

Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act, 2013

❖ Context

- An investigation published revealed that more than half - 16 - of India's 30 national sports federations do not have an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), a legal requirement under the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Act, 2013.

❖ About PoSH Act

- The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, commonly known as the PoSH Act, was passed in 2013.
- It defined sexual harassment, lay down the procedures for complaint and inquiry, and the action to be taken in cases of sexual harassment.

❖ Background

- The SC in a landmark judgement in the Vishakha and others v State of Rajasthan 1997 case gave 'Vishakha guidelines'.
- The Vishakha Guidelines defined sexual harassment and imposed three key obligations on institutions — prohibition, prevention, redress.
- The Supreme Court directed that they should establish a Complaints Committee, which would look into matters of sexual harassment of women at the workplace.
- The court made the guidelines legally binding. These guidelines formed the basis for the The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 ("Sexual Harassment Act").

❖ Mechanism

- The Act defines sexual harassment at the workplace and creates a mechanism for redressal of complaints.
- Every employer is required to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee at each office or branch with 10 or more employees.
- The Complaints Committees have the powers of civil courts for gathering evidence.
- It is not compulsory for the aggrieved victim to file a complaint for the ICC to take action.
- The Act says that she "may" do so — and if she cannot, any member of the ICC "shall" render "all reasonable assistance" to her to complain in writing.

- Under the Act, the complaint must be made "within three months from the date of the incident".
 - The ICC can "extend the time limit" under some circumstances.
- The ICC "may", before inquiry, and "at the request of the aggrieved woman, take steps to settle the matter between her and the respondent through conciliation".
- The ICC may either forward the victim's complaint to the police, or it can start an inquiry that has to be completed within 90 days.
- If the allegations of sexual harassment are proved, the ICC will recommend to the employer to take action "in accordance with the provisions of the service rules" of the company.
- If either the aggrieved woman or the respondent is not satisfied, they may appeal in court within 90 days.

❖ Penal Provisions

- Penalties have been prescribed for employers. Non-compliance with the provisions of the Act shall be punishable with a fine. Repeated violations may lead to higher penalties and cancellation of license or registration to conduct business.

❖ SHE BOX

- Developed By- Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.
- It's online complaint management system titled Sexual Harassment electronic-Box (SHe-Box) for registering complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace by women, including government and private employees.

Bandhavgarh National Park

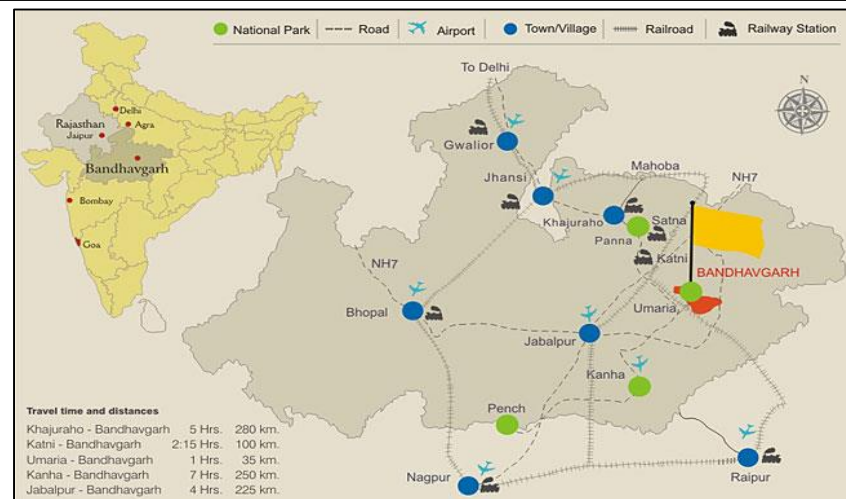
❖ Context

- Archaeologists have stumbled on a 1,500-year-old rock painting and numerous 1,800-2,000-year-old man-made waterbodies in Bandhavgarh National Park.



❖ About Bandhavgarh National Park:

- Bandhavgarh National Park is a renowned wildlife sanctuary located in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh, India.
- It covers an area of about 450 square kilometers and is known for its rich biodiversity, including dense forests, grasslands, & an abundance of wildlife. Bandhavgarh National Park is home to a variety of species, including the Royal Bengal Tiger, which is the park's main attraction.
- Other animals that can be spotted here include leopards, wild dogs, hyenas, Indian bison, sambar deer, spotted deer, & barking deer. The park is also home to over 250 species of birds.



Face to Face Centres

Channapatna Toys

❖ Context

- Toy manufacturers in **Channapatna, Karnataka**, appreciated the Government's decision to prohibit the import of toys from China and said that the government's action is contributing to augmenting their profitability.



❖ Channapatna Toys

- Channapatna toys are a **particular form of wooden toys and dolls that are manufactured in the town of Channapatna** in the Ramanagara district of Karnataka state, India.
- This traditional craft is **protected as a geographical indication (GI)** under the World Trade Organization, administered by the Government of Karnataka.
- As a result of the popularity of these toys, Channapatna is known as the **Gombegala Ooru (toy-town) of Karnataka**.
- Traditionally, the work involved lacquering the wood of the *Wrightia tinctoria* tree, colloquially called *Aale mara* (ivory-wood).

- The greater prominence of the Channapatna toys can be traced to **patronage from Tipu Sultan**.
- The art underwent dramatic changes over the years.
- A man by the name of **Bavas Miyan undertook the responsibility to introduce Japanese doll making techniques** to improve production and reduce the effort that went into making each piece of toy.
- For nearly two centuries, **ivory-wood was the main wood** used in the making of these toys, though rosewood and sandalwood were also occasionally used.
- They are also painted in organic colours extracted from vegetables and plants and natural dyes, making the Channapatna Toys 100% chemical free.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

❖ Context

- Recently, the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** announced a new financing program for the **Asia Pacific (APAC)**, which will significantly help the region accelerate actions required to combat climate change.



Asian Development Bank

❖ Key Highlights

- The program – **Innovative Finance Facility for Climate in Asia and the Pacific (IF-CAP)** will initially include Denmark, Japan, South Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States as partner nations.
- IF-CAP financing will contribute to ADB's ambition for \$100 billion from its resources for combating climate change for 2019–2030.

❖ Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a **multilateral development finance institution**.
- It is **official United Nations Observer**.
- It was **founded in 1966** by 31 member governments to promote the social and economic progress of the Asian and Pacific region.
- It assists its members and partners by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.

• Membership

- From **31 members at its establishment in 1966**, ADB has grown to encompass **68 members**—of which **49 are from within Asia** and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- In 1986, India began receiving assistance from the Asian Development Bank.
- The ADB is controlled by member countries, with the U.S. and Japan having the largest stake.

• Headquarter

- Manila, Philippines.

• Top Share Holder as of 31 December 2020

- Japan and the United States (each 15.571%), China (6.429%), India (6.317%), Australia (5.773%)

• ADB offers its investors highest quality investment products based on its triple-A credit ratings.

- Aaa: Moody's Investors Service.
- AAA: Standard & Poor's Sovereign Ratings.
- AAA: Fitch.

Heat index

❖ Context

- India will launch its own **heat index** next year to quantify the impact of heat on its population and generate impact-based heatwave alerts for specific locations.



❖ Heat Index

- **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** began issuing an experimental heat index for different parts of the country recently.
- It is taking into account **air temperature and relative humidity** to determine how hot it really feels.

- Along with temperature and humidity, it will integrate other parameters such as **wind and duration of exposure**.
- It will be an effective indicator of heat stress for people.
- The hazard score will be **ready in around two months** and it will be operational in the next summer season.

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International Leopard Day 2023

❖ Context

- Every year May 3 is celebrated as **International Leopard Day** in order to increase awareness of the importance of this species.

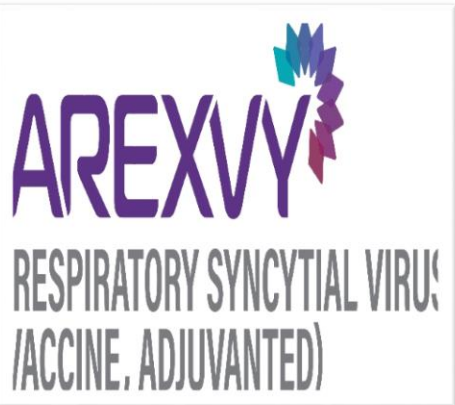
❖ About Leopard

- Leopards are powerful big cats closely related to lions, tigers, and jaguars.
- Leopards are solitary animals and spend most of their time being and surviving alone.
- There are **nine recognized subspecies of leopards** including African, Indian, Javan, Arabian, Amur, North Chinese, Caucasian (also called Persian).
- The species of Leopards can mainly be **distinguished by Rosettes (Fur Patterns) and size.**
- Leopards are **excellent climbers.**

- The Leopards that are found in Central India are mainly sighted on the rocky hills or rocky regions.
- **Distribution** : They live in sub-Saharan Africa, northeast Africa, Central Asia, India, and China.
- **Population in India** : It numbers nearly 13000 currently with the highest population in Madhya Pradesh > Karnataka > Maharashtra.
- **Protection Status** : **IUCN Red List**: Vulnerable.
 - **CITES**: Appendix-I.
 - **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**: Schedule-I.

News in Between the Lines

Arexvy



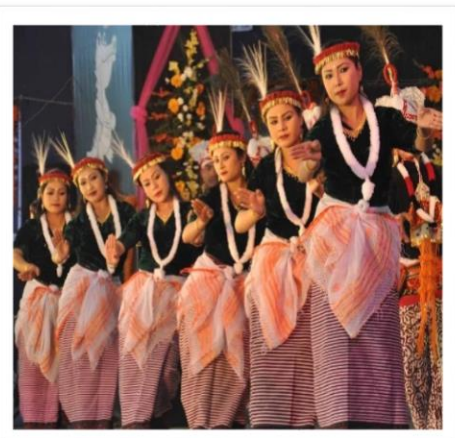
❖ Context

- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently approved the world's first vaccine for **respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)** called Arexvy.

❖ Key Highlights:

- RSV is a **highly infectious respiratory** virus that causes symptoms like cough, sneezing, fever, wheezing, runny nose, and reduced appetite.
- This virus can be transmitted through coughing, sneezing, direct contact with an infected person, or touching objects with the virus on it.
- RSV is the most common cause of **bronchiolitis and pneumonia in children** aged less than a year, and it is a common cause of lower respiratory tract disease in older adults that can lead to life-threatening pneumonia and bronchiolitis.
- Arexvy is an adjuvanted RSV vaccine, meaning it **contains an ingredient** that helps create a stronger immune response to vaccination.
- **Significance**: This vaccine is a significant development in preventing RSV in the elderly population and can help reduce the risk of severe respiratory illness associated with this virus.

Meitei Community



❖ Context

- Tensions flared up in various parts of Manipur after a tribal students' union organized a solidarity march to protest against the demand for **Scheduled Tribe (ST)** status by a section of the Meitei community, which is the **dominant ethnic group** in the state.

❖ About Meitei Community:

- The Meitei people, also known as **Manipuri people**, live in Manipur State and are the largest ethnic group there.
- They speak the **Meitei language**, which is the official language of Manipur State and one of India's 22 official languages.
- Meiteis mostly live in the Imphal Valley region but also live in other Indian states and neighboring countries like Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- They make up **around 53% of Manipur's population** and have clans that don't allow intermarriage.
- They cultivate rice in irrigated fields, which is the basis of their economy.
- Most Meiteis follow Hinduism, and a smaller percentage follow Islam.



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Buddha Purnima



❖ Context

- Buddha Purnima has been celebrated on 5th May 2023.

❖ Key Highlights:

- It not only marks the day when Gautam Buddha was born but also the day when he **attained Nirvana** under the Mahabodhi tree at Bodh Gaya. Lord Buddha was born as Prince Siddhartha Gautama on the full moon **day in 563 BC** at Lumbini in Nepal.
- In Hinduism, Buddha is considered as the ninth avatar of Lord Vishnu.
- His birth anniversary is also known as **Vaisakhi Buddha Purnima or Vesak**.

Digital Twin



❖ Context

- India is considering building a digital twin, a **3D virtual model of a city** or system, to enhance its efficiency, coordination, and governance.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Digital twins can simulate **real-world conditions** and **provide real-time insights** into the **performance, operation, or profitability of a city**.
- They can help cities **optimize traffic flow, improve public transportation systems, manage energy consumption, monitor air and water quality, and identify areas** that are vulnerable to natural disasters.
- Other cities and countries such as **Singapore, Yingtian in China, Dubai, and Saudi Arabia** have already built digital twins to enhance their operations.

Krishi Mapper



❖ Context

- The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers launched an **integrated app** called **Krishi Mapper**, which incorporates **geospatial data in agriculture**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Geospatial data refers to information that identifies objects or events with a specific location on or near the earth's surface.
- The app is expected to provide various benefits such as better resource management, crop outcome predictions, increased yields, and improved farm practices.

Rang Ghar



❖ Context:

- A laser show as part of the celebration of Prime Minister's 100th Man Ki Baat episode at the **Ahom era amphitheatre Rang Ghar** in Assam's Sivasagar district has drawn criticism after "**religious symbols**" were shown in projections.

❖ Key Highlights:

- It was constructed during the **mid-18th century** under the reign of **Swargadeo Pramatta Singha**.
- Rang Ghar served as a royal **pavilion and amphitheatre** during the **Ahom dynasty**.
- It is recognized as **Asia's first amphitheatre** and is renowned for its distinctive octagonal shape.
- The **architectural features** of Rang Ghar include an **inverted boat-shaped roof and stone crocodiles at the top**.

Listeria Monocytogenes Bacteria



❖ Context

- Cadbury-branded dessert products have been recalled by the United Kingdom **Food Standards Agency (FSA)** due to possible contamination with **Listeria monocytogenes bacteria**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Listeria monocytogenes is a bacteria that is capable of causing infections in **both humans and animals**, and can commonly be found in soil, water, and the intestines of certain animals.
- When people eat food contaminated with **L. monocytogenes**, they may develop a disease called **listeriosis**.
- This type of bacteria is usually **transmitted through contaminated food** items, especially ready-to-eat foods such as cooked meats, dairy products, & fresh produce.
- **Symptoms:** The signs of a Listeria infection may involve an elevated body temperature, muscle soreness or pain, experiencing chills, vomiting or nausea, and diarrhoea.

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