

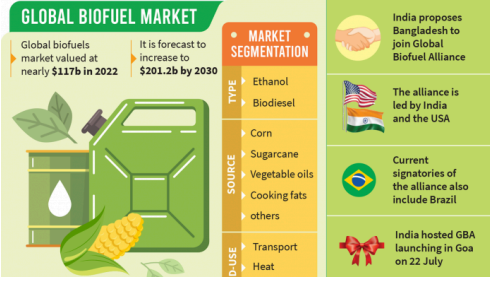


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11 May 2024

### National & International News

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



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- The study found that the **crater is growing by 35 million cubic feet every year.**

### About Batagay Crater in Siberia:

- 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.**

### U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund (CTTF)

#### Why in news?

- **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.

#### About CTTF:

- 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 the capacities of the member states of eastern and southern Africa** to combat the critical issues of financing terrorism and prevent the movement and travel of terrorists.

### Trichoderma asperellum

#### Why in news?

- 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 (CIBRC).**

#### Key points:

- The agent will **help farmers in Punjab manage the deadly 'foot rot' or 'bakanae' disease.**
  - It is a fungal disease.
- This **disease affects the crops of Basmati rice.**



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- 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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