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MK Yadav Sir

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BUSINESS STANDARD
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NATIONAL CAREER SERVICE PORTAL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

NCS to be primary govt portal for skilled, unskilled workers

SHIVA RAJORA
New Delhi, 7 February

The Centre has decided that the National Career Service (NCS) portal — which brings together jobseekers, employers and trainers — will now be the primary government portal for both skilled and unskilled workers.

According to a document titled 'Implementation of Budget Announcements 2022-23', at a meeting under the joint chairmanship of skill and labour ministers in October last year, it was also decided to subsume the Atmanirbhar Skilled Employee-Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portal under the Skill India portal.

The ASEEM portal acts as a directory that matches supply of the skilled workforce with the market demand. On the other hand, the Skill India portal accumulates the skills data of various central ministries, state governments, private training providers and corporates on a single platform.

Last year, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced that portals like Udyam, e-Shram, NCS and ASEEM would be interlinked. This, in turn, will increase their scope as a tool to upskill and present job opportunities to jobseekers.

"Udyam, e-Shram, NCS and ASEEM portals will be interlinked. Their scope will be widened. They will now perform as portals with live and organic databases, providing G2C, B2C and B2B services. These services will relate to credit facilitation, skilling, and recruitment with an aim to further formalise the economy. They will also enhance entrepreneurial opportunities for all," Sitharaman had said.

The document mentions that Udyam, e-Shram and NCS portals have been interlinked and the process of linking ASEEM with the other portals is ongoing.

NCS — being the primary employment portal — allows the vacancies posted by employers registered on the NCS portal to be visible to Udyam, e-shram and ASEEM users.

About 175,000 informal and one million skilled workers, registered through the e-Shram and Skill India portals, respectively, have been shortlisted by employers. This came as the government began integrating both the portals with the NCS site. The NCS portal has also been integrated with other ministries/ departments like MHRD and AICTE.

Online integration with EPFO, ESIC has also been done to link the willing employers. This would help them to shortlist candidates through a country-wide database on the NCS portal.

Besides, the NCS portal has also been integrated with state employment portals of the 20 states/UTs. Seven states/UTs are directly using the NCS portal for registering jobseekers.

Context: The Centre has decided that the **National Career Service (NCS) portal** - which brings together jobseekers, employers and trainers - will now be the primary government portal for both skilled and unskilled workers.

National Career Service (NCS) portal

- **About**: It is one of the mission mode projects under the umbrella of **E-Governance Plan.**
- **Origin**: It is a **Five Year Mission Mode Project** launched by the Prime Minister on 20th July, 2015.
- **Functions**: It works towards **bridging the gap between job-seekers and employers,** candidates seeking training and career guidance and agencies providing training and career counselling by transforming the National Employment Service.
- **Implementing Authority**: Directorate General of Employment, **Ministry of Labour & Employment.**
- **Registration**: NCS **does not charge any fees** for registration on the portal and its services.
- **Three Pillars:**
  - A well designed **ICT based portal** which is NCS portal.
  - **Country wide set up** of Model Career Centers.
  - **Interlinkage** with all the states through employment exchanges.
- **Services Provided**: The digital centralized portal **provides a wide range of career related services** including job search, job matching, rich career content, career counselling, information on Job Fairs, services of local service providers like drivers, plumbers, etc. for households and various other services.
  - This portal also **facilitates registration of Job Seekers**, Employers, Skill Providers, Career Counsellors, Local Service Providers (LSP's), Career Centers, Placement Organisations, Households (for availing the services of the LSP's) and Government Department.

NBFC-MFI
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Context: The microfinance market was dominated by **NBFC-MFIs** with a portfolio share of 35. 1% as of September last year, according to Crif High Mark.

NBFC-MFIs Lead in Microloan Asset Share



Our Bureau

Kolkata: The microfinance market was dominated by NBFC-MFIs with a portfolio share of 35.1% as of September last year, according to Crif High Mark.

The credit information services company said in a report that the non-banking finance company-micro finance institutions group surpassed banks by a thin margin.

Banks as a group control 34.8% of the market, in which lenders provide microloans without collateral to joint liability group members.

Loans given by banks to self-help group members are not included here.

The Crif report validates this trend of NBFC-MFIs regaining dominance, which was first spotted by the microfinance industry body Sa-Dhan in December. ET highlighted that in a report on December 14.

NBFC-MFIs' share at 35.1% as of September 2022 has surpassed that of banks, which control 34.8% of the market

The small finance banks (SFBs) group controls 16.8% of the market, while other NBFCs and not-for-profit companies together enjoy a 13.3% market share.

NBFC-MFI

- **About**: The NBFC-MFI is a **non-deposit taking financial company.**
  - The difference between an NBFC-MFI and other NBFC is that while other NBFCs can operate at a very high level, MFIs cater to only the smaller level of social strata, with need of smaller amounts as loans.
- **Conditions to qualify as NBFC-MFI:**
  - **Minimum Net Owned Funds (NOF)** of Rs. 5 crore.
  - At least 85% of its Net Assets in the nature of Qualifying Assets.
  - The **Qualifying Assets** are those assets which have a substantial period of time to be ready for its intended use or sale.
- **RBI's Regulatory Framework for Microfinance**: Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed Microfinance Institutions(MFI) the **freedom to set interest rates** they charge borrowers, with a caveat that the rates should not be usurious.
  - These guidelines will take effect 1st April 02022.
  - Earlier in 2021, the RBI proposed to lift the interest rate cap on MFI.
  - **Banks remain the largest microfinance lenders** with an about 40% market share, followed by NBFC-MFIs, small finance banks, other NBFCs and NGOs.
  - The RBI **raised the annual household income** to Rs 3 lakh for a collateral-free loan to be classified as microfinance loan.
  - **Unsecured loans** by several other non-banking finance companies will also be considered as micro loans now.
  - It **capped the monthly loan repayment** of borrowers that should not exceed half the monthly household income.
  - **No loan can be linked to a lien on the deposit account of the borrower.** There will be no prepayment penalty on microfinance loans.
  - **RBI removed certain exemptions** applied to not-for-profit entities with Rs 100 crore and directed them to register as NBFC-MFIs within three months to bring them within its ambit.
  - RBI has asked the lenders to prominently display the **minimum, maximum, and average interest rates** charged on loans in all its offices.
  - The RBI has revised the criteria for NBFCs who do not qualify as NBFC-MFIs to extend microfinance loans up to 25 per cent of their total assets from 10 per cent earlier.

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ODOP-DEH
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

One District One Product-Districts as Export Hubs (ODOP-DEH) products in Taj Hotel's in-house luxury store, Khazana given ODOP-DEH tags

Context: One District One Product-Districts as Export Hubs (ODOP-DEH) has mapped and tagged the overlapping products in Taj Hotels' in-house luxury store, Khazana.

- The One District One Product - Districts as Export Hubs (ODOP-DEH) programme under the **Department of Commerce (DoC) and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry** is aimed at creating sustainable employment at the district level while promoting holistic socio-economic development. The idea is to select, brand, and promote one product from each district of the country.

One District One Product (ODOP)

- **About**: ODOP was launched by the state Government of Uttar Pradesh in **2018**, later it was adopted by the Union Government.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- **Nodal Ministry**: ODOP was launched by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** In 2018.
- **Objectives**: It aims to facilitate **balanced regional development across all districts of India.**
- **Identification of the food product:** The **State Government** would identify the food product from a district.
  - The product could be a **perishable Agri product, cereal-based product, or any food product produced in a district.**
- **Significance**: The programme helps the districts to attain their maximum potential, promotes economic growth, and creates more employment opportunities.
  - The core idea of the ODOP is to choose and **promote One Product from each District.**
  - Traditional and innovative products could be also supported under the Scheme.
  - It will **reduce wastage, and ensure proper storage and marketing.**

Districts as Export Hubs

- **About**: Districts as Export Hubs is the first such initiative of Government of India which tries to target export promotion, manufacturing and employment generation at grass root level and has made States and Districts accountable for the export growth from the Districts in the country.
- **Nodal Authority**: Under the DEH initiative, a **District Export Promotion Committee (DEPC)** is formed which is responsible for preparing a district export action plan.
  - To effectively implement the plan, the Committee recommended forming an empowered Group of Secretaries of related Ministries/Departments such as agriculture, textile, food processing, and MSME. The Committee also noted that local government bodies should be involved in the implementation of the plan.

PIB

FEB 8

PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA SAMPADA YOJANA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

PMMSY under Department of Fisheries envisages to generate direct and indirect employment opportunities to about 55 lakh personnel in fisheries and aquaculture sector by 2024-25

Context: The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying through the scheme of **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** inter-alia envisages to generate direct and indirect employment opportunities to about 55 lakh personnel in fisheries and aquaculture sector by 2024-25.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

- **About**: It is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the country with an estimated investment of 20,050 crore for its implementation during 2020-21 to 2024-25 as part of **Atma Nirbhar Bharat package.**
- **Nodal Ministry**: **Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.**
- **Aims**: To bring about a **blue revolution** through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector in India.
  - To **double the incomes of fishers and fish farmers,** reducing post-harvest losses from 20-25% to about 10% and the generation of gainful employment opportunities in the sector.
- **Implementation**: It is implemented as an umbrella scheme with two separate components namely:
  - **Central Sector Scheme**: The project cost will be borne by the **Central government**. The entire project/unit cost will be funded by the Government of India (GoI) (i.e., 100% GoI Funding).
  - **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**: All the sub-components/activities will be implemented by the States/UTs and the cost will be shared between Centre and State.
    - **North Eastern & Himalayan States**: 90% Central share and 10% State share.
    - **Other States**: 60% Central share and 40% State share.
- **Approach**: **'Cluster or Area based approaches** and many new interventions such as fishing vessel insurance, Aquaculture in saline/alkaline areas, Sagar Mitras, FFPOs, Nucleus Breeding Centres, etc.

PIB

FEB 8

DDUGJY SCHEME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) scheme under Ministry of Power strengthens the electricity distribution system across the country

Context: Under DDUGJY and thereafter under **Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya)**, all the States declared electrification of all Villages on 28th April, 2018 and all willing Households on 31st March, 2019 respectively.

- While, a total of 18374 villages were electrified under DDUGJY, a total of 2.86 crore households were electrified under the aegis of Saubhagya, including additional households in two tranches that became willing after 31.03.2019 but were unwilling for electrification earlier.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) Scheme

- **About**: Government of India launched **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)** in December, 2014 for strengthening the electricity distribution system.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of **Power.**
- **Objective**:
  - To **augment power supply** to the rural areas.
  - To **strengthen sub-transmission** and distribution systems.
- **Key Features::**
  - It focuses on **feeder separation** (rural households & agricultural) and strengthening of sub-transmission & distribution infrastructure including metering at all levels in rural areas
  - This will help in providing **round the clock power** to rural households and adequate power to agricultural consumers
  - The earlier scheme for **rural electrification** viz. Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) has been subsumed in the new scheme as its rural electrification component.
- **Implementing Authority**: **Rural Electrification Corporation(REC)** is the Nodal Agency for implementation of DDUGJY.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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LEFT WING EXTREMISM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal Security)

Number of deaths due to LWE fell below 100 in 2022, says Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

Says Home Ministry is determined to destroy entire LWE ecosystem by 'financial choking'

FOR THE first time in four decades, the number of deaths of civilians and security forces due to Left Wing Extremism (LWE) came down below 100 in 2022, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday.

Shah, who chaired the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs to discuss Left Wing Extremism, said the MHA is determined to destroy the entire ecosystem of LWE by "financial choking".

"The BSF air wing has been strengthened with the induction of new pilots and engineers in the last one year to aid operations in LWE-affected areas and save lives of our soldiers," he said.

The minister said there is no place for violence and LWE ideas in "self-reliant New India" and the central government has adopted a policy of zero tolerance in this direction.

"The MHA's policy to deal with LWE has three main pillars – strategy to curb extremist violence with ruthless approach, better coordination between Centre and states, and eliminating support for LWE through public participation in development," he said, adding that the three-pronged strategy has given success in curbing LWE in the past eight years.

Context: For the first time in four decades, the number of deaths of civilians and security forces in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) came down under 100 in 2022, Union Home Minister said.

Left Wing Extremism (LWE)

- **About**: Left-wing extremists, popularly known as **Maoists** worldwide and as Naxalites/Naxalism in India, has been a major threat to India since the 1960s.
- **Background**: The term Naxalism derives from the name of the **Naxalbari village in West Bengal** where a peasant revolt took place against local landlords over a land dispute in 1967.
  - The origins of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in India goes back to the **Telangana peasant rebellion (1946-51)**, the movement was at its peak in 1967, when the peasants, landless labourers, and Adivasis raided the granaries of a landlord in the Naxalbari village in West Bengal.
  - The **Naxal rebellion was led by Charu Majumdar** and his close associates, Kanu Sanyal and Jangal Santhal.
  - These rebels not only were assisted by the people from nearby villages but also from the **People's Republic of China**. The Chinese Media had called this movement the "Spring Thunder".
  - The movement initially took inspiration from **China's founding father, Mao Zedong,** but had later become radically different from Maoism.
- **Most affected Areas:** The severely affected areas of India are known as **'Red Corridor'**, It is situated in the eastern part of the nation across the states o**f Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. (23 districts at the moment).**
- **Reasons for Left Wing Extremism:**
  - Tribal Discontent
  - Lack of Livelihood
  - Governance related issues
- **Reasons for decline in violence:**
  - Greater presence of security forces across the LWE affected States.
  - Loss of leaders on account of arrests, surrender and desertions.
  - Rehabilitation programs by the governments
  - Better monitoring & shortage of funds and arms.

DTE

FEB 8

VERMIN ANIMALS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Wildlife Institute of India working on vaccine to reduce 'vermin' populations, awaits further funding

The immune-contraception has already been successfully used in USA, Brazil and Africa

NEXT NEWS >

By Shuchita Jha
Published: Tuesday 07 February 2023



Vermin Animals

- Vermin means wild animals which are **believed to be harmful.**
- Legally speaking, if a species is declared vermin, that particular species can be hunted or culled without restriction
- **Any species can be declared vermin except:**
  - Species which are listed in Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act 1972.
  - Species which are listed in Part II of Schedule II of WPA 1972.
- **Section 62 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972** empowers the states to send a list of wild animals to the Centre requesting it to declare them vermin for selective slaughter.
- For the period the notification is in force such wild animal shall be included in **Schedule V of the law**, depriving them of any protection under that law.
- The **hunted wildlife** is declared as government property and it imposes restrictions on how these carcasses must be disposed of.

Context: The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is working to develop **immune-contraceptive measures** for population management of species that have become problematic for humans in many parts of the country.

Key Points

- The new measures will be able to **reduce reproduction in the species** by making the female sterile.
- This will be done by **injecting a vaccine** made from a hormone derived from the ovary lining of pigs.
- **Nilgai antelope and wild boar** have become a menace in many areas of India, destroying crops and causing human-animal conflict.
- The **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, states that the central government can "declare any wild animal other than those specified in Schedule I and Part II of Schedule II to be **vermin** for any area and for such period as may be specified therein and so long as such notification is in force, such wild animal shall be deemed to have been included in Schedule V."
- **Hormone porcine zona pellucida (PZP)** is extracted from the ovary lining of pigs and then made into a PZP vaccine which is then injected into the body of the female, causing the immune system to create antibodies.
- The vaccine **prevents fertilisation and pregnancy** via an immune response in the body against its own ova
- The **PZP has been successfully used in the United States** to control the population of mustangs (wild horses) and in Africa for many mammalian species, including elephants.

DTE

FEB 8

DEFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON RAINFOREST

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Warming beyond borders: Amazon deforestation heats up Tibet, says new study

There are no borders in the fight against climate change, cooperation is the key, says study published in Nature

NEXT NEWS >

By Bipsa Nanda
Published: Friday 03 February 2023





Context: Deforestation in the Amazon rainforest can directly influence temperatures in Tibet, which is more than 15,000 kilometres away from the tropical biome, according to a new report.

Key Points

- **Climate tipping elements** are remotely correlated, meaning that there are no borders in the fight against climate change.
- **Tipping points** are thresholds that, if crossed, cause significant changes in a specific region of the Earth system that may be irreversible.
- The **Amazon rainforest is one such tipping point.** Even modest, incremental changes in this biome might eventually result in massive, abrupt and permanent changes to the planet.
- Some scientists define t**ipping points as systems** that change rapidly once a threshold is crossed.
- The Earth has **16 climate systems** essential for its sustenance.
- These are tagged **'tipping elements'** and have certain temperature thresholds, or tipping points, beyond which even a slight change may lead to irreparable and catastrophic consequences on our planet.
- Once **deforestation** reaches this critical stage, even if all tree-cutting were to cease and new trees were to be planted, the rainforest would be irrevocably altered.

THE HINDU Page 13

SHALIGRAM STONE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

Ram Temple Trust yet to decide if shaligram stone from Nepal will be used to carve idol

Ishita Mishra
Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The trust has drawn up a schedule to allow darshan in the Ram Temple by December

The Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, overseeing the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, is yet to take a call on whether or not the main deity of the temple will be carved out of the shaligram stone sent from Nepal.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Trust chairperson Nripendra Misra said that its members had to first decide how exactly the deity would look.

"There is already one idol of Ram Lalla there, but we have to have another deity, just behind the original idol. That idol of the deity has to be available for darshan from at least 25 feet away, so the decision is, it will be a standing Ram Lalla of four or five years of age," he said.

Four prototypes are being created – in dolomite, in marble with a blue tinge, using another stone from Odisha, and using the shaligram. "On January 29, it was decided that the sculptors will see all the four," he said.

The trust has drawn up a schedule to allow darshan in the temple by December.

"The ground floor with *garbh griha* (sanctum sanctorum) and *pran-prathistha* (installation of deity) will be completed except for the iconography. The devotees, hopefully, will have darshan of their lord in the *garbh griha*, by that date," Mr. Misra said.

He said Union Home Minister Amit Shah's declaration that the Ram Temple would be ready to allow darshan on January 1, 2024 was drawn from the Trust's schedule.

As for the shaligram which has already arrived in India from Nepal, Mr. Misra says that as per Hindu mythology, "shaligram is considered a form of Vishnu" and whether or not the main deity is ultimately carved from that stone, it will be given a space where it can be worshipped.

A suggestion by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also being incorporated for the idol of the main deity. According to belief, Lord Rama's birth on Ram Navami occurred at a time when the rays of the sun fell on his forehead, around noon. Mr. Misra said that the Trust has asked an institute of astronomy in Pune to work out a way in which this can be incorporated in the temple.

Context: The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust (SRJTKT), overseeing the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, is yet to take a call on whether or not the main deity of the temple will be carved out of the holy **shaligram stone** sent from Nepal.

- The stones were brought to the site of construction from Galeshwar Dham in Janakpur, 100 km from Pokhara in Nepal.

Shaligram Stone

- **About**: Shaligram stones are fossils of **ammonite**, which is a type of mollusc that lived between 400 million and 65 million years ago.
- **Date**: Shaligram stones date specifically from the **Early Oxfordian to the Late Tithonian Age** near the end of the Jurassic Period some 165-140 million years ago.
- **Location**: It is mostly found in **riverbeds or banks of the Kali Gandaki,** a tributary of the Gandaki River in Nepal.
- **Mythological importance:** According to Hindu mythology, Lord Vishnu was cursed to become the shaligram stone for **"betraying the chastity of the goddess Tulsi".**
  - This stone is revered by Hindus who believe it to be a representation of **Lord Vishnu.**
  - The stone is considered to have divine powers and is seen as a **symbol of good luck and prosperity.**
  - Lord Ram is believed to be the **reincarnation of Lord Vishnu**, and the use of the Shaligram stone symbolises the connection between the two gods.
  - The use of shaligram shilas in worship can be traced to the time of **Adi Shankara through the latter's works.**
  - Specifically it finds mention in the **Taittiriya Upanishad.**
  - The statue of Vishnu in the **Padmanabhaswamy Temple of Thiruvananthapuram and Badrinath Temple of Garhwal region**, and that of Krishna in Krishna Matha of Udupi and Radha Raman Temple of Vrindavana are also believed to be made from shaligrama shilas.

TIMES OF INDIA
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DICKINSONIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

'Earliest organism' fossil turns out to be beehive

Srikanta.Tripathy
@timesgroup.com

Jaipur: A 550-million-year-old alleged fossil discovered near Bhopal about two years ago and thought to be of the extinct "Dickinsonia" — among the earliest living organisms on earth — has turned out to be the impression of a decayed beehive in a case of "misidentification".

The fossil was found by a team of geologists led by a US professor, Gregory Ratllack, in the Bhimbetka Rock Shelters near the Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal. After an initial phase of controversy, whether it is an animal or a plant, it was classified as an animal after the discovery of cholesterol molecules in the fossils.

Being the first and only "Dickinsonia" find in India, the research article by Ratllack and his team attracted worldwide attention. Dickinsonia is found on ocean floors around the present day's Australia, China, Russia, Ukraine, in the Ediacaran period — about 500 to 600 million years ago.

In a follow-up research, Manoj Pandit, former head of the geology department at Rajasthan University, and colleague Joseph Meert of the University of Florida studied the Bhimbetka rock shelters and surrounding areas. Two students, Samuel Kwafo and Ananya Singha, were also part of the effort. They discovered that the alleged fossil was the impression of a recently decayed beehive.

Context: A 550-million year-old alleged fossil discovered near Bhopal about two years ago and thought to be of the extinct "**Dickinsonia**" - among the earliest living organisms on earth - has turned out to be the impression of a decayed beehive in a case of "misidentification".

Dickinsonia

- **About**: Dickinsonia is an **extinct genus of basal animal** that lived during the late Ediacaran period in what is now **Australia, Russia and Ukraine.**
  - The individual Dickinsonia typically resembles a **bilaterally symmetrical ribbed oval.**
  - Its affinities are **presently unknown**; its mode of growth is consistent with a stem-group bilaterian affinity, though some have suggested that it belongs to the fungi or even an "extinct kingdom".
  - The discovery of c**holesterol molecules** in fossils of Dickinsonia lends support to the idea that Dickinsonia was an animal.
- **Discovery**: Researchers have found the first-ever fossil in India of a Dickinsonia - the **Earth's 'oldest animal'**, dating back **570 million years** - on the roof of what's called the 'Auditorium Cave' at Bhimbetka.
  - It is believed to be one of the key links between the early, simple organisms and the explosion of life in the **Cambrian Period,** about 541 million years ago.
- **Cambrian Explosion and Dickinsonia**: The 'Cambrian Explosion' is the term given to the period of time in history when **complex animals and other macroscopic organisms** such as molluscs, worms, arthropods and sponges began to dominate the fossil record.
  - Researchers from **Australian found the Dickinsonia fossil** since its tissue contained molecules of cholesterol a type of fat that is the hallmark of animal life.
- **Cosmogenic nuclide dating**: It is deployed to **determine time of earliest human culture.**
  - India's oldest stone-age tools, up to 1.5 million years old, are at a prehistoric site near Chennai.

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