



04 Apr 2025

National and International News

<p>Axiom-4 Mission</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla will serve as the pilot for the upcoming Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in May. Shukla, one of the four astronaut-designates chosen for India's Gaganyaan mission, will make history as the first Indian astronaut to travel to the ISS. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Axiom Mission 4 (or Ax-4) is a private spaceflight to the International Space Station. It is operated by Axiom Space and uses a SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft. The flight is in collaboration with NASA and will be the fourth flight of Axiom Space after Axiom Mission 1, Axiom Mission 2 and Axiom Mission 3. Mission Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Axiom-4 aims to facilitate commercial activities in space, including scientific research, technological development, and space tourism. It is set to carry a diverse crew of astronauts from different countries, reflecting the growing international interest in space exploration. The mission will support various scientific experiments and technological tests in the unique microgravity environment of space. <p>About International Space Station (ISS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Space Station is a modular space station launched in 1998. Modular stations can allow modules to be added to or removed from the existing structure, allowing greater flexibility. It is a large laboratory in space that allows astronauts to come aboard and stay for weeks or months to carry out experiments in microgravity. The first crew on the ISS arrived on November 2, 2000. Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conduct scientific research in astrobiology, astronomy, meteorology, physics, and other fields. It is the largest artificial object in space. It circles the Earth in roughly 93 minutes, completing 15.5 orbits per day.
<p>Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lok Sabha has passed the Coastal Shipping Bill, which is set




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	<p>to boost maritime trade.</p> <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024 aims to promote coastal trade and encourage the involvement of Indian-flagged vessels, owned and operated by Indian citizens, to strengthen national security and meet commercial needs. • Key Provisions of the Bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prohibition of coasting trade: Prohibition of trade in coastal water without license by vessels other than Indian vessels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Permitting Inland vessels to engage in coastal trading. ○ National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan: For development, growth and promotion of coastal shipping. ○ National Database of Coastal Shipping: To ensure transparency of procedures and aid in information sharing. ○ Licensing of chartered vessels: Empower the Director-General to issue a license after taking into consideration certain factors including citizenship of crew and building requirements of vessel. ○ No license granted shall be suspended, revoked or modified, unless the license has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard. ○ Other Provisions: Provision for compounding of certain offences and imposition of penalty by the principal officer; and provision for empowering the Director-General to call for information in respect of certain matters.
<p>BRICS</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the 11th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting in Brasilia, India urged BRICS nations to unite on the 'Baku to Belem Roadmap' to mobilize USD 1.3 trillion for achieving Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) goals. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The term 'BRIC' was coined by Jim O'Neill, a Goldman Sachs economist, to describe the emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China. • According to Jim O'Neill, these emerging economies were poised to dominate the global economy by 2050. • The BRIC nations held their first informal meeting on the sidelines of the G8 Outreach Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia. • South Africa was invited to join the group. This led to the rebranding of the institution from BRIC to BRICS. • New Development Bank (NDB) was officially launched with an initial capital of \$100 billion, to provide development finance. • BRICS was expanded to BRICS+ with the admission of six new



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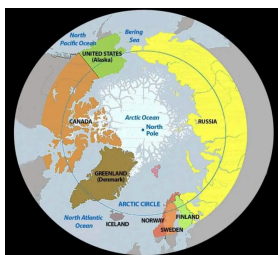
	<p>member states– Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, Argentina, and the United Arab Emirates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The expanded BRICS comprises major emerging economies that collectively represent approximately 41% of the world's population and around 28% of global GDP.
<p>Sea Weed</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India's 7,500 km coastline holds vast untapped potential, with seaweed farming emerging as a booming livelihood option, creating new opportunities for coastal communities beyond traditional fisheries. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Seaweed" is the common name for countless species of marine plants and algae that grow in the ocean as well as in rivers, lakes, and other water bodies. • They range in colours from red, green, brown and black and also vary in size, from microscopic to large underwater forests. • Seaweeds are generally anchored to the sea bottom or other solid structures by rootlike "holdfasts," which perform the sole function of attachment and do not extract nutrients as do the roots of higher plants. • Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Several seaweed species are edible and commercially valuable. ○ Some seaweeds are used as fertilizers or polysaccharide sources. ○ High antioxidant content in seaweed helps protect the body from free radical damage. ○ Animal studies show seaweed compounds may boost fat-metabolizing protein production. ○ Research suggests seaweed consumption can help manage diabetes by balancing blood sugar levels. ○ Many seaweeds contain anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties. ○ Seaweeds act as effective emulsifiers in products like toothpaste and fruit jelly, and as softeners in organic cosmetics and skincare items.
<p>President's Rule in Manipur</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliament has passed a Statutory Resolution confirming the imposition of President's Rule in Manipur. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President's Rule, also known as State Emergency or Constitutional Emergency, is a provision under Article 356 of the Indian Constitution that allows the central government to assume direct control over a state's governance. • This mechanism is one of the three types of emergencies outlined



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	<p>in the Constitution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is invoked during a constitutional breakdown or failure of governance at the state level, often due to political instability, a hung assembly, or a breakdown of law and order. Articles 355 to 357 in Part XVIII, along with Article 365 in Part XIX of the Indian Constitution, pertain to the President's Rule. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 355: Obligation of the Union to safeguard states from external aggression and internal disturbances. Article 356: It allows the President to take over the functions of the state government when the constitutional machinery fails. Article 357: Empowers the President to legislate for the state by ordinance, if necessary. Article 365: Consequences of failing to comply with or implement directions issued by the Union. Grounds of Imposition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the President is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of a State cannot be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the constitution, he/she is authorized by Article 356 to issue a proclamation. If a state fails to comply with or implement any directions issued by the central government, the President is authorized under Article 365, to conclude that the government of the state cannot operate in accordance with the Constitution. Parliamentary Approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The imposition of the President's Rule requires approval from Parliament. Once the President issues a proclamation, it must be sanctioned by both Houses of Parliament within two months. If the proclamation is not approved during this period, it ceases to operate. Duration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The President's Rule can be in effect for six months, but it can be extended for a maximum of three years with periodic parliamentary approvals every six months.
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Places in news: Arctic Region



Why in news?

- Dr. Thamban Meloth, Director of the Goa-based National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), the nodal agency for India's polar expeditions, stated that when the Arctic Ocean becomes ice-free in the summer in the coming decades, the region is expected to become a significant center of international geopolitics.

Key Points:

- It is the northernmost region of the Earth, spreading around the North Pole.
- It consists of the Arctic Ocean, adjacent seas, and parts of Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Finland, Iceland, Norway,

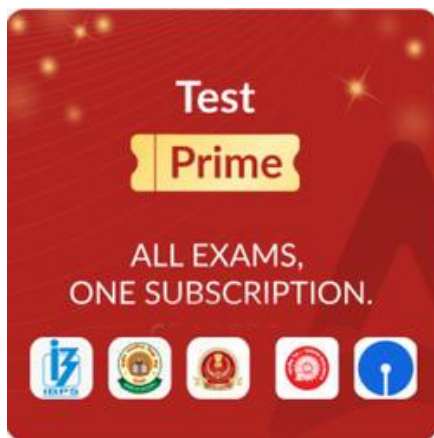


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	<p>Russia, Sweden, and the United States (Alaska).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the smallest and shallowest ocean of the five principal oceans on the Earth. • It is partly covered by sea ice (frozen seawater that floats on the ocean surface) throughout the year, and almost completely during the winter months. • Its salinity is the lowest, on average, of the 5 major oceans due to low evaporation, heavy freshwater influx from rivers and streams, and limited connection and outflow to surrounding oceanic waters. • The Ocean is home to the longest continental shelf in the world. • Though considered a “Global Common” it does not have an international regime to identify it as such. Being an Ocean, it is governed by the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
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