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7 June 2024

### National & International News

<p><b>Biopharmaceutical Alliance</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>South Korea, India, the United States, Japan, and the European Union (EU)</b> have launched an <b>alliance to build a resilient supply chain</b> in the <b>biopharmaceutical sector</b>.</li> <li>• The <b>inaugural meeting of the Biopharmaceutical Alliance was held in San Diego</b> during the <b>Bio International Convention 2024</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Biopharmaceutical Alliance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> The alliance was <b>established in response to drug supply shortages</b> experienced during the <b>Covid-19 pandemic</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Coordination:</b> The <b>participating countries</b> will <b>coordinate their bio policies, regulations, and research and development support measures</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Supply Chain Mapping:</b> They plan to create a <b>detailed pharmaceutical supply chain map</b> to enhance <b>reliability and sustainability</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Expansion:</b> <b>Initially formed by South Korea and the U.S.</b>, the alliance expanded to include <b>Japan, India, and the EU</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Special category status (SCS)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>2024 Lok Sabha elections</b> have <b>renewed interest in the leaders' demands for special category status (SCS)</b> for their States <b>Andhra Pradesh and Bihar</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Special Category Status (SCS):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Special Category Status (SCS)</b> is a <b>classification given to states in India that face geographical and socio-economic disadvantages</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Historical Background:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Introduced in <b>1969</b> by the <b>Fifth Finance Commission of India</b>.</li> <li>○ <b>Initially granted to three states:</b> Assam, Nagaland, and Jammu &amp; Kashmir.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Criteria for SCS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hilly and difficult terrain.</li> <li>○ Low population density and/or sizeable tribal population.</li> <li>○ Strategic location along borders with neighboring countries.</li> <li>○ Economic and infrastructural backwardness.</li> <li>○ Non-viable nature of state finances.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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ADDAPEDIA

## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>States with SCS:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <b>As of now, 11 states have been granted SCS:</b> Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu &amp; Kashmir (now split into two Union Territories), Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, and Uttarakhand.</li></ul></li></ul>
State of Ocean Report 2024	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>UNESCO 'State of Ocean Report, 2024'</b> highlights the <b>significant challenges faced by global oceans due to climate change and human activities.</b></li><li>• The report provides <b>crucial insights into the current state of our oceans.</b></li></ul> <p><b>About State of Ocean Report, 2024:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The UNESCO 'State of the Ocean Report' was <b>initiated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO)</b> during the <b>2022 United Nations Ocean Conference.</b></li><li>• It <b>provides an accessible overview of the ocean's current status and supports the monitoring of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030).</b></li><li>• <b>Upper Ocean Warming:</b> The upper 2,000 meters of the oceans have experienced significant warming.</li><li>• <b>Energy Absorption and Impact:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Oceans absorb about <b>90% of Earth's excess energy.</b></li><li>◦ This <b>leads to increased deoxygenation</b>, threatening marine ecosystems and human economies dependent on them.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Ocean Acidification:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Ocean acidification is rising globally, especially in the open ocean.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Sea Level Rise:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Sea levels have risen consistently since 1993.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR):</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ There is growing interest in mCDR technologies.</li><li>◦ Their ecological impacts and effectiveness remain uncertain.</li></ul></li></ul>
Zircon mineral	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>A study of zircon crystals reveals Earth had conditions to support life earlier than previously thought.</b></li><li>• Findings show the early interaction of water and land.</li><li>• This <b>challenges the theories of a water-covered Earth.</b></li></ul> <p><b>About Zircon mineral:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Basic Information:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <b>Type:</b> Nesosilicate mineral</li></ul></li></ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Chemical Name:</b> Zirconium silicate</li> <li>○ <b>Chemical Formula:</b> ZrSiO<sub>4</sub></li> <li>● <b>Properties:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>High refractive indices</b></li> <li>○ Strong lustre</li> <li>○ Occurs in various colours: clear, green, red, yellow, and brown</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Significant Findings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Oxygen Isotopes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reveal fresh water and dry land on early Earth.</li> <li>■ Challenge theories of an entirely water-covered early Earth.</li> <li>■ <b>Indicate a functioning water cycle</b> at least 4 billion years ago, possibly creating conditions conducive to life.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>The Air of the Anthropocene project</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The "Air of the Anthropocene" project uses <b>light painting to visualize air pollution in India, Ethiopia, and the UK</b>, highlighting <b>severe health risks and sparking global discussions on air quality</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About The Air of the Anthropocene project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The "Air of the Anthropocene" project is an <b>international initiative that combines art and science to visualize air pollution</b>.</li> <li>● Artists and researchers collaborated, using <b>digital light painting techniques and low-cost air pollution sensors</b>, to create <b>photographic evidence of air pollution</b>.</li> </ul>

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