A. Egypt
- B. Democratic Republic Of Congo
- C. Somalia
- D. Eritrea

ANSWER: B

4. How Many New Sites From Madhya Pradesh Were Included In The Tentative UNESCO List Of World Heritage Sites

- A. Two
- B. Four
- C. Five
- D. Six

ANSWER: D

5. Which Institution In India Celebrating Its 90th Year On April 1st, 2024

- A. World Bank
- B. Reserve Bank of India
- C. International Monetary Fund
- D. Asian Development Bank

ANSWER: B

6. Which Regulatory Body Launched The "T+0 Settlement" Beta Version On An Optional Basis

- A. Reserve Bank of India
- B. Securities and Exchange Board of India
- C. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
- D. Competition Commission of India

ANSWER: B

7. Where Was India's First Small Scale Liquefied Natural Gas Unit Inaugurated By The Union Minister For Petroleum And Natural Gas

- A. Gujarat
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Maharashtra

ANSWER: C

8. Which Country Chosen To Chair UN Commission On Status Of Women Despite Criticism For Its Record On Women's Rights

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Pakistan
- C. Iran
- D. Saudi Arabia

ANSWER: D

9. Which Company Has Started Clinical Trials Of Tuberculosis Vaccine "MTBVAC"

- A. Biofabri
- B. Pfizer
- C. Bharat Biotech
- D. Moderna

ANSWER: C

10. What Is "Shiksha Reform" Launched By The Gujarat Government

- A. A New Education Policy
- B. An Infrastructure Development Project
- C. A Vocational Training Program
- D. An Online Learning Platform

ANSWER: D

11. Where Is Archaeological Survey Of India Conducting Excavations To Uncover India's Potentially Oldest Temple

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Bihar
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: B

12. Where Will Cinevesture International Film Festival Be Held

- A. Chandigarh
- B. Goa
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: A

13. Who Was Appointed As The New Prime Minister Of Portugal

- A. Antonio Costa
- B. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa
- C. Lisbon
- D. Luis Montenegro

ANSWER: D

14. What Is The Theme Of World Autism Awareness Day 2024

- A. Empowering Autistic Voices
- B. The Transition to Adulthood
- C. Inclusive Quality Education for All
- D. Assistive Technologies, Active Participation

ANSWER: A

15. Which Port In India Emerged As Top Cargo-handling Port In India In 2023-24

- A. Karaikal port
- B. Paradip port
- C. Kandla port
- D. Kochi port

ANSWER: B

16. What Is 'Callisto'

- A. Jupiter's moon
- B. Saturn's moon
- C. Invasive plant
- D. Ancient irrigation technique

ANSWER: A

17. Judith Suminwa Tuluka Became First Woman Prime Minister Of Which Country

- A. Angola
- B. Zambia
- C. Congo
- D. Rwanda

ANSWER: C

18. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Delivered Two Dornier 228 Planes To Which Country

- A. Peru
- B. Bolivia
- C. Guyana
- D. Chile

ANSWER: C

19. SCORES 2.0 Initiative Launched By Which Institution

- A. RBI
- B. SEBI
- C. NABARD
- D. IEA

ANSWER: B

20. Satapatha Brahmana & Taitriya Brahmana Are Brahmana Texts Of

- A. Rigveda
- B. Yajurveda
- C. Samaveda
- D. Atharavaveda

ANSWER: B