



24 Aug 2024

National and International News

<p>SPICED scheme</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Spices Board of India launched the SPICED scheme to enhance spice exports, improve cardamom productivity, and upgrade post-harvest spice quality for exports. <p>About SPICED scheme :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheme Name: "Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative, and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development" (SPICED). Duration and Funding: The scheme will be implemented till FY 2025-26, with an approved outlay of ₹422.30 crore during the 15th Finance Commission cycle. Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value Addition and Innovation: Facilitate value-addition and drive innovation in the spice sector. Sustainability: Promote sustainability in the spice sector. Key Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission Value Addition Mission Clean and Safe Spices Promotion of GI-tagged spices Support for Entrepreneurship through Spice Incubation Centres
<p>Quantum Nonlocality</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientists have shown that it is not possible to establish a universal standard for measuring and quantifying non-local quantum correlations. <p>About Quantum Nonlocality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classical Physics and Locality: Classical physics assumes the principle of locality, where objects are influenced only by their immediate surroundings. Quantum Mechanics and Nonlocality: Quantum mechanics introduces the principle of nonlocality, where objects appear to instantaneously know



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	<p>about each other's state, regardless of the distance between them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contradiction with Speed of Light: Nonlocality challenges Einstein's principle that nothing can travel faster than the speed of light, suggesting that instantaneous action or information transfer might be possible in the quantum world. • Entanglement: Nonlocality arises due to quantum entanglement, where particles that interact become permanently correlated and lose their individuality, behaving as a single entity. • Universal Connection: Nonlocality implies that different parts of the universe may be connected in an intimate and immediate way, contrary to the principle of local action.
<p>National Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Mitigation Programme</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDMA to monitor 189 high-risk glacial lakes to prevent disasters. <p>About National Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Mitigation Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim: to address the risks posed by glacial lake outburst floods. • Implementation: The program is being implemented by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in four states: Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh. • High-Risk Lakes: The NDMA has identified 189 high-risk glacial lakes for monitoring and mitigation measures. • Mitigation Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The program includes detailed technical hazard assessments, installation of automated weather and water level monitoring stations (AWWS), and early warning systems (EWS) at the lakes and in downstream areas. ○ Lake-lowering measures are also being attempted to reduce the risk of GLOF.
<p>Drug Delivery with Nanotechnology</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug delivery method can improve fungal infection treatment.



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	<p>About Drug Delivery with Nanotechnology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nikkomycin-loaded Nanoparticles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scientists have utilized Nikkomycin, a chitin synthesis inhibitor produced by Streptomyces bacteria, for targeting fungal infections. ○ Nikkomycin is loaded onto polymeric nanoparticles to specifically target fungal cell walls, which contain chitin—a component absent in human cells. ● The nanoparticle-based drug delivery system disrupts fungal growth without causing cytotoxic or hemolytic effects, making it a safer treatment option. ● Potential Applications: Particularly beneficial for patients with asthma, cystic fibrosis, HIV, cancer, or those on long-term corticosteroid therapy, who are at higher risk of fungal infections. <p>Do you know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● About Nanotechnology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nanotechnology involves manipulating atoms and molecules at the nanoscale (1 to 100 nanometers) to create structures with unique properties. ○ Nanoparticles are ultra-small particles with a high surface area-to-volume ratio, leading to unique physical and chemical characteristics.
<p>World's Second-Largest Diamond</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A 2,492-carat diamond, the second-largest ever discovered, was recently unearthed in Botswana. <p>About World's Second-Largest Diamond:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Newly Discovered Diamond: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The newly discovered diamond is second to the 3,106-carat Cullinan Diamond, found in South Africa over a century ago. ○ Botswana's diamond industry constitutes 30% of its GDP and 80% of its exports. ○ Advanced X-ray transmission technology was used for recovery, enhancing the chances



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of retrieving large stones without causing damage.

Did you know?

- **Diamonds in India: Major Locations are**
 - **Panna belt:** Madhya Pradesh
 - **Wajrakarur Kimberlite pipe:** Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh
 - **Krishna River basin gravels:** Andhra Pradesh



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