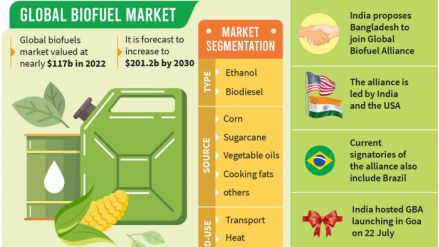





11 May 2024

National and International News

<p>Global biofuel alliance</p>  <p>GLOBAL BIOFUEL MARKET Global biofuels market valued at nearly \$117b in 2022. It is forecast to increase to \$201.2b by 2030.</p> <p>MARKET SEGMENTATION</p> <p>TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethanol Biodiesel Corn Sugarcane Vegetable oils Cooking fats others <p>SOURCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Heat <p>India proposes Bangladesh to join Global Biofuel Alliance</p> <p>The alliance is led by India and the USA</p> <p>Current signatories of the alliance also include Brazil</p> <p>India hosted GBA launching in Goa on 22 July</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) has adopted a new work plan, which will focus on assessing landscapes of various countries. It includes drafting policy frameworks related to biofuels. The plan also involves conducting workshops on biofuels. <p>About GBA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) is a multi-stakeholder alliance consisting of Governments, International Organizations, and Industries. It was launched on the sidelines of the 2023 G20 summit in New Delhi. The GBA is an initiative by India. It aims to bring together the biggest consumers and producers of biofuels to drive their development and deployment. It also aims to contribute to jobs and economic growth.
<p>Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has asked Assam's Chief Secretary to provide details of officers, who allowed the construction of polling stations, schools, and other activities in Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary and the adjoining Charduar Reserve forest. These constructions are in gross violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. <p>About Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area located in Assam. It is located along the foothills of the Great Himalayan Range. Four rivers flow through the sanctuary: Gabharu, Gelgeli, Sonai, and Rupai. The sanctuary is home to a variety of mammals including the tiger, lesser cats, elephant, gaur, wild boar, pygmy hog, swamp deer, and barking deer. It also hosts a variety of birds including the white-winged wood duck, hornbill, pelican, and various migratory birds.




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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reptiles such as the python and Russell’s viper can also be found in the sanctuary.
<p>Batagay Crater in Siberia</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new study has been conducted on a huge crater in Siberia’s permafrost. • The study found that the crater is growing by 35 million cubic feet every year. <p>About Batagay Crater in Siberia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The huge crater in Siberia’s permafrost is also known as the “gateway to the underworld” by some locals in Russia’s Sakha Republic. • It is located in Russia’s Far East and forms the world’s biggest permafrost crater. • The crater, also referred to as a megaslump, features a rounded cliff face. • Scientists believe that the crater is the result of a melting permafrost land, which was frozen during the Quaternary Ice Age 2.58 million years ago.
<p>U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund (CTTF)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India has made a contribution of \$500,000 to the U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund (CTTF). • The contribution is a voluntary financial contribution from India towards the CTTF. <p>About CTTF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund (CTTF) was established in 2009 and transferred to the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in 2017. • The Fund accepts contributions from various entities including Governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, private institutions, and individuals. • India’s contribution is intended to support UNOCT’s global programmes, primarily the Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT) and Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CTTP). • These programmes aim to build capacities of the member states of eastern and southern Africa to combat the critical issues of financing of terrorism and prevent the movement and travel of terrorists.
<p>Trichoderma asperellum</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana, has developed a biocontrol agent named Trichoderma asperellum (2% WP). • This biocontrol agent has been registered with the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee



	<p>(CIBRC).</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agent will help farmers in Punjab manage the deadly ‘foot rot’ or ‘bakanae’ disease. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It is a fungal disease. • This disease affects the crops of Basmati rice. • The biocontrol agent offers a non-chemical alternative to traditional pesticides. • It aids in disease management for crops. • It helps in minimizing environmental harm.
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Kerala Regional News

<p>Uniyala multibracteata or Kattupoovamkurunnila</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tree species Uniyala multibracteata, locally known as Kattupoovamkurunnila, has been rediscovered after a gap of 140 years. • This rare and endangered species was found in a non-protected area of the Wagamon hills in the Western Ghats. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This species was thought to have become extinct. • Kattupoovamkurunnila is endemic to areas such as Wagamon, Memala, and Elappara. • The species was originally discovered from Peerumade in 1880 by R.H. Beddome, a pioneer botanist who conducted plant discoveries in south India. <p>About Kattupoovamkurunnila:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kattupoovamkurunnila is a small tree or large shrub that grows to a height of 2 to 5 metres. • The leaves of this tree are covered with cottony hairs. • The habitat of Kattupoovamkurunnila consists of evergreen forests and rocky grasslands situated 1,200 metres above sea level.
<p>Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) has been linked to ‘off-budget borrowings’, causing friction in Centre-State fiscal relations. • A new study suggests that KIIFB should consider revenue generation avenues to shed its image as a “debt-generating



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	<p>State-owned enterprise”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study, titled ‘Exploring own sources of revenue for KIIFB’, was published in the Kerala Economy journal by the Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT). <p>About KIIFB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment: KIIFB was established by the Government of Kerala to mobilize funds for infrastructure development in the state. • Purpose: Its primary purpose is to provide financial assistance for major and minor infrastructure projects across Kerala, helping to enhance the state's economic growth. • Funding Mechanisms: KIIFB raises funds through the issuance of bonds, loans from financial institutions, and other government-approved methods. • Governance: It is governed by a board of directors, which includes high-level state government officials and is chaired by the state’s Finance Minister.
<p>Padmaprabha Award Literary</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writer and lyricist Refeeque Ahamed has been selected for the Padmaprabha Award 2024. • The jury appreciated Refeeque Ahamed for preserving Malayalam poetry without losing touch with reality. <p>About Padmaprabha Literary Award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundation and Purpose: The Padmaprabha Literary Award is sponsored by the Padmaprabha Foundation and focuses on contributions to Malayalam literature. It was established to honor the memory of the freedom fighter and socialist, Padmaprabha. • Award Details: The award includes a cash prize of ₹75,000, a citation, and a gem-studded ring. The award highlights significant contributions in the field of Malayalam literature. • Inception: First awarded in 1996, the award has been given annually to a wide array of distinguished writers in Malayalam literature.
<p>Google Wallet</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google and Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) have announced a partnership. • The collaboration aims to enhance digital ticketing options for metro commuters. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google Wallet is at the center of this partnership. • Google Wallet provides fast and secure access to everyday essentials.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It enables people to conveniently store and retrieve important digital documents. • These documents include boarding passes, loyalty cards, movie tickets, and more.
<p>CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing technology</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) in Thiruvananthapuram has embarked on a ₹4 crore research project. • The project aims to develop tapioca varieties with waxy or high-amylose starches using CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing technology. <p>About CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing technology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discovery and Development: CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) and Cas9 (CRISPR-associated protein 9) were adapted from a naturally occurring genome editing system in bacteria. The technology was developed into a versatile tool by scientists Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier, who won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2020 for their work. • Mechanism: CRISPR-Cas9 works by using a guide RNA (gRNA) to direct the Cas9 enzyme to a specific location in the DNA sequence where an edit is desired. The Cas9 enzyme then cuts the DNA at this location, allowing for genes to be removed or added.

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