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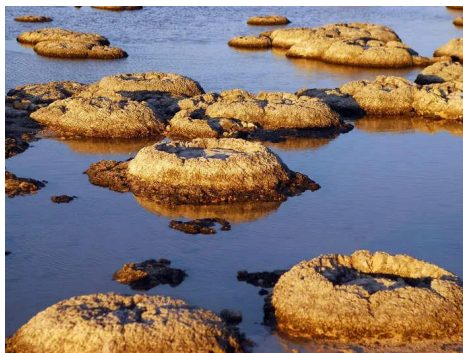
National and International News

<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. • Headquarters: Montreal, Canada. • Members: Includes leading passenger and cargo airlines worldwide. • Functions and Advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 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 for its variety of stromatolite sites**, both living and fossilized.
 - **Shark Bay in Western Australia** is one of **only two places in the world where living marine stromatolites exist**.

Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)

Why in news?

- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** has



	<p>commercialized herbicide-tolerant (Ht) basmati rice varieties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. ○ 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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