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5 June 2024

National & International News


<p><b>'Phenome India' Project</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)</b> has recently concluded the first phase of its longitudinal health monitoring project, <b>Phenome India</b>.</li> <li>To mark this milestone, CSIR organized a special event named "<b>Phenome India Unboxing 1.0.</b>"</li> </ul> <p><b>About 'Phenome India' Project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Phenome India-CSIR Health Cohort Knowledgebase (PI-CheCK)</b>, was launched by the <b>Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)</b>.</li> <li>It is a pioneering initiative aimed at developing <b>India-specific risk prediction models for cardio-metabolic diseases</b>, including <b>diabetes, liver diseases, and cardiac diseases</b>.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To create risk prediction models tailored to the <b>Indian population for cardio-metabolic diseases</b>.</li> <li><b>Scope:</b> This is the <b>first pan-India longitudinal health monitoring study</b> with a focus on these diseases.</li> <li><b>Importance:</b> 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.</li> <li><b>Precision Medicine:</b> This initiative promotes <b>Predictive, Personalised, Participatory, and Preventive (P4) healthcare</b>, specifically tailored to Indian phenotypic and genetic profiles.</li> </ul>
<p><b>International Air Transport Association (IATA)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India will host the annual general meeting (AGM) of the <b>International Air Transport Association (IATA)</b> after 42 years.</li> </ul> <p><b>About IATA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Founded:</b> 1945, <b>Havana, Cuba</b>, with 57 founding members.</li> <li><b>Mission:</b> To represent, lead, and serve the airline industry.</li> <li><b>Membership:</b> Represents approximately <b>330 airlines, covering over 80% of global air traffic</b>.</li> <li><b>Headquarters:</b> <b>Montreal, Canada</b>.</li> <li><b>Members:</b> Includes <b>leading passenger and cargo airlines</b> worldwide.</li> <li><b>Functions and Advocacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Simplification and Standards:</b> Creates industry standards to:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simplify processes.</li> <li>Increase safety.</li> <li>Enhance passenger convenience.</li> <li>Reduce costs.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Improve efficiency.</li> <li>■ Achieve sustainability goals.</li> <li>○ <b>Environmental Policy:</b> Addresses environmental concerns.</li> <li>○ <b>Regulatory Advocacy: Challenges arbitrary laws and charges,</b> holding regulators and governments accountable, and striving for responsible regulation.</li> <li>○ <b>Cost Reduction:</b> Helps airlines reduce costs and improve efficiency by simplifying operations and boosting passenger convenience.</li> <li>● <b>IATA Annual General Meeting &amp; World Air Transport Summit: Held in June each year</b> to formalize industry positions on key issues and focus on emerging industry concerns.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Stromatolites</b></p> 	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Scientists recently discovered living stromatolites,</b> ancient geological structures <b>formed by algae,</b> on <b>Sheybarah Island</b> in the northeastern <b>Red Sea in Saudi Arabia.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About Stromatolites:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stromatolites, also known as <b>stromatoliths,</b> are <b>layered structures formed in shallow waters</b> by the <b>trapping, binding, and cementation of sedimentary grains</b> by biofilms of microorganisms, particularly cyanobacteria (blue-green algae).</li> <li>● <b>Historical Significance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stromatolites were common during the <b>Precambrian era,</b> more than 542 million years ago.</li> <li>○ <b>Most stromatolites are marine,</b> but some from Proterozoic strata, over 2.5 billion years old, are believed to have <b>inhabited intertidal areas and freshwater ponds and lakes.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Modern Occurrence:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Today, <b>living stromatolites are rare, found only in a few salty lagoons or bays.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Western Australia</b> is internationally <b>significant for its variety of stromatolite sites,</b> both <b>living and fossilized.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Shark Bay in Western Australia</b> is one of <b>only two places in the world where living marine stromatolites exist.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)</b> has <b>commercialized herbicide-tolerant (Ht) basmati rice varieties.</b></li> <li>● These <b>varieties are designed to control weeds in rice crops and promote water-saving practices through direct-seeded rice (DSR) techniques.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About Direct Seeded Rice (DSR):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) refers to the <b>method of sowing rice seeds directly into the field rather than transplanting seedlings from a nursery.</b></li> <li>● <b>Types of DSR:</b></li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Wet DSR:</b> Seeds are sown in wet fields.</li> <li>○ <b>Dry DSR:</b> Seeds are sown in dry fields, and irrigation is provided later.</li> <li>● <b>Benefits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Water Savings:</b> DSR requires less water compared to traditional transplanting methods.</li> <li>○ <b>Labor Efficiency:</b> Reduces the need for labor-intensive practices such as nursery preparation and transplanting.</li> <li>○ <b>Reduced Methane Emissions:</b> Lower methane emissions due to reduced anaerobic conditions.</li> <li>○ <b>Early Maturity:</b> This leads to earlier crop maturity and thus allows for timely planting of subsequent crops.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>United Nations Global Supply Chain Forum</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The inaugural <b>United Nations Global Supply Chain Forum</b>, organized by <b>UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</b> and the <b>Government of Barbados</b>, concluded successfully recently.</li> </ul> <p><b>About the United Nations Global Supply Chain Forum:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The forum aimed to address <b>critical global issues</b> such as <b>disruptions, geopolitical tensions, climate change</b>, and the <b>COVID-19 pandemic</b> and their impact on global trade.</li> <li>● <b>Decarbonizing Global Shipping:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Focus on <b>developing countries rich in renewable energy resources</b>.</li> <li>○ Efforts to incentivize low- or zero-carbon fuels.</li> <li>○ Establishing safety frameworks for new fuels.</li> <li>○ Enhancing port readiness for handling various fuels.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>UN Trade-and-Transport Dataset:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Launch of a comprehensive dataset</b> developed in collaboration with the <b>World Bank</b>.</li> <li>○ <b>Offers a holistic view of trade and transport costs</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The <b>next forum</b> is scheduled to take place in <b>Saudi Arabia in 2026</b>.</li> </ul>

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