



13 May 2024

National and International News

Sea anemone



Why in news?

- Scientists at the **ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR)** are working on **sea anemones** in the **Lakshadweep group of islands**.
- They have observed **mass anemone bleaching off the Agatti island**.
- While **coral bleaching is not new in Lakshadweep**, this is the **first time sea anemone bleaching has been observed** in these islands.

About Sea anemone:

- Sea anemones are **invertebrate aquatic animals with soft bodies** and the **ability to sting**.
- They belong to the **phylum Cnidaria** and are **ocean-dwelling creatures**.
- They have a **sticky foot or disc that allows them to anchor to rocks on the sea bottom or on coral reefs**.
- They are **known to form symbiotic relationships with other animals**, the most well-known alliance being with **clownfish**.



Places in news: Panama



Why in news?

- Panama is on the verge of a significant change to its immigration policy.
- This change could have effects from the dense Darien jungle to the U.S. border.

About Panama:

- Panama is a country in Central America, located on the Isthmus of Panama, the narrow bridge of land that connects North and South America.
- It is bordered by Costa Rica and Colombia and is situated between the Caribbean Sea and the North Pacific Ocean.
- Panama is renowned as the site of the Panama Canal, which cuts through its midsection.
- Panama has the largest rainforest in the Western Hemisphere outside the Amazon Basin.
- Capital: Panama City.



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

United Nations Forum on Forests



Why in news?

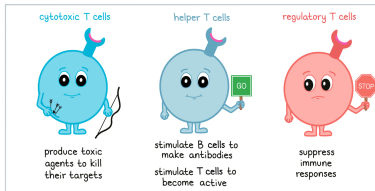
- The **19th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF19)** took place from May 6-10, 2024 in **New York, United States**.
- By the end of the forum on May 10, the declaration aimed to **achieve agreement on a high-level political commitment to forest protection**.
- The declaration included **specific actions for effective implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF)** by UNFF and its stakeholders.

About United Nations Forum on Forests:

- The **United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)** was **established in 2000** by the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**.
- The UNFF **promotes the management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests**.
- The forum has **universal membership** and is **composed of all Member States of the United Nations and specialized agencies**.
- The UNFF **meets annually at the UN Headquarters in New York** for high-level dialogue on **technical matters in odd years and policy matters in even years**.
- **India is a founding member of UNFF**.



T cells



Why in news?

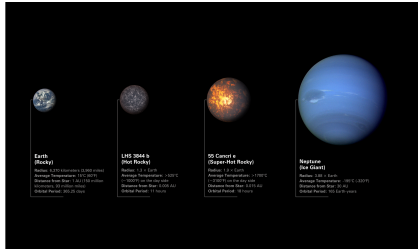
- A new clinical trial has been conducted on the performance of infusions of immune-calming regulatory T cells for children with type 1 diabetes.
- The trial shows that a single dose of these cells can be efficiently transferred in children.
- However, the trial does not show signs of preserving insulin-releasing cells in the pancreas.

About T cells:

- T cells, also known as T lymphocytes or thymocytes, are a type of white blood cell.
- They are part of the immune system and develop from stem cells in the bone marrow.
- T cells help protect the body from infection and may help fight cancer.
- There are two main types of T cells: **Cytotoxic T-cells**, which destroy infected cells, and **Helper T-cells**, which send signals that direct other immune cells to fight infection.
- T cells circulate until they encounter their specific antigen, rather than generically attacking any antigens.
- When a T-cell receptor fits with its viral antigen on an infected cell, the Killer T-cell releases **cytotoxins** to kill that cell.



The exoplanet 55 Cancri e



Why in news?

- Astronomers have finally located a **rocky planet with an atmosphere**.
- But it **appears to have a surface of molten rock** and offers **no hope for habitability**.

Key points:

- The planet is described as a **“super-Earth”**, a rocky world significantly **larger than Earth but smaller than Neptune**.
- It **orbits close to a star** that is dimmer and slightly less massive than the sun, **completing an orbit every 18 hours or so**.

About 55 Cancri e:

- The planet, also known as **Janssen**, is an **exoplanet** and a **super-Earth** located about **41 light-years from Earth** in the constellation **Cancer**.
- Its **surface temperature is about 3,140 degrees Fahrenheit**.
- The planet is probably **tidally locked**, meaning it **perpetually has the same side facing its star**, similar to how the moon faces Earth.



Kerala Regional News

Hepatitis

HEPATITIS	How it spreads	Prevention	Treatment
A	Feces Contaminated food or water	• Vaccine • Practice good hygiene	No specific medication available Treated through supportive care (rest, adequate nutrition, and fluids) to help relieve symptoms
B	Through contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person	• Vaccine • Practice safe sex • Blood screening	Combination antiviral therapies (with Tenofovir or Tenofovir derivatives plus lamivudine)
C	Blood-to-blood contact	• Practice safe sex • Avoid sharing needles, toothbrushes, razors or nail scissors	Combination therapies with direct acting antivirals (DAAs)
D	Contact with infected blood (only occurs in people already infected with hepatitis B)	• Hepatitis B vaccine • Avoid sharing needles, toothbrushes, razors or nail scissors	Interferon
E	Feces Contaminated food or water	• Practice Good Hygiene • Avoid drinking water that has come from a potentially unsafe source • Cook food well	No specific medication available Supportive Care

Why in news?

- On May 12, health authorities in Malappuram issued a fresh warning against the spread of hepatitis.
- This warning was issued in response to two more deaths reported in the last two days.

About Hepatitis:

- Hepatitis refers to **inflammation of the liver**, which can be caused by **viruses, toxins, alcohol, certain drugs, and autoimmune conditions**.
- **Types of Viral Hepatitis:** The most common types are **Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E**.
 - **Hepatitis A:** Transmitted primarily through ingestion of contaminated food or water.
 - **Hepatitis B:** Transmitted through contact with infected bodily fluids, such as blood, semen, and vaginal fluids.
 - **Hepatitis C:** Mainly spread through blood-to-blood contact, such as sharing needles or from inadequately sterilized medical equipment.
 - **Hepatitis D:** Occurs only among those infected with Hepatitis B, as it is a superinfection.
 - **Hepatitis E:** Generally transmitted through consuming contaminated water and is prevalent in regions with poor sanitation.



Kudumbashree Mission



Why in news?

- 50 Kudumbashree women farmers are set to learn how to use drones in their fields.
- The Kudumbashree Mission, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and the Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) will jointly organise a four-day training.
- The training will focus on the use of drones in agriculture.

About Kudumbashree Mission:

- The Kudumbashree Mission, officially known as the State Poverty Eradication Mission, was established by the Government of Kerala in 1998.
- It aims to eradicate poverty through community-driven initiatives that empower women and promote self-help groups.
- Kudumbashree operates through a three-tier system composed of Neighbourhood Groups (NHGs), Area Development Societies (ADS), and Community Development Societies (CDS).
- The mission has established over 49,200 microenterprises that engage in various sectors such as catering, waste management, and more.
- It has been pivotal in mobilizing savings and providing credit to its members, thereby fostering economic independence and stability among women.



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<p>47th Kerala Film Critics Awards</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aattam was chosen as the best film in the 47th Kerala Film Critics Awards. • The film's director, Anand Ekarshi, was adjudged as the best director. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biju Menon (for Garudan) and Vijayaraghavan (for Pookkaalam) shared the best actor (male) award. • Zarin Shihab (for Aattam) and Shivada (for Jawanum Mullappoovum) won the best actor (female) award. • V.C.Abhilash won the best screenplay award for Pan Indian Story. • RDX (directed by Nahas Hidayath) and Garudan (directed by Arun Varma) shared the award for the best popular film. • The Chalachitra Retnam Lifetime Achievement Award has been bestowed on actor, scenarist, and filmmaker Sreenivasan. • The film Kurinji, directed by Gireesh Kunnummel, won the award for the best tribal language film. • Armo won the best cinematographer award for the film Anchakkallakokkan. • Appu Bhattathiri won the best film editor award for the film Rani: The Real Story.
<p>Chinmaya Sankaram 2024</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The five-day Chinmaya Sankaram 2024 event was held to commemorate the 108th jayanti celebrations of Swami Chinmayananda and Sankara Jayanti. • The inauguration was done by Swami Swaroopananda Saraswathi, the global head of Chinmaya Mission and the Chancellor of Chinmaya Vishwa Vidyapeeth. <p>About Swami Chinmayananda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swami Chinmayananda Saraswati, born as Balakrishna Menon on May 8, 1916, was a renowned Hindu spiritual leader and teacher. • He founded the Chinmaya Mission in 1951, a worldwide non profit organisation, to spread the



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	<p>knowledge of Advaita Vedanta, the Bhagavad Gita, the Upanishads, and other ancient Hindu scriptures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the Mission, Chinmayananda spearheaded a global Hindu spiritual and cultural renaissance that popularised these spiritual texts and values, teaching them in English all across India and abroad. • He was originally a journalist and participated in the Indian independence movement.
<p>Shri Thrikkaipatta Mahakshetram</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is underway to restore the Shri Thrikkaipatta Mahakshetram, one of the oldest temples in India. • The temple, more than 1,500 years old, is being reconstructed in a unique apsidal shape (Gajaprishta), making it the largest sreekovil in the state dedicated to Lord Subrahmanya. <p>About Shri Thrikkaipatta Mahakshetram:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The temple features the largest Lord Subrahmanya Sreekovil in Kerala, which is designed in the "Gaja Prishta" form (resembling the back of an elephant). • It is situated in a geographically significant area in Kozhikode, Kerala. • The region's name, Kozhikode, is thought to be derived from 'Kozhi' (cock), the flag symbol of Lord Subrahmanya, which further underscores the area's ancient ties to the deity.

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