



15 May 2024

National and International News

<p>India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Bank of India (SBI) has become the first trading-cum-clearing member at the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX). <p>About IIBX:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) is India's first International Bullion Exchange.• It is based at GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tech City) IFSC (International Finance Services Center), Gandhinagar, Gujarat.• IIBX has been conceptualized to provide a gateway to import bullion into India and provide a world-class bullion exchange ecosystem.• It aims to promote bullion trading, investment in bullion financial products, and vaulting facilities in IFSCs.• The IIBX is regulated by the International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA). <p>Did you know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bullion refers to physical gold and silver of high purity.• It is often kept in the form of bars, ingots, or coins.• Bullion can sometimes be considered legal tender.• It is often held as reserves by central banks or held by institutional investors.
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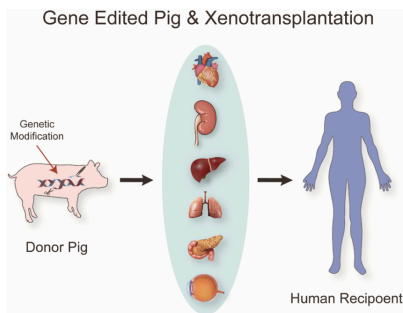


Exercise SHAKTI

Why in news?

- The 7th edition of the India-France Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI commenced today at Umroi, Meghalaya.
- The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 13th to 26th May 2024.
- Exercise SHAKTI is a biennial training event conducted alternatively in India and France.
- The last edition was conducted in France in November 2021.
- The joint exercise will focus on operations in the semi-urban and mountainous terrain.

Xenotransplantation



Why in news?

- The first recipient of a modified pig kidney transplant passed away.
- This occurred around two months after the surgery was carried out.
- The patient was 62-year-old Richard “Rick” Slayman.

About Xenotransplantation:

- Xenotransplantation is a procedure that involves the transplantation, implantation or infusion into a human recipient of either live cells, tissues, or organs from a nonhuman animal source.
- It can also involve human body fluids, cells, tissues or organs that have had ex vivo contact with live nonhuman animal cells, tissues or organs.
- Xenotransplantation involving the heart was first tried in humans in the 1980s.
- The animal organ selected for the procedure has to undergo genetic modifications to prevent the human body from rejecting it.



World Wildlife Crime Report 2024

Why in news?

- As per **World Wildlife Crime Report 2024**, The **rhino** and the **cedar** were the **most affected animal and plant species by global illegal wildlife trade** during **2015-2021**.
- The report was released by the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**.

About World Wildlife Crime Report:

- The **2024 World Wildlife Crime Report** is the **3rd edition of the report**.
- **Earlier editions** were published in **2016** and **2020**.
- The report probes trends in the **illicit trafficking of protected wildlife species**.
- It presents **systematic analyses of wildlife crime harms and impacts**.
- The report also probes the **factors driving wildlife trafficking trends**.

Venezuela may be first nation to lose all its glaciers



Why in news?

- **Venezuela may become the first nation in modern history to lose all its glaciers**.

Key points:

- The **International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI)**, a scientific advocacy organisation, announced that **Venezuela's only remaining glacier, the Humboldt or La Corona in the Andes, is now too small to be classified as a glacier**.
- Over the last century, **Venezuela has lost at least six other glaciers**.
- Due to **climate change** and the **rise in global average temperatures**, ice loss is accelerating, contributing to the rise in sea levels worldwide.

About Glaciers:

- A glacier is a **large, persistent body of dense ice that is constantly moving under its own weight**.
- It forms where the **accumulation of snow exceeds its ablation** (the process of losing snow and ice by melting and evaporation) over many years, often centuries.



Kerala Regional News

Kerala style mural paintings



Why in news?

- Kerala style mural paintings, An exhibition of monochromatic mural artworks was held at the Kerala Lalithakala Akademi Art Gallery in Kozhikode.
- Kerala style mural paintings are typically colourful and represent mythical themes in five natural colours.

About Kerala style mural paintings:


- Kerala style mural paintings are a unique form of art that originated in the Indian state of Kerala.
- Kerala mural paintings are frescos that depict Hindu mythology.
- They are mainly found on the walls of ancient temples and palaces in Kerala.
- This form of art dates back between the 9th to 12th centuries CE and enjoyed royal patronage.
- The scriptural basis of these paintings can be found in the Sanskrit texts, Chithrasoothram.
- The murals of Thirunadhikkara Cave Temple and Tiruvanchikulam are considered the oldest relics of Kerala's own style of murals.



<p>MG university secure third rank in India</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) has secured the third position in India in this year's Asia University Ranking by Britain's Times Higher Education. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru and Anna University in Tamil Nadu hold the first and second positions, respectively in india. ● MGU was ranked fourth the previous year. ● China's Tsinghua University and Peking University have maintained their first and second positions, respectively, for the fifth consecutive year in the list of universities in Asian countries. ● MGU has been placed 134th in this list. ● Five Indian universities, including MGU, are among the top 150 in the ranking. ● MGU is the only varsity from Kerala to be included in the prestigious list. ● The ranking was determined by evaluating 18 indicators, including teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and international outlook.
<p>National Technology Day at CSIR-NIIST, Pappanamcode</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) and the National Institute of Technology, Calicut (NIT-C) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). ● The signing took place on the sidelines of the National Technology Day celebrations held at CSIR-NIIST, Pappanamcode. <p>About National Technology Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Technology Day, celebrates the country's achievements in the field of science and technology. ● National Technology Day is celebrated annually on May 11. ● The day was started by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1999 to honor Indian scientists, engineers, and technologists.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The day marks the successful nuclear tests conducted by India at Pokhran in 1998. • The theme for 2024 is ‘School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate’.
<p>Bhoovastra or coir geotextile</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eloor municipality has started work on strengthening the sides of ponds and streams. • They are using an eco-friendly coir ‘bhoovastra’ (geotextile) for this purpose. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The geotextile fabric has been laid along the sides of Panchathodu. • This is part of the efforts to stabilise the banks of the pond. <p>About Bhoovastra:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhoovastra, also known as coir geotextile, is a type of geotextile made from natural coir fiber. • Bhoovastra is a natural earth cover made from coconut fiber. • It is commonly used for the protection of land from soil erosion. • The bhoovastra retains the earth’s moisture and protects the roots of the plants. • It is also used for rainwater erosion control in roads, railway embankments, and hill slopes.
<p>No-confidence motion at Gram panchayat level</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The president of Ramankary grama panchayat in Kuttanad, was voted out of office through a no-confidence motion. • The no-confidence motion was passed with eight votes against five in the 13-member panchayat. <p>About no-confidence motion against the president of a Gram Panchayat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a formal procedure through which the members express their lack of confidence in the president’s ability to govern effectively. • State Panchayati Raj Acts: The specific provisions for the no-confidence motion are outlined in the



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	<p>respective State Panchayati Raj Acts, as Panchayats are a state subject in India. The procedure can vary slightly from one state to another.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notice Requirement: Typically, a specified number of Panchayat members (usually not less than one-third) must sign and submit a written notice of their intention to move a no-confidence motion against the president to the Panchayat Secretary or the competent authority.• Meeting Convening: Upon receipt of the notice, the competent authority must convene a special meeting of the Gram Panchayat within a stipulated period (usually 15 to 30 days) to discuss and vote on the motion.	
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