



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Per.uthalayar Kamarajar"

# Diatom

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1) A new freshwater diatom genus named *Indiconema* discovered from Eastern and Western Ghats.

About Diatom

They're unicellular algae belonging to a phytoplankton group.

They're eukaryotes and non-motile.

Only organisms with cell walls composed of transparent, opaline silica. Thus, the walls are indestructible.

Diatom cell wall deposits accumulate over billions of years

forming diatomaceous earth.

Significance

Chief 'producers' in oceans and produced 20-30% of global oxygen.

Excellent indicators of aquatic health.

Remove carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from atmosphere, convert CO<sub>2</sub> to organic carbon in form of sugar, and release oxygen.

Serve as a base of aquatic food chain.

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