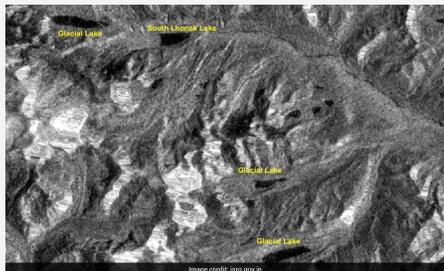




05 October 2023

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 the 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 floods (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.
- 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



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	<p>properties that are size-dependent.</p> <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 the 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 the 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 in 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 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observations taken showed that the satellite was among the brightest objects in the sky. • researchers recognized 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 the cosmos. <p>About satellite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BlueWalker 3 is a prototype satellite, part of a satellite



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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 the board

- The Board will have a **Chairperson appointed by the Centre.**
- Its members will include
 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?

India was the largest producer, consumer, and exporter of turmeric. Maharashtra and Telangana are the largest producers of turmeric.

Green Shipping Plan

Context

The Director General of Shipping announced the Green Shipping Plan to position the maritime sector as eco-friendly

Key points

- The national action plan for green shipping promotes **eco-friendly practices and incentives for low-emission ships.**
- The sector's **vision encompasses**
 1. quadrupling port capacity



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2. clean energy fuel hubs
3. cruise tourism growth
4. shipbuilding and recycling leadership
5. 5,000 km regional waterway grid

New defense indigenization list

Context

- The Defence Minister released the fifth Positive Indigenisation List of 98 items to be procured
- He also released the Navy's updated indigenization road map, "Swavlamban 2.0".

The items on the indigenization list include

- futuristic infantry combat vehicles,
- articulated all-terrain vehicles,
- several types of unmanned aerial vehicles,
- medium-range precision kill systems for artillery,
- test equipment for guided weapon systems 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 defense system,
- gravity rollers for Mi-17V5 helicopter and flares of P-8I
- MiG 29-K aircraft.

Kerala Regional News

Kerala govt to take Rs 2,000 cr loan from cooperative societies

In News:

The Kerala government will soon **take a loan of Rs 2,000 crore from cooperative societies to pay social security pensions.**

Key facts

- **Madai Co-Operative Rural Bank LTD** of Kannur district will be the fund manager of the consortium.
- The consortium will be formed.
- The loan will be taken at an **interest rate of 8.8 percent** per annum **for six months** under a government guarantee.
- If the money is not returned after six months, the loan will be renewed.
- The consortium will **not have permanent members**
- Cooperatives can leave the consortium anytime and new societies may join.



Did you Know?

Mannarkkad Rural Service Cooperative Bank was the fund manager earlier.

Cooperative Societies

Co-Operative Societies



Key Points:

- A cooperative society is a **voluntary association of people** to achieve a common economic goal.
- It is a **democratic institution controlled by its members, who share in the profits and losses** of the business.
- cooperative societies have **constitutional status** According to the 97th **Amendment Act** of 2011.
- The act inserted a new **Part IX-B** into the Constitution.

Did you Know?

- The 97th Amendment Act also made the right to form cooperative societies a fundamental right (**Article 19(1)(c)**)
- It also included a new Directive Principle of State Policy on the promotion of cooperative societies (**Article 43B**).

Fund Shortage in Child Care Centers, Kerala

In News:

Child care centers in Kerala are facing a severe fund shortage, which is impacting their ability to provide quality care to children.

Key Points:

- The employees of child care centers (crush) have not received proper salaries in the last nine months.
- The centers also stopped receiving funds for providing nutritious food to children three years ago
- These centers run under the supervision of the child welfare council
- The Objective is to take care of the children between the age groups of 3 months- 3 years whose mothers are working women.

Person in News: Dr. G Prasad Kumar

In News:

Dr. G Prasad Kumar, News Editor at Mathrubhumi News, has won the Kerala Government's **award for the best visual media report on industries in the state.**

Key Points:

- It consists of **Rs 50,000** and a plaque.



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- It is an annual award given to **recognize and encourage excellence in reporting on the industrial sector** in Kerala.
- The award is **open to all visual media professionals**, including journalists, photographers, and videographers.

Law amendment to control wild animals

In News:

Kerala government Minister Saseendran announces a law amendment to control wild animals.

Key facts

- amendment to the law under consideration is to **prevent the proliferation of wild animals**.
- Announcement comes at the inauguration of the state-level Wildlife Week celebration at Puttur Zoological Park.
- During the event, the **transfer of animals from Thrissur Zoo to Puttur Park took place**.
- Three peacocks were moved to a cage by Ministers K Rajan, AK Saseendran, and R Bindu.
- A logo release for the Peachy Forest Division, **Peachy Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary, Chulannur Peacock Sanctuary, and Chimney Wildlife Sanctuary also took place**.

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