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5 February 2024

National & International News

66th Annual Grammy Awards

Context:

- The 66th Annual Grammy Awards, hosted by Trevor Noah, showcased the music industry's elite at the Crypto.com Arena in **Los Angeles, California**.

Best Global Music Album: Shakti's "This Moment"

- Musicians **Shankar Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain's fusion band Shakti** won the Grammy Award for Best Global Music Album with their latest release, "**This Moment**."
- The group, including guitarist John McLaughlin and others, received recognition for their exceptional contribution to global music.

Album of the Year: Taylor Swift's "Midnights"

- American singer-songwriter **Taylor Swift** secured the highly anticipated Album of the Year award for her album "**Midnights**," surpassing notable nominees such as SZA, Jon Batiste, and others.

Record of the Year: Miley Cyrus' "Flowers"

- Miley Cyrus' hit "**Flowers**" bagged the Record of the Year award, adding to the night's diverse musical achievements.

Song of the Year: Billie Eilish's "What Was I Made For?"

- Billie Eilish's soulful ballad "**What Was I Made For?**" from Greta Gerwig's fantasy comedy Barbie was named the Song of the Year, contributing to the celebration of musical excellence.

Trevor Noah's Fourth Hosting Stint

- South African comedian and writer **Trevor Noah** hosted the Grammy Awards for the fourth time, infusing humor and charisma into the evening.

India Energy Week 2024

Context:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate India's second edition of **Energy Week 2024 in Goa** on Tuesday.

Overview:

- The Energy Week, scheduled from February 6 to 9, will be India's largest energy exhibition and conference.
- It aims to achieve '**aatmanirbharta**' in energy and will include a roundtable with global oil & gas CEOs, emphasizing India's energy transition goals.



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- Around **17 energy ministers** from different countries are expected to attend, showcasing a global perspective.
- **The event will focus on encouraging and integrating startups into the energy value chain, fostering innovation.**
- The Energy Week will have six dedicated country pavilions- **Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Russia, the UK and the USA.**
- Organized by the **Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry** under the aegis of the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**, India Energy Week, 2024 would provide a platform for discussions, knowledge exchange, and collaboration among industry experts, policymakers, academia and entrepreneurs.

Micro-Credentials - In Higher Education

Context:

- **Higher education institutes (HEIs)** in India are urged to actively **address the employability gap** among students by connecting them with future career opportunities.
- The disparity between knowledge acquired in HEIs and the skills needed for employment highlights the need for innovative solutions.

Understanding Micro-Credentials:

- Micro-credentials are **short-duration learning activities** with validated outcomes, offered online, physically, or in hybrid modes.
- Unlike traditional degrees, which require several years of study, **micro-credentials provide a 'just-in-time' approach** to acquiring modern skills.
- They cater to lifelong learners, including working professionals unable to attend formal degree programs.
- **Micro-credentials**, being portable and stackable on digital platforms like the **Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)**, offer students the flexibility to integrate diverse skills into their education.

The way forward:

- **Indian HEIs(Higher Educational Institutions)** must embrace the role of agents of transformation by incorporating micro-credentials into their strategic goals.
- **Regulators and HEIs** should collaborate to harmonize micro-credentials with existing academic programs, establishing clear validation metrics.

Ergosphere: making a black hole work

Context:

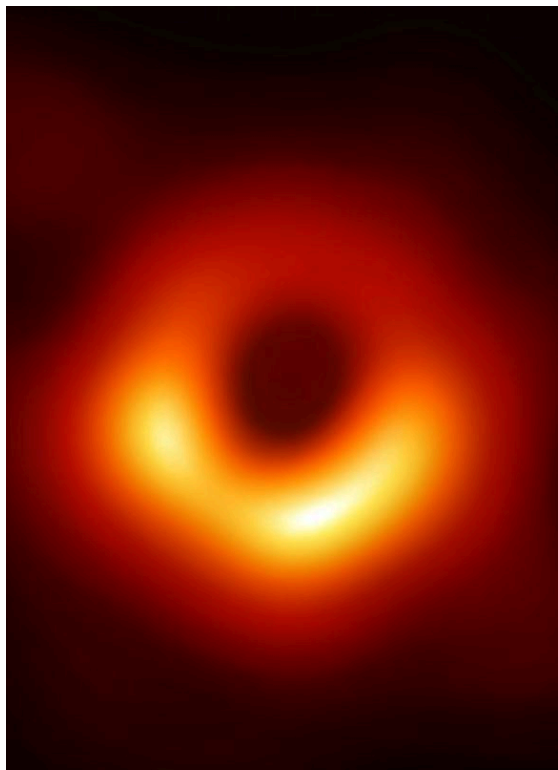
- Rotating black holes, also known as **Kerr black holes**, originate from massive stars that exhaust their fuel, leading to a **supernova explosion**.
- The remaining **core** collapses under its own gravity, **forming a black hole**.



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Nature of Black Hole Center:

- The **core of a black hole** contains a gravitational singularity, where the principles of general relativity break down.
- The immense gravitational pull of a black hole originates from this singularity.

Event Horizon and Singularity:

- The event horizon, a **spherical boundary** around the singularity, prevents anything from escaping once inside unless it surpasses the speed of light—an impossibility.
- The gravitational pull of the black hole is experienced beyond this boundary.

Ergosphere:

- Beyond the **event horizon**, rotating black holes possess an **ergosphere, a larger sphere allowing objects to enter and exit if moving rapidly**, but still below the speed of light.
- The term 'ergosphere' is derived from the Greek word 'ergon,' meaning 'work.'
- It is named so because **matter and energy can be extracted from the ergosphere, unlike beyond the event horizon.**

C-CARES Web Portal

Context:

Union Minister of Coal, Mines, and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pralhad Joshi, recently inaugurated the C-CARES web portal developed by C-DAC for CMPFO.

Key points:

- C-CARES, designed by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**, addresses the digitalization challenges of CMPFO, aiming to modernize its record-keeping and operational processes.
- Established in **1948** under the Ministry of Coal, **CMPFO is an autonomous organization** managing Provident Funds and Pension schemes for coal sector workers.
- Currently, it serves 3.3 lakh Provident Fund subscribers and 6.1 lakh pensioners in the coal sector.

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