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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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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

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.

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### 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:

- 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.





### 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.**

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