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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

27 August 2024

National and International News

<p>Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Union Home Minister recently inaugurated a new zonal office of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. <p>About NCB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nodal Agency: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is the nodal drug law enforcement and intelligence agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs.• Constitution: Constituted on 14th November 1985, under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act).• Headquarters: Delhi.• Enforcement Role: Operates as an enforcement agency through its zonal offices, which:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Collect and analyze data related to narcotic drug and psychotropic substance seizures.○ Collaborate with Customs, State Police, and other law enforcement agencies.
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National Quantum Mission

Why in the news?

- **India** is set to launch its **first quantum computer** as part of the **National Quantum Mission**.

About National Quantum Mission:

- **Objective:**
 - **Aims to advance India's quantum technologies across four key verticals:**
 - Quantum computing,
 - Communication,
 - Measurement, and
 - Sensing.
- **Key Components:**
 - Quantum Communication
 - Quantum Materials Development
 - Quantum Measurement and Sensing
 - Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs)
- **Applications:** The mission will have applications across various sectors including **healthcare, diagnostics, defence, energy, and data security**.
- **Timeline:** The mission **will be carried out over eight years, from 2023 to 2031**.



Classical Languages

Why in the news?

- Recently, the **centers responsible for promoting classical languages** such as **Telugu, Odia, Kannada, and Malayalam** have **requested autonomy to enhance their functioning and effectiveness.**

About Classical Languages:

- **Classical Languages Status Criteria:**
 - **Long History:** The **language** must have a **documented history of at least 1,500-2,000 years.**
 - **Ancient Literature:** It should have a **significant body of ancient literature**, highly regarded as **cultural heritage.**
 - **Original Literary Tradition:** The **language's literary tradition should be original**, not borrowed from other speech communities.
 - **Distinct from Modern Form:** The classical language and its literature should be distinct from its modern form, **potentially showing discontinuity between the classical and later forms.**
- **Classical Languages Recognised in India:**
 - Tamil (2004)
 - Sanskrit (2005)
 - Telugu (2008)
 - Kannada (2008)
 - Malayalam (2013)
 - Odia (2014)
- **Benefits of Classical Language Status:**
 - **Centre of Excellence:** Establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Studies in the Classical Language.
 - **Professional Chairs:** **UGC** is requested to create Professional Chairs in Central Universities dedicated to the classical language.

**Mass Wasting****Why in the news?**

- A recent study has identified a **high frequency of mass wasting events** in the Sedongpu Gully of the Tibetan Plateau since 2017.

About Mass Wasting:

- Mass Wasting refers to the **movement of rock and soil downslope under the influence of gravity.**
- **Causes:**
 - Occurs when a **slope is too steep to remain stable.**
 - **Slope stability** is influenced by **slope angle and shear strength of materials.**
 - **Triggered by factors** like rapid snowmelt, intense rainfall, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, storm waves, stream erosion, and human activities.
 - **Excessive precipitation is the most common trigger.**
- **Materials Involved:**
 - Typically involve **loose material** and **overlying soils.**
 - Moving blocks of bedrock are categorized as **rock topples, rock slides, or rock falls.**
 - **Movements of liquid material** are called **flows.**

**Sonoluminescence****Why in the news?**

- **Pistol shrimp** (family Alpheidae) have a **special claw that can snap shut very quickly, producing sonoluminescence**, not just in labs but in nature too.

About Sonoluminescence:

- **Phenomenon:** Sonoluminescence is the **emission of a brief flash of light by small gas bubbles in a liquid when exposed to intense sound waves.**
- **Discovery:** First observed in **1934.**
- **Natural occurrence:**
 - **Pistol Shrimp:** The **pistol shrimp exhibits a similar effect** by snapping its specialized claw, **creating a high-velocity jet of water.**
 - **Effect:** The **jet forms a low-pressure bubble** that collapses, producing a loud sound, intense heat, and a brief flash of light.
- **Applications:** Sonoluminescence is primarily of academic interest but has **potential applications in thermonuclear fusion and acoustic imaging.**



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