



5 October 2023

National and International News

Glacial lake bursts in Sikkim



Context

The sudden overflow of South Lhonak lake caused flash floods in the Teesta river.

Key facts

- The flood caused the Chungthang dam to breach from its center from the sheer force and speed of the water Chungthang dam.
- This was likely caused by an “avalanche from the ice-capped feature”.
- Due to overflow the 160 hectare glacial lake was reduced to only 60 hectares.
- ISRO and Indian Institute of Science had already warned about South Lhonak lake

South Lhonak Lake

- It is a glacial-moraine-dammed lake, located at 5200 mt above sea level in Sikkim's far northwestern region.
- It is one of the 14 potentially dangerous lakes susceptible to Glacial lake outburst flood (GLOFs)
- It formed due to the melting of the Lhonak glacier

Think

- What is Glacial lake? How are they formed?

Chemistry Nobel Prize 2023

Context

The 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to Mounji G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus and Alexei I. Ekimov for the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots.

Quantum dots

- Quantum dots are crystals a few nanometres wide and hold only a few thousand atoms.
- The electrons in the dot's atoms are very close to each other.
- At this nanoscale, the effects of quantum mechanics are more apparent.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantum dots are particles that are nanosized in all three dimensions. They behave like artificial atoms, as they can have a fixed number of electrons in a confined space, leading to unique properties that are size-dependent. <p>Did you know? Quantum dots can contribute to flexible electronics, miniscule sensors, slimmer solar cells, and perhaps encrypted quantum communication in the future.</p>
<p>NIIF unveils \$600 mn India-Japan Fund</p>	<p>Context The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund(NIIF) has entered into a collaboration with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to unveil a \$600 million India-Japan Fund.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fund will have JBIC and Government of India as anchor investors. It will focus on investing in environmental sustainability and low carbon emission strategies. It aims to further enhance Japanese investments into India.
<p>National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)</p>	<p>About NIIF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NIIF is India's first sovereign wealth fund set up by the Government of India in 2015. It is an investor-owned fund manager. It is anchored by the Government of India (GoI)in collaboration with leading global and domestic institutional investors. NIIF's mandate includes investing in areas such as energy, transportation, housing, water, waste management and other infrastructure-related sectors in India.
<p>BlueWalker 3 satellite</p>	<p>Context Recently the observational studies have been conducted by an international team of scientists regarding the impact of the prototype BlueWalker 3 satellite on astronomy</p> <p>Key facts about observation</p>



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- Observations taken showed that the **satellite was among the brightest objects in the sky.**
- researchers recognised that the **satellite constellations are important for improving worldwide communications.**
- But they say that their interference with astronomical observations could severely hamper their progress in understanding of the cosmos.

About satellite

- The **BlueWalker 3 is a prototype satellite**, part of a satellite constellation planned by its owner AST SpaceMobile.
- It is intended to **deliver mobile or broadband services anywhere in the world**
- BlueWalker 3 is deemed the largest commercial antenna system ever deployed to low-Earth orbit.
- **It was launched in September of 2022.**

Central Turmeric Board**Context**

The Centre notified the constitution of the National Turmeric Board.

About board

- The Board will have a **Chairperson appointed by the Centre.**
- Its members will includes
 1. the Ministry of AYUSH
 2. Department of Pharmaceuticals
 3. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
 4. Ministry of Commerce & Industry
 5. senior State government representatives from the three states on a rotational basis.
- Selected national/State institutions involved in research, representatives of turmeric farmers and exporters will also be members of the Board.
- **A secretary will be appointed to the Board by the Commerce Ministry.**
- The Board will focus on the development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products in the country.

Did you know?



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	India was the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric.maharashtra and Telangana Are largest producer of turmeric.
Green shipping plan	<p>Context Director General of Shipping announced the Green shipping plan to position maritime sector as eco-friendly</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The national action plan for green shipping promotes eco-friendly practices and incentives for low emission ships. The sector's vision encompasses <ol style="list-style-type: none"> quadrupling port capacity clean energy fuel hubs cruise tourism growth shipbuilding and recycling leadership 5,000 km regional waterway grid
New defence indigenisation list	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Defence Minister released the fifth Positive Indigenisation List of 98 items to be procured He also released the Navy's updated indigenisation road map, "Swavlamban 2.0". <p>The items on the indigenisation list include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> futuristic infantry combat vehicle, articulated all-terrain vehicles, several types of unmanned aerial vehicles, medium-range precision kill system for artillery, test equipment for guided weapon system for T-90 S/SK tanks, radars, armor plates for cabin nose section for Mi-17 helicopter, automated mobile test system for OSA-AK-M air defence system, gravity rollers for Mi-17V5 helicopter and flares of P-8I MiG 29-K aircraft.

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