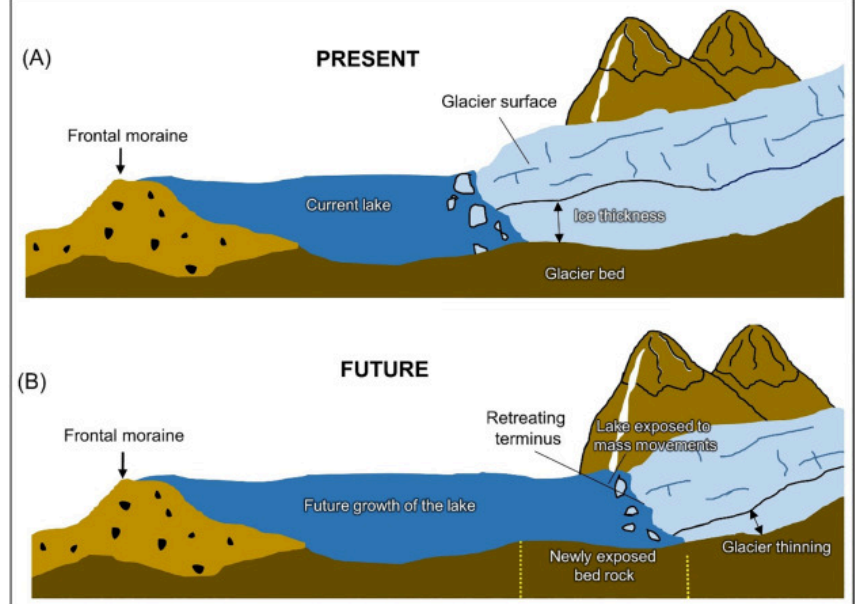




24 April 2024

National and International News

<p>Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISRO's long-term satellite imagery from 1984 to 2023 shows significant changes in glacial lakes in the catchments of Indian Himalayan river basins. • It provides valuable insights for understanding glacial lake dynamics, which are essential for assessing environmental impacts and developing strategies for Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) risk management and climate change adaptation in glacial environments. <p>About Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) are a phenomenon that occurs when large bodies of water, located in front of, on top of, or beneath a melting glacier, expand. • These situations become more dangerous due to the fact that glacial lakes are primarily dammed by unstable ice or sediment composed of loose rock and debris. • If the boundary around these lakes breaks, it can result in massive amounts of water rushing down the mountainside, potentially causing flooding in downstream areas.
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Contempt of court

Why in news?

- The Supreme Court questioned Patanjali Ayurved about the size and cost of its apology published in newspapers.
- Patanjali is facing **contempt action from the Supreme Court for publishing misleading advertisements** about their ayurvedic products.
- They had **violated an undertaking given to the Supreme Court in 2023 to stop these advertisements.**

About Contempt of court:

- Contempt of Court is designed to **protect judicial institutions from unwarranted criticism and attacks, and to uphold their authority.**
- The Indian Constitution's **Article 129** designates the **Supreme Court as a court of record with the power to punish for contempt of itself.**
- The **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971** is the governing law for contempt in India.
- **Judges have the authority to impose sanctions**, such as imprisonment or fines, on those found guilty of contempt of court.
- Contempt of court is divided into two categories: **Civil and Criminal.**
- **Civil contempt** occurs when **someone wilfully disobeys a court order or breaches** an undertaking given to the court.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Criminal contempt includes three forms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Actions, signs, or words (written or spoken) that “scandalize” or “tend to scandalize” or “lower” or “tends to lower” the authority of any court. ○ Actions that prejudice or interfere with any judicial proceeding. ○ Actions that interfere with or obstruct the administration of justice.
<p>Safeguard Measures</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India, along with other nations have criticised the EU for not terminating its safeguard measure on imports of certain steel products after a review. ● Most of these countries argued that the EU’s safeguard duty was inconsistent with WTO rules. <p>About Safeguard Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Safeguard measures are emergency actions introduced by a country under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Safeguards. ● These measures are taken to protect a specific domestic industry from an increase in imports of any product which is causing, or threatening to cause, serious injury. ● Safeguard measures can take the form of suspension of concessions or obligations, and can consist of quantitative import restrictions or duty increases to higher than bound rates. ● They are one of three types of contingent trade protection measures available to WTO members, the other two being anti-dumping and countervailing measures. <p>Think:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Know about Anti-dumping and Countervailing measures.
<p>Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) scheme</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Delhi High Court has instituted a case regarding the grant of financial assistance under the Centre’s Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) scheme. ● The court observed that the threshold income to claim benefit under this scheme is prima facie “extremely low”.



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	<p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the new umbrella scheme of RAN, the threshold of monthly income for benefit is ₹1,571 for rural and ₹1,605 for urban areas. • The annual income of the applicant is ₹96,000. <p>About Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) is a scheme under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in India. • The RAN is a centrally sponsored scheme. • It was set up to provide financial assistance to patients living below the poverty line. • It is designed to help those suffering from major life-threatening diseases receive medical treatment at any of the super specialty Government hospitals or institutes. • The scheme provides one-time financial assistance to poor patients living below State/UT wise threshold poverty line and suffering from life-threatening diseases relating to heart, kidney, liver, cancer, etc.
<p>Schengen visa</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian nationals can now be issued long-term multi-entry Schengen visas valid for two years. • The European Union has announced this new visa 'cascade' regime. <p>About Schengen visa:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Schengen Visa is a permit that allows one to enter and travel freely within the Schengen Area, which comprises 29 European countries. • It's primarily for short stays up to 90 days within a 180-day period for tourism or business purposes. • The visa can be obtained in the form of a single-entry visa, which allows the holder to enter the Schengen area once, or a multiple-entry visa.



Kerala Regional News

<p>Kallakkadal</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extreme heat in Kerala is expected to continue until the end of April. • Along with the extreme heat, the 'kallakkadal' (swell waves) phenomenon is also recurring. • The Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has warned of waves with heights up to 0.5 to 1.5 meters along the Kerala coast for two days. <p>About Kallakkadal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Kallakkadal" refers to an unusual oceanic phenomenon affecting the coastal regions of India, particularly in Kerala. • "Kallakkadal" is a term used in the local language of Kerala, meaning "sea surge" or "rock sea." • It refers to a phenomenon where the sea water unusually floods the coastal areas without the occurrence of any significant astronomical high tide or cyclone.
<p>National Service Scheme (NSS)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,460 trained National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers from 153 NSS units will assist differently abled people and senior citizens in Kozhikode district on the polling day. • The Department of Social Justice will coordinate the activities of student volunteers at various booths. <p>About NSS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Service Scheme (NSS) was launched in India in 1969 on the birth centenary of Mahatma Gandhi. • Its primary goal is to develop students' personality through community service. • The motto of NSS is "Not Me But You," which underlines the importance of selfless service and the welfare of society.



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Thunderbolt commandos

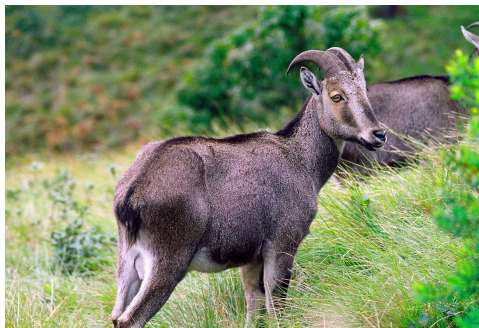
Why in news?

- The **Thunderbolt commandos**, a specialized force in **Kerala**, have initiated **combing operations** in the jungle zones of **Kambamala** following the Maoist activity.

About Thunderbolt commandos:

- The Thunderbolts is an **elite commando force of the Kerala Police** under the **India Reserve Battalion**.
- It was **set up in accordance with the Indian central government's directions post the 2008 Mumbai attacks**.
- The force is **modeled on the Special Protection Group and National Security Guard** and is **trained to engage in air, water, and land attacks**.
- The commandos are known as "Thunderbolts" and **are mostly used to battle Left Wing Extremism**.

Nilgiri tahrs



Why in news?

- **Tamil Nadu, Kerala** to count **Nilgiri tahrs** in a **first synchronised survey** from April 29.
- **WWF-India, the Wildlife Institute of India and the Nature Conservation Foundation** are involved in **formulating scientific and accurate technique of population enumeration**.

Key points:

- The exercise is part of '**Project Nilgiri Tahr**'.
- According to an estimate by forest officials, there are about **3,100 Nilgiri tahrs in the state's four tiger reserves**.
- The **Tamil Nadu forest department** has decided to conduct a **Nilgiri tahr census jointly with their Kerala** in the western ghats from April 29 to May 11.

About Nilgiri tahrs:

- The Nilgiri Tahr, also known as **Varaiaadu locally**, is an **important part of Tamil Nadu's ecology and culture**.
- This species has been **referenced multiple times in Tamil Sangam literature**, which dates back **2,000 years**.
- The significance of the Tahr in folklore, culture, and life is **highlighted in late Mesolithic paintings** from 10,000-4,000 BC.
- It has been designated as the **State animal of Tamil**



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	<p>Nadu.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nilgiri Tahr is listed as an endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It is protected under Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.
<p>Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) awareness programmes were held in Kerala in relation to the Lok Sabha polls. The Chief Electoral Officer (Kerala) mentioned that widespread awareness activities were conducted under SVEEP to inspire all voters to vote. <p>About SVEEP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SVEEP is a program designed by the Election Commission of India aimed at increasing voter education and participation, ensuring that all eligible citizens are informed and motivated to vote during elections. It was officially launched in 2009 to address the low voter turnout in Indian elections and to tackle the issues of electoral participation across various demographics.

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