

November - 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Ministry of Ayush and World Health Organization (WHO) have signed Traditional and Complementary Medicine 'Project Collaboration Agreement' in Geneva.
- ❖ The 11th edition of the International Tourism Mart (ITM) was held in in Shillong, Meghalaya.
- ❖ The 14th edition of 'Vajra Prahar' a joint exercise of the special forces of India and the United States commenced in Meghalaya.
- ❖ Delhi's Khan Market is the 22nd most expensive retail high street location in the world with an annual rent of \$217 per square feet.
- ❖ ICC bans transgender players from international women's cricket as per the new gender eligibility regulations.

NATIONAL

LEAP AHEAD initiative



- ❖ Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the LEAP AHEAD initiative at the LEAP AHEAD summit.
- ❖ It is a joint collaboration of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) and The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Delhi-NCR.

- ❖ It aims to support and accelerate the success of tech startups in the scaling stage, growth stage, product diversification or planning expansion into new geographical locations.
- ❖ It provides funding support of up to Rs.1 Crore and a comprehensive three-month mentorship program.

Gyanodaya express



- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor flagged off 'Gyanodaya Express - College on Wheels' train from Katra Railway Station in Reasi district.
- ❖ The Gyanodaya Express, carrying 700 girl students from across universities of the Union Territory, will travel through several states for education purposes.
- ❖ It is aimed at comprehensive empowerment of the students by endowing them with hands-on knowledge of the world outside their classrooms.

INTERNATIONAL

CII India-Nordic-Baltic Business Conclave

- ❖ The 2nd edition of the CII India Nordic Baltic Business Conclave took place in New Delhi.
- ❖ It aimed at foster collaboration between India and the NB8 countries, known for their prowess in innovation and technology.

- ❖ The Nordic Baltic Eight (NB8) countries, comprising Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden.



USI Annual UN Forum 2023



- ❖ The United Service Institution of India organised its Annual UN Forum 2023 in New Delhi.
- ❖ USI is the country's oldest think-tank established in 1870 for research and debate on national security and military affairs.

- ❖ The forum on 'International Humanitarian Law and Peacekeeping' was organised in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Centre for UN Peacekeeping Operations.
- ❖ The forum aims to discuss the applicability and limitations of implementing International Humanitarian Law frameworks in UN peace operations.

59th International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) 2023

- ❖ The 59th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC-59) was held in Pattaya, Thailand.
- ❖ The IITC is the governing body of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO).
- ❖ It aims to promote sustainable management and conservation of tropical forests.
- ❖ The EU assured that its consumption does not drive further decline in the EU or beyond our borders.

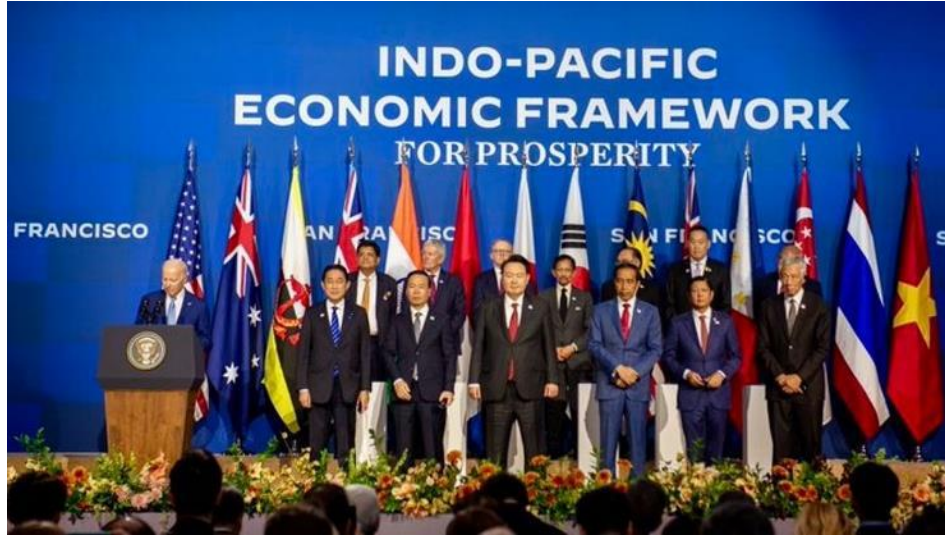


ECONOMY

IPEF Clean and Fair Economy Agreement

- ❖ Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Ministerial Meeting was held in San Francisco.
- ❖ The IPEF member countries, including India and the US, have concluded negotiations on the clean and fair economy agreement.

- ❖ They aim to strengthen the implementation of effective anti-corruption and tax measures and promote sustainable trade.
- ❖ IPEF was launched jointly by the US and other partner countries of the Indo-Pacific region in 2022.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IISR Chandra

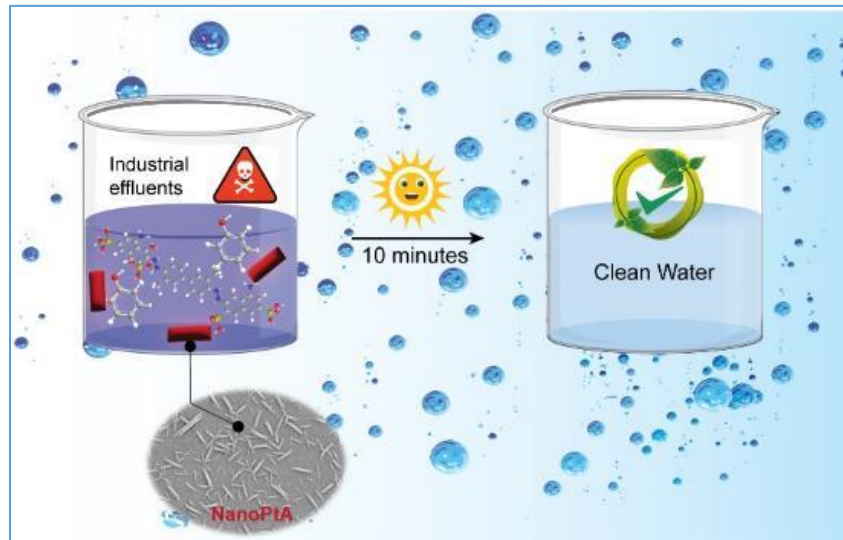


- ❖ The Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR), Kozhikode, has successfully developed a new high-yielding variety of black pepper.
- ❖ The variety has named as 'IISR Chandra'.
- ❖ Two pepper varieties- Cholamundi and Thommankodi - were crossed to produce a hybrid variety.

- ❖ It was again back-crossed with Thommankodi by ensuring the retention of all the desired parental traits.

NanoPtA

- ❖ IISc Scientists have developed a new type of enzyme mimetic that can degrade toxic chemicals in industrial wastewater effectively in the presence of sunlight.
- ❖ The IISc team synthesised a platinum-containing nanozyme called NanoPtA, which can be converted into powder form for industrial use.
- ❖ The team found that the nanozyme could degrade even small (micromolar) quantities of common effluents like phenols and dyes within ten minutes when placed under sunlight.
- ❖ Also, the NanoPtA complex was quite stable, lasting for up to 75 days at room temperature.



ENVIRONMENT

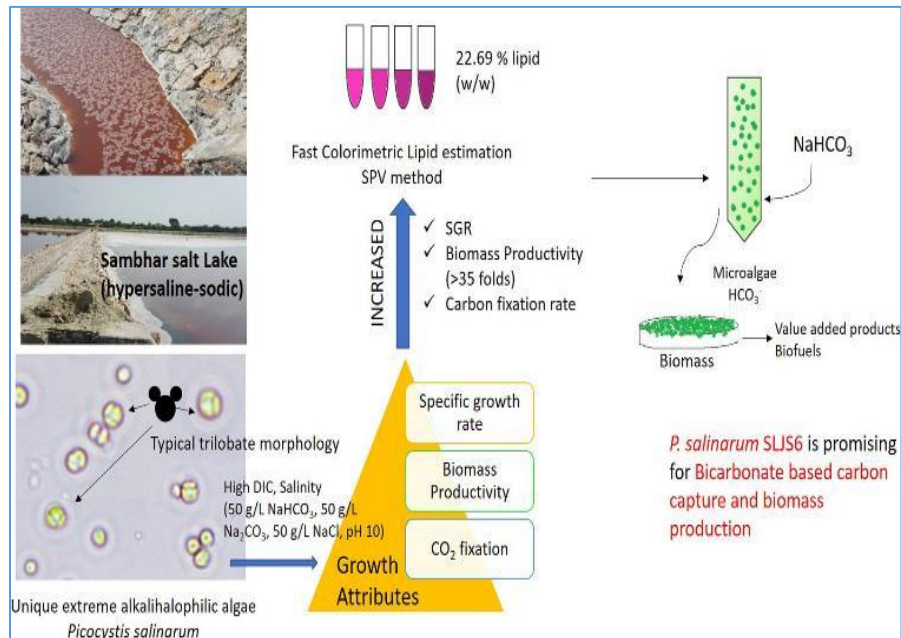
Mont Blanc

- ❖ Mont Blanc, the tallest mountain in France, has shrunk in the last two years.
- ❖ The mountain's peak has been measured at 4,805.59 metres, which is 2.22 metres shorter than in 2021.
- ❖ Mont Blanc is measured by climate scientists every two years to track the impact of climate change on the Alps.
- ❖ In 2021, the height of the summit was recorded at 4,807.81 metres, which was in turn almost a metre less than the measurement taken in 2017.

- ❖ The highest recorded height of the mountain was 4,810.90m (15,783ft 79in) in 2007.



Picocystis Salinarum



- ❖ Researcher discovered the survival mechanism of one of the smallest green algae *Picocystis Salinarum* in harshest of conditions.
- ❖ The algae resort to physiological adaptation to highly saline-alkaline and hyperosmotic conditions.

- ❖ *P. salinarum* is a globally widespread picoplanktonic green algae of saline lakes.
- ❖ Though the algae had been widely found in saline-soda lakes around the world, it was spotted for the first time in India only in the Sambhar Lake, Rajasthan.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Heritage week 2023 - November 19/25



- ❖ The week aims to promote the conservation of culture and heritage across the globe.
- ❖ It celebrates the heritage sites recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- ❖ World Heritage sites are those places or monuments which hold cultural, historical, scientific or other forms of significance.
- ❖ The World Heritage Convention was adopted by the Member States of UNESCO in 1972.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2023 - November 25

- ❖ It aims to create awareness about the ways by which we can come together to stop violence.
- ❖ In 1979, the UNGA adopted the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women but violence against women.

- ❖ Theme of this year is 'UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls'.



MISCELLANEOUS

COVID-19 vaccines and sudden deaths

ICMR | **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH**

ICMR Investigation on anecdotal reports of sudden deaths among healthy young adults in India

Case Control Study done on?

- 729 CASES
- 2916 CONTROLS
- 18-45 AGE GROUP

Who was at risk?

Some healthy individuals aged 18-45 with no underlying health issues who died suddenly from unexplained causes between October 1, 2021, and March 31, 2023.

What was the concern?

These deaths raised concerns that these cases might be related to COVID-19 infection or COVID vaccination. The study was conducted to investigate the contributing factors.

Patient evaluation on?

- Medical & family history
- Smoking & alcohol consumption
- Intensity of physical activity
- Hospitalisation due to Covid
- Covid vaccination status

Conclusion

Past COVID-19 hospitalization, family history of sudden deaths, binge alcohol drinking, intense unaccustomed activity was associated with higher risk of sudden death.

- ❖ Cases were of hospitalised individuals aged 18-45 years without any known co-morbidity, who suddenly died of unexplained causes between October 2021 and March 2023.



- ❖ The ICMR study found that most sudden deaths were due to cardiac reasons, but may not have been the result of a cardiac arrest, which is why called as sudden deaths.
- ❖ But, COVID vaccination was not found to be the contributing factor for sudden deaths.

