

“Pastoral Communities”

❖ Context

- Union Minister, Fisheries Animal Husbandry and Dairying along with officials from the Ministry interacted with different pastoral communities from across the country.

Background:

- **Pastoralism is a form of animal husbandry** where livestock are reared by grazing in pastures, historically by nomadic people who moved around with their herds.
- **The species involved** include sheep, goat, camels, cattle, buffalo, yaks and donkey.
- **Nomadic pastoralism** is practiced by ethnic groups with a strong traditional association with rearing livestock by moving with the animals from place to place in search of pasture.
- Nomadic pastoralism is practiced across the country ranging from mountains to drylands -it manifests locally in various local socio-cultural practices.
- Large number of **traditional migratory routes** exists across the country-Intra-and Inter-State in search of fodder & water.
- **Horizontal routes** are undertaken in dry, arid and semi-arid plains (Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh etc.)
- **Vertical routes** are followed in the Himalayan States (Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, U.P, Sikkim, J&K, and Arunachal Pradesh). However not all migratory routes are documented as yet.

Importance Of Migratory Pastoralism:

- The nomadic herders are **natural breeders** producing very hardy animals that can survive the harsh conditions.
- **Climate resilient:** This climatic and resource-based adaptation requires no external inputs: most cost effective and economical. Wealth is generated on the move.
- **Their mobility prevents overgrazing**, allowing natural vegetation to grow back –an important best practice for managing degraded lands.
- **Pastoralists are input independent:** hence even during scarcity of rains do not face pressures of un-repayable borrowings as often seen for agriculturists.

- Hence this practice is more climate resilient than other forms of animal husbandry.
- **Livestock grazing the grasses and browsing the bush is vital for ecosystem health and productivity (IUCN report)**, conserves biodiversity, holds back the desert, stored carbon, and prevent erosion. It helps in forest regeneration.

Concerns Expressed By Pastoral Communities:

- **Regeneration of degrading pastures lands**, pasture development and increase availability of water in pastures.
- **Implementation of Forest Rights Act (FRA)** at ground level .Ensuring Access to Adequate Grazing Spaces in Forests, Grasslands and Village Common lands.
- **Social recognition** for pastoralists; official recognition and identity.
- **Establishing structured marketing facilities** for produces (milk, meat and wool) ensuring proper value of the produce reach the actual pastoral communities.
- Formation of **cooperatives** to facilitate marketing.
- Conservation of livestock breeds and **documentation of traditional knowledge** and ethno veterinary practices followed by pastoral communities.
- Ensuring **last mile service delivery** at high land and low land pastures along the migratory route.

Different Schemes For Pastoralist:

- The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has **extended the facilities of ‘Kisan Credit Cards’** to pastoral communities.
- The Ministry has **recently formed a ‘Pastoral cell’** to prioritize the enabling policies.
- The Ministry has also decided to include details of **pastoral communities in upcoming 21st Livestock Census**, scheduled in 2024.

National Anti Leprosy Day

❖ Context

- In India, **Anti Leprosy Day is observed on 30th January** every year.

Key Highlights:

- Globally, 29th January is observed as World Leprosy Day (WLD).
- In India, the day is marked on 30 January, to coincide with the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, who is known for his fight against the disease.
- Leprosy is also one of the **neglected tropical diseases**.

About Leprosy Disease:

- Leprosy is also known as **Hansen’s disease**.
- It is an infectious disease which is **caused by a bacillus Mycobacterium leprae**.
- The disease has been **named after Gerhard Henrik Armauer Hansen** who was a **Norwegian physician**.

- Hansen proved that **leprosy is not a hereditary disease** but is caused by a bacterium.
- The disease is a **curable disease** and treatment at the early stage can prevent any disability.
- It can **cause a progressive and permanent damage to the skin, nerves, limbs and eyes** if it is left untreated.
- The **incubation period of the disease is 5 years usually**. Symptoms of the disease can be seen within 1 year but it could also **take 20 years or even more years** to occur.

Theme for World Leprosy Day 2023:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced “Act Now. End Leprosy.” as its theme for this year’s World Leprosy Day.
- The theme stresses three main points.

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31 January 2023

- Elimination of leprosy is possible.
- Immediate action is required, that includes resources & commitment.
- Leprosy is preventable and treatable.

Govt Initiatives:

- **National Leprosy Eradication Programme-**
 - It is a **centrally sponsored scheme**. Its vision is “**Leprosy-free India**”. Under this, action is taken for **early case detection, complete treatment of detected cases** and to contain the onset of disease in close contacts.

- Leprosy awareness campaigns and services for Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation such as provision of Microcellular Rubber footwear, Aids & Appliances and self-care kits.
- **Reconstructive Surgeries** are conducted and welfare allowance is paid to each patient undergoing Reconstructive Surgeries.

News in Between the Lines

Technical Textiles



❖ Context

- Centre clears 15 R&D Projects in the strategic areas such as Specialty Fibres, High Performance Textiles, Protech, Sustainable Textiles, Meditech and Geotech segment under National Technical Textile Mission.

❖ Technical Textiles:

- Technical Textiles is an advanced **technology backed sunrise sector** which is steadily gaining ground in India.
- Technical textiles are functional fabrics that **have applications across various industries** including automobiles, civil engineering and construction, agriculture, healthcare, industrial safety, personal protection etc.
- Technical Textiles are **futuristic and niche segment of textiles**, which are used for various applications ranging from agriculture, roads, railway tracks, sportswear, health on one end to **bullet proof jacket, fireproof jackets, high altitude combat gear** and space applications on another end of spectrum.
- Technical textiles are textiles materials and products manufactured primarily for **technical performance and functional properties rather than aesthetic characteristics**.

Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0



❖ Context

- **Employees' Provident Fund Organization** to launch a District Outreach Programme, Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0, in all the districts of the country.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Under the **Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0**, EPFO will reach out to the stakeholders, thereby increasing accessibility and visibility of the organisation, in all the districts of the country.
- The Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 **will not be only grievance redressal** platform and information exchange network for the employers and the employees **but also a platform for exchange of information** with the district level authorities of various State and Central Government departments.
- The Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 will be conducted on 27th of every month starting from January 2023.

National Commission for Women



❖ Context

- President of India to address the 31st Foundation Day event of **National Commission for Women**.

❖ About National Commission for Women:

- NCW was **founded in January 1992** as a statutory body under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.
- It was established to:-
 - **Review** the constitutional and legal safeguards for women.
 - **Recommend** remedial legislative measures.
 - **Facilitate** redressal, or grievances.
 - **Advise** the government on policy matters affecting women.
- The Commission shall **consist of:**
 - **A Chairperson**, committed to the cause of women, to be nominated by the Central Government.
 - **Five Members** to be nominated by the Central Government.
 - **A Member-Secretary** to be nominated by the Central Government.

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Domestic Goat As A Drug Factory



❖ Context

- Goats have attracted the attention of biotechnology companies wishing to produce therapeutic proteins in bulk.

❖ Domestic Goats:

- **The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** estimates that the world has 830 million goats belonging to about 1,000 breeds.
- India has 150 million from over 20 prominent breeds. **Rajasthan** has the number of goats the **Marwari goat** found here is hardy and well-adapted to the climate of deserts. Another hardy breed, found in the dry regions of Maharashtra, Telangana and North Karnataka is the **Osmanabadi**.
- **The Malabari (also called Tellicherry)** of North Kerala is a prolific breed with low-fat meat, and shares these traits with the **beetal goat** of Punjab.
- **Once in England, the Jamunapari (Uttar Pradesh)** was bred with local breeds to produce the **Anglo-Nubian**, a champion producer of high-fat milk.
- **Indian highlands** have scant populations of wild goats, from which domestic goats or sheep have evolved. These include the **Markhor** and the Himalayan and **Nilgiri tahr**.

Kawal Tiger Reserve (KTR)



❖ Context

- During the recent Asian Water Bird Census (AWC) 2023, more than 340 birds of various species, were counted in the water bodies within the core area of the Kawal Tiger Reserve.

❖ About KTR:

- The Kawal Tiger Reserve (KTR) is **located at Jannaram mandal of Adilabad district in Telangana**.
- The reserve covers a core area of 892.23 sq km and a buffer zone of 1,123.21 sq km.
- **Flora-**
 - There are more than 600 kinds of trees with various compositions such as pure teak, bamboo with teak, pure bamboo and so on.
- **Fauna-**
 - It is home to many mammal species such as tiger, leopard, gaur, cheetal, sambar, nilgai, barking deer, chowsingha, sloth bear, etc.
 - There are around 300 bird species.
 - **Green-winged teal, northern pintail, painted stork, river lapwing, painted storks,** and many other bird species were spotted in KTR.
 - Rare birds such as the **grey-headed fish eagle, crested-tree swift, river-lap wing, white-rumped munia, block stork,** and others also can be seen.

Soliga Ecarinata



❖ Context

- Recently, The scientific community has named a **new genus of wasp after Soliga** in recognition of their conservation of forests and biodiversity.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The entomologists at Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) decided to name the new genus as **Soliga ecarinata**.
- The species is named as 'ecarinata' **denoting the absence of ridges in certain body regions** and this new insect is strikingly colourful and distinct from all its relatives.
- This new wasp **belongs to the subfamily Metopiinae of Darwin wasps family Ichneumonidae**.
 - The subfamily Metopiinae has 862 species in 27 genera including two fossil genera, most of those are seen only in Palaeartic region, Neotropical and Nearctic regions.
- This is the second genus of this subfamily reported from India and the first from South India.
- **Soligas**
 - Soliga are the **indigenous community of Biligiri Rangan Hills (B.R. Hills)** in Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka.
 - Traditionally Soliga dependent on collecting a wide range of non-timber forest products (NTFP), small game hunting and shifting cultivations for their livelihood.
 - They are the **first tribal community living inside the core area of a tiger reserve in India** to get their forest rights officially recognised by a court of law.

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Kelp Forest



❖ Context

- Recently, a study showed that **Kelp forests are declining** because of climate change.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Kelp populations at **equatorward-range edges are particularly vulnerable** to climate change as these locations are undergoing warming at or beyond thermal tolerance thresholds.

❖ Kelp Forest:

- Kelp Forests are **underwater ecosystems** formed in shallow water by the dense growth of several different species known as kelps.
- Kelp **thrives in cold, nutrient-rich waters**.
- Kelp attaches to the seafloor and eventually grows to the water's surface and **relies on sunlight to generate food and energy**.
- Kelp forests are **always coastal and require shallow, relatively clear water**.
- Kelps live further from the tropics than coral reefs, mangrove forests, and warm-water seagrass beds, so kelp forests do not overlap with those systems.
- **Sea urchins can destroy entire kelp forests** at a rate of 30 feet (9 m) per month by moving in herds. Sea otters play a key role in stabilizing sea urchin populations so that kelp forests may thrive.
- Kelp forests provide underwater habitats to hundreds of species of invertebrates, fishes, and other algae and have great ecological and economic value.
- Loss of kelp forests will also lead to a decline of the unique biodiversity that they support.

Veer Guardian 2023



❖ Context:

- Recently, The inaugural edition of the bilateral air exercise '**Veer Guardian 2023**' **between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF)** concluded in Japan,

❖ Key Highlights:

- During the joint training spanning 16 days, the two Air Forces **engaged in complex and comprehensive aerial manoeuvres** in multiple simulated operational scenarios.
- The exercise **involved precise planning and skillful execution** by both the air forces.
- This exercise provided the two Air Forces with an **opportunity to enhance mutual understanding**.
- This enabled the participating contingents to obtain an invaluable insight into each other's best practices and learn from each other's unique capabilities.
- **Other India - Japan Exercises.**
 - Dharma Guardian exercise between the armies.
 - SHINYUU Maitri between the air forces.
 - JIMEX between the navies.
- The two countries' navies also conduct regular bilateral exercise, and passage exercises with the focus on the Indo-Pacific.

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