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MK Yadav Sir

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PRICING OF LPG

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Congress Slams LPG Price Hike; Declares Stir Against 'Crony Capitalism'

Cooking gas price raised by ₹50 per cylinder, days after polling ends in Meghalaya & Nagaland

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: Congress has slammed the latest hike in price of LPG cylinders and sought its rollback. The party also announced an agitation over the Hindenburg-Adani issue, accusing the Centre of promoting 'crony capitalism'.

The price of cooking gas was hiked by ₹50 per cylinder, the first increase in eight months, days after polling in Meghalaya and Nagaland ended. Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge alleged the price of LPG cylinder has been raised by ₹50 and commercial gas by ₹350 during high inflation. "The public asks how to make Holi dishes now. How long will the order of loot continue?" he said in a tweet.

Within days of the Raipur plenary session deciding on a campaign against the Centre for allegedly promoting 'crony capitalism', an AICC circular has announced block-level agitations at offices of LIC and nationalised banks from March 6 to 10. State Congress units will hold a march to Raj Bhavans on March 13 and district-level 'pardafash' rallies by March-end.

AICC spokesman Gaurav Vallabh demanded a rollback of the hike. He asked the Modi government to learn from the Rajasthan government's decision to subsidise the cost for vulnerable sections and keep the price of LPG at ₹500 per cylinder. In his letter after Bharat Jodo Yatra, Rahul Gandhi had said if Congress assumes power at the Centre, it will make LPG cylinders available for ₹500. Vallabh reiterated the claim on Wednesday.



Kharge: Public asks how to make Holi dishes now. How long will the order of loot continue?

The CPI-M Polit Bureau too condemned the hike and sought its withdrawal.

However, the Polit Bureau didn't use the occasion to elaborate on the rationale of the Pinarayi Vijayan-led LDF government imposing a cess on oil products in Kerala and sticking to it despite Opposition protests. The LDF government also has the distinction of stoutly refusing to withdraw/slash VAT on petrol/diesel even though some state governments did so to help cushion people from the impact of spiraling fuel prices.

Context: The price of cooking gas was hiked by ₹50 per cylinder, the first increase in eight months, days after polling in Meghalaya and Nagaland ended.

Pricing of LPG

- **About**: The price of LPG is revised in India as per a formula known as **import parity price (IPP).**
  - The common practice is to revise the price of LPG cylinders on a month-on-month basis.
- **Calculation of IPP**: The IPP is calculated as per Saudi Aramco's LPG price, the world's largest producer.
  - The price includes costs like **free on board (FOB) price, ocean freight, custom duties, port charges and insurance cost** among other things. The price thus calculated in US dollars is then converted to Indian rupees.
  - To the international price, charges added domestically include inland freight costs, Oil companies' margins, bottling costs, marketing expenses, dealer commissions and the **Goods and Services Tax (GST).**
  - The final price thus calculated gives the retail selling price for non-subsidised cooking gas cylinders for consumers across different states.
- **Subsidy**: Many people in India avail **subsidies offered by the central government** on LPG cylinders.
  - The subsidy amount is subject to change from one month to the next **based on the international price of LPG** and fluctuations in currency value.
- **Fluctuations**: An **increase in international LPG prices or weakness in the rupee**, or both, translates into higher LPG prices in India.
  - The international price for LPG fluctuates in accordance with the price of its main raw material, crude oil.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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MUTUAL FUND

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Bajaj gets SEBI nod to start MF business

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 1

BAJAJ FINSERV Ltd on Wednesday said it has received the final registration from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to commence its mutual fund operations under Bajaj Finserv Mutual Fund.

Bajaj Finserv Mutual Fund, with Bajaj Finserv Asset Management Ltd (BFAML) as the Investment Manager, will soon offer a range of mutual fund products including equity, debt, and hybrid funds, both in the active and passive segments, to investors, it said.

"BFAML will create a tech-driven, multi-channel approach to serve investors across various touchpoints and geographies in order to build a future-ready asset management company," the company said.

Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman & MD, Bajaj Finserv, said the approval from SEBI is strategically important for Bajaj Finserv as it enables the company to complete its suite of financial solutions for retail customers. With Ganesh Mohan, CEO, at the helm, the mutual fund business will inspire a new approach to investing and sustained, long-term wealth creation, he added.

Mohan said, "With greater awareness among investors to stay invested over the longer term, it is an opportune time for the group to build its mutual fund offering for investors. The mutual fund business will align with the group's philosophy of being future-focussed and tech-driven." FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Context: Bajaj Finserv has received a **licence from market regulator SEBI** to start a mutual fund business.

Mutual Fund

- **About**: A Mutual fund is a **pool of investments** by different investors in securities such as debt, equity or both. In simple words, it collects funds from investors like individuals and institutions and invests them in bonds, stocks or other short-term investment plans.
- **5 categories of funds:**
  - **Equity Funds**: These are **direct investments in shares** that possess high risk in long term investments but obtain an optimum return in the long run. Experts further divide it into small, mid and large-cap based on a company's size. Investors with a high-risk appetite usually opt for these types of investments.
  - **Hybrid Mutual Fund**: Its other name is **exchange-traded funds (ETFs)** which invest in a mix of multiple investments in bonds and stocks. Hybrid mutual funds invest both in debt and equity. However, investors must choose a scheme considering their risk appetite.
  - **Debt Mutual Funds:** These are **investments in debt securities** that help investors achieve their short-term investment goals. Debt mutual funds are usually low in risk and provide moderate returns. Further, there are 16 subdivisions under these funds.
  - **Fixed-Income Funds**: These funds include **government bonds, corporate bonds, or other debt instruments** that provide fixed income to investors. Therefore, these are appropriate for investors who opt for lower risks. The investors receive the interest income from the fund manager in such types of funds.
  - **Solution-Oriented Mutual Funds:** Solution-oriented mutual funds are **goal or solution-specific investments**. For example, such goals can be a child's education or retirement plans. Therefore, one must invest in such funds for a minimum of 5 years.
- **Regulatory body**: **SEBI** is the regulatory body to control and regulate the securities market and mutual funds industry in India.

PIB

MARCH 2

SWAYATT INITIATIVE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) commemorates the success of "SWAYATT", an initiative to promote Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage through e-Transactions on GeM

Context: A function was held to commemorate the success of **"SWAYATT", an initiative to promote Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage Through e-Transactions** on Government eMarketplace (GeM) in New Delhi.

- **Government e Marketplace (GeM)** - GeM is a Section 8 company setup under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for procurement of goods and services by Central Ministries, State Departments, PSEs and Autonomous Bodies.
- **Social inclusion** is a core value at GeM and we are focused on increasing participation from under-served sellers who face challenges in public procurement

SWAYATT Initiative

- **About**: The initiative to promote **"Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage Through e-Transactions" (SWAYATT)** on GeM was first launched in February 2019.
- **Objectives**: The intent of SWAYATT 2019 was to **promote inclusiveness of various categories of sellers and service providers** on the portal, by taking proactive steps to facilitate their training and registrations of such specific category of manufacturers and sellers, develop women entrepreneurship and encourage participation of MSME sector and Start-ups in public procurement.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of **Commerce & Industry.**

BUSINESS STANDARD

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FOREIGN FUNDING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Centre for Policy Research FCRA licence suspended

Six-month suspension for prominent think-tank over 'violation of laws'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 1 March

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has suspended the FCRA licence of prominent public think-tank Centre for Policy Research (CPR) for six months over alleged violation of laws, officials said on Thursday.

CPR, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), in a statement, said it continued to cooperate fully with authorities, is in complete compliance with the law and is routinely scrutinised and audited by government authorities, including the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. It also said in light of the current order, it will "explore all avenues of recourse" available to it.

CPR was under scrutiny after Income Tax surveys on it and Oxfam India in September last year.

The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) licence of CPR has been suspended over alleged violation of laws, the officials said.

Oxfam's FCRA licence was suspended in January last year, after which the NGO had filed a revision petition with the home ministry.

With the suspension, given under the FCRA, the Centre for Policy Research will not be able to receive any funds from abroad. The donors of CPR included the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the University of Pennsylvania, the World Resources Institute and the Duke University, the officials said.



With the suspension, the Centre for Policy Research will not be able to receive any funds from abroad

According to CPR's website, its founder is Pai Panindiker and former members of the governing board include former prime minister Manmohan Singh, former Chief Justice of India, the late, Y V Chandrachud.

The think-tank has been asked to give clarification and documents regarding FCRA funds received by it, the officials said. The FCRA licence of CPR was last renewed in 2016 and was due for renewal in 2021.

In its statement, CPR said the Ministry of Home Affairs has intimated it that its registration under the FCRA has been suspended for a period of 180 days.

In September 2022, the Income Tax Department conducted a survey at CPR's premises, and as part of the survey follow-up process, CPR received several notices from the department, it said.

Following due process, detailed and exhaustive responses have been submitted to the department, the NGO said.

"CPR has and continues to cooperate fully with the authorities. We are in complete compliance with the law and are routinely scrutinised and audited by government authorities, including the Comptroller and Auditor General of India," the statement said.

CPR said it has annual statutory audits, and all its annual audited balance sheets are in the public domain and "there is no question of having undertaken any activity that is beyond our objects of associa- tion and compliance mandated by law".

"In light of the current MHA (Ministry of Home Affairs) order, we will explore all avenues of recourse available to us," it said. The NGO said its work and institutional purpose is to advance its constitutional goals and protect constitutional guarantees.

"We are absolutely confident that the matter will be resolved speedily, in fairness and in the spirit of our constitutional values," it said.

The CPR said it was founded in 1973 and it has been one of India's leading policy research institutions, home to several eminent thinkers and policy practitioners whose contribution to policy in India is well recognised. It is an independent, non-partisan institution that conducts its work with complete academic and financial integrity, CPR said.

Context: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has **suspended the FCRA licence** of prominent public think tank Centre for Policy Research (CPR) for six months over alleged violation of laws.

- Suspension of FCRA licence means that the NGO can **no longer receive fresh foreign funds** from donors pending a probe by the Home Ministry.
- The FCRA is **mandatory** for associations and NGOs to receive foreign funds.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010

- **About**: **Foreign funding** in India is regulated under FCRA act and is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
  - The Act ensures that the recipients of foreign contributions adhere to the stated purpose for which such contribution has been obtained.
- **Eligibility**:
  - **Individuals**: They are **permitted** to accept foreign contributions without permission of MHA.
    - However, the monetary limit for acceptance of such foreign contributions shall be **less than Rs. 25,000.**
  - **Organisations/NGOs:** Under the Act, organisations are **required to register** themselves every five years.
    - Registered NGOs can receive foreign contributions **for five purposes: Social, educational, religious, economic and cultural.**
- **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020:**
  - **Prohibition**: The Act **bars public servants** from receiving foreign contributions.
    - Public servant includes any person who is in service or paid by the government, or remunerated by the government for the performance of any public duty.
  - **Transfer**: The Act prohibits the transfer of foreign contribution **to any other person not registered** to accept foreign contributions.
  - **Aadhaar for registration:** The Act makes **Aadhaar number mandatory for all office bearers**, directors or key functionaries of a person receiving foreign contribution, as an identification document.
  - **FCRA account**: The Act states that foreign contributions must be **received only in an account designated by the bank as FCRA account** in such branches of the State Bank of India, New Delhi.
  - **Reduction in use of foreign contribution for administrative purposes**: The Act proposes that not more than **20% of the total foreign funds** received could be defrayed for administrative expenses. In FCRA 2010 the limit was 50%.
  - **Surrender of certificate:** The Act **allows the central government** to permit a person to surrender their registration certificate.

THE HINDU

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POLITICAL FUNDING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

BJP had highest income in 2021-22; Trinamool's saw biggest jump: ADR report

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party has shown the highest income of ₹1,917.12 crore during the financial year 2021-22 among eight national parties, according to an analysis by the Association of Democratic Reforms, an NGO working on electoral and political reforms. The All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) has declared the second highest earnings of ₹545.74 crore closely followed by the Indian National Congress (INC) at ₹541.27 crore.

The total income of eight national parties was ₹3,289.34 crore, of which the BJP's share was 58.28%.

The BJP's income has more than doubled from the ₹752.33 crore it had in the financial year 2020-21. Close to 54% of the BJP's income of ₹1,917.12 crore came from electoral bonds, said the report.

The income of the Trinamool Congress in the last fiscal was over seven times its income of ₹74.41 crore in 2020-21. Close to 97% of the ₹545.74 crore income came from electoral bonds.

The BJP, Congress, Trinamool and Nationalist Congress Party together collected 55.09% of their total income from donations through poll bonds. As compared with this, the CPI(M), the CPI, the Bahujan Samaj Party and the National People's Party, did not receive any funds through the controversial financial instrument.

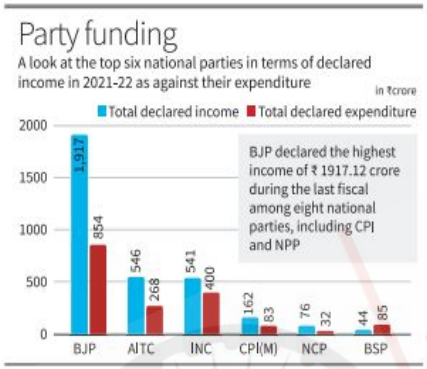
As far as expenditure was concerned, the BJP spent only 44.57% or ₹854.46 crore of its income, while the Trinamool Congress spent 49.17% or ₹268.33 crore.

The Congress spent 73.98% of its income.

Most of the BJP's expenses went towards election and general propaganda, which cost the party ₹645.85 crore, followed by expenses towards administrative costs at ₹133.316 crore.

The Trinamool Congress spent ₹135.12 crore on election expenditure, which was followed by spending towards administration and general expenses, while the Congress spent ₹279.737 crore on election expenditure, followed by ₹90.12 crore on administrative and general expenses.

The report said that the income of the NPP, the BSP and the CPI(M) decreased by 32.38%, 16.56% and 5.15%, respectively, while the CPI's rose from ₹2.12 crore to ₹2.87 crore.



Context: The Bhartiya Janata Party has shown the highest income of ₹1,917.12 crore during the financial year 2021-22 among eight national parties, according to an analysis by the Association of Democratic Reforms, an NGO working on electoral and political reforms.

- The Trinamool Congress has declared the second highest earnings of ₹545.74 crore closely followed by the Congress at ₹541.27 crore.

Political Funding

- **Statutory Provisions:**
  - **Section 29B of the Representation of the People Act (RPA)** entitles parties to accept voluntary contributions by any person or company, except a Government Company.
  - **Section 29C of the RPA** mandates political parties to declare donations that exceed 20,000 rupees. Such a declaration is made by making a report and submitting the same to the EC. Failure to do so on time disentitles a party from tax relief under the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- **Methods**:
  - **Individual Persons:** Section 29B of RPA allows political parties to **receive donations from individual persons.**
  - **State/Public Funding**: Here, the government provides funds to parties for election related purposes. State Funding is of two types:
    - **Direct Funding:** The government **provides funds directly to the political parties**. Direct funding by tax is prohibited in India.
    - **Indirect Funding**: It includes other **methods except direct funding,** like free access to media, free access to public places for rallies, free or subsidized transport facilities. It is allowed in India in a regulated manner.
  - **Corporate Funding**: In India, **donations by corporate bodies** are governed under the Companies Act, 2013. Section 182 of the Act provides that:
  - **Electoral Trusts:** A non-profit company created in India for orderly **receipt of voluntary contributions** from any person like an individual or a domestic company.
    - According to the Election Commission Guidelines, all electoral trusts formed after January 2013 are **required to declare details** of the money received and disbursed.
    - The Central Government rules mandate these firms to donate **95% of their total income to registered political parties in a financial year.**

DST

MARCH 2

VAIBHAV FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Govt. Policies & Interventions)

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launches VAIBHAV Fellowships for Indian Diaspora abroad to mark the National Science Day

Context: On the occasion of the **"National Science Day"**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space launched **VAIBHAV Fellowship scheme for the Indian Diaspora abroad.**

VAIBHAV Fellowship scheme

- **About**: The fellowship **offers NRI researchers an opportunity to work** for a minimum of one month to a maximum of two months a year with a research institution or an academic institution in India.
- **Duration**: **Three years with the government** offering the researchers an amount of up to Rs 37 lakh for the entire period.
- **Objectives**: **Improving the research ecosystem of India's Higher Educational Institutions** by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.
    - This is done **through the mobility of faculty/researchers** from overseas institutions to India.
- **Eligibility**: Researchers from institutions **featuring in the top 500 QS World University Rankings** will be eligible for the fellowship.
    - The applicant **should be a Non-Resident Indian (NRI), Person of Indian Origin (PIO) or Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)** and she or he must have obtained Ph.D/M.D/M.S degree from a recognized University.
- **Significance**: The best of Diaspora minds will **collaborate with domestic Minds** to deliver world-class projects and products.

PIB MARCH 2

EXERCISE SHINYUU MAITRI
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Organization)

EXERCISE SHINYUU MAITRI: INDIAN AIR FORCE TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT EXERCISE WITH THE JAPANESE AIR SELF DEFENCE FORCE

Context: The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in **Exercise Shinyuu Maitri with the Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF).**

- The exercise is being organised on the **sidelines of the Indo-Japan Joint Army Exercise, Dharma Guardian**, which is being conducted from 13 February 2023 to 02 March 2023 at Komatsu, Japan.

Key Points

- The IAF contingent is participating in Exercise Shinyuu Maitri 23 with **one C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.**
- The first phase of the exercise consists of discussions on transport operations and tactical manoeuvring, followed by the second phase of flying drills by **IAF's C-17 and JASDF C-2 transport aircraft.**
- The exercise gives an opportunity for the respective subject matter experts to **interact and study each other's operational philosophies and best practices.**
- The exercise is being conducted at a time when the IAF's heavy lift transport aircraft fleet is also taking part in **Exercise Desert Flag VIII in UAE and Exercise Cobra Warrior in the UK.**

Exercise Shinyuu Maitri

- **About**: Shinyuu Maitri is a **bilateral air exercise** between the Japanese Air Self Defence Force(JASDF) and Indian Air Force(IAF).
- **Objective**: To undertake Joint Mobility and Tactical **interoperability among the two forces.**

Other exercises between India and Japan:

- **JIMEX**: It is a **bilateral** maritime exercise between India and Japan.
- **Exercise Malabar**: It is a **trilateral** naval exercise involving the United States, Japan and India as permanent partners.
- **Sahayog-Kaijin**: It is a joint **bilateral** exercise between Indian Coast Guard and the Japan Coast Guard.

DTE

MARCH 2

KOALA BEAR

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Indigenous knowledge: Australian Aboriginal fire practices can help protect koalas from bushfires, study finds

'Cultural burns' encouraged regeneration of native plants, did not cause any stress in koalas and were cooler and slower than 'hot fires'

NEXT NEWS >

By Rajat Ghai

Published: Wednesday 01 March 2023





Context: Traditional fire burning practices or **'cultural burns'** by indigenous Australians can help protect the **iconic koala**, new research by the University of the Sunshine Coast has found.

Key Points

- The 'cultural burns' were found to be **cooler, lower and slower than 'hot fires'.**
- Such fire activity encouraged the **regeneration of suitable native plants.**
- On the other hand, they **controlled species** like banksias and wattle to reduce the risk of fire reaching the canopy where koalas lived.
- The **United Nations** had taken note of burning practices and techniques of indigenous peoples around the world as a method to control wildfire incidents in a report last year on increasing incidences of fires globally.
- Koalas have become the **symbol of the suffering Australia's biodiversity** has had to endure in recent decades as wildfire incidents have risen, aided by climate change.
- The **koala and the Olive Ridley turtle** are part of a list of 110 'priority species' that the Australian government will try to save from extinction over the next 10 years.

Koala

- **Scientific Name**: Phascolarctos cinereus
  - It is an Australian animal, often called the koala bear.
- **Key Characteristics**: They are **marsupials** (mammals with a pouch for the development of offspring).
- **Habitat**: Eucalyptus forests of **southeastern and eastern Australia.**
  - Koalas rely on the eucalyptus tree for both habitat and food.
- **Threats:** The koala has suffered greatly in recent years due to **habitat loss, disease and most of all, bushfires.**
  - **Hunting** for their fur.
  - Threats of **predation** and road accidents.

- **IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable**.
  - In 2022, Australia has officially classified koalas as 'endangered'.
- **Conservation**: The **Koala Conservation Plan** by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Australia.
  - It is the first independent-of-government national strategy to save koalas from extinction.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 1

GLACIAL LAKES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

77 new glacial lakes add to flood risk in Kumaon



The lakes formed due to shrinking of snow-covered areas in Gori Ganga

Gaurav.Talwar@timesgroup.com

Dehradun: A field study conducted by a professor of Kumaun University has revealed the presence of 77 new glacial lakes in the Gori Ganga region of the Kumaon Himalayas. The water bodies, situated at an elevation of over 3,500 metres, formed over three decades—between 1990 and 2020 — due to shrinking of snow-covered areas. The Gori Ganga region mainly consists of Milam, Gonkha, Ralam, Lwan and Martoli glaciers. The largest glacial lake, with a 2.7km diameter, was found in Gonkha.

"Any future geological activities can cause the lake to burst, triggering a flash flood," the study mentioned.

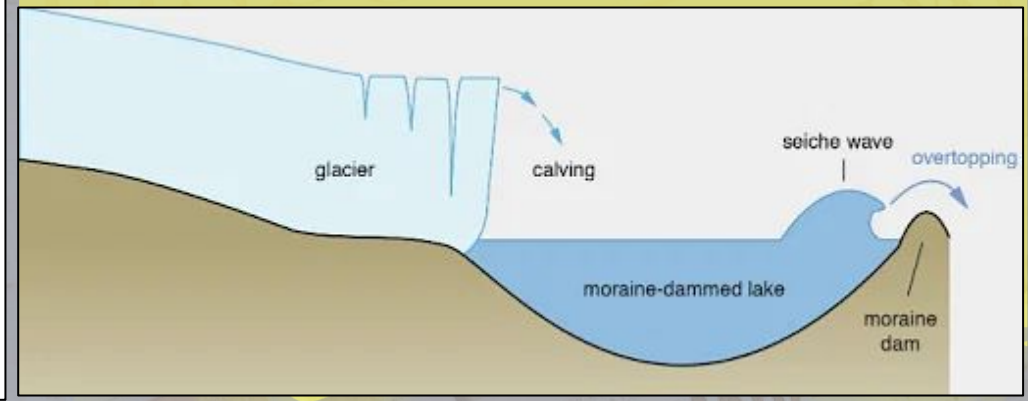
▶ 'Growing fast', P 14

Context: A field study conducted by a professor of Kumaun University has revealed the **presence of 77 new glacial lakes in the Gori Ganga region** of the Kumaon Himalayas.

- The Gori Ganga region mainly consists of **Milam, Gonkha, Ralam, Lwan and Martoli glaciers.**
- The largest glacial lake was found in **Gonkha**.

Glacial Lakes

- **About**: A glacial lake is defined as **a body of water that is present in adequate quantities,** extends with a free surface in, beneath, beside, and/or in front of a glacier, and that is the result of glacier activities and/or glacier retreating processes.
  - **Organic muds, glacial clays, silty clays, and sands** are some of the sediments found in glacial lakes, depending on the time of creation.
- **Formation**: The formation and characteristics of glacial lakes **differ depending on location**, and they are categorised as glacial erosion lakes, ice-blocked lakes, moraine-dammed lakes, other glacial lakes, supraglacial lakes, and subglacial lakes.
- **Significance**: Glacial lakes are **essential sources of freshwater** in the alpine region.
  - They also **act as a catalyst for a variety of glacial hazards**, including glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) and debris flow.
  - As a result, glacial lakes have a significant **impact on the cryosphere, climate change, and alpine risks.**



DTE

MARCH 2

EARTH'S INTERIOR

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

Bowels of the Earth: Meet the planet's new layer, the innermost inner core

The idea that the Earth could hold a fifth layer was proposed in 2002; since then, researchers have been trying to get more data to learn about the elusive inner core

By Rohini Krishnamurthy
Published: Wednesday 01 March 2023

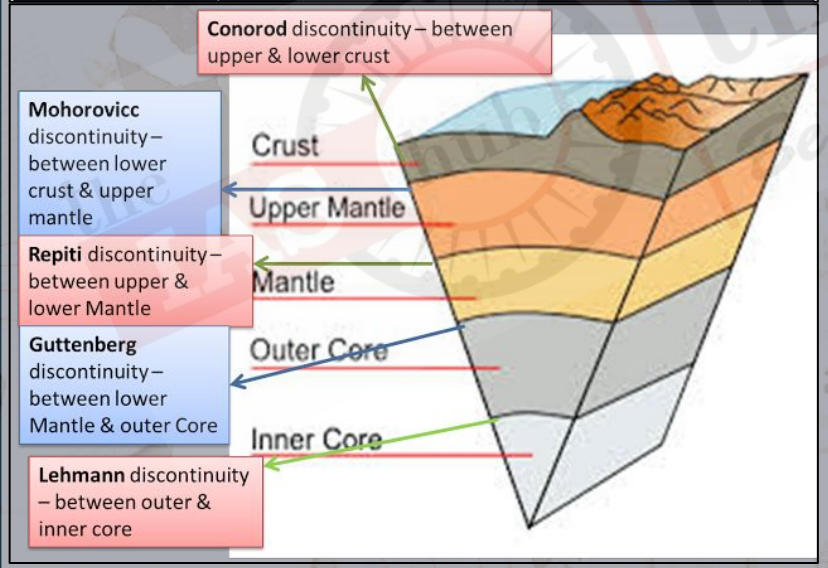


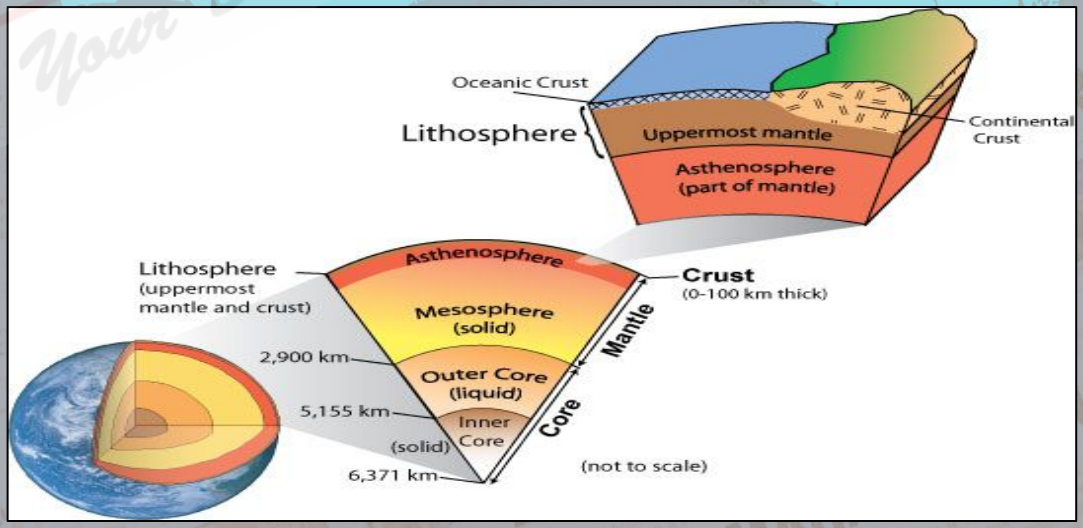
Context: The researchers, in a new study, have confirmed the existence of a **fifth new layer of the Earth's inner world.**

- The four known layers of the Earth include the crust, mantle, outer liquid and inner solid core.

Fifth Layer

- The fifth layer - the innermost inner core - **lies at the Earth's centre, within the inner core.**
- The fifth layer is **made of iron and nickel,** the same materials that comprise the rest of the inner core.
- The difference between the two parts of the inner core could stem from **how iron atoms are arranged to form a solid.**
- Alternatively, the iron in the innermost inner core could have solidified and **grown in a different direction** than the rest of the inner core.
- The **inner core as a whole was liquid** in the early years of the Earth's existence, turning into a solid as the Earth cooled.





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