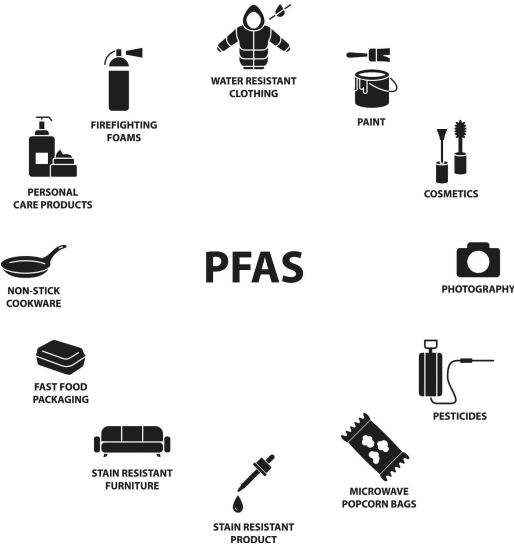




17 Aug 2024

National and International News


<p>Forever chemicals</p>  <p>PFAS</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American researchers have achieved a major breakthrough by discovering a method to trace the origin and destination of forever chemicals. Researchers used a technique involving magnetic fields and radio waves to track the spread of "forever chemicals" in global ecosystems. <p>About Forever chemicals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientifically known as per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Common applications: water-proofing, heat resistance, detergents, food packaging, and non-stick technologies. Environmental impact: Persist in the environment indefinitely, leading to environmental degradation. Health Risks of PFAS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testicular, kidney, liver, and pancreatic cancer. Reproductive issues. Weakened childhood immunity. Low birth weight. Endocrine disruption. Increased cholesterol levels. Weight gain in children and dieting adults.
<p>New Ramsar sites in India</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change announced that three additional wetlands from India have been added to the Ramsar sites list. <p>New Ramsar sites in India:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: Tamil Nadu Historical Significance: Named after King Nanjarayan, who repaired and restored the lake centuries ago. Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary:



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Status: Declared the 16th bird sanctuary in Tamil Nadu in 2021. ○ Location: Tamil Nadu ○ Significance: One of the largest wetlands in peninsular India, rich in biodiversity. ○ Migratory Path: Lies in the Central Asian Flyway, serving as a crucial stopover for migratory birds. ● Tawa Reservoir: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Location: Largest protected area in Madhya Pradesh. ○ Construction: Built at the confluence of Tawa and Denwa rivers. ○ Significance: Located within the Satpura Tiger Reserve, forming the western boundary of Satpura National Park and Bori Wildlife Sanctuary.
Prerana Programme	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Union Minister of Education recently engaged with students, teachers, parents from PM SHRI Schools, and alumni of the Prerana Programmes. <p>About Prerana Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Launch Date: January 2024. ● Launched By: Union Education Ministry. ● Objective: Integration of Indian education system principles and value-based education as outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. ● Target Audience: Selected students of Class IX to XII. ● Program Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Experiential Learning: Best-in-class technology where heritage meets innovation. ○ Student Selection: 20 students (10 boys and 10 girls) from various parts of India attend the program weekly. ● Value-Based Themes: The curriculum is rooted in 9 themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Swabhiman and Vinay ○ Shaurya and Sahas ○ Parishram and Samarpan ○ Karuna and Sewa ○ Vividhta and Ekta



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Satyanishtha and Shuchita ○ Navachar and Jigyasa ○ Shraddha aur Vishwas ○ Swatantrata and Kartavya ● Program Aim: To inspire youth and foster respect for Bharat's unity in diversity, embodying the spirit of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam."
<p>Gastrodia indica</p> 	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A unique orchid species, Gastrodia indica, was recently discovered in Sikkim's Fambonglho Wildlife Sanctuary. <p>About Gastrodia indica:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Orchid from India that Never Opens Its Flower: The first cleistogamous species of the genus Gastrodia discovered from India, named Gastrodia indica. ● Habitat: Thrives in dense, rotten leaf litter associated with trees like Magnolia doltsopa, Acer campbelli, and Quercus lamellosa. ● Contribution to Botanical Diversity: The discovery of Gastrodia indica increases the total number of Gastrodia species in India to 10. ● Conservation Concerns: Faces potential threats due to its limited population and specific habitat requirements.
<p>Prokaryotes</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scientists have discovered that prokaryotes are highly resilient to climate change, which may lead to their increased dominance in marine environments. <p>About Prokaryotes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Single-Celled Organisms: Prokaryotes are single-celled organisms that lack a distinct nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles. ● Cell Organisation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Basic structural components include a cell wall (absent in mycoplasma), cytoplasm, and a plasma membrane. ○ They lack a well-defined nucleus. ● Historical Significance: Prokaryotes are considered to be the oldest cell-based lifeforms on Earth. ● Habitat:



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- They thrive across the entire planet, **both on land and in water.**
- They are **found in** environments ranging from the **tropics to the poles.**
- **Ecological Significance:** Prokaryotes **play a crucial role in the world's food chains**, supporting the nutrient needs of fish consumed by humans.



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