
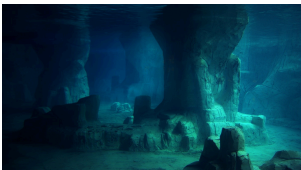





12 December 2024

National and International News

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| <p>Person in news: C. Subramania Bharati</p>  | <p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release a complete and annotated edition of the works of C. Subramania Bharati in New Delhi. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He was a poet, freedom fighter, and social reformer from Tamil Nadu. He was known as Mahakavi Bharathiyar, and the laudatory epithet Mahakavi means a great poet. He is considered one of India's greatest poets. His songs on nationalism and freedom of India helped to rally the masses to support the Indian Independence Movement in Tamil Nadu. Bharathi joined as Assistant Editor of the Swadesamitran, a Tamil daily, in 1904. In 1907, he started editing the Tamil weekly India and the English newspaper Bala Bharatham with M.P.T. Acharya. He assisted Aurobindo in the Arya journal and later Karma Yogi in Pondicherry. Bharathi was essentially a lyrical poet. Bharati's best-known works included Kanṇan pattu (1917; Songs to Krishna), Panchali sapatham (1912; Panchali's Vow), and Kuyil pattu (1912; Kuyil's Song). He also translated Vedic hymns, Patanjali's Yoga Sutra and Bhagavat Gita into Tamil. |
| <p>Eratosthenes</p>  | <p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Geological Institute of Israel uncovered a never before known underwater canyon near Cyprus. The canyon, known as Eratosthenes for the underwater mountain it is near, dates back to the Messinian Event that transpired about 5.5 million years ago. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The canyon, known as Eratosthenes for the underwater mountain it is near, dates back to the Messinian Event that transpired about 5.5 million years ago. The canyon is about 10 km wide and 500 m deep and was buried at the beginning of the Messinian period before the deposition of the salt layer. It was created when the level of the Mediterranean Sea decreased at the same time there was a rise in the salinity of |



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| | <p>the water, which apparently created gravity currents or dense solutions that caused the destabilization of the submarine slopes and subsidence of the seabed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the institute in a broader aspect this work reveals the environmental conditions of high salinity and lower sea level in the deep Mediterranean basin at the beginning of the Messinian event. • Also known as the Messinian salinity crisis, the Messinian event was a geological event during which the Mediterranean Sea went into a cycle of partial or nearly complete desiccation. |
| <p>Species in news: Thrips Parvispinus</p>  | <p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rajya Sabha was informed that invasive thrips caused 80% damage to chilli crops. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature– It is an invasive pest species. • Origin– This thrips originates from Southeast Asia and was first found in Florida in 2020. It is a polyphagous pest that causes damage to vegetable, ornamental, and fruit crops. • Spread– The last two decades have witnessed a drastic extension in the geographic distribution. It is now found in France, Greece, Hawaii, Mauritius, Reunion, Spain, Tanzania and the Netherlands, besides India. • In India– This species was first reported on Papaya from Bengaluru in 2015. • Infestation– Adults mainly colonize on flowers and underside of leaves whereas larvae suck sap from under the surface • Impact– Infestation causes heavy flower drop and thereby reduces fruit production. Its infestation increases during heavy rainfall of the North East monsoon. This has caused 40-80% damage to chilli crops in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. |
| <p>GG Tau A System</p> | <p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Astronomers have discovered a protoplanetary disk (a swirling ring of gas and dust) in the GG Tau A system, located 489 light-years from Earth. • The discovery offers valuable insights into planet formation in multi-star environments. • Researchers from the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) in Odisha utilized advanced radio telescopes in Chile’s Atacama Desert for the study. <p>Key Points: About GG Tau A System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triple-Star System: GG Tau A consists of three interacting stars, located 489 light-years from Earth. • Young Age: The system is only 1–5 million years old, making it ideal for studying early planetary formation. • Planet-Birth Environment: The system features a gas and dust disk, which serves as the birthplace of planets. |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Star Interactions: The three stars interact with each other, significantly affecting the disk and making planet formation more unpredictable compared to single-star systems. ● Unique Forces: Forces between the stars cause the disk to behave differently, offering insights into the complexities of multi-star environments. |
| <p>Voronezh Radar</p> | <p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India is set to finalise a landmark USD 4 billion defence agreement with Russia, aimed at acquiring a Russian Voronezh ballistic missile attack early warning radar. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Voronezh radar system is a critical component of Russia’s early warning and missile defence infrastructure. ● It is capable of identifying and tracking a range of threats, including ballistic missiles and aircraft, over distances of up to 8,000 kilometers. ● Introduced in 2009, these radars have been operational since 2012 and are strategically deployed across Russia to provide extensive coverage against potential missile threats. ● These radars employ phased array technology, which allows for rapid electronic steering of the beam. This makes them highly efficient and less mechanically complex than older systems. ● There are several varieties of these radars operating in the meter (Voronezh-M), decimeter (Voronezh-DM), or centimeter (Voronezh-CM) wavelength range, as well as a few others that combine several ranges. ● The different Voronezh radars can work in unison as part of an integrated Missile Attack Early Warning System to generate a comprehensive radar picture of potential missile threats and space activity. ● These radars are crucial for early warning against ballistic missile threats and are positioned to optimise detection capabilities across various threat vectors. |

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