



05 June 2024

National and International News

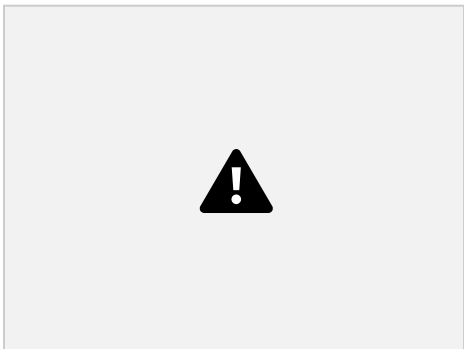
<p>'Phenome India' Project</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has recently concluded the first phase of its longitudinal health monitoring project, Phenome India. To mark this milestone, CSIR organized a special event named "Phenome India Unboxing 1.0." <p>About 'Phenome India' Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Phenome India-CSIR Health Cohort Knowledgebase (PI-CheCK), launched by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). It is a pioneering initiative aimed at developing India-specific risk prediction models for cardio-metabolic diseases, including diabetes, liver diseases, and cardiac diseases. Objective: To create risk prediction models tailored to the Indian population for cardio-metabolic diseases. Scope: This is the first pan-India longitudinal health monitoring study with a focus on these diseases. Importance: The study aims to understand the unique risk and incidence patterns of cardio-metabolic disorders in the Indian population, which may differ from Western populations due to ethnic diversity and varied lifestyle patterns. Precision Medicine: This initiative promotes Predictive, Personalised, Participatory, and Preventive (P4) healthcare, specifically tailored to Indian phenotypic and genetic profiles.
<p>International Air Transport Association (IATA)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India will host the annual general meeting (AGM) of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) after 42 years. <p>About IATA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founded: 1945, Havana, Cuba, with 57 founding members. Mission: To represent, lead, and serve the airline industry. Membership: Represents approximately 330 airlines, covering over 80% of global air traffic.



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- **Headquarters:** Montreal, Canada.
- **Members:** Includes **leading passenger and cargo airlines** worldwide.
- **Functions and Advocacy:**
 - **Simplification and Standards:** Creates industry standards to:
 - Simplify processes.
 - Increase safety.
 - Enhance passenger convenience.
 - Reduce costs.
 - Improve efficiency.
 - Achieve sustainability goals.
 - **Environmental Policy:** Addresses environmental concerns.
 - **Regulatory Advocacy:** **Challenges arbitrary laws and charges**, holding regulators and governments accountable, and striving for responsible regulation.
 - **Cost Reduction:** Helps airlines reduce costs and improve efficiency by simplifying operations and boosting passenger convenience.
- **IATA Annual General Meeting & World Air Transport Summit:** **Held in June each year** to formalise industry positions on key issues and focus on emerging industry concerns.

Stromatolites



Why in the news?

- **Scientists recently discovered living stromatolites**, ancient geological structures **formed by algae**, on **Sheybarah Island** in the northeastern **Red Sea** in **Saudi Arabia**.

About Stromatolites:

- Stromatolites, also known as **stromatoliths**, are **layered structures formed in shallow waters** by the **trapping, binding, and cementation of sedimentary grains** by biofilms of microorganisms, particularly cyanobacteria (blue-green algae).
- **Historical Significance:**
 - Stromatolites were common during the **Precambrian era**, more than 542 million years ago.
 - **Most stromatolites are marine**, but some from Proterozoic strata, over 2.5 billion years old, are believed to have **inhabited intertidal areas and freshwater ponds and lakes**.
- **Modern Occurrence:**
 - Today, **living stromatolites are rare, found only in a few salty lagoons or bays**.
 - **Western Australia** is internationally **significant**



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	<p>for its variety of stromatolite sites, both living and fossilized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shark Bay in Western Australia is one of only two places in the world where living marine stromatolites exist.
<p>Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has commercialized herbicide-tolerant (Ht) basmati rice varieties. ● These varieties are designed to control weeds in rice crops and promote water-saving practices through direct seeded rice (DSR) techniques. <p>About Direct Seeded Rice (DSR):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) refers to the method of sowing rice seeds directly into the field rather than transplanting seedlings from a nursery. ● Types of DSR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wet DSR: Seeds are sown in wet fields. ○ Dry DSR: Seeds are sown in dry fields, and irrigation is provided later. ● Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water Savings: DSR requires less water compared to traditional transplanting methods. ○ Labor Efficiency: Reduces the need for labor-intensive practices such as nursery preparation and transplanting. ○ Reduced Methane Emissions: Lower methane emissions due to reduced anaerobic conditions. ○ Early Maturity: Leads to earlier crop maturity and thus allows for timely planting of subsequent crops.
<p>United Nations Global Supply Chain Forum</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The inaugural United Nations Global Supply Chain Forum, organized by UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Government of Barbados, concluded successfully recently. <p>About United Nations Global Supply Chain Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The forum aimed to address critical global issues such as disruptions, geopolitical tensions, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic and their impact on global trade. ● Decarbonizing Global Shipping: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus on developing countries rich in renewable energy resources. ○ Efforts to incentivize low- or zero-carbon fuels. ○ Establishing safety frameworks for new fuels.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enhancing port readiness for handling various fuels. ● UN Trade-and-Transport Dataset: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Launch of a comprehensive dataset developed in collaboration with the World Bank. ○ Offers a holistic view of trade and transport costs. ● The next forum is scheduled to take place in Saudi Arabia in 2026.
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Kerala Regional News

<p>Special ownership certificate</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In Kerala, a new law is set to come into force, mandating the provision of a special ownership certificate for additional land discovered within properties owned by individuals during the digital survey. <p>About Special ownership certificate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Background: Despite previous surveys (including a digital survey two years ago), property owners in Kerala currently do not receive any documentation for additional land they possess. ● Purpose: The new law aims to address this long-standing issue by granting ownership documents for additional land without disputes while ensuring no decrease in government land adjacent to private properties. ● Authority: To regularize ownership rights, designated revenue officials (such as Tehsildars, Deputy Collectors, or Revenue Divisional Officers) will have the authority of a civil court. They can also resolve disputes and handle complaints.
<p>Justice Hema Commission report</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Justice Hema Commission report, which was constituted in the aftermath of the actor assault case in Kochi. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Report Details: It contains detailed testimonies from many women in the Malayalam film industry about the harassment they experienced¹. ● Secrecy Surrounding the Report: The Cultural Affairs Department initially denied requests for the report's copy. However, the Commission invoked its civil and judicial powers, leading to the report being submitted in a



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	<p>sealed cover.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent Developments: The State Information Commission is currently deciding whether to share the report's details with the public.
<p>Landslide in Koorachundu</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Koorachundu, Kozhikode, a devastating landslide occurred recently. <p>About Landslide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition: A landslide is the movement of rock, earth, or debris down a slope due to gravity. Causes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural Factors: Heavy rainfall, earthquakes, volcanic activity, erosion, and rapid snowmelt. Human Activities: Deforestation, mining, construction activities, and changes in water drainage patterns. Prevention and Mitigation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engineering Solutions: Retaining walls, drainage control, and slope reinforcement. Vegetative Measures: Planting trees and grass to stabilize slopes. Land Use Planning: Avoiding construction in landslide-prone areas. Early Warning Systems: Monitoring rainfall, soil moisture, and ground movement.
<p>Special action calendar for the prevention of a Nipah outbreak</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerala Prepares Special Action Calendar To Prevent Nipah Virus Outbreak. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Past Outbreaks: Major outbreaks occurred in 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2023. Affected Districts: Kozhikode and Ernakulam were primarily affected. Ongoing Threat: Detection of Nipah virus antibodies in bats across several areas indicates a persistent zoonotic threat. Objective: The state government aims to mitigate this health risk through enhanced efforts. <p>Think:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know about Nipah Virus.
<p>Oedocladium sahyadricum</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New algal species discovered in Western Ghats. <p>Key points:</p>



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- **Discovery:** A new algal species, **Oedocladium sahyadricum**, has been discovered.
- **Location:** Found in the natural forests of the **Kumbhavuruttu region in Kollam district**, Western Ghats.
- **Institution:** Department of Botany, Catholicate College, Pathanamthitta.
- **Naming:** The species is named '**sahyadricum**,' referring to the **Western Ghats (Sahyadri)**.
- **Publication:** The discovery has been published in **Taiwania**, an **International Journal of Biodiversity**.

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