

16 September, 2022

Vambanad Lake

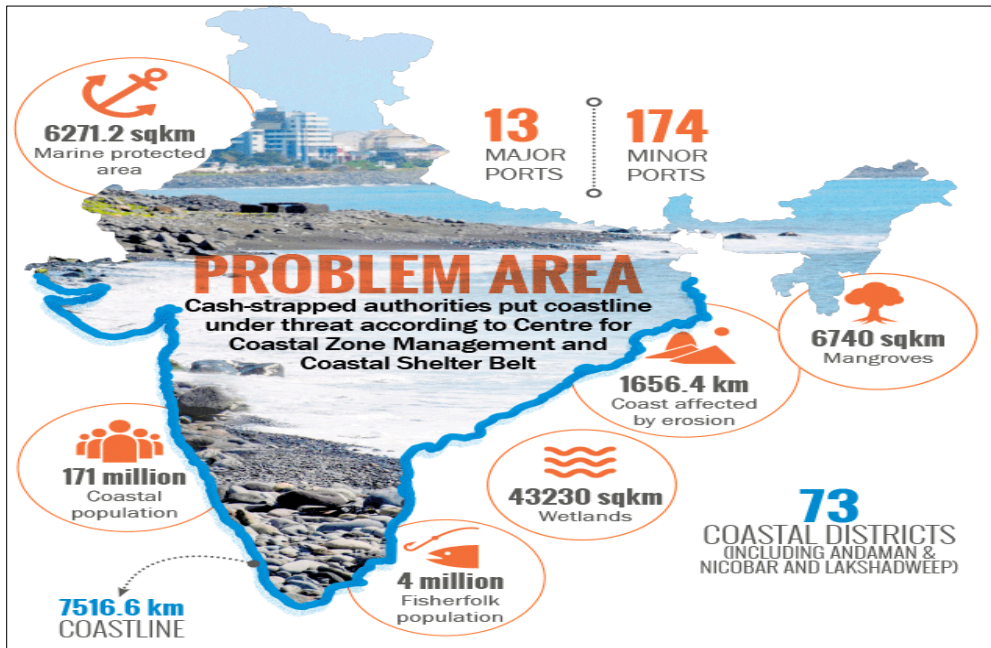
❖ Context

- The demolition of the illegally constructed villas of Kapico Resorts Pvt. Ltd on Nedyathuruthu island on Vembanad Lake began recently.



❖ Key Highlights

- The razing of the resort is a major victory for the fishing community and a message against constructing structures violating the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Act and other norms.



- It was in 2007 that the 11.5-acre island was bought by Kapico.
- The project, however, changed the life of fisher families in the area after 13 licensed stake nets got removed for building villas.

❖ About Vembanad Lake

- Vembanad is the longest lake in India, as well as the largest lake in the state of Kerala.
- With an area of 2033 square kilometers and a maximum length of 96.5 km, it is the second largest Ramsar site in India only after the **Sunderbans in West Bengal**.
- The lake has its source in four rivers, Meenachil, Achankovil, Pampa and Manimala.

Regulations

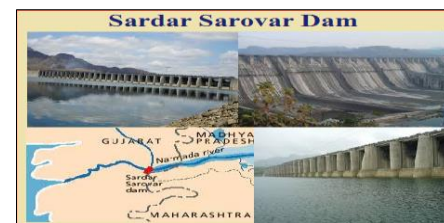
CRZ - I Ecologically Sensitive Areas	
CRZ - II Urban (developed) areas up to the shoreline of the coast	
CRZ - III Rural and urban areas which fall outside CRZ-I and CRZ-II	
CRZ - III (Rural Area)	
CRZ - III A Densely populated areas with a population density of 2161 per square kilometre.	CRZ - III B Areas with population density of below 2161 per square kilometre. A NDZ of 200 meters from HTL.
CRZ - IV	

- It is separated from the Arabian Sea by a narrow barrier island and is a popular backwater stretch in Kerala.
- **Vallam Kali** (i.e Nehru Trophy Boat Race) is a Snake Boat Race held every year in the month of August in Vembanad Lake.
- The **Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary** is located on the east coast of the lake.

Sardar Sarovar Dam

❖ Context

- The Sardar Sarovar dam on the river Narmada, the life line of Gujarat was filled to its highest capacity recently.



❖ Key Highlights

- The water level at the dam has reached the historic 138.68 meters recently which is above the highest capacity of the dam.
- This is for the third time in history that the dam is filled to its highest capacity after 2019 and 2020.

❖ Significance

- The present 5.75 lakh crores litres of water stock in the dam has ensured that the state will not face water scarcity in the coming summer.
- The government said farmers in the command area of the dam can be provided water for rabi crops.

❖ About The Dam

- The Sardar Sarovar Dam is a concrete gravity dam built on the Narmada river in Navagam near the town of Kevadiya, Narmada District, in the state of Gujarat, India.

SARDAR SAROVAR DAM: FACTS & FIGURES

131 urban centres and 9,633 villages to get drinking water	246,000 ha of desert districts in Rajasthan to get irrigation	April 5, 1961 foundation stone laid by Jawaharlal Nehru	Agitation and a dispute between Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh on sharing of water and electricity has affected progress
53% of the 18,144 villages in Gujarat to benefit	18.54 lakh ha land in Gujarat to get water for irrigation	1980 Construction starts	
		2000 Supreme Court approves construction	

- The dam is the third highest concrete dam (163 meters) in India, the first two being Bhakra (226 metres) in Himachal Pradesh and Lakhwar (192 meters) in Uttar Pradesh.

- The dam was constructed to provide water and electricity to four Indian states; **Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan.**

India Discrimination Report

❖ Context

- **Oxfam India** released the report after compiling government data on employment and labour from **2004-05 to 2019-20**.



Face to Face Centres

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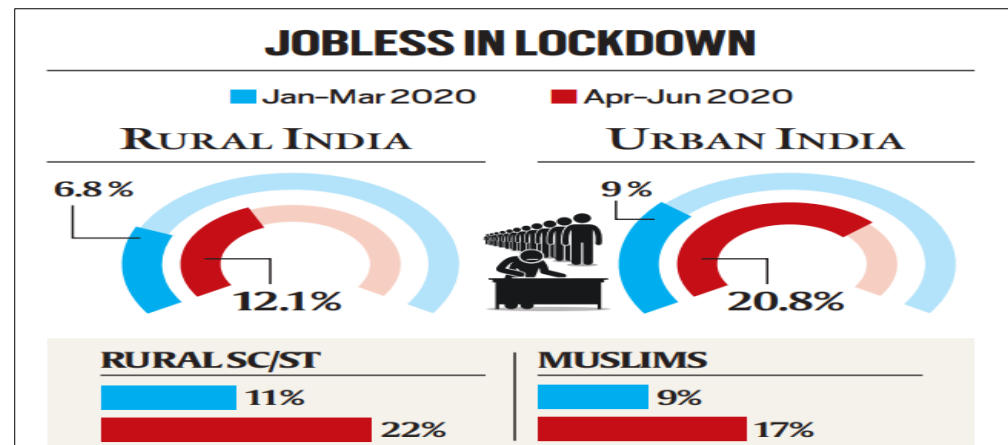
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❖ Key Findings

- Discrimination in labour market is when people with identical capabilities are treated differently because of their identity or social backgrounds.
- Labour force participation rate** for women in India declined from 42.7% (2004-05) to 25.1% (2021).
- In 2019-20, only 19% of all females had regular salaried or self-employed jobs against 60% of all males.
- The **average earning for women** was Rs. 6,626 against Rs. 15,996 for men.
- The discrimination against women is so high that there is hardly any difference across religion or caste based sub groups or rural-urban divide.

- While **overall discrimination in wages** for people from SC,ST and Muslims communities declined in regular/salaried jobs, it **increased for women**.



Law Commission Report 267 on Hate Speech

❖ Context

- A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court (SC) seeking directions to the Centre to take appropriate steps to implement recommendations of the Law Commission Report 267 on hate speech.



❖ Key Highlights

- With reference to the plea, the ECI has submitted in the court that :
 - There is **no law on “hate speech” in India** and that it has therefore been relying on provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) & the Representation of the People Act-1951.
 - The issue of “hate speech” during elections was dealt with by the SC in the 2014 case, **Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan vs Union of India**.
 - The SC, in **Abhiram Singh v Commachen case**, held that appealing to the ascriptive identities (religion, caste, race, community or language) of any candidate as well as the voters constitutes a ‘**corrupt practice**’ under **Section 123(3) of RPA 1951**.
 - The ECI, while referring to the above SC judgement, introduced guidelines in the Model Code of Conduct, asking parties to desist from making communal statements.

❖ Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan vs Union of India (2014)

- The petitioners sought the SC's intervention to declare "hate speeches" delivered by elected representatives, political and religious leaders as unconstitutional.
- The SC had observed that the implementation of existing laws would solve the problem to a great extent.

- The matter was ultimately referred to the Law Commission -
 - To examine if it deems proper to define the expression hate speech.
 - To make recommendations to Parliament to strengthen the EC to correct the menace of hate speeches irrespective of whenever made,

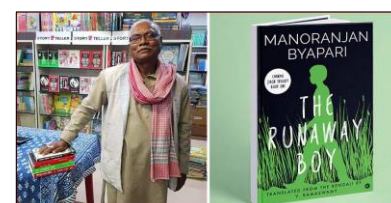
❖ Recommendation of the Report

- The commission in its 267th report did not make any recommendations on either definition of hate speech or strengthening ECI to curb the menace with powers including derecognition of political parties.
- However, to address the issues related to hate speech, new provisions in IPC were recommended for insertion:
 - Section 153C** - Prohibiting incitement to hatred on grounds of religion, race, caste or community, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, place of birth, residence, language, disability or tribe.
 - Section 505A** - Punishing for causing fear, alarm, or provocation of violence in certain cases.

2022 Shakti Bhatt Prize

❖ Context

- The first volume of writer **Manoranjan Byapari's Chandal Jibon trilogy**, The Runaway Boy, translated from Bengali by V Ramaswamy, has won him the 2022 Shakti Bhatt Prize.



❖ Key Highlights

- His writing has shed light on the violence that poverty and caste politics engender.
- It has bristled with anger at the marginalisation and the indomitable hunger, both physical and metaphysical, that forgotten people such as him have to endure generationally.

- The Shakti Bhatt Prize, an **independent award** run by writers, recognises and celebrates literature from South Asia.

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Soonya Forum

❖ Context

- NITI Aayog recently hosted the first Shoonya Forum to commemorate the first anniversary of India's zero pollution e-mobility campaign in Delhi.



❖ Key Highlights

- A three-report series highlighting the economic opportunities that an indigenous battery industry presents for India was released during the event.
- Shoonya initiative **promotes** zero-pollution delivery vehicles by working with consumers and industry.
- The campaign aims to accelerate adoption of electric vehicles in the urban deliveries segment and **create consumer awareness** about the benefits of zero-pollution delivery.
- Urban freight vehicles account for **10%** of freight transportation-related **carbon dioxide emissions** in India, and these emissions are expected to grow by **114%** by 2030.
- EVs emit no tailpipe emissions, which can contribute immensely to improved air quality.
- They emit **15 to 40%** less carbon dioxide compared to their internal combustion engine counterparts and have lower operational cost even during their manufacture.

Swachhata Portal for the Special Campaign 2.0.

❖ Context

- Minister of State for Personnel, Pension and Public Grievances recently launched Swachhata Portal for the Special Campaign 2.0.

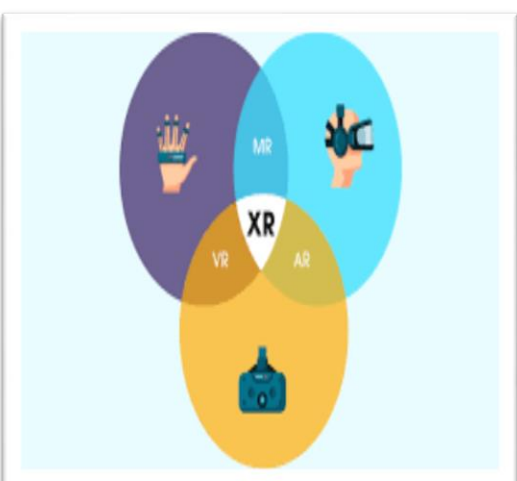


❖ Key Highlights

- The campaign which is to begin on 2nd October 2022 is dedicated to Swachhata and reducing the pendency of work in Government offices.
- The scope and mandate of Special Campaign 2.0 from 2nd October to 31st October 2022 has been expanded and all regional offices have been included in the campaign, apart from all Ministries, Departments and attached offices.
- To date, more than 67 thousand sites have been identified by Ministries and Departments for conducting cleanliness campaigns and it is likely to touch one lakh sites by the end of this month.
- The Special Campaign 2022 reinforces the importance of **timely disposal of references** and a clean workspace.
- It is expected to cover over 1.5 lakh Post Offices, overseas missions, Railway Stations, and other public offices in mission mode during the month-long campaign.

News in Between the Lines

Extended Reality



❖ Context

- The **Ministry of Electronics and IT's (MeitY's)** Startup Hub recently signed an agreement with social media giant, Meta, to launch an accelerator programme.

❖ Key Highlights

- The programme will support 40 early-stage startups working in extended reality (XR) technologies with a grant of Rs 20 lakh each.
- XR is an emerging umbrella term for all the immersive technologies - **augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and mixed reality (MR)**.
- In **augmented reality**, **virtual information and objects are overlaid on the real world**. This experience enhances the real world with digital details such as images, text, and animation.
- In a **virtual reality**, users are **fully immersed** in a simulated digital environment. Individuals must put on a **VR headset or head-mounted display** to get a 360 - degree view of an **artificial world that fools their brain** into believing they are, e.g., walking on the moon.
- In **mixed reality**, **digital and real-world objects co-exist and can interact with one another in real-time**. This is the latest immersive technology and is sometimes referred to as **hybrid reality**. It requires an MR headset and a lot more processing power than VR or AR. **Microsoft's HoloLens** is a great example.

Green Fins Hub

❖ Context

- The **United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)**, along with UK-based charity Reef-World Foundation, recently launched the Green Fins Hub.



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❖ Key Highlights

- It is a **global digital platform** that will help **diving and snorkelling operators** worldwide to make **simple, cost-efficient changes** to their daily practices by utilising tried and tested solutions.
- It will lead to increasing accessibility of best practice, knowledge & citizen science.
- It will give sustainable marine tourism a major boost. **Coral reefs**, though contribute up to 40 % or more of the GDP in some island nations through marine related tourism, are the most vulnerable ecosystem.

Official Language Implementation Committee



❖ Context

- The MHA has asked the **Ministry of External Affairs** to constitute an Official Language Implementation Committee.

❖ Key Highlights

- It would oversee the progress of Hindi in official work in all the government institutions in foreign countries.
- The MHA has also requested to promote the use of Hindi for official work in banks, public sector undertakings, embassies and other government offices located in foreign countries.

Manasbal lake

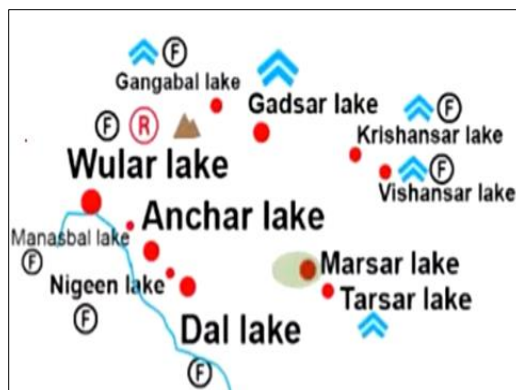


❖ Context

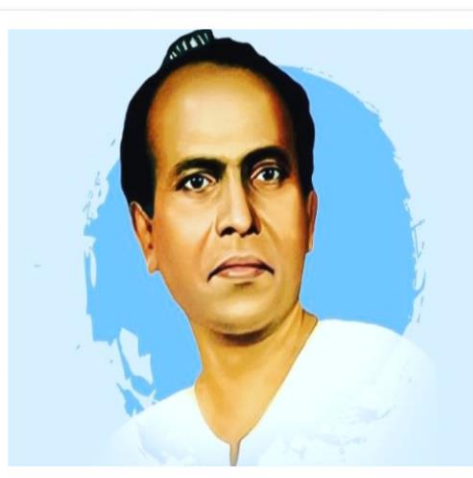
- Central Kashmir's **Manasbal Lake** is once again open for training drills of **National Cadet Corps (NCC)** cadets, after more than three decades.

❖ Key Highlights

- It is a **freshwater lake** located in **Ganderbal District**.
- The name Manasbal is said to be a derivative of Lake Manasarovar.
- It is stated to be the **deepest lake (at 13 m or 43 ft depth) in India**.
- The large growth of lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) at the periphery of the lake (blooms during July and August) adds to the beauty of the lake.
- The **Mughal garden**, called the **Jaroka**, (meaning **bay window**) built by **Nur Jahan** overlooks the lake.
- The lake is one of the largest natural stamping grounds of aquatic birds in Kashmir and has the sobriquet of "**Supreme Gem of all Kashmir Lakes**".



Lok Shahir Annabhau Sathe



[Daily Current Affairs](#)

❖ Context

- Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister unveiled a statue of **Lok Shahir (balladeer) Annabhau Sathe** at the All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature in Moscow.

❖ Key Highlights

- **Tukaram Bhaurao Sathe**, who later came to be known as Annabhau Sathe. was a member of the **Communist Party of India (CPI)**, and featured among the selected authors from India whose **work was translated in Russian**.
- Sathe's work was influenced by **Marxism**, but at the same time he brought out the harsh realities of the **caste system**.
- He was born in a dalit family in Satara district.
- He learnt to read and write in a **labour study circle** which he joined through **R B More** whom he got acquainted with in the famous '**Chavdar Lake**' **satyagraha** at Mahad. R B More was an associate of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar.
- He formed **Dalit Yuvak Sangh**, a cultural group and started writing poems on workers' protests, agitations.
- In 1939, he wrote his first ballad '**Spanish Povada**' inspired by Russian works of Maxim Gorky, Anton Chekhov, Leo Tolstoy, Ivan Turgenev, translated into Marathi. His '**Bangalchi Hak**' (**Bengal's Call**) on the Bengal famine was translated into Bengali and later presented at London's Royal Theatre.
- He dedicated his most famous novel **Fakira** to Dr Ambedkar.

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