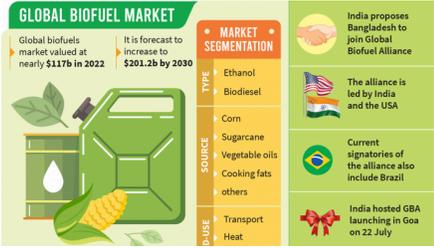




11 May 2024

National and International News

<p>Global biofuel alliance</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) has adopted a new work plan, which will focus on assessing landscapes of various countries. It includes drafting policy frameworks related to biofuels. The plan also involves conducting workshops on biofuels. <p>About GBA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) is a multi-stakeholder alliance consisting of Governments, International Organizations, and Industries. It was launched on the sidelines of the 2023 G20 summit in New Delhi. The GBA is an initiative by India. It aims to bring together the biggest consumers and producers of biofuels to drive their development and deployment. It also aims to contribute to jobs and economic growth.
<p>Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has asked Assam's Chief Secretary to provide details of officers, who allowed the construction of polling stations, schools, and other activities in Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary and the adjoining Charduar Reserve forest. These constructions are in gross violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. <p>About Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area located in Assam. It is located along the foothills of the Great Himalayan Range. Four rivers flow through the sanctuary: Gabharu, Gelgeli, Sonai, and Rupai. The sanctuary is home to a variety of mammals including the tiger, lesser cats, elephant, gaur, wild boar, pygmy hog, swamp deer, and barking deer. It also hosts a variety of birds including the white-winged wood duck, hornbill, pelican, and various migratory birds. Reptiles such as the python and Russell's viper can also be found in the sanctuary.

**Batagay Crater in Siberia****Why in news?**

- A new study has been conducted on a huge crater in Siberia's permafrost.
- The study found that the crater is growing by 35 million cubic feet every year.

About Batagay Crater in Siberia:

- The huge crater in Siberia's permafrost is also known as the "gateway to the underworld" by some locals in Russia's Sakha Republic.
- It is located in Russia's Far East and forms the world's biggest permafrost crater.
- The crater, also referred to as a megaslump, features a rounded cliff face.
- Scientists believe that the crater is the result of a melting permafrost land, which was frozen during the Quaternary Ice Age 2.58 million years ago.

U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund (CTTF)**Why in news?**

- India has made a contribution of \$500,000 to the U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund (CTTF).
- The contribution is a voluntary financial contribution from India towards the CTTF.

About CTTF:

- The U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund (CTTF) was established in 2009 and transferred to the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in 2017.
- The Fund accepts contributions from various entities including Governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, private institutions, and individuals.
- India's contribution is intended to support UNOCT's global programmes, primarily the Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT) and Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CTTP).
- These programmes aim to build capacities of the member states of eastern and southern Africa to combat the critical issues of financing of terrorism and prevent the movement and travel of terrorists.

Trichoderma asperellum**Why in news?**

- The Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana, has developed a biocontrol agent named Trichoderma asperellum (2% WP).
- This biocontrol agent has been registered with the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIBRC).

Key points:



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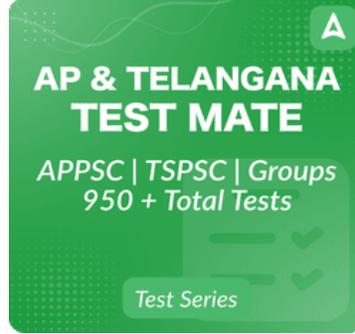
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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

- The agent will help farmers in Punjab manage the deadly 'foot rot' or 'bakanae' disease.
 - It is a fungal disease.
- This disease affects the crops of Basmati rice.
- The biocontrol agent offers a non-chemical alternative to traditional pesticides.
- It aids in disease management for crops.
- It helps in minimizing environmental harm.



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