

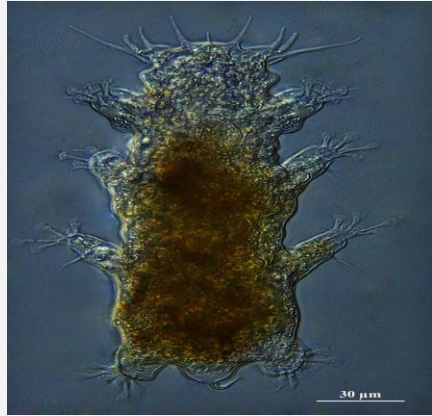


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21 September 2023 Current Affairs

New marine tardigrade species named after APJ Abdul Kalam



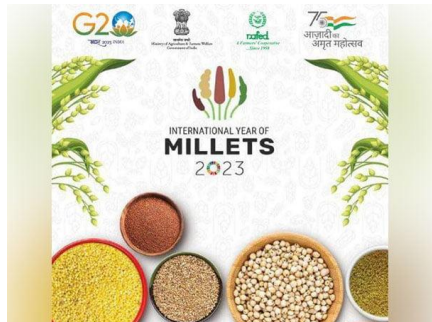
In News: New marine tardigrade species named after former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

- Researchers at the Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat) have **identified a new species of marine tardigrade** which they have named after the late former President and scientist **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**.

Key points:

- Tardigrades are **extremely tiny animals** whose size is measured in micrometers.
- Their **microscopic size**, however, belies their toughness.
- They are known for their **extraordinary resilience and survival instincts**.
- They are studied using microscopes, these water-dwelling animals also go by the rather unlikely moniker **'water bears'**.

Tamil Nadu Millet Mission



In News: Two years on, Tamil Nadu Millet Mission yet to take off in Perambalur.

- Two years have passed since the first Agriculture Budget unveiled the Tamil Nadu Millet Mission to 'enhance' millet production in the state
- However, farmers in Perambalur – which figures in the list of districts under the mission's 'millet zones' -- say that the **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department is yet to take any concrete measures**, like raising awareness on subsidy and support price, to improve the dwindling cultivation.

Key Points:

- The **Tamil Nadu Millet Mission is a government initiative launched in 2014-15** to promote the cultivation and consumption of millets in the state.
- Millets are a group of coarse grains that are highly nutritious and drought-tolerant, making them ideal for cultivation in the dry and semi-arid regions of Tamil Nadu.

The mission aims to achieve the following objectives:


1. Increase the area under millet cultivation in Tamil Nadu by 50% in five years.
2. Increase the production of millets in Tamil Nadu by 100% in five years.



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	<p>3. Promote the consumption of millets among the people of Tamil Nadu by creating awareness of their nutritional benefits and developing new and innovative millet-based products.</p>
<p>Tribal Schools lacking Ration in TN</p>	<p>In News:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tribal school runs out of ration in TN, kids miss breakfast.• 32 students of a Panchayat Union Primary School (PUPS) in Arulnathan, a tribal village in Madakkal panchayat near Anchetti went hungry as breakfast was not prepared allegedly due to shortage of rations as the cook had exhausted the stock. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Tamil Nadu Tribal Breakfast Scheme is a government-funded program that provides free breakfast to tribal children in government schools.• The scheme was launched in September 2022 and is currently implemented in 1,545 schools across the state.• The scheme aims to improve the nutritional status of tribal children and to encourage them to attend school regularly. The breakfast is prepared using locally available ingredients and provides children with a nutritious and balanced meal.
<p>Bodinayakanur ROB</p> 	<p>In News: Bodinayakanur ROB will be completed in a year'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The railway over the bridge coming up in Bodinayakanur will be completed within a year, said an official from the state highways department.• The construction started under the union government's Setu Bharatam project a month ago at a cost of Rs 45 crore. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "The main aim of the construction of the 851-meter-long ROB in Bodinayakanur is to eliminate the use of the level crossing.• At present pier works are being carried out, and the bridge is expected to be completed within a year.• It is being built in Madurai-Kochi NH-49 between Bodinayakanur Annamalai tea stall and spice board.



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Madurai Corporation vaccinates stray dogs

In News: Madurai Corporation vaccinates stray dogs in view of Rabies day

- The City corporation vaccinated over a hundred stray dogs in the ongoing special vaccination camp in the city.
- The corporation has deputed a stray dog vehicle and a mobile unit to conduct camps in all 100 wards and vaccinate stray dogs.

Key points:

- In view of World Rabies Day, the city corporation in Madurai has hosted a 10-day-long campaign from September 18 to September 28.
- World Rabies Day (WRD) is observed each year on September 28 to create awareness about the consequences of Rabies in animals and humans, and about how to prevent it.

Setu Bharatam project



Key points:

- The Setu Bharatam project is a **national initiative launched by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in 2016**
- Aim - to construct bridges on national highways to eliminate railway level crossings.
- Under the project, 208 new road over bridges (ROBs) and 1,500 bridges will be constructed or upgraded at a cost of ₹50,000 crore.
- In Tamil Nadu, 9 ROBs have been constructed under the project, at a cost of ₹800 crore.
- These ROBs have been constructed at railway level crossings in Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Madurai, and Erode districts.



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