



25 Sep 2024

### National and International News

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| <p><b>India's Comprehensive Cancer Data Portal</b></p>    | <p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA)</b> has introduced India's first comprehensive cancer multi-omics data portal.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Features of the Portal:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>India's First Cancer Multi-Omics Data Portal:</b> The platform provides detailed multi-omics data (DNA, RNA, and protein profiles) for breast cancer patients, integrated with clinical outcomes.</li> <li><b>Initial Dataset:</b> Currently, the portal hosts data from 50 breast cancer patients, with plans to expand to over 500 in the next year.</li> <li><b>Free Access under PRIDE Guidelines:</b> The portal adheres to ethical data-sharing practices and is freely accessible to the global scientific community.</li> <li><b>Based on cBioPortal:</b> Derived from the internationally recognized cBioPortal, this ensures seamless integration with global cancer research.</li> <li><b>Step Toward Precision Oncology:</b> The initiative supports the development of personalized cancer treatments tailored specifically to Indian patients.</li> </ul> <p><b>ICGA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ICGA was launched in 2020-21, inspired by the success of the U.S.-based The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA), which has molecularly characterized thousands of cancer samples.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats</b></p> | <p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On September 11, 2024, the Cabinet approved the continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for <b>Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This scheme is allocated a total outlay of <b>₹2,602.98 crores</b> for the <b>15th Finance Commission cycle</b>.</li> <li>Key components of the scheme include <b>Project Tiger, Project Elephant, and the Development of Wildlife Habitat</b>, all of which are integral to the government's 100-day action plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme introduced</li> </ul>   |



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|                             | <p>by the Government of India during the 11th Plan period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Its primary objective is to provide technical and financial assistance to States/UTs for the conservation of natural wildlife habitats.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Hilsa Fish</b></p>    | <p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bangladesh has decided to lift its export ban on hilsa fish, allowing the shipment of <b>3,000 tonnes to India in time for Durga Puja, which will be held from October 9 to 13.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hilsa holds special <b>cultural importance among Bengalis, especially during Durga Puja.</b></li> <li>• Bangladesh traditionally restricts hilsa exports but has made exceptions for India during this festival as a <b>goodwill gesture.</b></li> <li>• Bangladesh is the <b>leading global producer of hilsa fish.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hilsa fish, also known as <b>ilish or hilsa herring (Tenualosa ilisha)</b>, is a highly prized species of fish in the Indian subcontinent, particularly in <b>Bangladesh and India.</b></li> <li>• <b>Scientific Classification:</b> Hilsa belongs to the family Clupeidae and is classified under the genus <b>Tenualosa</b>. It is recognized for its <b>silvery body, distinctive flavor, and oily texture.</b></li> <li>• <b>Habitat:</b> Hilsa is an <b>anadromous fish</b>, meaning it migrates from the <b>ocean to freshwater rivers</b> for spawning. It is primarily found in the Bay of Bengal and the river systems of the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna.</li> <li>• <b>Conservation status</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ IUCN: Least Concern</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Pashima Shawl</b></p> | <p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after the Quad Leaders' Summit during his US visit, presented symbolic gifts to <b>US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PM Modi presented a traditional <b>pashmina shawl to First Lady Jill Biden.</b></li> <li>• This exquisite shawl, produced in Jammu and Kashmir, is made from the fine fiber of the <b>Changthangi goat, native to Ladakh.</b></li> <li>• The wool, known as <b>'Pashm'</b>, is hand-combed and spun into yarn using age-old techniques passed down</li> </ul>   |



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|                          | <p>through generations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The shawl is dyed with <b>natural colors</b> derived from local plants and minerals, showcasing the region's rich artisanal heritage.</li> <li>• The shawl was presented in a papier-mâché box, also crafted by artisans from Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing the beauty and functionality of traditional Indian crafts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Antique Silver Train Model:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PM Modi gifted a rare silver train model to President Joe Biden.</li> <li>• The model was handcrafted by artisans from Maharashtra, showcasing intricate repoussé (hammering) techniques and filigree work.</li> <li>• Made of 92.5% silver, the model highlights the steam locomotive era and the artistry of Indian craftsmen.</li> <li>• The train bears the inscription "Delhi-Delaware," symbolizing the connection between the two regions and honoring Biden's hometown, where the Quad summit took place.</li> <li>• The gift signifies the importance of India-US relations, referred to as the "<b>defining partnership of the 21st century.</b>"</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Vancomycin</b></p> | <p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vancomycin</b> has been the preferred treatment for MRSA for the past 40 years, with rare cases of resistance (only 16 reported in India).</li> <li>• Recent research indicates that <b>MRSA(Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus)</b> may develop <b>resistance to this antibiotic</b>, raising concerns about the <b>long-term viability of vancomycin as a treatment option.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>AMR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)</b> is a significant challenge in modern medicine, with Staphylococcus aureus being a key player.</li> <li>• <b>Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)</b> caused over 100,000 deaths in <b>2019</b> and is known for resisting multiple antibiotics.</li> </ul> <p><b>Staphylococcus aureus (S. aureus):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common bacterium found on human and animal skin and mucous membranes</li> <li>• Can cause a wide range of infections, from minor skin issues to severe diseases</li> <li>• Possesses various virulence factors that contribute to its pathogenicity</li> </ul> |



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### Characteristics:

- Gram-positive, spherical (cocci) bacteria in grape-like clusters
- Non-motile, non-spore forming
- Facultatively anaerobic (can grow in both aerobic and anaerobic conditions)
- Catalase-positive and coagulase-positive



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