

## 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.

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## 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.

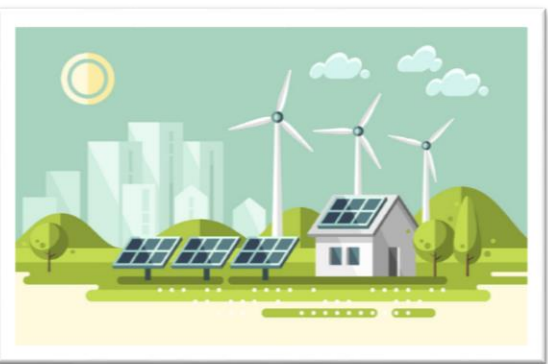
### ❖ Context

- 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**.

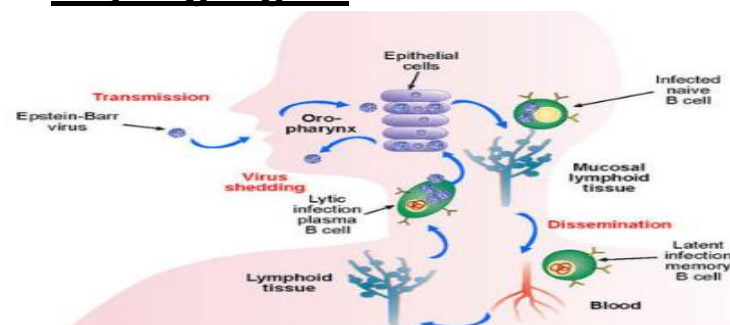
## Epstein Barr Virus (EBV)



### ❖ 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



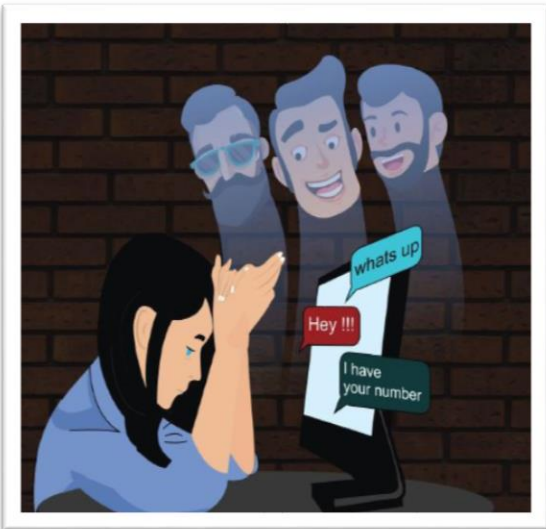
- EBV has been **found to be widely present in the human population**.
- It usually **does not cause any harm**, but the virus gets reactivated inside the body in some unusual conditions like immunological stress or immunocompetence.

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- 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.

## Doxxing



### ❖ 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 'Doxxing' 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**.

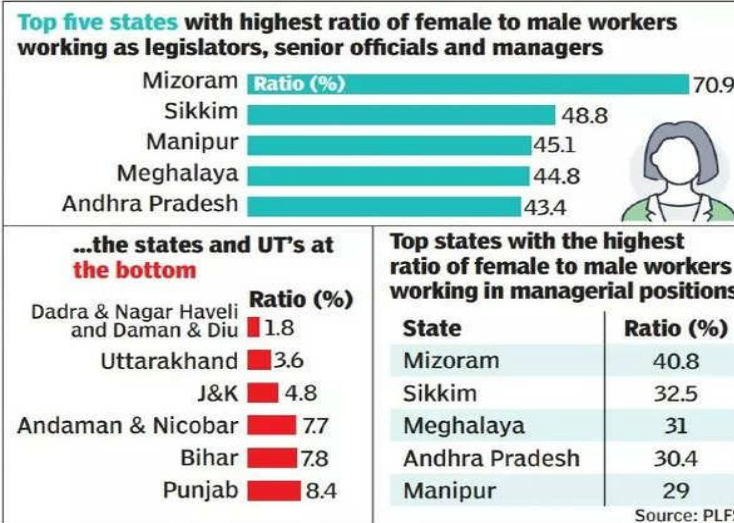
## Female Managers Activity Status



### ❖ 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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