Prelim Bits 27-08-2017

New Earthworm Species

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- Scientists have discovered two new species of earthworms of the primitive Drawida genus from the southern Western Ghats.
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- One of the new species, Drawida polydiverticulata, has more than two lobes in its reproductive organs, distinguishing it clearly from other species of earthworms.
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- This species is widespread in the shola grasslands of Idukki district, including the Eravikulam National Park, Pampadum Shola National Park, and Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary.
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- Drawida earthworms are distributed across Indo-China, Southeast Asia and northern Japan.
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- Of the 73 species of Drawida earthworms found in India, 43 are found in the Western Ghats.
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International Vaccine Institute

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- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has signed a MoU with the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) for collaborating on vaccine research and development.
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- IVI, an International Organisation is headquartered at Seoul, South Korea and established based on the initiatives of UNDP.
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- It is devoted to developing and introducing new and improved vaccines to protect the people against infectious diseases.
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- India is a long-term collaborator and stakeholder of IVI since 2007. With the change in governance structure in 2012, India becomes a full member of its governing council with the cabinet approval.
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- One of the most successful collaborations of IVI with India was on the development of Shanchol, the world's first low-cost oral cholera vaccine.
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- The vaccine was licensed in India in 2009 and WHO-prequalified in 2011.
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Section 144 & curfew

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- Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) prohibits any assembly of five or more people in an area where it has been imposed.
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- Every member of such "unlawful assembly" can be booked for "engaging in rioting", maximum punishment for which is three years.
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- Further, obstructing police from breaking up an unlawful assembly is a punishable offence as well.
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- A curfew by law orders people to stay indoors for a specific period of time. It can be a public order to gain control of violent situations, or can be directed to a specific group.
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- Curfew prohibits any person to step outdoors without prior police approval.
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- Establishments such as markets, schools, colleges, etc. are ordered to remain shut, and only essential services are allowed to run.
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Project Brainwave

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It is launched by Microsoft, a deep learning platform for real-time artificial intelligence (AI) and capable of processing requests as fast as it receives it.

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