

THE DESERVING INDIA

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY COMPILATION APRIL 01- 06

Katchatheevu Island Issue

- **Katchatheevu** is an uninhabited island of **Sri Lanka in the Palk strait**, formed from a 14th century **volcanic eruption**.
- **It is located 33 kilometres from Rameswaram, India.**
- Initially a **disputed territory** between India and srilanka **overfishing, the dispute** was resolved in **1974** when India renounced its claim to the island in exchange for fishing rights for Indian fisherman.
- Tamilnadu cited the historical control of the city RamnadZamindar over the island and traditional fishing rights of Indian tamil fishermen.
- The island was given away to Sri Lanka **without consulting the** state legislative assembly.
- In 1991, the **Tamil nadu assembly adopted a resolution demanding the retrieval of Katchatheevu.**

ABOUT MARITIME BOUNDARY AGREEMENT

- The issue emerged when both the countries signed these Agreements in **1974-76**.
- The **1974 agreement was to fix** the maritime boundary in the **Palk Strait**.
- **1974 Agreement**
 - Each country shall have sovereignty and exclusive jurisdiction and control over the waters, the islands, the continental shelf and the subsoil, falling on its own side of the aforesaid boundary.
 - Only navigational rights of the vessels of both Sri Lanka and India over each other's waters have been preserved.
- **1976 Agreement**
 - Each Party shall respect rights of navigation through its territorial sea and exclusive economic zone in accordance with its laws and regulations and the rules of international law.
 - It marked the international maritime boundary of India and Sri Lanka without consulting the Tamil Nadu State Assembly.

India's stand

- The Union government argued that since the island had always been under **dispute, "no territory belonging to India** was ceded nor sovereignty relinquished.
- **According to the agreement**, the Island lies on the **Sri Lankan side** of the India-Sri Lanka International Maritime Boundary Line.
 - The matter is still **sub-judice in the Supreme Court of India**.
- The government has raised the issue at the highest political level with Sri Lanka. According to agreements, the issue was bilaterally resolved and allowed Indians to visit the island for the pilgrimage without any requirement of a visa.



Defence Exports

02/04/24

- India's defence exports reached an all time high level of **₹21,083 crore in financial year 2023-24** with a **32.5% growth in Fy24**.
- The rise in exports was led by an increase in Global interest in Indian defence products like **LCA-Tejas, light combat helicopter and aircraft carriers**.
- According to a **mini report**, India is exporting its locally manufactured defence product to over **85 countries**, showcasing the prowess of its defence industry.
- Over 100 firms are actively exporting defence products, sophisticated defence systems including **155 mm Advanced Towed Artillery Guns, Brahmos Missile** have been exported to other countries.
- Defence manufacturing has become the critical focus of the Make in India and AtmaNirbhar Bharat missions.
- Several factors like rising demand, greater innovation, more conducive policies and a maturing ecosystem in defence and aerospace manufacturing space are leading to the growth in the sector.
- Steps taken by the government to **boost the Make in India initiative** by promoting indigenous design development and manufacturing of defence equipment, platforms, systems and subsystems.
- India has imposed a phased import ban on **310 different weapons** and systems during the last two years, which helped boost export.
- India has set aside **Rs70,221 crore-63% of the military** capital budget for 2021-2022 for buying locally produced weapons and systems to boost defence indigenisation.



Kallakkadal

- **Kallakkadal** is essentially coastal flooding during the **pre- monsoon season** by swell waves on the southwest coast of india
- The term **kallakkadal used by local fisherman**, is a combination of two malayalam words, including k Allan and kadal. K Allan means thief and kadal means sea.
- In 2012, the term was formally approved by the **United Nations Educational,Scientific and Cultural organization(UNESCO)**.
- Kallakkadal is caused by waves that are formed by an ocean swell, hence the name swell surge.
- Ocean swells occur not due to the local winds,but rather due to distant storms like hurricanes,or even long periods of fierce **gale winds**.
- Swells are lower frequency waves that outrun the storm that creates them.
- During such storms, huge energy **transfer takes place from the air** into the water,leading to the formation of very high waves. Such waves can travel thousands of kilometres from the **storm's centre until they strike shore**.
- They lengthen and decrease in height as they travel away from the wind source. Swells organize into groups that **appear smooth and regular**.
- Usually**kallakkadal is a consequence of the strong winds** in the southern part of the Indian ocean,where an ocean swell is generated, and the waves then **travel north to reach the coast in two or three days**.
- Kallakkadal occurs without precursors or any kind of local wind activity and as a result, it has been very difficult for the coastal population to get advance warning.

*However early warning systems like the swell surge forecast system -**Launched by the indian national centre for ocean information service in 2020** - gives forewarning information seven days in advance.*



Glacial Lake Outburst Floods

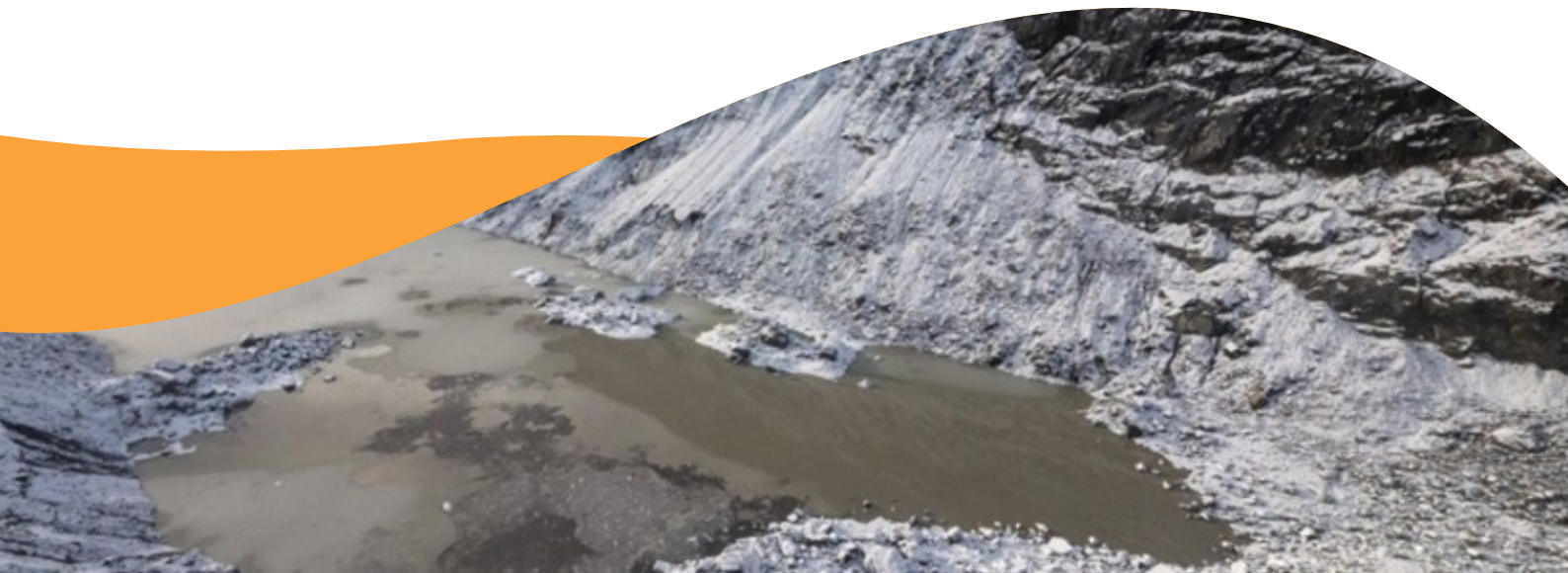
- A GLOF refer to the flooding that occur when the water dammed by a glacier or a moraine is released suddenly.
- Unlike earthen dams, the weak structure of the moraine dam led to the abrupt failure of the dam on top of the glacial lake, which holds a large volume of water.
- The **Uttarakhand government** has constituted two teams of experts to evaluate the risk posed by **five potentially hazardous glacial lakes in the region.**
- The goal of the risk assessment exercise is to minimise the possibility of a GLOF incident and provide more time for relief and evacuation in case of a breach.
- The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**, which operates under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, has identified **188 glacial lakes in the Himalayan states** that can potentially be breached because of heavy rainfall. Thirteen of them are in Uttarakhand.
- Rising surface temperature across the globe, including India, have increased the risk of GLOFs.

What are Glacial Lakes?

- Glacial lakes, like the South Lhonak Lake, are large bodies of water that sit in front of, on top of, or **beneath a melting glacier.**
- As they grow larger, they become more dangerous because glacial lakes are mostly dammed by unstable ice or sediment composed of loose **rock and debris.**
- In case the boundary around them breaks, huge amounts of water rush down the side of the mountains, which could cause flooding in the downstream areas. This is called **glacial lake outburst floods .**

What are the Causes Behind GLOF?

- GLOF can be triggered by several reasons, including earthquakes, extremely heavy rains and ice avalanches.
- As these lakes are often found in steep, mountainous regions, landslides or ice avalanches can sometimes fall directly into the lakes and displace the water, causing it to over-top the natural dam and flood downstream.
- In 2013, one such event took place in Uttarakhand's Kedarnath when the region witnessed flash floods along with a **GLOF caused by the Chorabari Tal glacial lake,** killing thousands of people.



India new geopolitics

- Islands have emerged as an important part of India's new geopolitics.
 - E.g.: Maldives growing maritime joust with China or Delhi's new engagement with the resource-rich **Papua New Guinea in the Pacific Islands**, the joint development of infrastructure on the Agalega island of Mauritius, the collaboration with Australia in the eastern Indian Ocean islands, or the government's focus on developing the **Andamans to our east and the Lakshadweep in the west**.
- India's **strategic imagination of the world's regions** and how we describe them has altered significantly over the last decade.
- India's deteriorating relations with China, marked by a series of **military crises in 2013, 2014 and 2017**, was an important **factor in Delhi's rethink: so was the growing strategic partnership with the US**.
- The **idea of "Eurasia"** - the continental cushion of the maritime Indo-Pacific - has not gained equal currency in the India strategic discourse but is now part of India's new diplomatic vocabulary.
- If Japan and the US popularised **"Indo-Pacific"**, Russia has driven the **Eurasian idea**.
- The **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation**, built jointly by **Russia and China**, was the institutional expression of the Eurasian idea. Given India's stakes in the continental Asia, its long-standing ties to Russia, and its quest for a **multipolar world, Delhi joined the SCO**.
- India's interest is no longer limited to inner Asia but has expanded to include Europe in the far western corner of Eurasia.

Embracing the Indo-Pacific Concept

- **Origin of the Concept:** The notion of the "Indo-Pacific" was first introduced by the late **Japanese Prime Minister Abe Shinzo in 2007**, during a speech to the Indian Parliament.
- **Initial Resistance:** Initially, there was opposition in India to the Indo-Pacific notion. Some sceptics saw it as an **"American plot"** to coerce India into limiting China.
- **Formal Adoption:** It took more than a decade for India to formally accept the Indo-Pacific concept. In 2018, Prime Minister announced India's support for the proposal during a speech at Singapore's annual Shangri La Dialogue.
- **Reasons to Join Indo-Pacific:** The deterioration of relations with China, as seen by multiple military crises, and the developing strategic cooperation with the United States were critical reasons in this choice.
- **Institutionalization:** The concept of the Indo-Pacific area is widely discussed in India. The Quad, its institutional anchor, which includes Australia, India, Japan, and the United States, is a powerful group that demonstrates how these countries collaborate and share common aims.

Antimicrobial resistance

06/04/24



- **Resistance to antimicrobial (AMR)** - antibiotics, antifungals, and antiparasitics - is already weakening havoc, and is the result of the massive use of these **products to treat humans, animals and food**.
- AMR occurs naturally over time, usually through genetic changes. Antimicrobial resistant organisms are **found in people, animals, food, plants and the environment (in water, soil and air)**.
- They can spread from **person to person or between people and animals**, including from food of animal origin.
- The main drivers of antimicrobial resistance include the misuse and overuse of antimicrobials; **lack of access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** for both humans and animals; poor infection and disease prevention and control in **health-care facilities and farms; poor access to quality, affordable medicines, vaccines and diagnostics; lack of awareness and knowledge; and lack of enforcement of legislation**.
- AMR is already one of the world's leading causes of death, directly responsible for **1.27 million deaths a year**.
- The world now has a limited and critical window of opportunity to respond at scale and with urgency proportionate to the rapidly increasing **threats posed by AMR**.
- If unchecked, AMR is expected to **reduce life expectancy** by an average of **1.8 years by 2035**, leading to unprecedented healthcare costs and economic losses.
- Within a decade, AMR is estimated to cost the world **\$412 billion a year in additional health costs and \$443 billion** a year in lost labour productivity, according to an economic impact study commissioned by the **Global Steering Group**.

About Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance

- Globally, countries committed to the framework set out in the **Global Action Plan1 (GAP) 2015** on AMR during the 2015 **World Health Assembly** and committed to the development and implementation of **multisectoral national action plans**.
- It was subsequently endorsed by the Governing Bodies of the Food and Agriculture **Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** and the **World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)**.
- Prior to the endorsement of the **GAP in 2015, global efforts to contain AMR** included the WHO global strategy for containment of Antimicrobial Resistance developed in 2001 which provides a framework of interventions to slow the **emergence and reduce the spread of AMR**.