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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**.



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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.



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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:

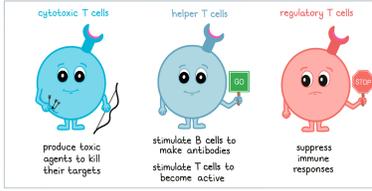
- The **United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)** was **established in 2000** by the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**.
- The UNFF **promotes the management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests**.
- The forum has **universal membership** and is **composed of all 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**.



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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.



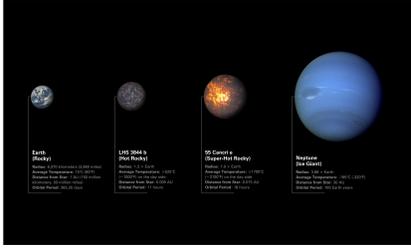


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The exoplanet 55 Cancri e



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.



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