

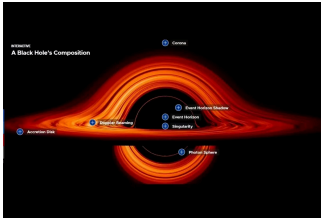


06 November 2024

National and International News

<p>Central Water Commission (CWC)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glacial lakes and other water bodies across the Himalayan region saw a 10.81% increase in area from 2011 to 2024 due to climate change, signaling a heightened risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), according to a Central Water Commission's (CWC) report. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a premier technical organization of India in the field of water resources. It is presently functioning as an attached office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India. Headquarters: New Delhi Functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission is entrusted with the general responsibilities of initiating, coordinating, and furthering, in consultation with the State Governments concerned, schemes for control, conservation, and utilization of water resources throughout the country for purposes of Flood Control, Irrigation, Navigation, Drinking Water Supply, and Water Power Development. It also undertakes the investigations, construction, and execution of any such schemes as required.
<p>Green Hydrogen</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Himachal Pradesh has urged the Centre to explore the possibility of running trains powered by green hydrogen on the Kalka-Shimla heritage rail track, aiming to promote sustainable transportation. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green hydrogen is a clean energy source produced through the electrolysis of water using renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and hydro power. It has the potential to become a key player in the transition to a carbon-free economy and can help mitigate climate change. The hydrogen produced can be stored and used as a fuel



<p>NGT</p>	<p>for transportation, industry, and agriculture.</p> <p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has castigated Uttar Pradesh officials for granting mining permissions within a turtle sanctuary, citing concerns over environmental protection and wildlife conservation. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGT has been established under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources. New Delhi is the principal place of sitting of the tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai shall be the other four places of sitting of the tribunal. Composition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tribunal comprises the Chairperson, the Judicial Members, and Expert Members. The Chairperson of the NGT is a retired Judge of the Supreme Court. Other judicial members are retired judges of High Courts. Each bench of the NGT will comprise of at least one judicial member and one expert member. Expert members should have a professional qualification and a minimum of 15 years' experience in the field of environment/forest conservation and related subjects. The Tribunal is not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice. NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of the filing of the same.
<p>Black Hole</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new study says scientists have discovered a “black hole triple” in space for the first time. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black holes are formed after the supernova explosion when the core of a massive dying star more than 2.5 times the mass of the Sun collapses until an infinite density where gravity is so high that even light cannot escape. The discovery of the Black Hole started with the discussion on objects with gravitational fields that are too powerful for light to escape by John Michell and Pierre-Simon Laplace in the 18th century. They have a significant role in various aspects of astrophysics and astronomy. These include:



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insights into Stellar evolution: The formation and evolution of stellar black holes offer valuable information about the life cycles of massive stars and supernova mechanics. • Galaxy dynamics and evolution: Supermassive black holes at the centres of galaxies significantly influence the dynamics and evolution of their host galaxies, affecting star formation rates and the distribution of matter. • Supermassive black holes power the Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN), which are extremely luminous regions found at the centres of some galaxies. They are among the brightest and most energetic objects in the universe. • Gravitational wave astronomy: The merging of black holes is a primary source of gravitational waves, offering a new way to observe and understand the universe, complementing traditional electromagnetic observations.
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<p>Reports & Indices: Global tuberculosis (TB) Report 2024</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is an annual report published by the World Health Organization (WHO). <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights of the 2024 Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It shows 8.2 million people were newly diagnosed with TB in 2023, a figure that represents the highest number of TB cases recorded by the WHO since it began global TB monitoring in 1995. ○ It also marks a significant increase from the 7.5 million new TB cases reported in 2022. ○ Although the estimated number of 1.25 million TB deaths in 2023 is down from the 1.32 million recorded in 2022 and continues a declining trend from the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, that number still far surpasses the 320,000 COVID deaths officially reported to the WHO last year. ○ The data show that 30 mostly low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) bear 87% of the global TB burden, with five countries—India (26%), Indonesia (10%), China (6.8%), the Philippines (6.8%), and Pakistan (6.3%)—combining for 56% of the burden. ○ 55 percent of people who developed TB were men, 33 percent were women, and 12 percent were children and young adolescents. ○ According to the report, a significant number of new TB cases are driven by five major risk factors: undernutrition, HIV infection, alcohol use disorders, smoking, and diabetes. ○ In 2023, India was estimated to have had 27 lakh TB cases, of which 25.1 lakh persons were diagnosed and put on treatment.
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- This has buoyed India's treatment coverage to 89 percent in 2023 from 72 percent in 2015, thereby bridging the gap of missing cases.
- It acknowledged a drop in India's TB incidence - from 237 per lakh population 2015, to 195 per lakh population in 2023, accounting for a 17.7 percent decline.

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