Sela Lake

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Geography*

Why in News?

Recently, two Kerala tourists drowned after the frozen surface of Arunachal Pradesh's Sela Lake cracked under their weight.

- **Location –** Sela Lake is a natural glacial lake located in the ***Tawang district, Arunachal Pradesh.***
- It is also known as Paradise Lake.
- It is part of the *Sela Pass area*, which is one of the highest mountains passes in India.
- It is a high-altitude lake that freezes during winter.
- **Drainage –** Sela Lake is located in the ***Brahmaputra Basin***, which is the major river basin covering this region.
- **Vegetation –** The terrain around Sela Pass is mostly barren and rugged.
- It has very little vegetation due to high altitude and cold climate.
- **Spiritual significance –** Sela Lake is considered as one of the ***101 sacred lakes by the local Monpa tribe.***

  Monpa is considered as one of the major tribes of the state of Arunachal Pradesh, they follow Tibetan Buddhism.

- The region is culturally rich with *Buddhist influence*, including nearby monasteries.
- **Strategic importance –** ***Sela Pass*** has been a strategic route historically, used for trade and military movement.
- It is also part of the important connecting route between Tawang and West Kameng districts.
- **International border –** Tawang and West Kameng districts share the international border with Bhutan, and Tawang additionally shares a border with Tibet.
- It is located along NH13 (Tezpur-Tawang highway).

Reference

1. IE | Sela Lake
2. INDIA WRIS | Sela Lake

