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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



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S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	NATIONAL TURMERIC BOARD
2.	GLACIAL LAKE OUTBURST FLOOD IN SIKKIM
3.	FIRST PUBLIC SECTOR CARAVAN PARK IN KERALA

NATIONAL TURMERIC BOARD

SOURCE: [DECCAN CHRONICLE](#), [THE PRINT](#), [TH](#), [PIB](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

Government of India notifies establishment of National Turmeric Board. National Turmeric Board to increase awareness and consumption of turmeric and develop new markets internationally to increase exports. Board to promote research and development into new products and **develop on our traditional knowledge for value-added turmeric products. Turmeric exports from India expected to rise to US\$ 1 Billion by 2030**

NEED/SIGNIFICANCE OF ESTABLISHING NTB:

1. **LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION:**

The Board will provide leadership in matters related to turmeric, enhance collaborative efforts, and facilitate coordination with the Spices Board and other government agencies to advance the turmeric sector.

2. **LEVERAGING HEALTH BENEFITS:**

Recognizing the global interest in the health and wellness benefits of turmeric, the Board aims to raise awareness, expand consumption, explore international markets, support research and development of new products, and harness traditional knowledge for value-added turmeric products.

3. **CAPACITY BUILDING:**

The Board will prioritize capacity building and skill development for turmeric growers to maximize the benefits of value addition. It will also promote quality and food safety standards.

4. **GLOBAL MARKET POSITION:**

The Board's efforts in research, market development, consumption enhancement, and value addition will help Indian growers and processors maintain their leading position in global markets as exporters of high-quality turmeric and its products.

5. **COMPOSITION:**

The Board will have a **chairperson appointed by the Central Government** and members from various government departments, including Ministry of AYUSH, Departments of Pharmaceuticals, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Commerce & Industry, senior state government representatives, national/state research institutions, and representatives of turmeric farmers and exporters. It will also have a secretary appointed by the Department of Commerce.

6. **INDIA'S TURMERIC STATUS:**

India is the world's largest producer, consumer, and exporter of turmeric, with more than 30 varieties grown in over 20 states. Leading producing states include **Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.** Kandhamal Haldi, indigenous to Odisha, has a GI Tag.

7. **DOMINANCE IN TRADE:**

India holds a significant share of over 62% in the global trade of turmeric. In 2022-23, India exported 1.534 lakh tonnes of turmeric and its products valued at USD 207.45 million, with leading export markets including Bangladesh, UAE, USA, and Malaysia.

8. **FUTURE EXPORT OUTLOOK:**

9. With the Board's focused activities, it is anticipated that turmeric exports from India will reach USD 1 billion by 2030.



ABOUT TURMERIC CULTIVATION:

Aspect	Information about Turmeric
Botanical Name	Curcuma longa
Uses	traditional Indian medical systems, cosmetic industries, Detoxify the liver, exhibit properties like antiviral, analgesic, antibacterial, anti-inflammatory etc.
Production and Export	India is a leading producer and exporter globally
Top Producing States (2020-21)	Telangana, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh
Climate	Suitable for diverse tropical conditions, from sea level to 1500m above sea level
Temperature Range	Thrives in 20-35°C
Rainfall Requirement	Needs annual rainfall of 1500mm or more, can be rainfed or irrigated
Preferred Soil Types	Thrives in well-drained sandy or clay loam soils with a pH range of 4.5-7.5 and good organic content
Varieties	Various cultivars known by the locality where they are grown; popular ones include Duggirala, Tekkurpet, Sugandham, Amalapuram, Erode local, Salem, Alleppey, Moovattupuzha, and Lakdong
Land Preparation	Land prepared with early monsoon showers; soil finely tilled with four deep ploughings; planting on ridges and furrows
Planting Material	Whole or split mother and finger rhizomes; selection of healthy and disease-free rhizomes is crucial

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES:

Scheme Name	KEY FEATURES
NATIONAL MISSION ON SPICES (NMS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on integrated development of the spice sector. • Includes research, training, and extension activities. • Aims to support organic farming practices. • Provides subsidies for equipment and machinery. • Promotes market linkages for farmers.
RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (RKVY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supports the development of infrastructure such as processing units, storage facilities, and more. ➤ Focuses on increasing spice production through technology adoption. ➤ Encourages the adoption of best agricultural practices.
SUB-MISSION ON AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION (SMAE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourages the adoption of organic farming techniques. ▪ Provides financial assistance for organic certification.
NATIONAL HORTICULTURE MISSION PARAMPARAGAT KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (PKVY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supports the establishment of spice nurseries and demonstration plots. ➤ Promotes the use of modern technology in spice cultivation.
SPICES DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focuses on the adoption of organic farming in spice cultivation. ▪ Aims to enhance soil health and increase sustainability.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provides financial assistance for infrastructure and equipment ➤ Focuses on quality improvement and post-harvest management.



SCHEME (SDS)

➤ Encourages the development of spice parks.

SPICES BOARD OF INDIA:

- ❖ Establishment Date: February 26, 1987
- ❖ Legal Basis: Spices Board Act 1986
- ❖ Merger of Entities: Cardamom Board (1968) and Spices Export Promotion Council (1960)
- ❖ Operational Ministry: Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- ❖ Responsibilities: Export promotion of 52 scheduled spices, development of Small & Large Cardamom
- ❖ Main Functions:
 - Research, development, and regulation of domestic marketing of Small & Large Cardamom
 - Post-harvest improvement of all spices
 - Promotion of organic production, processing, and certification of spices
 - Development of spices in the North East
 - Provision of quality evaluation services





GLACIAL LAKE OUTBURST FLOOD IN SIKKIM

SOURCE: [IE](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

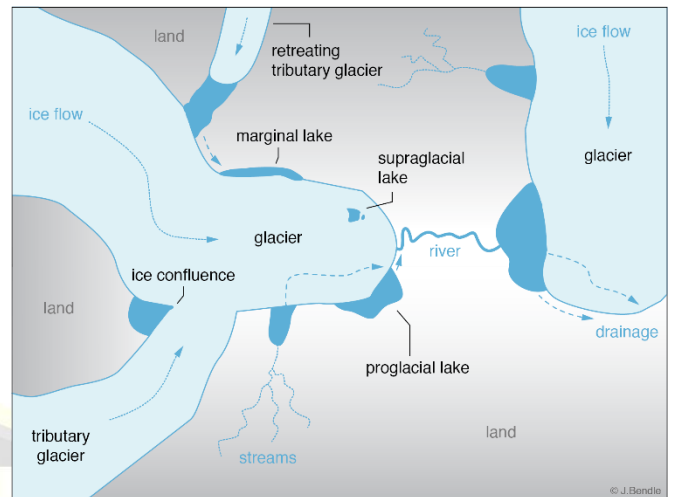
Sikkim experienced a tragic event when **heavy and continuous rainfall led to the breach of the South Lhonak Lake**. This calamity resulted in the unfortunate loss of fourteen lives and the unaccounted status of 102 individuals, including 23 members of the Armed Forces.

ABOUT GLOF:

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development defines a **GLOF** as ‘the sudden release of water from a lake fed by glacier melt that has formed at the side, in front, within, beneath, or on the surface of a glacier’

CAUSES OF GLOFS:

1. **STRUCTURAL FAILURE:** GLOFs can occur due to the structural failure of natural dams that hold water from melting glaciers. As glaciers melt, the accumulated water exerts pressure on these dams, leading to failures.
2. **EARTHQUAKES:** Sudden seismic activity can alter the shape and stability of glacial lakes and their dams, triggering GLOFs.
3. **CLIMATE CHANGE:** Rising temperatures and increased rainfall contribute to the formation of more glacial lakes as glaciers melt. These changing climate patterns also elevate the risk of GLOFs.
4. **HUMAN ACTIVITIES:** Activities like construction and mining can disrupt the environment around glacial lakes, increasing the likelihood of GLOFs.



IMPACT OF GLOFS: GLOFs pose a grave threat to human lives, livelihoods, and regional infrastructure, often resulting in catastrophic consequences.

TYPES OF GLOFS:

GLACIAL LAKES:

- Glacial lakes result from the melting of glaciers or ice caps.
- Typically found in remote and inaccessible regions like mountains and polar areas.
- Vary in size, ranging from small ponds to expansive lakes.
- Formed behind natural dams made of ice, rock, or moraine (glacial debris).
- Prone to sudden, catastrophic releases of water, causing GLOFs.
- Often have cloudy water due to sediment and rock flour carried by glaciers and rivers.
- Host unique ecosystems adapted to cold, nutrient-poor conditions.
- Climate change accelerates the formation and disappearance of glacial lakes, impacting water resources and mountain ecosystems.

ICE-DAMMED LAKES:

- Ice-dammed lakes occur behind natural ice dams, typically in valleys on glaciers or permafrost regions.
- Dams can form through processes like ice and snow melting, debris accumulation, or water freezing.
- Highly unstable and can release large volumes of water suddenly, causing destructive GLOFs.
- Climate change accelerates glacier and permafrost melting, increasing the risk of GLOFs from ice-dammed lakes.
- Monitoring and modelling are crucial for predicting and mitigating these events.

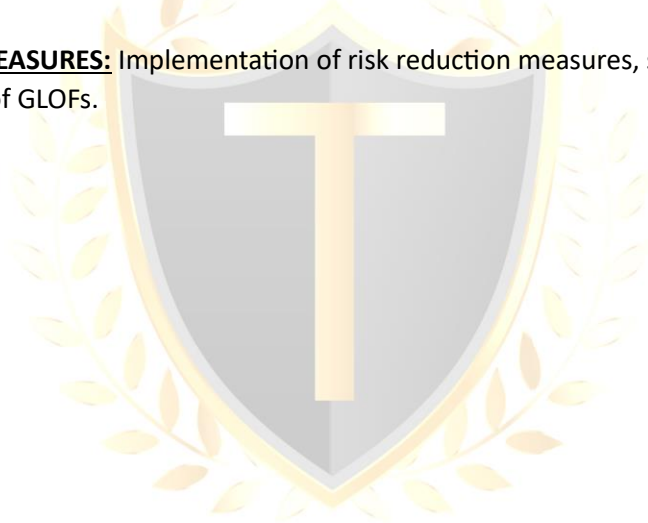


MORaine DAMMED LAKES:

- Moraine-dammed lakes form when glaciers melt and create natural dams using deposited glacial debris called moraines.
- Found in mountainous regions worldwide, sourced from rainfall and glacial meltwater.
- While they can serve as habitats for aquatic life and water sources for communities, they pose hazards if the dam fails.
- Regular inspections and management are essential for preventing disasters caused by moraine dam failures.

NDMA MEASURES FOR GLOF MANAGEMENT:

1. **RISK ASSESSMENT:** Regular assessments are conducted to identify vulnerable areas and communities at risk of GLOFs, enabling prioritized intervention.
2. **EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS:** Establishment of early warning systems that can detect potential GLOFs and issue timely alerts to communities and authorities.
3. **DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLANS:** Development and implementation of comprehensive disaster management plans that outline actions to be taken during GLOFs, including evacuation, rescue, relief operations, and post-disaster rehabilitation.
4. **CAPACITY BUILDING:** Building the capacity of local communities, authorities, and emergency responders through training and awareness programs to enhance their ability to respond effectively to GLOFs and other natural disasters.
5. **RISK REDUCTION MEASURES:** Implementation of risk reduction measures, such as stabilizing glacial lakes, to mitigate the threat of GLOFs.





Prelims Specific

Flash Flood

- ✓ Flash floods are **sudden and intense flooding events**.
 - ✓ They can be caused by **heavy rainfall, storms, dam failures**, or similar factors.
 - ✓ Flash floods lead to a **rapid and overwhelming surge of water**.
 - ✓ They have a high intensity, short duration, and pose significant risks to life and property.
- **Flash Floods in Sikkim**
- ✓ Flash floods occurred in Sikkim, triggered by a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) in the Teesta River basin.
 - ✓ These flash floods resulted in loss of human lives and extensive damage to infrastructure.
- **Chunthang Dam Breach**
- ✓ The **Chunthang Dam breached due to the force and speed of water** from the GLOF.
 - ✓ The release of a **large volume of water from the dam** exacerbated the flooding in Sikkim.
- **Chunthang Dam Detail**
- ✓ **Chunthang Dam is the largest hydropower project in Sikkim**.
 - ✓ It is a part of the 1,200-megawatt (MW) **Teesta Stage III Hydro Electric Project**.
 - ✓ The Sikkim government holds the majority stake in this project.

The Tista River

Origin: It originates in the Himalayas of **North Sikkim at the Zemu glacier in the Kanchenjunga ranges**.

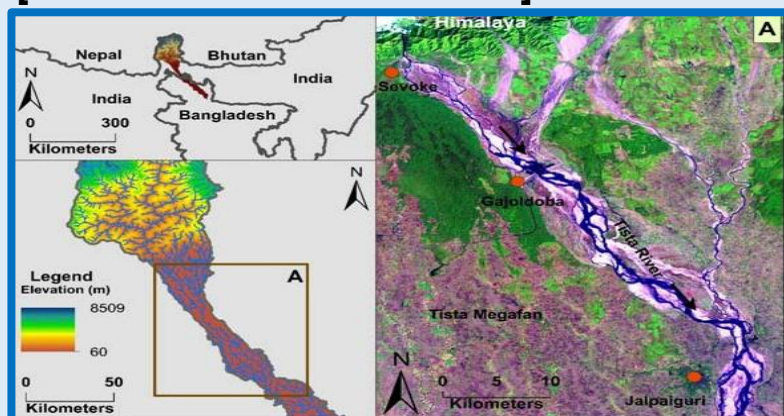
Length: 414 Km

Tributaries: Relli River, Riyang river, Geil Khola, **Rangnet River [LARGEST]**

River Merge: It has created a **deep gorge in the Darjeeling hills** and divides them into the Tiger Hill Range and the Kalimpong Hill Range. Flowing further, **it enters Bangladesh and joins the mighty Brahmaputra River**.

Protected Area: **[KHANGCHENDZONGA-BR]-MIXED HERITAGE SITE**

[TISTA.R - LIFELINE OF SIKKIM]





FIRST PUBLIC SECTOR CARAVAN PARK IN KERALA

Source: [THE HINDU](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC) will develop the **First public sector caravan park** and camp shelter at **Bekal Fort**.
- **Bekal** has been chosen by the Tourism Department for a **cinema tourism project**.

CARAVAN PARK AT BEKAL FORT

- **About Project**
 - ✓ The caravan park at Bekal will be the **first park in the public sector in the State**.
 - ✓ The fort **offers stunning architecture** and lush surroundings, **overlooking the Arabian Sea**.
 - ✓ A sum of ₹1.53 crore has been sanctioned for the project.
 - ✓ At present, **there is only one caravan park in the State**, run by a **private player at Wagamon**.
 - ✓ KTDC also proposes caravan parks at **Ponmudi (Thiruvananthapuram)** and **Bolgatty Palace (Kochi)**.
- **Keravan Kerala**
 - ✓ Kerala's Department of Tourism introduces "**Keravan Kerala**" as a **new tourism product**.
 - ✓ This initiative focuses on **Caravan Tourism**, offering a **non-intrusive and nature-centric travel experience**.
 - ✓ It **aims to cater to post-pandemic tourist preferences** by providing safe and customized travel experiences.
 - ✓ Keravan Kerala **offers investment opportunities for specially-designed caravans** for travel and leisure.
 - ✓ It involves **various stakeholders**, including **local self-government institutions**, in creating **eco-friendly Caravan Parks** throughout the state for **visitors to explore their preferred destinations**.



Fig.1 keravan kerala

ABOUT BEKAL FORT, KERALA

- **Historical Background**
 - ✓ Bekal Fort, situated in **Kasaragod, Kerala**, has a rich historical background dating back to ancient times.
 - ✓ The **fort's strategic location along the Arabian Sea** made it an **important center for trade and commerce**.
 - ✓ It served as a key point in the ancient trade routes **connecting Malabar (Kerala) with foreign lands**.
- **Rise of the Kolathiri Dynasty**
 - ✓ The fort became particularly significant during the **reign of the Kolathiri Rajas**, a local dynasty that ruled the region.
 - ✓ They recognized the importance of **Bekal as a stronghold and maritime center**.
- **European Influence**
 - ✓ During the colonial period, **Bekal Fort saw the influence of European powers**, with the Portuguese, Dutch, and British showing interest in the fort and its surroundings.



Fig.2 Bekal fort, kerala



ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF BEKAL FORT

- **Impressive Architecture**
 - ✓ Bekal Fort is renowned for its **stunning architectural design**, which **reflects the mastery of ancient Indian fortification techniques**.
 - ✓ It features massive **laterite walls, bastions, and an intricate layout**.
- **Fortress on a Hillock**
 - ✓ The fort is strategically built on a **hillock overlooking the Arabian Sea**, providing a commanding view of the coastline.
 - ✓ Its location enhances its **defensive capabilities**.
- **Artistic and Cultural Significance**
 - ✓ **Cinema Tourism:** The fort gained additional fame through **cinema tourism** when scenes from the popular song "Uyire..." in Mani Ratnam's 1995 film "Bombay" were shot there.
 - ✓ **Cultural Heritage:** Bekal Fort stands as a **testament to Kerala's cultural heritage and historical significance**.
 - ✓ **Tourist Attraction:** Bekal Fort is a major **tourist attraction in Kerala**, drawing visitors from around the world who appreciate its **historical, architectural, and artistic significance**.

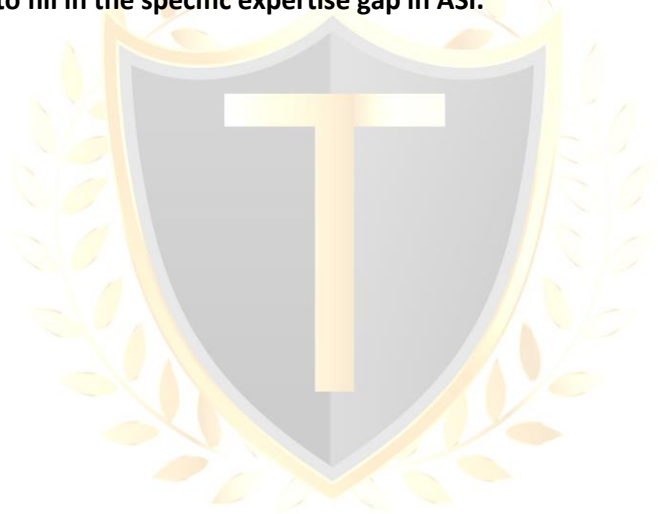
CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES OF KERALA

<u>Heritage Place</u>	<u>Historical Significance</u>
<i>The Western Ghats</i>	Breathtaking Natural Beauty, UNESCO World Heritage 2012
<i>Anchuthengu Fort</i>	It is the first creation of the East Indian Company in Kerela back in the 16th century.
<i>Krishnapuram Palace</i>	Once home to Marthanda Varma, the Maharaja of Travancore
<i>Thrikkakkudi Rock-Cut Temple</i>	The Thrikkakkudi Rock-Cut Temple is one of the Top Historical Places & Monuments in Kerala.
<i>St Mary's Forane Church</i>	Created in the year 105 AD, the church represents a Virgin Mary and a cross inscribed from the granite stones.
<i>Thalassery Fort</i>	Under the Archaeological Survey of India, the Thalassery fort attracts plenty of viewers from around Kerala.
<i>Anantha Padmanabha Temple</i>	The Anantha Padmanabha Temple, also known as the Padmanabhaswamy temple is a temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu. It does not allow men with shirts or clothes above the waist
<i>Kappad Beach</i>	It was in 1498 when Vasco da Gama landed on Indian soil at Kappad beach
<i>St. Francis Church</i>	St. Francis Church is famous for being the first ever European Church that was built in India.
<i>Dutch Palace</i>	Dutch Palace or Mattancherry Palace is a palace that was built by the Portuguese and was gifted to the Raja of Kochi in 1555 AD.



WAY FORWARD

- **Implementation of Operation Guidelines:**
 - ✓ The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention need to be stringently followed by the authorities involved in protection of cultural and natural heritage.
- **Fulfilling our constitutional and moral responsibility as mentioned in fundamental duties and directive principles of the state.**
 - **Fundamental Duties (Article 51A)**
 - ✓ Citizens must value and preserve India's composite culture.
 - **DPSP (Article 49 - Directive Principles of State Policy)**
 - ✓ The State shall protect national monuments or places of artistic/historic importance from harm or removal.
- **Statutory Backing (AMASR Act 1958)**
 - ✓ Preserves ancient monuments, archaeological sites, and national remains.
- **Responsibility of Institution**
 - ✓ Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under the Ministry of Culture leads archaeological research and heritage protection.
 - ✓ **Need for partnerships with various institutions and organisations for specialised conservation works is required to fill in the specific expertise gap in ASI.**





PRELIMS SPECIFIC

International Initiative for Preservation of Cultural Heritage

- **UNESCO's List of World Heritage Sites:**
 - ✓ Enforces stringent measures for the protection and preservation of historical monuments.
 - ✓ India has 42 UNESCO World Heritage Sites designated to date.
- **Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, 1977**
- **Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2005**
- **Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, 2006**
- **United Nations World Heritage Committee:**
 - ✓ India is a Signatory to all the above-mentioned conventions.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q1. Which of the following is/are among the Fundamental Duties of citizens laid down in the Indian Constitution? (2012)

1. To preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture
2. To protect the weaker sections from social injustice
3. To develop the scientific temper and the spirit of inquiry
4. To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (c)

Q2. Recently, which one of the following was included in the UNESCO's World Heritage list? (2009)

- (a) Dilwara Temple
- (b) Kalka-Shimla Railway
- (c) Bhiterkanika Mangrove Area
- (d) Visakhapatnam to Araku valley railway line

Ans: (b)

Mains

Q. Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss. (2018)