



27 August 2024

National and International News

<p>Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Union Home Minister recently inaugurated a new zonal office of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. <p>About NCB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nodal Agency: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is the nodal drug law enforcement and intelligence agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Constitution: Constituted on 14th November 1985, under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act). Headquarters: Delhi. Enforcement Role: Operates as an enforcement agency through its zonal offices, which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect and analyze data related to narcotic drug and psychotropic substance seizures. Collaborate with Customs, State Police, and other law enforcement agencies.
<p>National Quantum Mission</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India is set to launch its first quantum computer as part of the National Quantum Mission. <p>About National Quantum Mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to advance India's quantum technologies across four key verticals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantum computing, Communication, Measurement, and Sensing. Key Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantum Communication Quantum Materials Development Quantum Measurement and Sensing



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) ● Applications: The mission will have applications across various sectors including healthcare, diagnostics, defence, energy, and data security. ● Timeline: The mission will be carried out over eight years, from 2023 to 2031.
<p>Classical Languages</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recently, the centers responsible for promoting classical languages such as Telugu, Odia, Kannada, and Malayalam have requested autonomy to enhance their functioning and effectiveness. <p>About Classical Languages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Classical Languages Status Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Long History: The language must have a documented history of at least 1,500-2,000 years. ○ Ancient Literature: It should have a significant body of ancient literature, highly regarded as cultural heritage. ○ Original Literary Tradition: The language's literary tradition should be original, not borrowed from other speech communities. ○ Distinct from Modern Form: The classical language and its literature should be distinct from its modern form, potentially showing discontinuity between the classical and later forms. ● Classical Languages Recognised in India: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tamil (2004) ○ Sanskrit (2005) ○ Telugu (2008) ○ Kannada (2008) ○ Malayalam (2013) ○ Odia (2014) ● Benefits of Classical Language Status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Centre of Excellence: Establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Studies in the Classical Language. ○ Professional Chairs: UGC is requested to create Professional Chairs in Central Universities dedicated to the classical language.



Mass Wasting

Why in the news?

- A recent study has identified a **high frequency of mass wasting events** in the Sedongpu Gully of the **Tibetan Plateau** since 2017.

About Mass Wasting:

- Mass Wasting refers to the **movement of rock and soil downslope under the influence of gravity.**
- **Causes:**
 - Occurs when a **slope is too steep to remain stable.**
 - **Slope stability** is influenced by **slope angle and shear strength of materials.**
 - **Triggered by factors** like rapid snowmelt, intense rainfall, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, storm waves, stream erosion, and human activities.
 - **Excessive precipitation is the most common trigger.**
- **Materials Involved:**
 - Typically involve **loose material** and **overlying soils.**
 - Moving blocks of bedrock are categorized as **rock topples, rock slides, or rock falls.**
 - **Movements of liquid material** are called **flows.**

Sonoluminescence

Why in the news?

- **Pistol shrimp** (family Alpheidae) have a **special claw that can snap shut very quickly, producing sonoluminescence,** not just in labs but in nature too.

About Sonoluminescence:

- **Phenomenon:** Sonoluminescence is the **emission of a brief flash of light by small gas bubbles in a liquid** when **exposed to intense sound waves.**
- **Discovery:** First observed in **1934.**
- **Natural occurrence:**
 - **Pistol Shrimp:** The **pistol shrimp exhibits a similar effect** by snapping its specialized claw, **creating a high-velocity jet of water.**
 - **Effect:** The **jet forms a low-pressure bubble** that collapses, producing a loud sound, intense heat, and a brief flash of light.



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- **Applications:** Sonoluminescence is primarily of academic interest but has **potential applications in thermonuclear fusion and acoustic imaging.**

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