

Daily Current Affairs

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End Urea Imports by 2025

- India aims to **halt urea imports by the end of 2025** by boosting domestic production and promoting alternative fertilizers.
- This is in response to the nation's significant reliance on imports, which currently satisfy around **30% of its annual urea demand**.
- Urea production has risen steadily, reaching **284.95 lakh tonnes** in 2022-23. Despite this, **30% of demand** is still met through imports, with key sources being **Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE**.



- The government's approach involves reviving closed fertilizer plants across various states. **Plants at Gorakhpur, Ramagundam, Talcher, Barauni, and Sindri** are targeted for revival, with four already operational.
- Encouraging the use of alternative fertilizers like nano liquid urea and nano liquid DAP is a significant part of the strategy.
- Initiatives by entities like IFFCO and Coromandel International Limited are contributing to this effort.
- PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth' (**PM-PRANAM**) The **PM-PRANAM scheme**, launched in 2023, incentivizes states and UTs to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced fertilizer usage.



- The government heavily subsidizes fertilizers, with **Rs 1.64 lakh crore** allocated for fertilizer subsidy in 2024-25.
- Urea is provided to farmers at a statutorily notified **Maximum Retail Price (MRP)** under the Urea Subsidy Scheme (USS), while other fertilizers operate under the Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy

Mexico Suspends Relations With Ecuador

- **Mexico has suspended relations** with Ecuador after arrest of former Ecuadorian Vice President Jorge Glas by Ecuadorean authorities from the Mexican embassy in Quito on Friday (5th April 2024) evening.



- **Jorge Glas, convicted twice for corruption**, had been holed up in the embassy in Quito since seeking political asylum in December, arguing he was being persecuted by the attorney general's office.
- Mexican President **Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador** said, Police forcefully entered Mexico's embassy in Quito before making the arrest.

- The **Mexican President called Glas's detention** an authoritarian act and a flagrant violation of international law and the sovereignty of Mexico. He said, he had instructed Mexico's foreign minister to suspend diplomatic ties with Ecuador.
- Earlier, Ecuador's presidency said that Ecuador is a sovereign nation and they are not going to allow any criminal to stay free

Peter Pellegrini

- In Slovakia, populist candidate **Peter Pellegrini wins** the presidential election last night. Russian-friendly, Mr Pellegrini defeated the pro-Western candidate **Ivan Korcok**, with 53 percent of the vote, cementing the grip of pro-Russian Prime Minister Robert Fico over the country. The defeated candidate, former Foreign Minister Ivan Korcok is a stalwart supporter of Ukraine and critic of Fico.



US & China

- The **United States and China** have agreed to hold “intensive exchanges on balanced growth”, the US Treasury Department.
- The two sides have agreed to hold talks and create **two economic groups** focused on a wide range of issues, including addressing US complaints about China's economic model, growth in domestic and global economies and efforts against money laundering.
- The agreement comes on the second day of an official visit to China by US Treasury Secretary **Janet Yellen**, during which she has urged Chinese leaders to change their domestic manufacturing policies.



Microsoft Report

- **Microsoft has warned that China** is gearing up to disrupt the upcoming elections in India, the United States and South Korea by using artificial intelligence-generated content.
- The warning comes after **China conducted a trial run during Taiwan's** presidential election, employing AI to influence the outcome. Across the world, **at least 64 countries**, in addition to the European Union, are expected to hold national elections this year.



- These countries collectively account for approximately 49 per cent of the global population.
- According to Microsoft's threat intelligence team, **Chinese state-backed cyber groups**, along with involvement from North Korea, are expected to target several elections scheduled for 2024.

- Microsoft said that China will likely deploy **AI-generated content** via social media to sway public opinion in favour of their interests during these elections.
- The threat posed by political advertisements employing AI technology to produce deceptive and false content, **including “deepfakes” or fabricating events that never took place**, is significant in a crucial poll year. Such tactics aim to mislead the public regarding candidates’ statements, stances on various issues, and even the authenticity of certain events.
- If allowed to go **unchecked, these manipulative attempts** have the potential to undermine voters’ ability to make well-informed decisions



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Anupama Upadhyaya And M. Tharun Seen In News Relates To

- A. Badminton
- B. Tennis
- C. Cricket
- D. Long Jump

ANSWER: A

2. First Woman From India To Represent Country As A Jury Member In Summer Olympics In Paris

- A. Sofia Mir
- B. Bilquis Mir
- C. Sania Mirza
- D. PV Sindhu

ANSWER: B

3. World Health Day Is Celebrated On

- A. 6th April
- B. 7th April
- C. 8th April
- D. 9th April

ANSWER: B

4. Recently, Which Country Developed World's Most Powerful Laser

- A. Bulgaria
- B. Estonia
- C. Romania
- D. Sweden

ANSWER: C

5. Sannati Buddhist Site Is Located In Which State

- A. Karnataka
- B. Odisha
- C. Bihar
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: A

6. Papikonda National Park, Is Located In Which State

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Gujarat
- C. Kerala
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: A

7. P-800 Onyx Missile, Is Developed By Which Country

- A. China
- B. Japan
- C. Russia
- D. India

ANSWER: C

8. BASEL III Endgame, Is Related To Which Sector

- A. Environmental sector
- B. Health sector
- C. Agricultural sector
- D. Banking sector

ANSWER: D

9. Pathimalai Cave Due To Ancient Rock Paintings, Is Located In Which State

- A. Kerala
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: B

10. What Type Of Comet Is “Mother Of Dragons” Comet

- A. Halley Comet
- B. Tempel Comet
- C. Encke Comet
- D. Kuiper Belt Comet

ANSWER: A

11. Name Of World’s Oldest Man That Died At Age Of 114 Recently

- A. John Tinniswood
- B. Juan Vicente Perez Mora
- C. Yukichi Chuganji
- D. Eugenie Blanchard

ANSWER: B

12. What Is The Main Feature Of Hume, The New Conversational AI Introduced By The New York-based Research Lab

- A. Image Recognition
- B. Emotional intelligence
- C. Advanced encryption
- D. Real-time audio translation

ANSWER: B

13. What Was Total Value Of Transactions Processed By UPI In FY24

- A. ₹150 Lakh Crore
- B. ₹199 Lakh Crore
- C. ₹126 Lakh Crore
- D. ₹180 Lakh Crore

ANSWER: B

14. Who Has Assumed Charge As Principal Director General Of The Press Information Bureau

- A. Manish Desai
- B. Neha Sharma
- C. Sheyphali B. Sharan
- D. Rajiv Kumar Sharma

ANSWER: C

15. Where Is PepsiCo India Making A Hefty Investment For A New Flavour Manufacturing Facility

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

ANSWER: A

16. Which City In Uttar Pradesh Is Known As The "City Of Imarti"

- A. Lucknow
- B. Kanpur
- C. Jaunpur
- D. Varanasi

ANSWER: C

17. Which Organization Has Partnered With Panasonic For Lithium-ion Cell Manufacturing In India

- A. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd
- B. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd
- C. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd
- D. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

ANSWER: A

18. Which Port Emerged As India's Top Cargo-handling Port In Fiscal Year 2023-24

- A. Mormugao Port
- B. Kandla Port
- C. Mumbai Port
- D. Paradip Port

ANSWER: D

19. When Is Prevention Of Blindness Week 2024 Observed

- A. April 15 to April 21
- B. April 1 to April 7
- C. March 25 to March 31
- D. April 8 to April 14

ANSWER: B

20. Who Became The Oldest World No. 1 In ATP Rankings History

- A. Novak Djokovic
- B. Roger Federer
- C. Rafael Nadal
- D. Andy Murray

ANSWER: A