



08 April 2024

National and International News

75 years of NATO



Context:

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was established 75 years ago on April 4, 1949. Over the years, it has expanded and evolved significantly.

About:

- **Formation of NATO:** NATO was founded in 1949 in response to Soviet expansionism, with the US, Canada, UK, and several European nations signing the treaty.
- **Sweden's Membership:** Recently, Sweden joined NATO, becoming the 32nd member. This decision followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which led Sweden to abandon its neutrality policy.
- **World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2024:** The report highlights interstate armed conflict as a major global risk, underscoring the importance of NATO's role in maintaining peace and security.
- **NATO's Expansion:** NATO has expanded over the years, with Finland becoming the 31st member in 2023. This expansion has been a response to changing geopolitical dynamics, including Russia's actions in Ukraine.
- **Open-Door Policy:** NATO maintains an open-door policy for European countries willing to commit to defense spending and other requirements. This policy has led to several rounds of enlargement, including the recent additions of Finland and Sweden.



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myCGHS app

Context:

- The Union Health Ministry has introduced the **myCGHS iOS app**, a significant advancement in healthcare services for CGHS beneficiaries.

Key points:

- This app provides easy access to crucial healthcare features on their mobile devices, according to the Union Health Secretary.
- This initiative aligns with the government's vision of using technology to improve healthcare quality and accessibility.
- The **myCGHS iOS app was developed by the technical teams of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) Himachal Pradesh and NIC Health Team.**
- Key services provided by the **myCGHS app include**
 - booking and canceling online appointments,
 - downloading CGHS cards and index cards,
 - accessing lab reports from CGHS labs,
 - checking medicine history,
 - verifying medical reimbursement claim status,
 - accessing referral details,
 - locating nearby wellness centers, staying updated with news and highlights,
 - locating nearby empaneled hospitals, labs, and dental units, and accessing contact details of wellness centers and offices.

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)



Context:

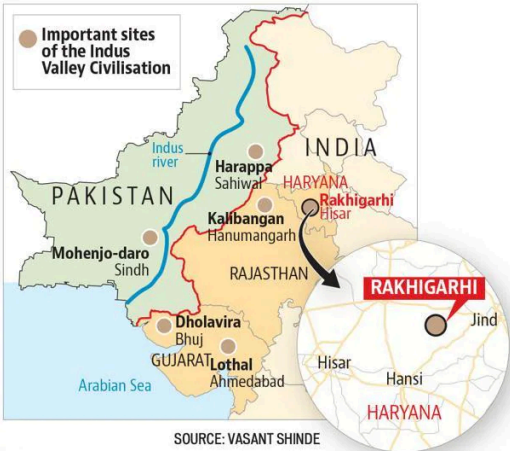
- India has been identified as the country with the **highest percentage of doping offenders, according to the 2022 World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) report.**

Key points:

- Out of 4,064 samples collected from Indian athletes, 127 individuals tested positive for banned substances, constituting **3.26% of the sample size.**
- This highlights a concerning trend in Indian sports and underscores the need for comprehensive measures to address doping.
- The report also reveals a **6.4% increase in the total number of samples analyzed compared to the previous year.**
- Additionally, the percentage of Adverse Analytical Findings (AAFs) rose to **0.77% in 2022 from 0.65% in 2021**, indicating a growing issue worldwide.

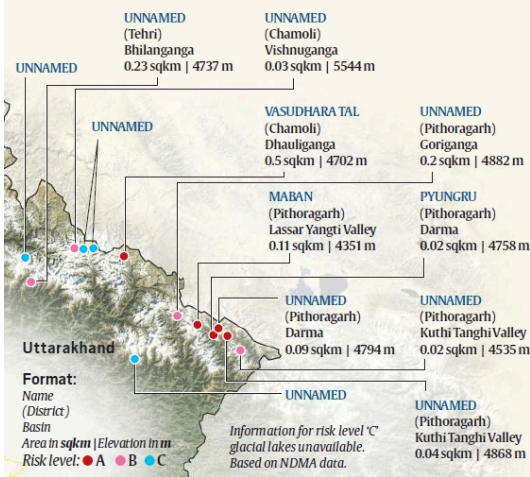
WADA:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) was established on 10 November 1999. Its mission is to promote and coordinate the fight against doping in sport internationally. Its key activities include scientific research, education, development of anti-doping capacities, and monitoring of the World Anti-Doping Code (Code). The First World Conference on Doping in Sport held, in Lausanne, Switzerland, on February 2-4, 1999, produced the Lausanne Declaration on Doping in Sport. Based on the terms of the Lausanne Declaration, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) was established on November 10, 1999, in Lausanne to promote and coordinate the fight against doping in sport internationally.
<p>Rakhigarhi</p>  <p>SOURCE: VASANT SHINDE</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) recently revised the history syllabus for Class 12, emphasizing that the Harappans were indigenous to the Rakhigarhi site in Haryana's Hisar district, an Indus Valley site. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rakhigarhi in Hisar is known as the largest archaeological site from the pre-Harappan period, with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) conducting multiple excavations at the site. In 2022, ASI excavated mounds 1, 3, and 7 at Rakhigarhi, with 13 trenches being excavated in total. Findings indicated the presence of an industrial society, a planned city with a complex street system on raised platforms, houses with extensive layouts, and a drainage system.
<p>Glacial Lake Outburst Flood</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Uttarakhand government is concerned about the increasing risk of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) due to rising temperatures. This risk was demonstrated by devastating events in the Kedarnath valley in 2013 and parts of Chamoli in 2021. To address this, the government has formed two expert teams to assess the risk posed by five hazardous glacial lakes in the region. These lakes are susceptible to GLOFs, which



13 OF THE MOST VULNERABLE LAKES



have caused several disasters in the Himalayan states recently.

Key points:

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has identified **188 glacial lakes in the Himalayan states that could potentially breach due to heavy rainfall, with 13 in Uttarakhand.**

GLOF:

- GLOFs occur when water from **glacial lakes—large bodies of water formed by glacier melt—abruptly discharges.**
- As glaciers retreat, they leave depressions that fill with meltwater, creating lakes.
- The glacier's **retreat enlarges and destabilizes these lakes, which can lead to breaches.**
- GLOFs can be triggered by various events, such as glacial calving or landslides, and can cause devastating flooding downstream, submerging valleys and destroying infrastructure.


Recent findings:

- Recent years have seen an increase in GLOF events in the **Himalayan region due to global warming and rapid infrastructure development in vulnerable areas.**
- Studies indicate that **millions of people in India and Pakistan face the risk of GLOFs.**
- Uttarakhand has experienced **two major GLOF events, one in 2013 and another in 2021, leading to significant loss of life and livelihoods.**
- Based on available data and research, **Uttarakhand has categorized its 13 glacial lakes into three risk levels: 'A', 'B', and 'C'.**
- Five lakes are classified as **highly sensitive ('A' category), including Vasudhara Tal in the Dhauliganga basin in Chamoli district and four lakes in Pithoragarh district.**
- These lakes are at elevations ranging from 4,351 to 4,868 meters, with areas ranging from 0.02 to 0.50 square kilometers.
- The **rising surface temperatures could exacerbate the situation in Uttarakhand.**
- A study predicts that the **state's annual average maximum temperature may increase by 1.6-1.9 degrees Celsius between 2021-2050, potentially increasing the risk of GLOFs.**





Kerala Regional News

<p>World Health Day</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Health Day is celebrated annually on April 7th. It was established by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948 <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1948, the WHO held the First World Health Assembly. The Assembly decided to celebrate 7 April of each year, with effect from 1950, as the World Health Day. <p>Theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theme for World Health Day 2024 is "My health, my right". This theme emphasizes the importance of ensuring everyone, everywhere has access to healthcare services, information, and education to live a healthy life.
<p>Kerala set to get third Vande Bharat express, rake reaches</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerala is getting a third Vande Bharat Express train The third Vande Bharat express is expected to operate service between Ernakulam and Bangalore. A rake, which is a set of coaches, has arrived in the state. This will act as a backup for the existing Thiruvananthapuram-Kasaragod route via Alappuzha. It will ensure the service continues smoothly even when the main train needs maintenance <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two existing Vande Bharat expresses operate between Thiruvananthapuram - Kasaragod and Thiruvananthapuram - Mangalore routes. First one was launched in April last year.
<p>Number of NRI voters and transgender voters in Kerala up since 2019 polls</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The voters' list for the April 26 Lok Sabha polls in Kerala shows that the number of overseas





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cVIGIL records 1,07,202 complaints over election code breaches in Kerala



(NRI) and transgender electors has gone up compared to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

- **Kerala has 89,839 NRI voters and 367 transgender electors** as per the final list published by the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO-Kerala).

Context:

- The **Election Commission's cVIGIL mobile application** has received a total of **1,07,202 complaints in the state**.
- Out of these, **action was taken on 1,05,356 valid complaints, with ongoing actions for 183 more**.
- The complaints primarily **concern unauthorized posters, banners, boards, and posters lacking mandatory information, as well as defacement of properties, unauthorized cash transactions etc.,**

About:

- **cVIGIL is a mobile app launched by the Election Commission of India (ECI) for citizens to report violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during elections.**

Key Points:

- **Purpose:** Report MCC violations during elections in India.
- **Features:**
 - Users can submit complaints with photo/video evidence.
 - Complaint includes location and time data.
 - App allows tracking complaint progress.

Cochin Shipyard signs agreement with US Navy

Context:

- **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) signed a significant agreement with the US Navy on April 5, 2024.**
- This **Master Ship Repair Agreement (MSRA) is non-financial and positions CSL as a preferred shipyard for repair works on US Navy vessels operating in the Indian Ocean region under the Military Sealift Command.**

About:

- The **agreement signifies CSL's strong reputation and capabilities, having undergone a rigorous evaluation by the US Navy.**
- This **collaboration holds promise for the Indian shipyard, potentially bringing in more US naval repair business.**



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Note:

- It's important to note that the Indian Navy is not directly involved in this agreement.

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