

BRICS Labour & Employment Ministerial Declaration

❖ Context

- The Union Minister for Labour & Employment attended the BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' meeting held under the Chinese Presidency.

❖ Key Highlights

- The Ministers of the member countries viz. **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa** participated in the meeting.
- One of the significant outcomes of the aforesaid meeting was the adoption of the BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' Declaration.
- The Declaration recognised the need for :
 - Promoting green jobs for sustainable development,
 - Strengthening of cooperation in skills development,
 - Protection of workers' rights in new forms of employment.
- BRICS nations adopted a guidance document to promote decent work and social protection in new forms of employment.

❖ Key Points Under the BRICS Guidance on Protecting the Right of Workers in New Forms of Employment

- **Digital technology**, especially mobile internet technology, has given rise to new forms of employment represented by **digital labour platforms** which come with both opportunities and challenges.
- Nations :
 - Recognised that **multiple contractual agreements** exist simultaneously for workers in new forms of employment.
 - Reaffirmed the principles of decent work, fair labour practice and equal access to opportunities.
 - Will take into account unique challenges of social security.

Appointment of Director of Enforcement Directorate

❖ Context

- The SC has said that it will consider a plea against the Union government's move to grant a tenure extension to ED Director.

❖ Rules Governing the Appointment

- The ED Director is appointed under **section 25 of the CVC Act, 2003.**
- Based on the recommendation made by a committee comprised of :
 - Chairperson - Central Vigilance Commission
 - Members - Vigilance Commissioners
 - Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs
 - Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training
 - Secretary, Department of Revenue
- To hold office for period **not less than 2 years.**

- The government through ordinance in Nov-21 amended the provision to pave the way for **extension of the Director for one year at a time** on the recommendation of the committee, in public interest, for reasons to be recorded in writing.
- The **maximum tenure** with extension has been capped at **five years.**
- Other officers of ED above the rank of Deputy Director are also appointed on the basis of the recommendation of the committee but in consultation with the Director.

Facial Recognition Technology

❖ Context

- Recently, **Two retail chains in Australia**, Bunnings and Kmart, are being **investigated for using facial recognition technology** and storing data of their customers without their knowledge.



❖ Facial Recognition Technology

• About:

- Facial recognition is a **way of identifying or confirming an individual's identity using their face.**
- Facial recognition systems **can be used to identify people** in photos, videos, or in real-time.
- Facial recognition is a **category of biometric security.**
- Other forms of biometric software include **voice recognition, fingerprint recognition, and eye retina or iris recognition.**

• Application:

- The technology is mostly used for **security and law enforcement**, though there is increasing interest in other areas of use.
- It is also being used in **Airports and border control, Banking, Marketing and advertising, Healthcare** etc.

• Side Note:

- The Indian Govt has launched a **biometric-based authentication system called DigiYatra.**
 - In this system travellers will be able to authenticate themselves at several major airports using facial recognition technology.

Face to Face Centres



District Climate Change Missions

❖ Context

- Recently, The **Tamil Nadu government** has established District Climate Change Missions in all 38 districts.

❖ About Climate Change Mission

• Objectives:

- The missions will create a **strong policy support** across all sectors of governance.
- It will **devise strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions** and bench-mark industries to move towards green manufacturing.
- They will also **promote eco-friendly technologies**, such as solar and wind energy technologies, biodegradable packaging and e-vehicles.
- **Educating local communities** in the management of climate change.
- **Creating technologies** for evidence-based green models for adaptation and **practical models for green mobility**.
- **Strengthening the 'Meendum Manjappai' campaign** against the use of single-use plastic.

• Implimentation:

- The missions will be **headed by the Collectors** as Mission Directors.
- The **District Forest Officers** will function as **Climate Officers**.
- The Collectors will have to prepare **district-level climate change mitigation and adaptation plans**, build capacity and provide inputs for low-carbon, climate-resilient development plans.

• Significance:

- The missions will **help to strengthen the government's climate response** at the grassroots.

News in Between the Lines

Mission Shakti



❖ Context

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has issued detailed guidelines for the 'Mission Shakti' scheme.

❖ Key Highlights

- The scheme will be implemented during the period 2021-22 to 2025-26. The norms of 'Mission Shakti' will be applicable with effect from 01.04.2022.
- It is an **umbrella scheme for the safety, security and empowerment of women** to be implemented in mission mode by addressing issues affecting women on a life-cycle continuum basis.
- It has two sub-schemes :
 - **'Sambal' :**
 - for the safety and security of women.
 - Old Components - erstwhile schemes of One Stop Centre (OSC), Women Helpline (WHL), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP).
 - New component - **Nari Adalats** - women's collectives to promote and facilitate alternative dispute resolution and gender justice in society and within families
 - **'Samarthya'**
 - for empowerment of women.
 - Old Components - erstwhile schemes of Ujjwala, Swadhar Greh and Working Women Hostel, National Creche Scheme for children of working mothers and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) under umbrella ICDS.
 - New component - Gap funding for economic empowerment.

Ahmedabad



❖ Context

- The city has been included in the list of the **"World's 50 Greatest Places of 2022"** by Time Magazine.

❖ Key Highlights

- It is also **India's first UNESCO World Heritage City** (July 2017).
- Ahmedabad was earlier known as **Karnavati**.
- The name was changed by **Sultan Ahmed Shah**, of the Muzaffarid dynasty, after 1411, when he conquered it from king **Karandev I**.

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Monkeypox



- Under Ahmed Shah, architects amalgamated Hindu craftsmanship with Persian architecture, giving rise to a unique **Indo-Saracenic style**, reflected in many of the mosques in the city, like Jama Masjid.
- It is also called the '**Manchester of East**' for its thriving textile industry.

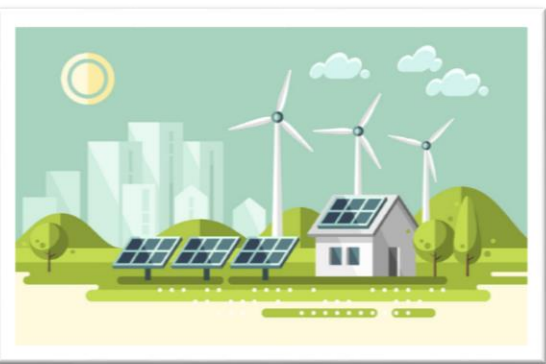
❖ Context

- The **first case of monkeypox was confirmed in India** on July 14, after a person who had returned to Kerala from abroad developed symptoms of the disease.

❖ Key Highlights

- **Virus:**
 - The monkeypox virus is an **orthopoxvirus**.
 - It is a genus of viruses that also includes the variola virus, which causes smallpox.
 - **Monkeypox causes symptoms similar to smallpox**, although they are less severe.
 - The **incubation period for monkeypox is usually 7-14 days** but can range from 5-21 days.
- **Transmission:**
 - Monkeypox is a **Zoonotic disease**, that is, a disease that is **transmitted from infected animals to humans**.
 - Cases occur close to tropical rainforests inhabited by animals that carry the virus.
 - **Human-to-human transmission is limited**.
- **Symptoms:**
 - Monkeypox **begins with a fever, headache, muscle aches, back ache, and exhaustion**.
 - The **patient develops a rash that begins on the face and spreads to other parts of the body**.
 - There is **no safe, proven treatment for monkeypox yet**.

Clean Energy Targets of India



❖ Context

- Recently, **Union Power Minister** informed that India has **achieved clean energy targets nine years ahead of schedule**.

❖ Key Highlights

- In 2015, India committed to ensuring that **40% of its energy would be from renewable sources by 2030** as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).
- India has **installed 162 GW (1 GW is 1,000 MW)** of renewable energy capacity, which is **41% of the 402 GW of electricity installed**.
- India is **committed to install 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030**, which would then be 50% of the installed capacity.
- The **world, overall, added around 3,146 GW of total installed renewable power capacity in 2021**.

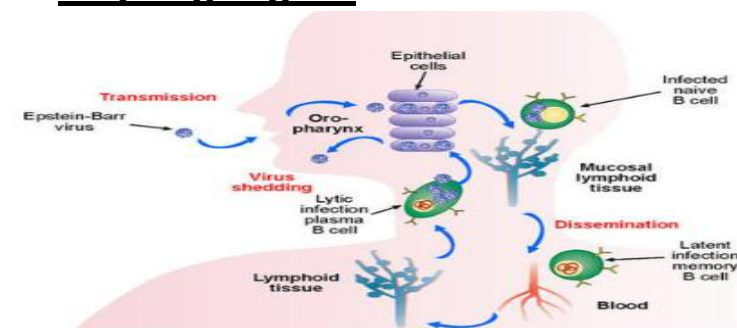
Epstein Barr Virus (EBV)



❖ Context

- Recently, a **study by scientists of IIT Indore** has found that **Epstein Barr Virus (EBV)** present widely in humans can **cause diseases of the central nervous system (CNS) as well as brain cancer**.

❖ Key Highlights



- EBV has been **found to be widely present in the human population**.
- It usually **does not cause any harm**, but the virus gets reactivated inside the body in some unusual conditions like immunological stress or immunocompetence.

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Doxxing



- This may further lead to various complications like a type of blood cancer called Burkitt's lymphoma, stomach cancer, multiple sclerosis and so on.
- **How this virus can affect the cells of the brain** and manipulate them is **still unexplored**.
- **Significance of the Study :**
 - This research work aids in the understanding of EBV-mediated biomolecular changes in the various compartments of the central nervous system leading to a better understanding of nervous system diseases.

❖ Context

- The **Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeiTY)** is considering a fresh legislation, to be known as Digital India Act which will replace IT Act 2000.

❖ Key Highlights

- The new legislation is being brought with intent to penalise such offences in the online world which have no equivalent in the offline world like **algorithm based misinformation campaigns**.
- Another example of such offences is doxxing.
- The term 'Doxing' is short for "**dropping dox**", 'dox' being slang for documents. Typically, doxing is a **malicious act**, used against people with whom the hacker disagrees or dislikes.
- It is the act of **revealing identifying information** about someone online, such as their real name, home address, workplace, phone, financial, and other personal information. That information is then circulated to the public — **without the victim's permission**.

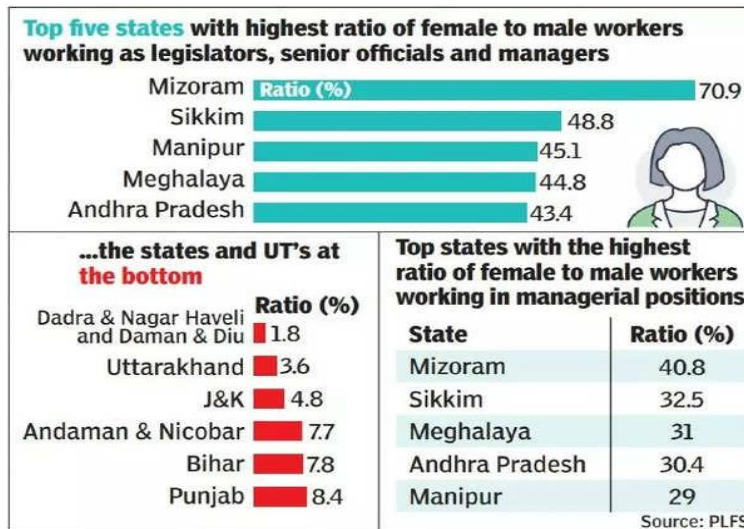
Female Managers Activity Status



❖ Context

- The government has released findings of the **Periodic Labour Force Survey July 2020-June 2021** regarding the ratio of female to male workers as legislators and managers.

❖ Key Findings



- The usual working status in managerial positions at **all India level** was **18%**.
- **Mizoram has the highest ratio** (female to male) of **70.9%** among those working as legislators, senior officials & managers. Mizoram is followed by Sikkim.
- **Activity in usual working status** means that activity pursued by the person during the reference period of the last 365 days preceding the date of survey.

Platform of Platforms



❖ Context

- The **Ministry of Agriculture** launched Platform of Platforms (PoP) under eNAM.

❖ Key Highlights of the Report

- It enables farmers, FPOs, traders and other stakeholders to access a wide variety of goods and services available on different platforms, across the agricultural value chain, through a single window.
- Few examples of different services are logistics, quality assurance, cleaning, grading, sorting & packaging, warehousing, agricultural input, technology enabled finance & insurance, information dissemination, e-commerce, etc.
- With the introduction of POP, farmers will also be facilitated to sell the produce outside their state borders.

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