

April - 10

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The indigenous farm produce wheat, popularly known as Kathiya Gehu (wheat), of Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh has been conferred the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ The 19th Meeting of Secretaries of the Security Council of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- ❖ Hume, a New York-based company, has introduced the 'first conversational AI with emotional intelligence'.
- ❖ The REC Limited under the Ministry of Power won the SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in the 'Renewable Energy Financing' category.
- ❖ Dr. Karthik Kommuri bags Prestigious National Fame Award Titled Distinguished Overseas Dental Specialist Orthodontics and Orofacial Pain.
- ❖ The first ever Nuclear Energy Summit was held in Brussels which is organised jointly by the IAEA and Belgium.

NATIONAL

Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024



The infographic features a dark blue background with a light blue rounded rectangle containing text. At the bottom, there is an illustration of various electric vehicles (a car, a scooter, a rickshaw, a van, and a bus) parked on a road with trees and a building in the background. The text is in white and green, with key figures in bold.

भारी उद्योग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
HEAVY INDUSTRIES

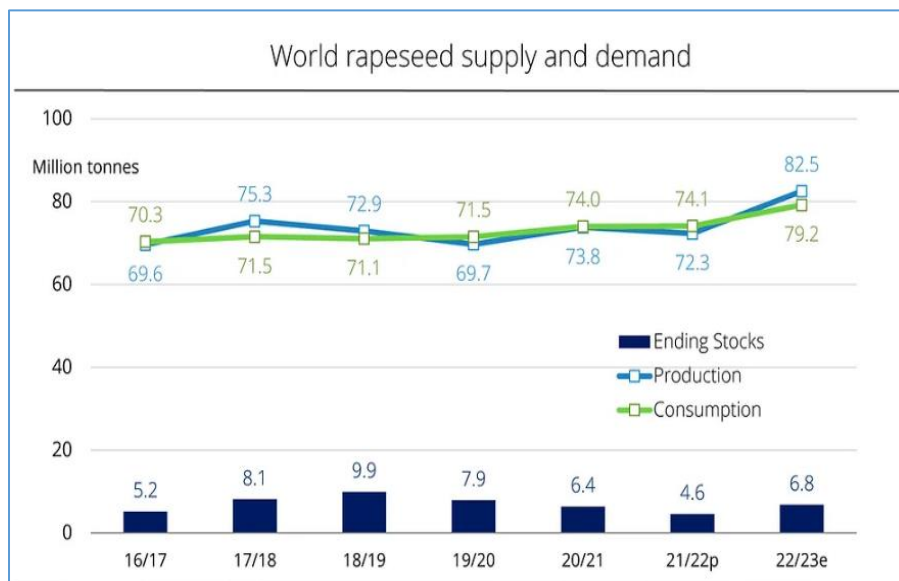
Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024

- MHI introduces the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 with Rs. **500 crore** allocated for implementation from **April 1st to July 31st 2024, for 4 months.**
- The initiative aims to accelerate the transition towards sustainable transportation by encouraging the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs).
- The scheme targets the development of the **EV manufacturing sector, particularly for electric two and three-wheelers.**
- **3,33,387 scooters** receive **Rs 10,000** support each, and **41,306 3-wheelers** get **Rs 25,000** support each.
- Large 3-wheelers (25,238) receive **Rs 50,000** each.
- The initiative reaffirms the **Ministry of Heavy Industries'** commitment to e-mobility and green energy.

- ❖ Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 (EMPS 2024) scheme is being introduced by Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India.

- ❖ This is a fund limited scheme with a total outlay of Rs. 500 crores for the period of 4 months, w.e.f. 1st April 2024 till 31st July 2024.
- ❖ This aims to faster adoption of electric two-wheeler (e-2W) and three-wheeler (e-3W) to provide further impetus to the green mobility and development of electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing eco-system in the country.
- ❖ Hero MotoCorp, Bajaj Auto, TVS, Ather Energy, Ola Electric Mobility, and Kinetic Green have received approvals to sell two-wheelers and claim subsidy under the EMPS 2024.

Rapeseed Output 2024



- ❖ India's rapeseed and mustard output is likely to rise 7% from last year to a record 12.09 million metric tons in 2024.
- ❖ Higher rapeseed output will help the world's biggest vegetable oil importer to cut back on expensive palm oil and sunflower oil imports from Malaysia, Indonesia, Brazil, Argentina, Ukraine, and Russia.
- ❖ The country meets 70% of its annual requirement through imports.
- ❖ The rise in production is mainly due to a 5% growth in acreage to 10 million hectares.

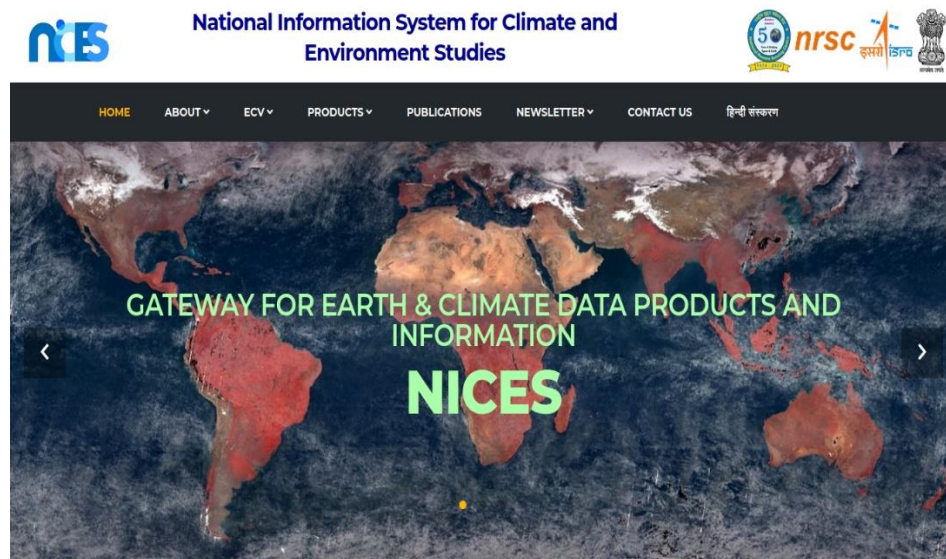
USSD-Based Call Forwarding

- ❖ India's Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has ordered the deactivation of USSD-based call forwarding services from April 15, 2024.

- ❖ The move aims to safeguard mobile users from falling victim to fraudulent schemes that compromise their personal data and financial security.
- ❖ USSD is a feature that allows users to access various phone services by dialling specific codes on their keypads.



NICES program



- ❖ The National Information System for Climate and Environment Studies (NICES) program is operated by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Department of Space.

- ❖ It aims to enhance the participation of academia and research institutions in addressing the climate change-related challenges through dedicated multi-disciplinary scientific investigations.
- ❖ Since its inception in 2012, NICES has developed and made accessible over 70 geophysical variables related to Terrestrial, Ocean, and Atmospheric conditions.

INTERNATIONAL

Unite Aware Platform

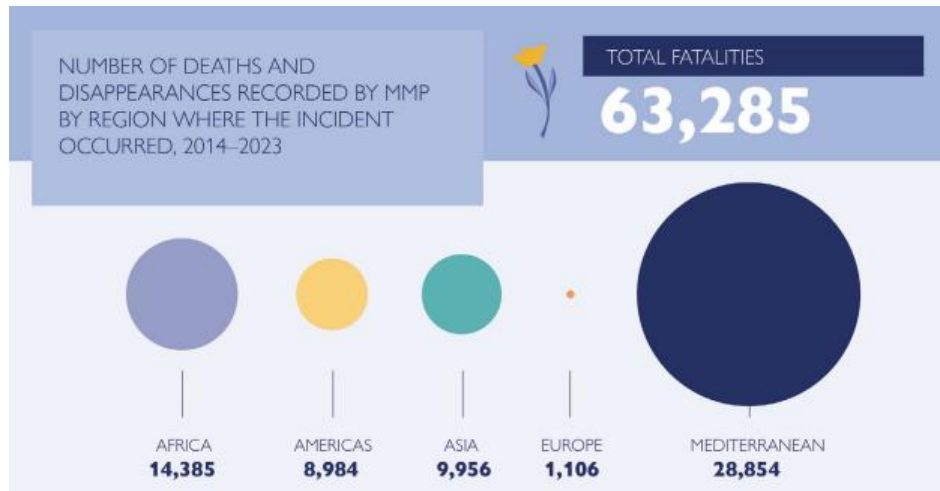
- ❖ In a bid to promote accountability for crimes against peacekeepers, the India-led Group of Friends (GOF) comprising 40 member states, convened its second meeting.
- ❖ At the meeting, India launched a new database (Unite Aware platform) designed to record crimes against peacekeepers and monitor progress in holding perpetrators accountable.
- ❖ The database is designed to serve as an online repository, empowering the Secretariat and member states to monitor and address cases of malicious acts against Peacekeepers.



A Decade of Documenting Migrant Deaths

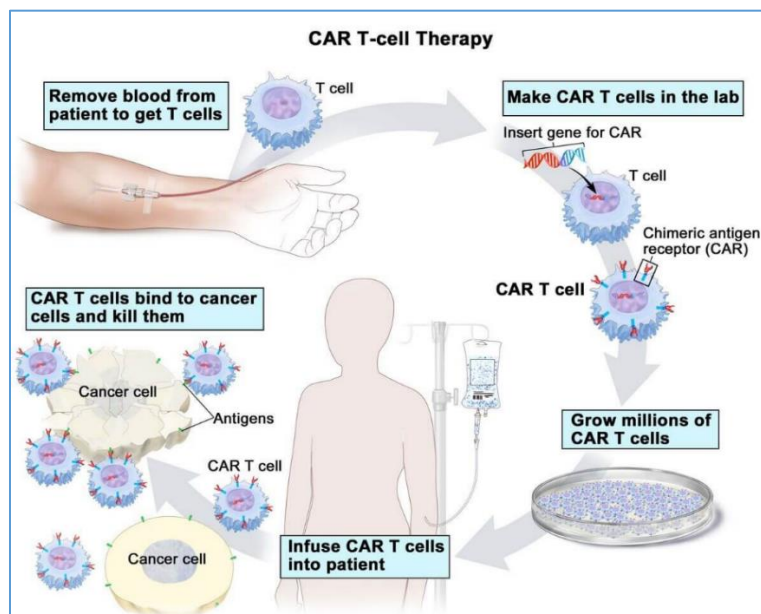
- ❖ More than 63000 people had died or disappeared on migration routes around the world over the last decade (since 2014).
- ❖ At least 63,285 people have died or are missing and presumed dead.
- ❖ Over 8,500 lost their lives in 2023.

- ❖ Nearly 60 percent of deaths documented were linked to drowning, with the number of victims surpassing 36,000.
- ❖ Of those deaths at sea, more than 27,000 occurred in the Mediterranean.
- ❖ Most deaths in the Central Mediterranean were documented off the coast of Libya.
- ❖ At least 729 people died off the Tunisian coast in 2023, compared to 462 the previous year.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CAR T-cell therapy - NexCAR19

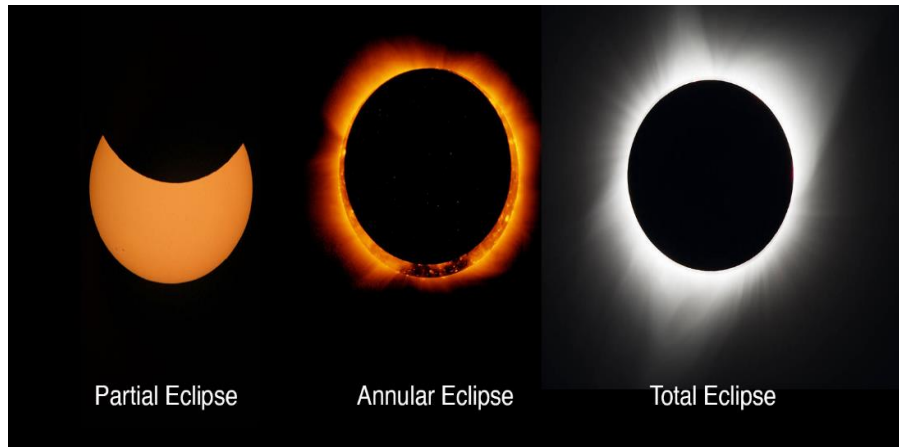


- ❖ The President of India launched India's first home-grown anti-Cancer CAR-T cell therapy and dedicated it to the Nation.

- ❖ NexCAR19 CAR-T therapy is India's first indigenously Made-in-India CAR-T therapy.
- ❖ Also, it is the world's most affordable CAR-T therapy.
- ❖ CAR-T cell therapy is considered to be one of the most phenomenal advances in medical science.
- ❖ It has been available in the developed nations for some time, but it is extremely costly and beyond the reach of most patients around the world.

Total solar eclipse 2024

- ❖ A total solar eclipse occurred in North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada.
- ❖ A solar eclipse takes place when the Moon moves in the middle of Earth and the Sun.
- ❖ The Moon blocks the light of the Sun, either fully or partially, which casts a huge shadow on some parts of the world.
- ❖ There are four different types of solar eclipses, including total solar eclipse, annual solar eclipse, partial solar eclipse, and hybrid solar eclipse.
- ❖ When the Moon blocks the Sun entirely, the areas in the centre of the Moon's shadow at the time witness a total solar eclipse.
- ❖ A particular spot-on Earth witnesses a total solar eclipse only once in 400 years.



ENVIRONMENT

Clouded tiger cat

- ❖ *Leopardus pardinoides*, also known as the clouded tiger cat, is a small wild cat that was proposed as a new species in 2024.

- ❖ It is part of the tiger cat complex, which includes southern tiger cat (*Leopardus guttulus*) and northern tiger cat (*Leopardus tigrinus*).
- ❖ *Leopardus pardinoides* is a long-tailed tiger Cat with short-round ears.



Genetic profiling of Captive Elephants



- ❖ The genetic profiling of the 400-odd captive elephants of Kerala will begin shortly.
- ❖ The Wildlife Institute of India (WII), is carrying out the profiling to add the details of the elephants to a national database.
- ❖ It has provided the forensic kits to the Kerala Forest department.
- ❖ The profiling is carried out to keep track of the transfer of captive elephants within and between the States.
- ❖ Around 25 elephant deaths taking place in Kerala annually.
- ❖ The number of captive elephants in the State has reached an all-time low of 407.

- ❖ Kerala was once considered the home to the largest population of captive elephants.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

FIDE ratings 2024

- ❖ Arjun Erigaisi was the top-ranked Indian in the latest FIDE rankings released by the world governing body of chess.
- ❖ Arjun Erigaisi is ranked ninth in the world.
- ❖ Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand, who is the second ranked Indian on the FIDE list.
- ❖ Anand is followed by the Candidates troika of Praggnanandhaa R, Gukesh D and Vidit Santosh Gujrathi.

India's top chess players in FIDE rankings list for April 2024

India Rank	Overall Rank	Player	Standard Rating
1	9	Arjun Erigaisi	2756
2	11	Viswanathan Anand	2751
3	14	Praggnanandhaa	2747
4	16	Gukesh	2743
5	25	Vidit Santosh Gujrathi	2727

