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29 April 2024

National & International News

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)



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Why in news?

- The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** of India is **preparing to defend the government's human rights processes** at a meeting in **Geneva**.
- The meeting is crucial as a decision on **whether the NHRC will retain its "A status"** is expected to be made.

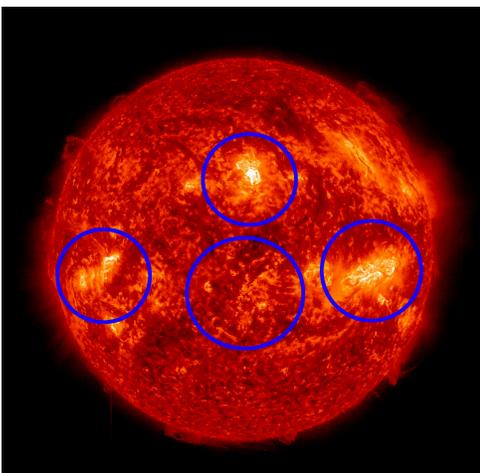
Key points:

- The decision on the NHRC's rating would affect its ability to vote at the UN Human Rights Council and some UNGA bodies.
- The meeting of the **Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA)** of the **UN-recognised Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)** will be held on May 1.
- According to a **six-point submission by the SCA** in March 2023, the **NHRC has failed to create conditions required to be "able to operate independent of government interference"**.

Think:

- Know about NHRC.
- Know about the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).

Sympathetic Solar Flares



Why in news?

- Astronomers recently observed a rare event, a **"super-sympathetic" solar flare**.
- This event featured **four simultaneous eruptions**.

About Solar flares:

- **Solar flares are intense bursts of radiation** that come from the **release of magnetic energy associated with sunspots**.
- The increased solar radiation from a solar flare can lead to **geomagnetic storms**, which may **impact power grids and cause auroras** (northern and southern lights) at lower latitudes.

About Sympathetic Solar Flare:

- Sympathetic solar flares **occur when sunspots or filaments are invisibly linked by massive magnetic field loops** that arch above the **solar surface**.



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<p>Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)</p>  <p>UN Climate Technology Centre & Network UNFCCC Technology Mechanism</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) is celebrating its 10th anniversary. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CTCN is the implementation arm of the UNFCCC's Climate Change Technology Mechanism, which is mandated under the Paris Agreement. It is hosted by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). The CTCN was established to speed up the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies for low-carbon and climate-resilient development, as requested by developing countries.
<p>Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a master direction for Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs), effective from April 24, 2024. <p>About Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) are specialized financial institutions that buy bad debts from banks and try to recover them. ARCs are registered under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and regulated under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002). ARCs perform various functions such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquiring financial assets, Changing or taking over management, Selling or leasing the business of the borrower, rescheduling debts, Enforcing security interest, and Settling dues payable by the borrower.
<p>Biohacking</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biohacking is gaining popularity in India. It is especially picking up in metro cities like Delhi and Mumbai. The trend is also gradually spreading to Tier II and III cities in the country. <p>About Biohacking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biohacking is a term used to describe various methods aimed at enhancing the body's ability to function at peak performance and potentially extend lifespan.



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- It involves using techniques from fields such as **biology, genetics, neuroscience, and nutrition.**
- The goal of biohacking is to **enhance physical or mental performance, improve overall health and well-being, or achieve a specific health outcome.**

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