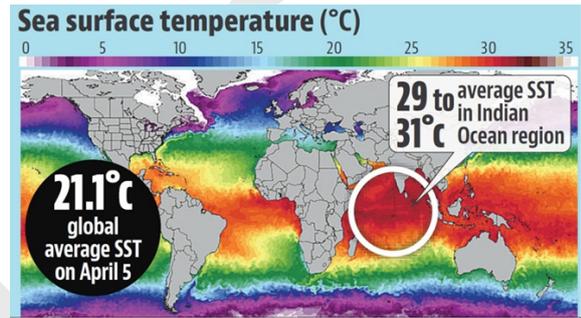


NEWS TODAY

SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE (SST) HIGHEST IN THE RECORDED HISTORY

- The **global average SST** reached **21.1° Celsius (C)** according to data released by **Climate Change Institute at University of Maine**.
 - **In the Indian Ocean**, it was **29 to 31° C** on **April 16** - which is **1-2° C** above normal.
 - Due to this, there are patches of **strong marine heat waves** over the **south Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal**.
- **SST** is the **water temperature close to the ocean's surface**.
 - It varies mainly with **latitude**, **warmest** near **equator** and **coldest** at **poles**.
 - It provides **fundamental information** on the **global climate system**.
 - It helps in the **study of marine ecosystems, weather prediction and atmospheric model simulations**; including the onset of **El Niño and La Niña cycles**, i.e. the
 - **Warm** and **Cool phases** of a recurring climate pattern across the tropical Pacific—the **El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)**.
- **Reasons Behind SST Rise:** Global Warming (Climate Change), high solar radiation combined with certain ocean dynamics etc.
- **Impact:**
 - Helping in the **onset of Monsoon and rain** through development of **low-pressure systems**,
 - **Coral Bleaching** and **Fish mortality**.



RELATED INFORMATION

- Scientists use Ocean mean temperature (OMT), measured up to a 26-degree C isotherm depth, to **predict the Indian summer monsoon**.
- **26 degrees C isotherm** is seen at depths **varying from 50–100 meters**.
- Contrary to this, **SST gives information only about the thin upper layer of the ocean** and does not reflect the thermal energy available in the upper ocean.

AYUSH SECTOR TO PROVIDE EFFICIENT, QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES THROUGH “AYUSH GRID” AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

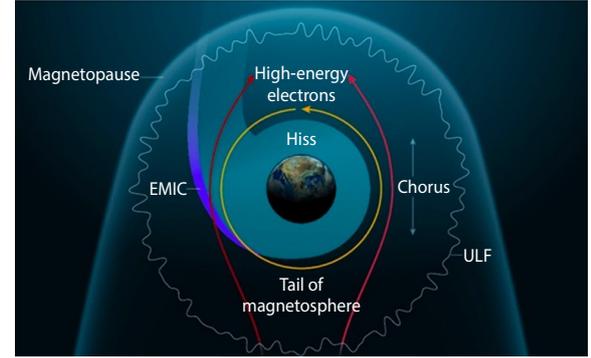
- Ministry of Ayush is leading a topic group on traditional medicine as part of the **Focus Group on Artificial Intelligence for Health (FG-AI4H)**.
 - It will help in **benchmarking of AI in traditional medicine with guidance and support of UN Bodies**, i.e. WHO and International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
 - **FG-AI4H** was established in **2018** by WHO and ITU to **‘develop international evaluation standards for AI solutions in health’**.
- Meeting focused on integrative healthcare via **IT backbone for Traditional Medicine “Ayush Grid”** & benchmarking **AI in Traditional Medicine** for better delivery.
- **About Ayush GRID**
 - It is a **central IT platform that integrates all stakeholders and services related to Ayush healthcare**, providing multiple IT services for all systems of AYUSH medicine.
 - **Ayush Grid platform envisages digitization of service delivery across the 6 functional areas** — Health Services, Education, Research, Drug Administration, Medicinal Plants, and Ministry of Ayush Oversight along with capacity building and media outreach.
 - Under the **Ministry of Ayush**, it **operates at four levels viz.**, Core layer, National Layer, State Layer, and Citizen access ensuring seamless digital connectedness between all stakeholders.
 - **Components:** AYUSH Medical Tourism, AHMIS, Tele-consultation, Education, e- Aushdhi etc.
 - It is a part of the **Digital India Program**.

ABOUT AYUSH AND NEED OF DIGITAL TOOLS

- Ayush, acronym for **Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy**, represents the **6 traditional Indian systems of medicine** prevalent and practiced in India.
- With increasing use of digital technologies across sectors, digital tools in Ayush are vital for:
 - **Improving the efficiency and outcome of the healthcare system.**
 - **Increased choice of the treatment system** to the patients.
 - **Promote medical tourism** etc.

INDIAN SCIENTISTS STUDY ELECTROMAGNETIC ION CYCLOTRON (EMIC) WAVES IDENTIFIED IN INDIAN ANTARCTIC STATION MAITRI

- Recently, Indian Scientists identified **EMIC waves** in the **Indian Antarctic station, Maitri**, and studied its characteristics.
 - Study can help understand the **impact of energetic particles** in the radiation belts on the **low orbiting satellites**.
- About EMIC Waves**
 - They are the **discreet electromagnetic emissions** (transverse plasma waves) observed in the **Earth's inner magnetosphere**.
 - Plasma** is the '**fourth state of matter**' along with **solid, liquid and gas**.
 - Plasma is a **superheated matter**, i.e. a gas with sufficient energy that the **electrons are ripped away** from the atoms to form an **ionized gas**.
 - These waves are generated in the **equatorial latitudes** and propagate **along magnetic field lines** to its footprint in the **high latitude ionosphere (atmosphere)**.
 - They can be recorded in both **space as well as ground** based magnetometers.
 - These waves play an important role in **precipitation of killer electrons**, which are hazardous to our **space-borne technology/instruments**.
 - Killer electrons** are electrons having **speed close to speed of light**, which form the radiation belt of planet Earth.
- Magnetosphere** is the region around a planet dominated by the **planet's magnetic field**, rather than the magnetic field of interplanetary space.
 - The Earth's Magnetosphere is dominated by the magnetic field of Earth, **protecting earth's atmosphere** from many types of **radiation from the sun**.



CENTRE TO STATES - BUY MID-DAY MEAL PULSES FROM NAFED

- Recently, the **Ministry of Education** urged states to procure pulses for the **PM-POSHAN** from NAFED.
 - The Government of India maintains buffer stocks of pulses through NAFED.
 - Centre asked this for ensuring **benefit from economy of scale and assured subsidised rates in the interest of students**.
- However, earlier guidelines issued to states and UTs, were **silent on the purchase of pulses from NAFED**. As per these guidelines:
 - Only **packed dals, salt, spices, condiments and oil** with **AGMARK quality symbol** should be purchased.
 - No loose ingredient should be bought** and the packaging and expiry date of the ingredients should be checked.
 - Also, the **states and UTs may procure pulses as per their local taste for the Mid-Day Meal** from the central buffer stock created by the Government of India.
- NAFED, i.e. **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.** is a national level farmers Cooperative Marketing organization which:
 - Promotes Cooperative marketing** of Agricultural Produce, and
 - Stabilizes price** of essential commodities like pulses.

EUROPEAN UNION (EU) LAWMAKERS ADOPT CARBON MARKET REFORM

- These adopted measures are part of the EU's **Fit for 55 package**.
 - Fit for 55** refers to the EU's target of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by **at least 55% by 2030 from 1990 levels** and achieve net zero emissions by 2050.
- Measures adopted**
 - Social Climate Fund** will support people in Europe with the costs of transitions.
 - Reforming Emission Trading System (ETS)**: European industries and energy companies should cut emissions by 62% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels, compared to previous target of 43%.
 - Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)**: To put a **tax on foreign company imports** which does not meet EU's climate protection standards.
 - Goods covered by CBAM** are iron, steel, cement, aluminium, fertilisers, electricity hydrogen etc.
 - Under this, **importers must purchase carbon certificates equivalent** to the EU's carbon pricing rules.
 - EU importers can **claim CBAM liability deductions if non-EU producers** have already paid emissions fees in their respective countries.



ABOUT PM-POSHAN

- Pradhan Mantri Poshan SHakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, earlier known as **National Scheme for Mid-Day meal** in Schools or simply **Mid-Day Meal Scheme**.
 - Mid-Day Meal Scheme** was launched in **1995** to meet twin objectives of:
 - Enhancing the enrollment, retention and attendance of students**, and
 - Improve nutritional levels** among school going children.
- It will provide **one hot cooked meal in Government** and Government-aided schools from **2021-22 to 2025-26**.
- Ministry**: Ministry of Education.

PM MEGA INTEGRATED TEXTILE SECTOR AND APPAREL (PM MITRA) PARKS INAUGURATED IN UTTAR PRADESH (UP)

- **Ministry of Textiles** signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of Integrated Textile Park in 1,000 acres in Lucknow and Hardoi districts of UP.
- **About the PM MITRA**
 - PM MITRA aims to develop integrated large scale and modern industrial infrastructure facilities for the entire value-chain of the textile industry.
 - It is Inspired by the 5F vision i.e., - **Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.**
 - **Special Purpose Vehicle owned by Centre and State Government jointly** to be set up for each park which will oversee the implementation of the project.
 - The setting up the **7 PM MITRA Parks was announced in the Union Budget 2021-22.**
- **Benefits**
 - It **reduces logistics cost by housing entire value chain** at one location.
 - It will give an **impetus to local weavers and a skilled workforce.**
 - It will help in achieving the **SDG 9 ("Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation")**.
- **Other Government initiatives for promotion of textiles Industry**
 - Allowed **100% FDI in the sector under the automatic route.**
 - Amended **Technology Up-gradation Fund Scheme' (A-TUFS).**
 - **National Technical Textiles Mission.**
 - **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles.**



ALSO IN NEWS

 <p>G-7 led Climate Club</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The G7 is an informal grouping of seven advanced economies, i.e., Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, United States, and European Union. ● G-7 established Climate Club, as an intergovernmental forum that aims to support the rapid and ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement, which seeks to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius ● It focusses on 3 pillars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ advancing transparent policies to achieve climate neutrality (reducing all greenhouse gases as much as possible), ➢ transforming industries to accelerate decarbonisation, ➢ facilitating partnerships and cooperation to encourage climate action.
 <p>Update on India-Russia Trade Relation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India and Russia aiming to boost Rupee-Rouble trade and Russia's Gazprombank has extended its links with banks in India to expedite trade. ● India and Russia have entered "advanced negotiations" over a free trade agreement that aims to build closer economic ties. ● Volume of India-Russia bilateral trade between April 2022 and February 2023 had reached \$45 billion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Earlier, India-Russia targeted bilateral trade up to \$30 billion by 2025. ● Rise in Russia's share in India's crude oil import has widened India's trade deficit with Russia. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ From \$4.86 billion in April, 2021-January, 2022 to \$34.79 billion during the same period in 2022-23.
 <p>Harpoon missiles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Taiwan is planning to buy these land-launched anti-ship Harpoon missiles from the USA. ● It is an all-weather, over-the-horizon, anti-ship missile system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ It has a low-level, sea-skimming cruise trajectory with active radar guidance. ➢ Currently, about 30 nations use the Harpoon including India. ➢ Range of fire - 93 to 280 km.

 <p>Mission 50K-EV4ECO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched a pilot scheme called Mission 50K-EV4ECO. • The mission aims to strengthen the Electric Vehicle (EV) ecosystem in India by financing EVs purchase through direct and indirect lending to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and NBFCs respectively. • It will serve as precursor to SIDBI-World Bank's EVOLVE programme. • SIDBI is a statutory body established in 1990 as the principal financial institution for promotion, financing & development of the MSME sector. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It works under Ministry of Finance.
 <p>River tributaries in News</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Hindon: Tributary of River Yamuna. • River Kiul: Tributary of Ganga. • River Kshipra: Tributary of Yamuna.
 <p>Helopeltis Theivora</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United Planters Association of Southern India (UPASI) has sought centre's intervention to control the infestation of Helopeltis Theivora. • Helopeltis Theivora is a tea mosquito bug - a major sucking pest of tea which sucks the sap from tender leaves, buds and young shoots, leading to heavy crop losses. • Though it can be controlled by using synthetic pesticides, the choices of tea growers are limited by the 2014 Plant Protection Code (PPC) from Tea Board of India. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ PPC restricts the use of harmful pesticides to keep the tea safe and free from harmful pesticides.
 <p>Animal Birth Control Rules (ABC), 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has notified the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 under Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960. • As per rules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Animal Birth Control (ABC) programmes for the sterilisation and immunisation of stray dogs are to be carried out by the respective local bodies/municipalities etc. ➤ Animal birth control programme should be run by an Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) accredited organization. ➤ Municipal Corporations need to implement the ABC and Anti Rabies Program jointly.
 <p>Sangathan se Samridhhi campaign</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Rural Development recently launched Sangathan se Samridhhi campaign. • It aims to mobilise disadvantaged rural communities unaware of the benefits of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). • The campaign will be organized in all states, with the expectation of forming more than 1 lakh Self-Help Group. • DAY-NRLM aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor enabling them to increase household income and improved access to financial services.
 <p>Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products from North Eastern Region (PTP-NER)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched the PTP-NER scheme, a Central Sector Scheme for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes of the North-eastern Region. • It will assist tribal craftsmen through backward and forward linkages via. incubation support, aggregation, skill and entrepreneurial development, marketing, transportation, etc. • The empanelment of tribal artisans will be done directly or through Tribal Artisan Melas (TAMs). • Partners: North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC), India Post and North Eastern State Government Departments/ Agencies. • Benefits: Increased Livelihood and earning opportunities, increased efficiency in procurement, logistics and marketing.
 <p>Zemithang</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently, a major Buddhist Conference was hosted in Zemithang, Arunachal Pradesh. • Zemithang was first stop of the 14th Dalai Lama during his flight from China-occupied Tibet in 1959. • Zemithang or Zimithang, in the Pangchen Valley, is a village and the last circle headquarters bordering Bhutan and Tibet. • Zemithang means "sand valley" and the people of the area are referred to as Pangchenpa, meaning "people who gave up sin". • It is on the Nyamjang Chu riverbank.