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**3 August 2024**

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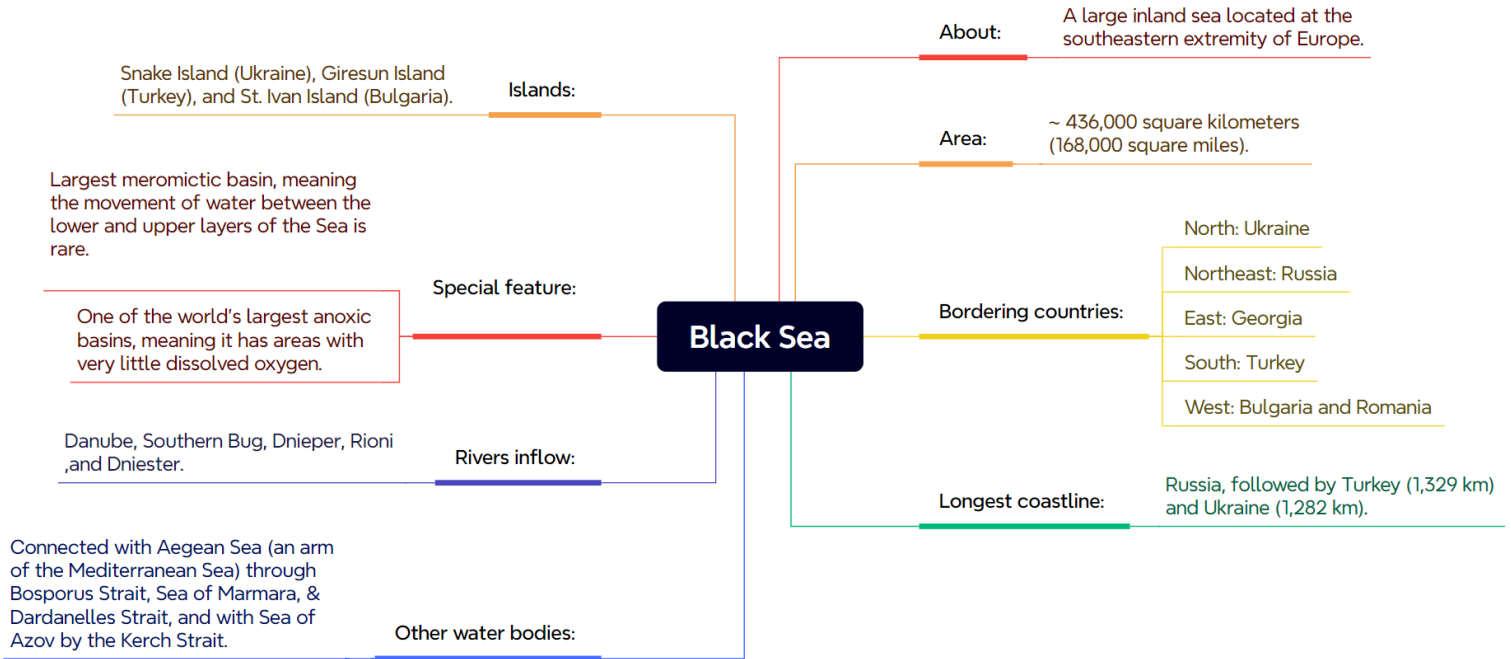
13. BSF DG, deputy repatriated to state cadres with immediate effect - Indian Express

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## **Rajasthan Current Affairs**

# Geography

## 1. Black Sea - The Hindu



## Society

### 2. Gender, DSDS and testosterone: issues in Olympic boxing row - Indian Express

#### **Context**

Italy's Angela Carini withdrew from her Round of 16 boxing bout against Algeria's Imane Khelif after only 46 seconds and a couple of punches to her face on Thursday, triggering the Olympics' biggest controversy yet.

#### **Why is gender eligibility a contentious issue in women's sports?**

- **Determination of sex:** Based on chromosomes, which carry genes. The XX sex chromosomes result in the development of female sex organs, and XY in male sex organs.
- **SRY gene:** Found on the Y chromosome, it is responsible for the production of testosterone.
- **Swyer syndrome:** Crucially, some people born with female reproductive organs may also carry the XY chromosome, which is known as Swyer syndrome, one of many "Disorders of Sex Development", or DSDs.

### 3. Women Entrepreneurship Program launched to empower women entrepreneurs and spurring economic growth - PIB

#### **Context**

In a pivotal move towards empowering women entrepreneurs and spurring economic growth, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) unveiled the Women Entrepreneurship Program.

#### **National Skill Development Corporation**

- **Establishment:** July 31, 2008
- **About:** A not-for-profit public limited company under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956.
- **Operation:** Operates as a unique Public Private Partnership (PPP) model under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).



#### **Women Entrepreneurship Program**

## Women Entrepreneurship Program

**Aim:** To empower approximately 25 lakh women across India, providing them with the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to start and grow successful businesses.

**Partners:** It is in partnership with Britannia Industries Limited.

**Significance:**

- It will offer financial grants and feature women products and services on the Skill India Digital Hub.
- NSDC, with support from the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), will offer free online self-learning entrepreneurship courses through the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH).
- Available in multiple languages, will cover topics like entrepreneurial skills, enterprise setup, finance basics, digital skills, and market analysis.



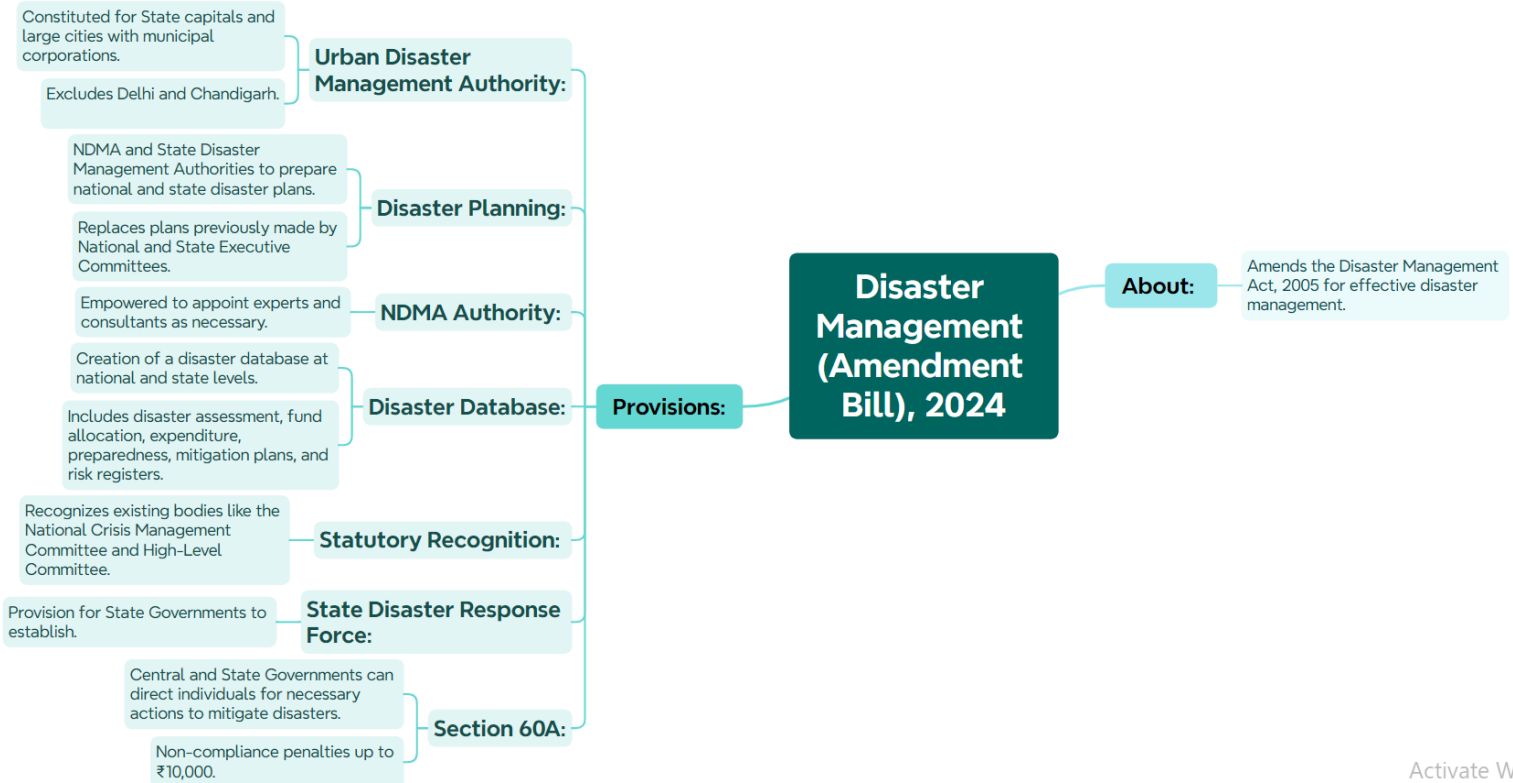
# Polity

## 4. Govt. introduces Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in Lok Sabha - The Hindu

### Context

Union Minister of State for Home recently introduced the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in the Lok Sabha.

### Disaster Management (Amendment Bill), 2024



Activate W

## World Affairs

### 5. The 'Axis of resistance', which includes Iran-backed groups like Hamas, Hezbollah - Indian Express

#### Context

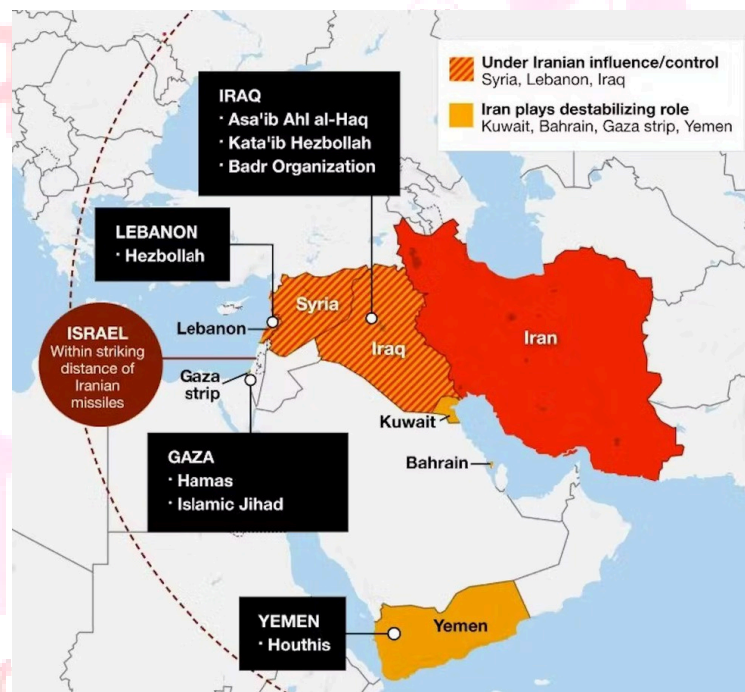
Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was recently assassinated in an air strike in Tehran. Although Israel has not claimed responsibility for Haniyeh's killing, Hamas and Iran have blamed Israel for the strike, and promised "major repercussions". Experts believe that Iran could hike up attacks against Israel through its allies — a coalition of Iranian-backed groups known as the 'axis of resistance'.

#### Axis of resistance

- **About:** A coalition of Iranian-backed groups said to be inspired by former US President George W Bush's use of the term 'axis of evil' — referring to Iran, Iraq and North Korea.
- **Formation:** Its roots go back to the Iranian Revolution of 1979, which paved the way for radical Shia Muslim clerics to come to power.

- **Group members**

- **Hezbollah:** Shiite militant organization
- **Hamas:** Palestinian Sunni militant group in Gaza
- **Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ):** Sunni Islamist militant group, Palestine
- **Houthis:** Zaydi Shia militant group, Yemen



## Economy

### 6. What are the legal challenges to Great Nicobar infrastructure project? - Indian Express

#### Context

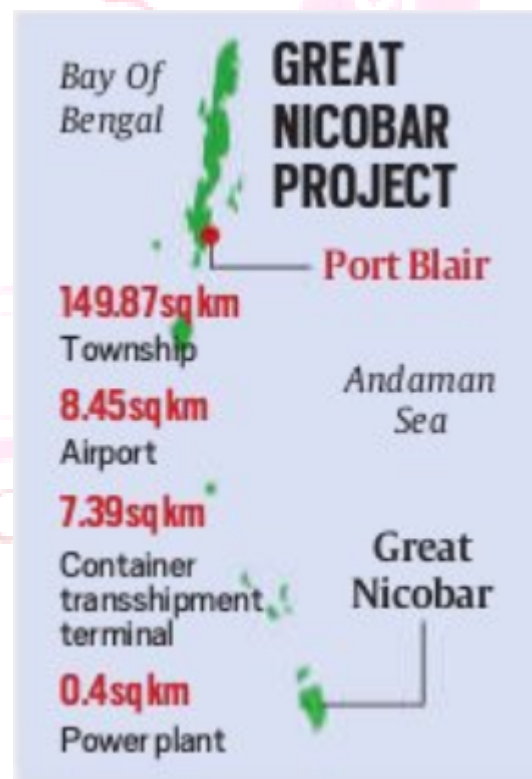
The Central government's Rs 72,000 cr-Great Nicobar Island (GNI) infrastructure project will involve the construction of an airport for civilian and defence use, an international container transshipment terminal, and a township. However, it has also faced legal challenges in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Calcutta High Court, which has jurisdiction over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

#### Why has NGT revisited the green clearance

- **Irreversible damage** that the project would cause to biodiversity, inadequate environmental impact studies and opacity in the clearance process.
- **Issues of inadequate assessment** of the impact on Shompen and Nicobarese tribal communities
- **Non-compliance with due process** in granting statutory clearances
- **Permissions granted for ports and townships in prohibited areas**, such as the Island Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ) – IA area.

#### Great Nicobar Island Project

- **About:** A significant development initiative planned for the southern end of the Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- **Key components:**
  - An international container transshipment terminal
  - A greenfield international airport
  - Township development
  - A 450 MVA gas and solar-based power plant
- **Area:** 16,610 hectares
- **Purpose:**
  - **Economic:** To integrate Great Nicobar into the regional and global maritime economy, transforming it into a crucial hub for cargo transshipment.
  - **Trade:** Strategically located, equidistant from Colombo, Port Klang (Malaysia), and Singapore (southeast), and near the East-West international shipping corridor.





- **Strategic:** Significant for national security and the consolidation of India's presence in the Indian Ocean Region.
- **Criticism:**
  - **Impact on Biodiversity:** The project site falls within Coastal Regulation Zones-IA and IB, and includes Galathea Bay, a crucial nesting ground for birds.
  - **Loss of Tree Cover:** The project may result in significant deforestation, affecting the island's flora and fauna.
  - **Increased Runoff:** The reduction in tree cover is expected to increase runoff and sediment deposits in the ocean, which could harm nearby coral reefs.
  - **Mangrove Destruction:** The development will also lead to the loss of vital mangrove ecosystems, further impacting local biodiversity.
  - **Inadequate Data Collection:** Environmental impact assessments (EIAs) rely on data from only one season, whereas comprehensive assessments require data from three seasons.
  - **Challenges for PVTGs:** PVTGs who are supposed to receive the highest level of protection, are facing encroachments into their territories under the guise of development.

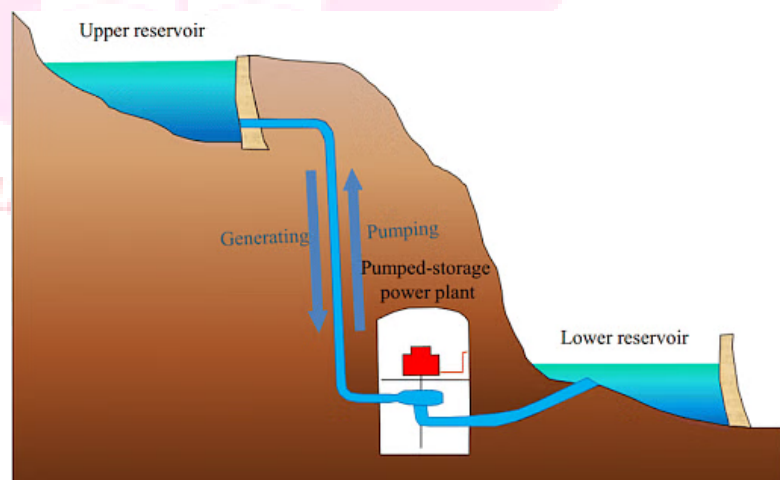
## 7. Here's why Union Budget 2024 promised policy on pumped storage - The Hindu

### Context

Budget 2024-25 promised that "a policy for promoting pumped storage projects will be brought out for electricity storage and facilitating smooth integration of the growing share of renewable energy with its variable and intermittent nature."

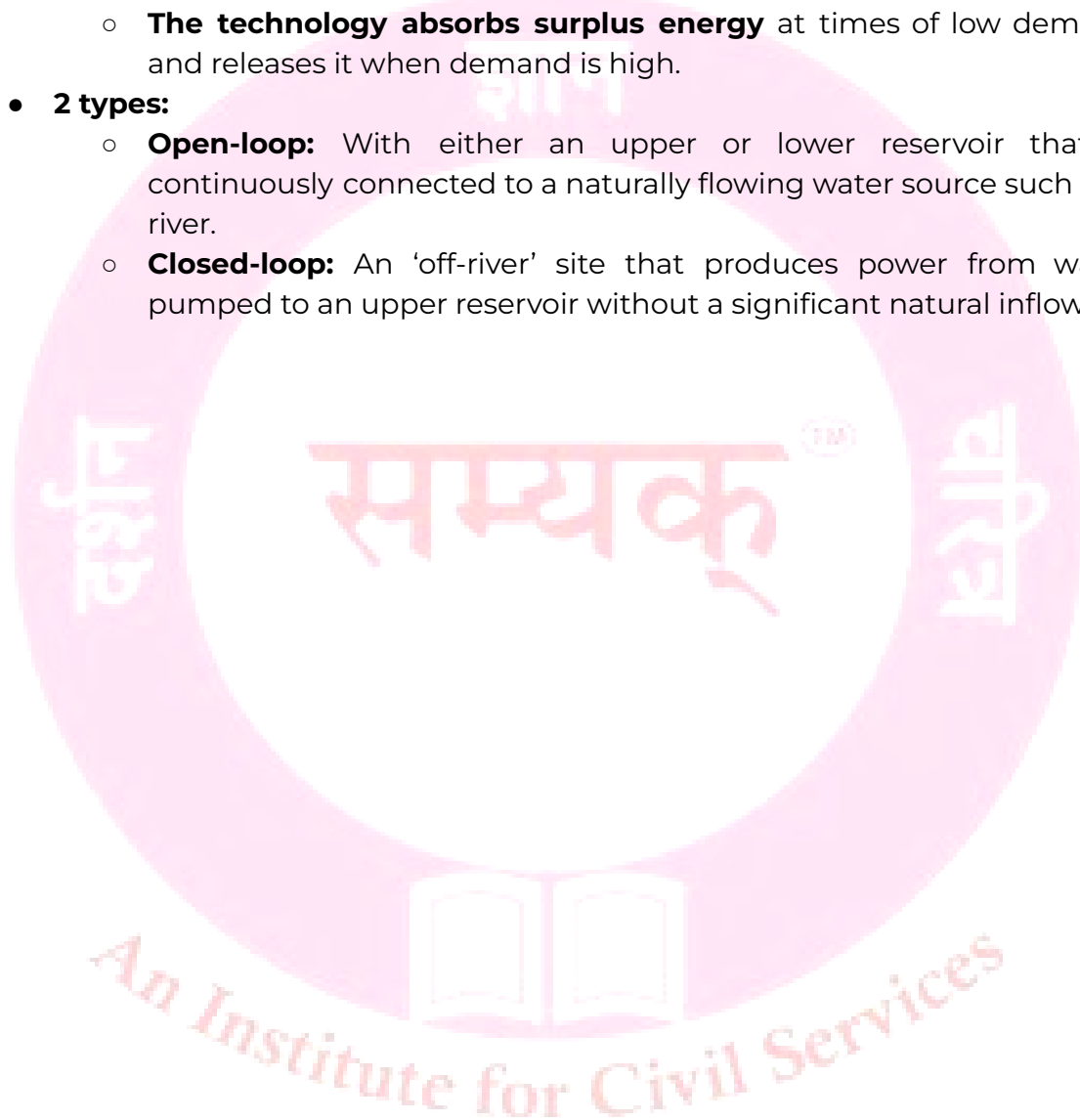
### Pumped Storage Hydropower (PSH)

- **About:** A type of hydroelectric energy storage that consists of two water reservoirs at different elevations.
- **Working:**
  - **When there is excess electricity available,** such as during



off-peak hours or from renewable sources like solar and wind, it is used to pump water from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir.

- **When there is a demand for electricity**, the water is released from the upper reservoir back down to the lower reservoir, passing through turbines that generate electricity.
- **The system also requires power** as it pumps water back into the upper reservoir (recharge).
- **Significance:**
  - **They operate like conventional hydropower plants**, except PSH has the ability to use the same water over and over again.
  - **The technology absorbs surplus energy** at times of low demand and releases it when demand is high.
- **2 types:**
  - **Open-loop:** With either an upper or lower reservoir that is continuously connected to a naturally flowing water source such as a river.
  - **Closed-loop:** An 'off-river' site that produces power from water pumped to an upper reservoir without a significant natural inflow.



## Environment

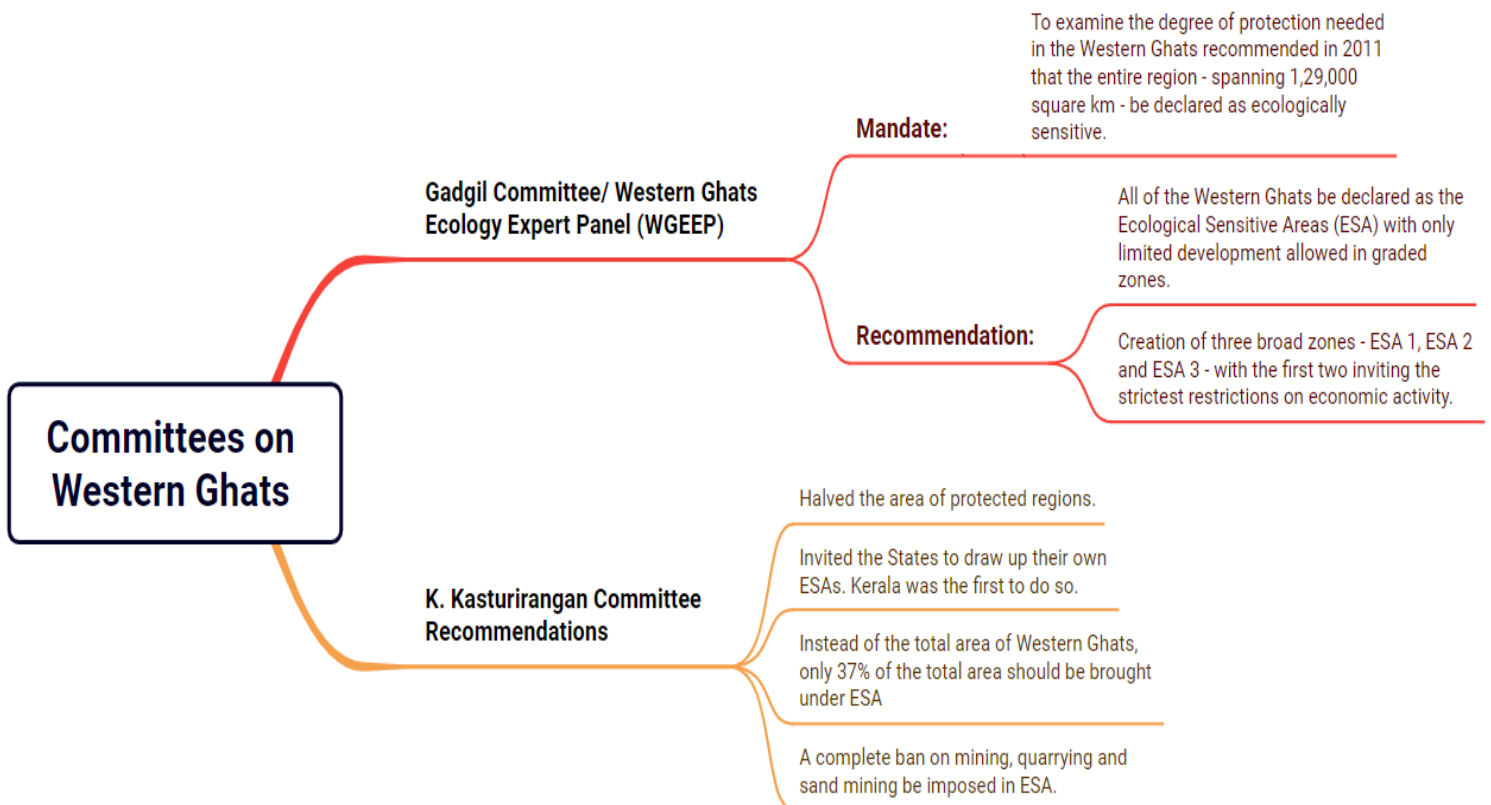
### 8. Centre reissues draft notification on ecosensitive areas in Western Ghats - The Hindu

#### Context

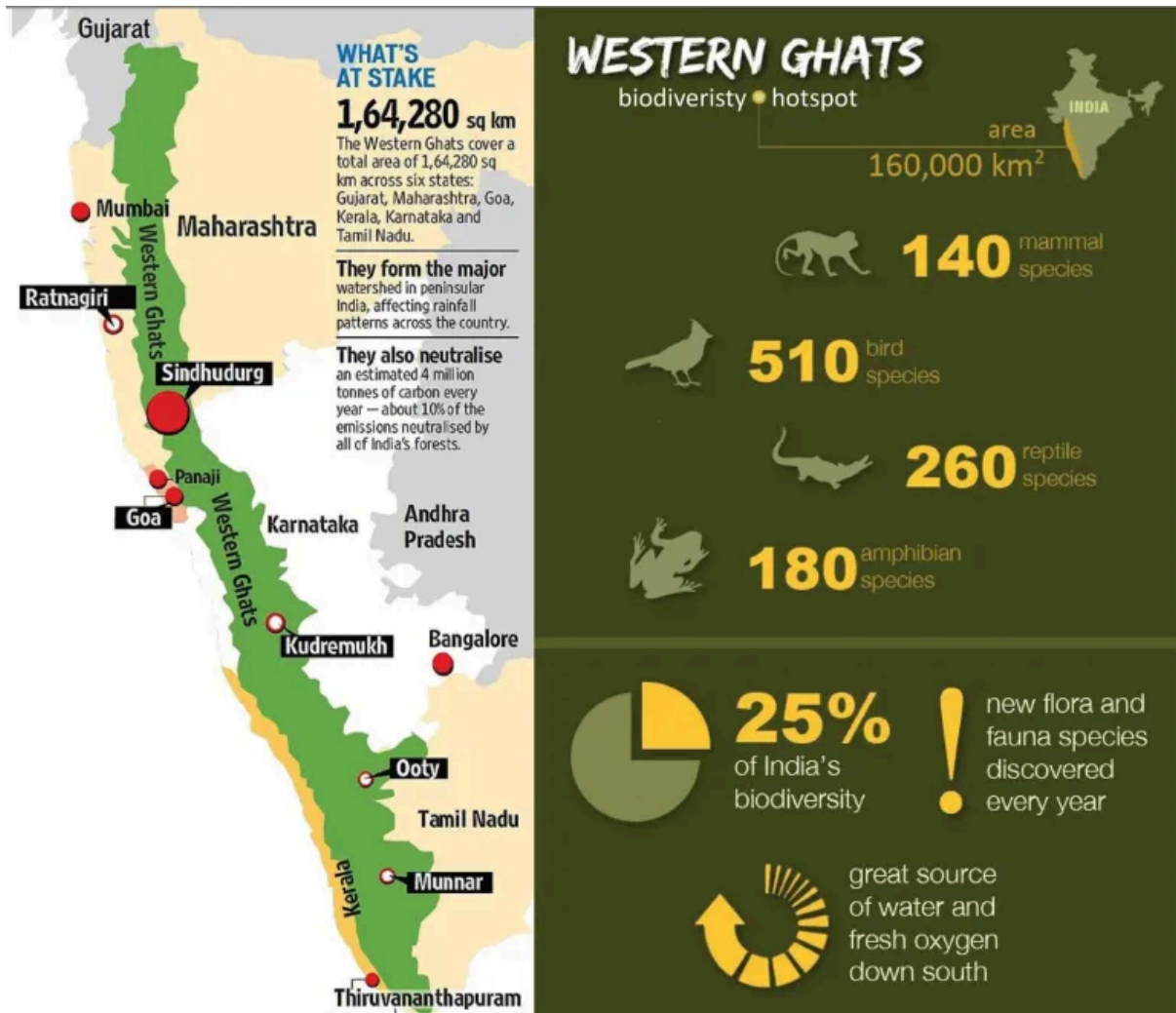
In the aftermath of the devastating landslide in Wayanad in Kerala, the Union government has reissued — for the sixth time in a decade — a draft notification classifying parts of the Western Ghats in six States as ecologically sensitive areas (ESAs).

#### Impact of the designation

- **Imposition of restrictions on economic activities:** Quarrying, mining, and large infrastructure development will be barred in these areas.
- **Will subsume agricultural plantations**
- **Will curtail the State's hydroelectricity plans**
- **May lead to a migration crisis** given the State's high population density.



#### Western Ghats



## Eco-Sensitive Zones

- **Definition as per the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016):** Land within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries is to be notified as eco-fragile zones or Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ).
- **Other designation:** Areas beyond 10-km can also be notified by the Union government as ESZs, if they hold larger ecologically important "sensitive corridors".
- **Creation:** Created as "shock absorbers" for the protected areas, to minimize the negative impact on the "fragile ecosystems" by certain human activities taking place nearby.
- **Activities prohibited:** Commercial mining, saw mills, commercial use of wood, etc., apart from regulated activities like felling of trees.
- **Permitted activities:** Ongoing agricultural or horticultural practices, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, among others.

## 9. Sloth bears - Indian Express

# WHAT IS A SLOTH BEAR?

**Scientific Name:**

*Melursus ursinus*

**Family:**

Ursidae

**Lifespan in the Wild:**

16 years on average

**Length:**

5 to 6 feet

**Weight:**

90 to 140 kgs

**Habitat:**

Grasslands, scrublands, dry and moist tropical forests

**Geographic Range**

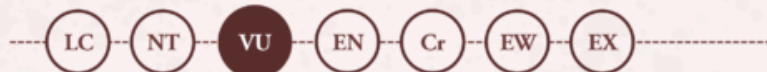
India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and presumably Bhutan



Estimated Sloth bear population in India is

**6,000-10,000**

**IUCN Status**



Vulnerable

**Behaviour:**

Solitary, except during the breeding season

**Diet:**

Insects like ants, beetles, and termites, fruits, and honey

**Threats:**

Human-wildlife conflict, habitat fragmentation, hunting and poaching



**Conservation Measures:**

Protected under CITES Appendix I and Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

## Sci and Tech

### 10. India selects 2 crew members for Axiom-4 mission to ISS - The Hindu

#### Context

Indian astronaut-designates Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair have been shortlisted to go to the U.S. to train for the Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS).













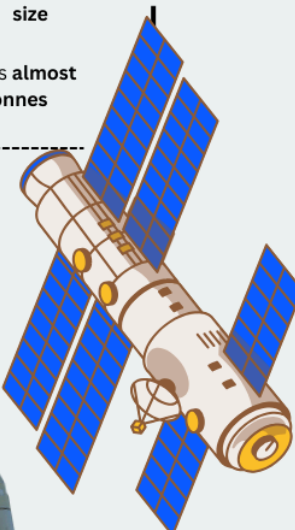


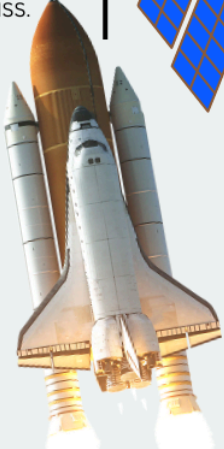
#### Axiom-4 mission (or Ax-4)

- **About:** The fourth private astronaut mission to the International Space Station.
- **Operated by:** Axiom Space and uses a SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft.
- **Stakeholders:** The flight is in collaboration with NASA and will be the fourth flight of Axiom Space after Axiom Mission 1, Axiom Mission 2 and Axiom Mission 3.
- **Scheduled launch:** 2024 - it will continue the company's pioneering efforts to establish a sustainable human presence in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

#### International Space Station (ISS)

### International Space Station

Largest modular space station in low Earth orbit also the largest human made structure in space

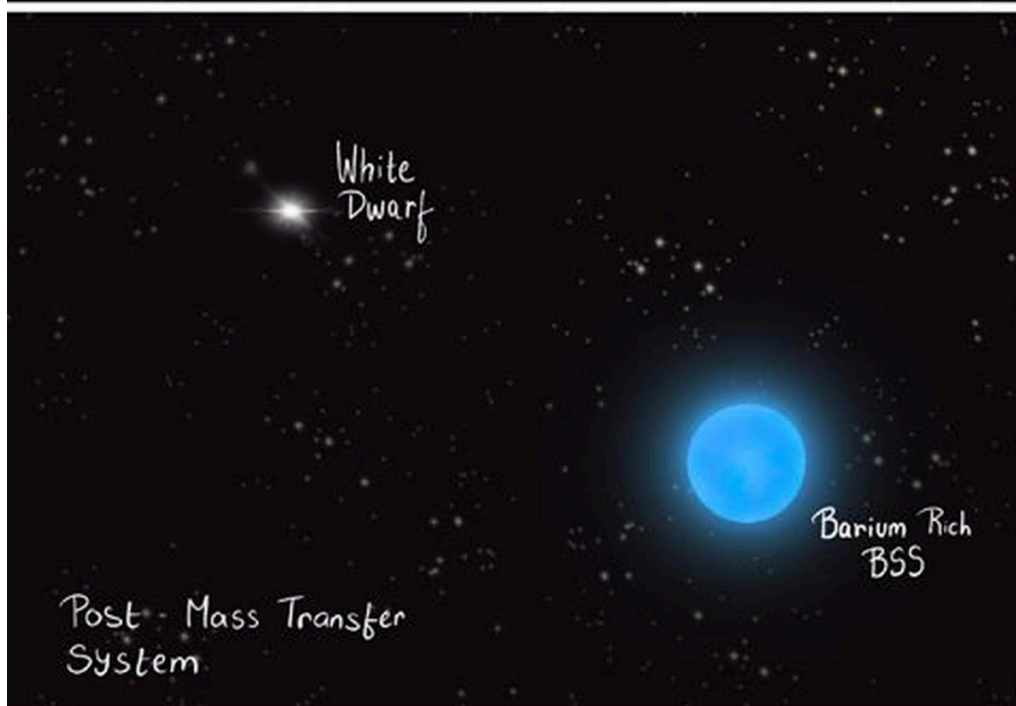
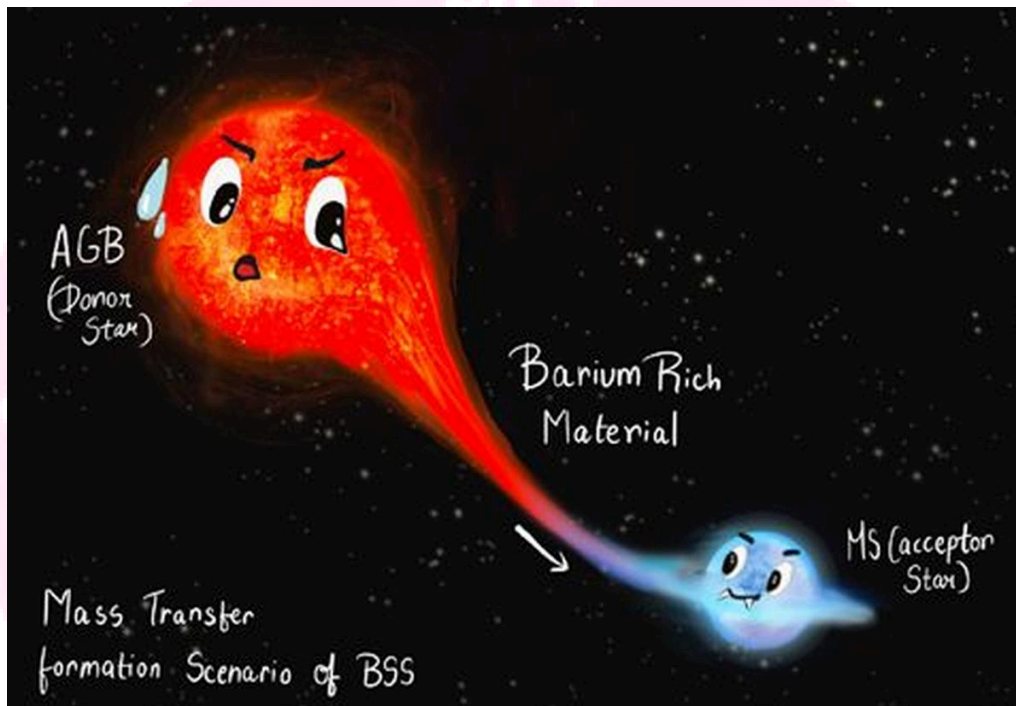
 <b>Launched on</b> 20 November, 1988 from Kazakhstan	 <b>Mission life</b> It is expected to <b>operate till 2030.</b>	 <b>Orbit</b> It orbits LEO of earth at an average <b>altitude of 400 km</b> and <b>circles the globe every 90-93 minutes</b>	 <b>size</b> Weighs almost <b>450 tonnes</b>
 <b>Agencies involved</b>  <b>USA- NASA</b>  <b>EUROPE -ESA</b>  <b>JAPAN - JAXA</b>  <b>CANADA- CSA</b>  <b>RUSSIA- ROSCOSMOS</b>	 <b>Components</b> <b>Station is divided into two sections:</b> The Russian Orbital Segment (ROS), operated by Russia. The United States Orbital Segment (USOS), run by the United States and other countries.	 <b>Significance</b> It serves as a <b>microgravity and space environment research laboratory</b>  More than 3,000 experiments have been conducted aboard ISS.	
 <b>India's mission</b>  India plans <b>to have own space station by 2035</b> which would weigh <b>20 tonnes</b> .  Would orbit an altitude of 400 km above earth, where astronauts could stay for 15-20 days.  NASA and ISRO to launch a joint mission to ISS in 2024.	 <b>Notable success</b> <b>Medical discovery</b> - Advancements in osteoporosis treatments and understanding muscle atrophy.  <b>Dark matter</b> - <b>Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (AMS)</b> , which is intended to detect dark matter		

## 11. AstroSat exposes the mystery of vampire star rejuvenation - PIB

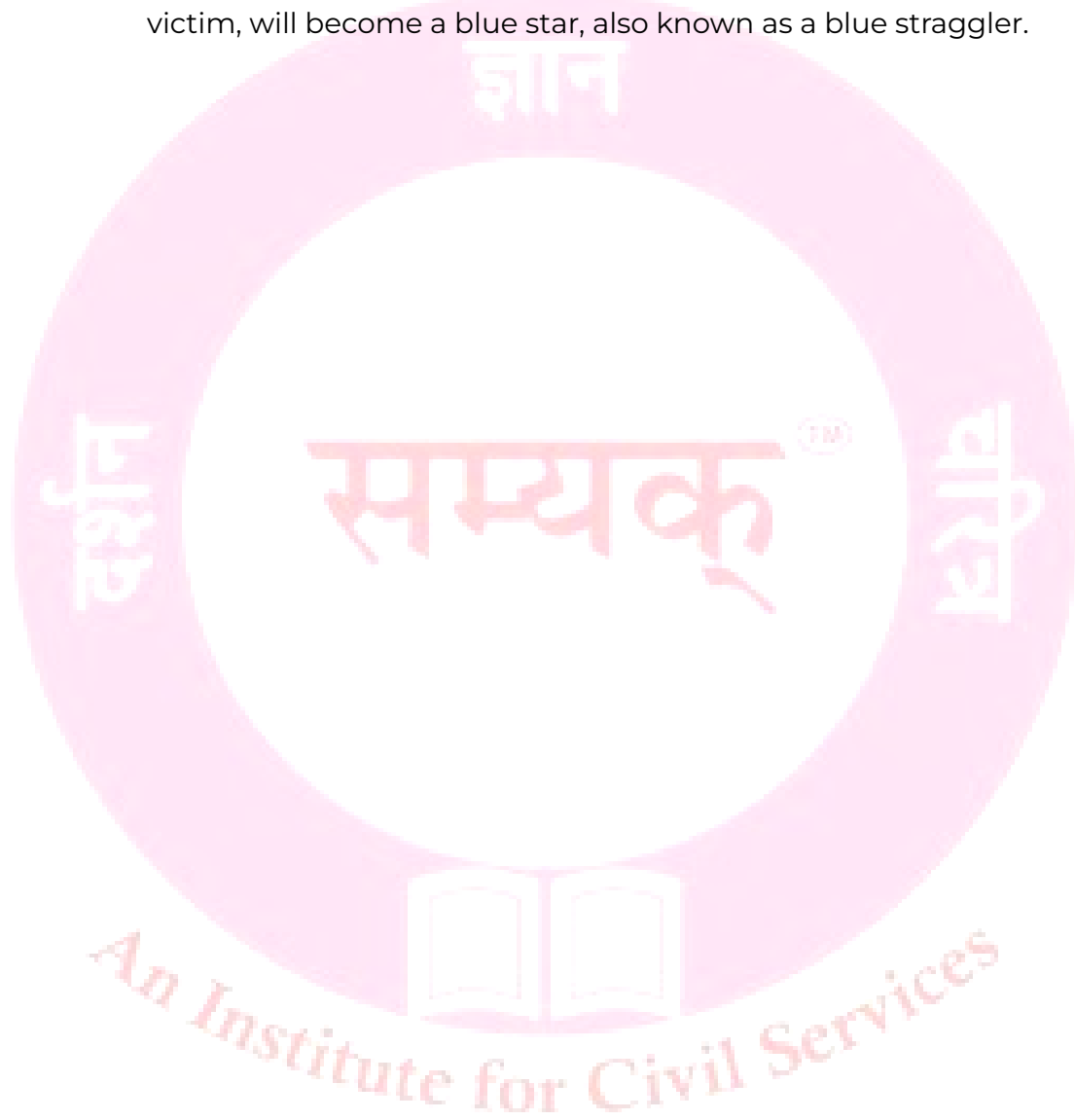
### Context

Researchers have made a groundbreaking discovery of a vampire star in the star cluster M67 located in the constellation Cancer, that has been rejuvenating its youth by sucking up material from a companion. The study provides rare insights into the binary star evolution process and provides an important missing link in the rejuvenation in these stars.

### Vampire Stars/ blue straggler stars (BSS)/ Symbiotic Binaries



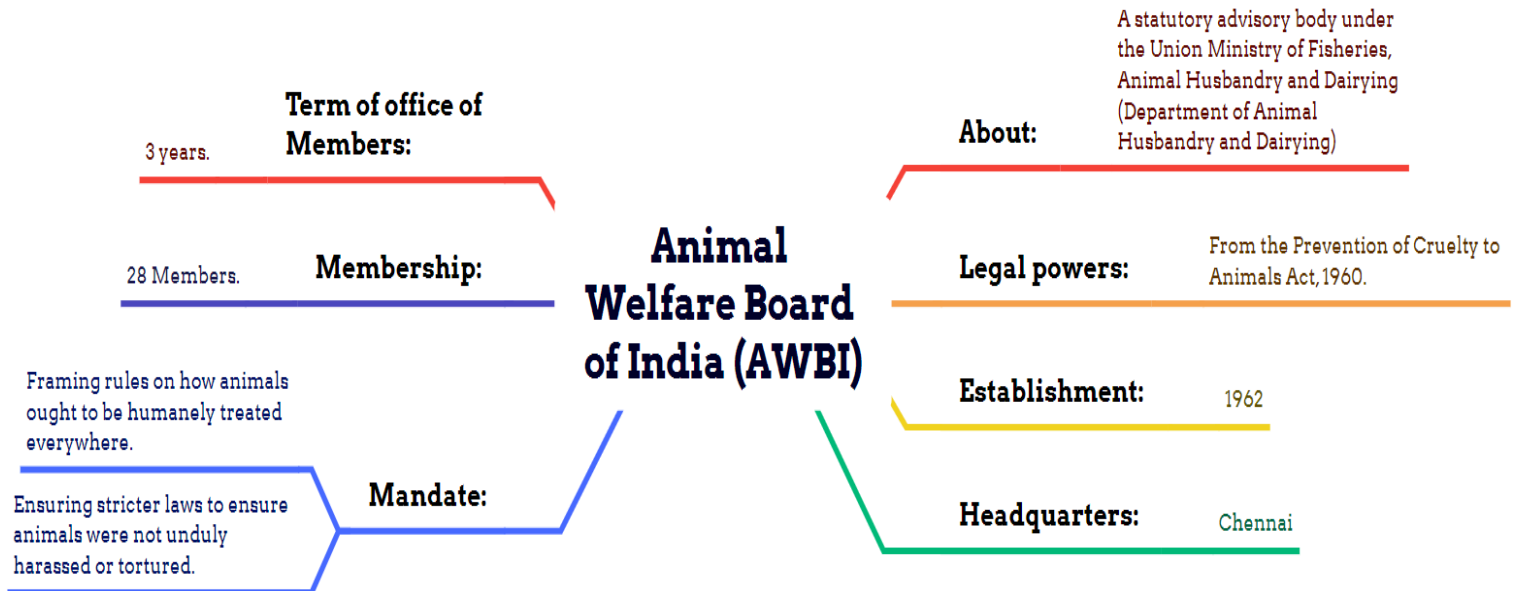
- **About:** These stars, found in clusters, appear younger than their neighbours, defying simple models of stellar evolution.
- **Reasons for being called Symbiotic Binaries:** It is because they are normally in pairs.
- **Evolution:**
  - The Vampire star will start as the smaller star but, nearing the end of the sucking process will inevitably be the larger of the two.
  - The sucking star, when it has consumed a large amount from its victim, will become a blue star, also known as a blue straggler.





## Miscellaneous

### 12. Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) - The Hindu



### 13. BSF DG, deputy repatriated to state cadres with immediate effect - Indian Express

#### **Context**

The Centre recently removed BSF Director General (DG) Nitin Agrawal and his deputy Special DG (West) Y B Khurania, repatriating them to their respective state cadres with immediate effect.

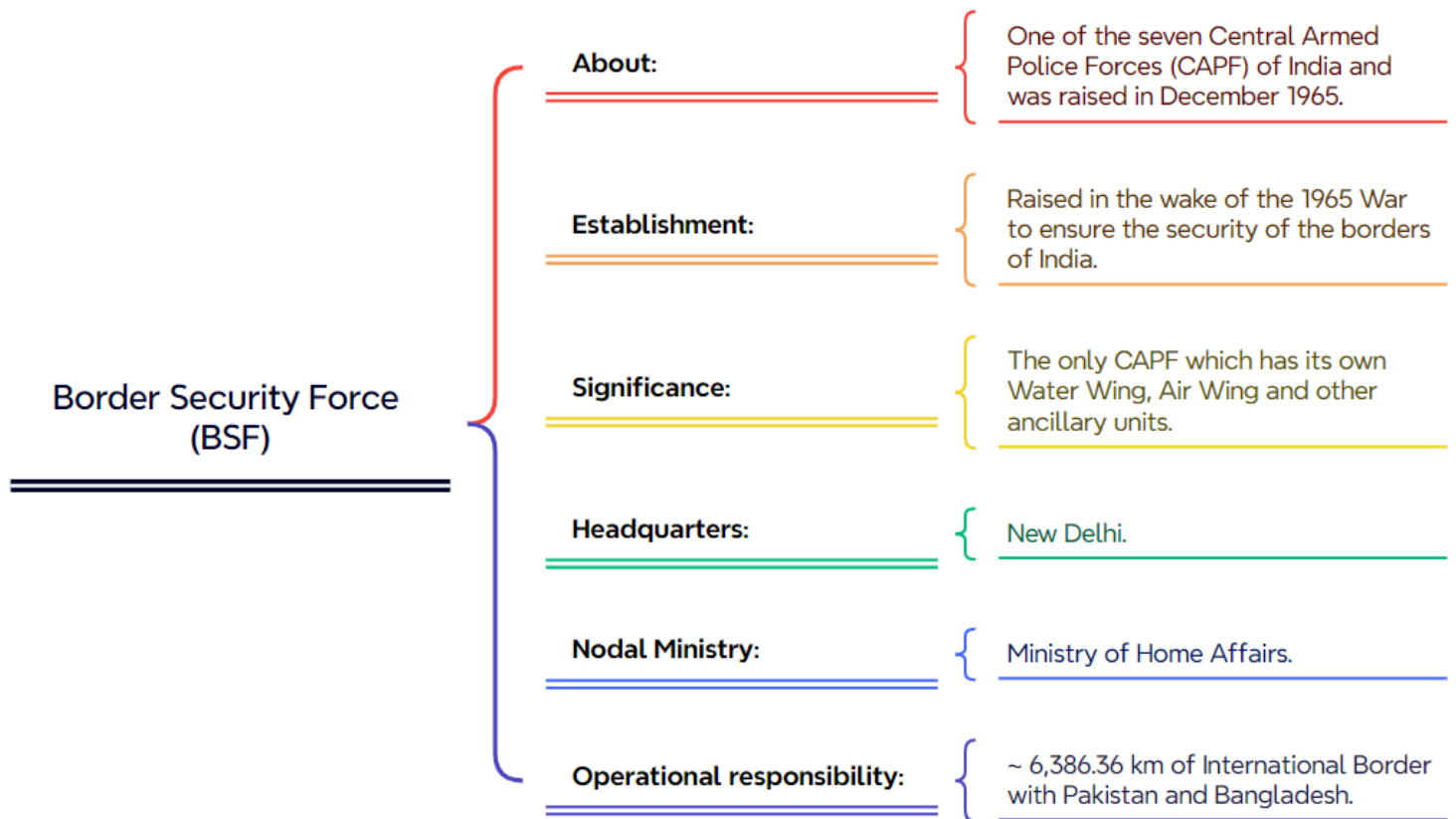
#### **Reasons for removal**

- Constant infiltration from international border
- Complaints against BSF chief over critical matters including alleged lack of coordination among sister agencies
- Lack of command and control within forces
- Infiltration by over 600 Pak Special Service Group commandos

#### **Why it matters**

- First time that heads have been expatriated in terror related cases
- Even in 2019 Pulwama attack, no accountability was fixed

#### **Border Security Force (BSF)**



## 14. Health Ministry asks BCCI, SAI to prevent surrogate tobacco, alcohol ads by sportspersons - The Hindu

### Context

The Health Ministry has asked both the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to bring in measures to prevent surrogate advertisement of tobacco and or alcohol related products by sportspersons.

### Surrogate Advertising/ Brand extension

- **About:** A form of advertisement that duplicates the brand image of one product to promote another product of the same brand.
- **Use:** Brands use surrogate advertising to promote products that cannot be advertised directly due to legal or social restrictions.
- **Surrogate goods:** Companies advertise their products and services by disguising them for some other product under the same brand name.
- **Aim:** To ensure that the customers can recall the original product in the disguise of another advertised product.

## **Rajasthan Current Affairs**

### **1. Tarang Shakti 2024**

- The advanced air exercise 'Tarang Shakti 2024' among 12 countries will be commissioned in India from 6 August to 14 September 2024.
- Apart from India, the air forces of US, France, UK, Australia, Japan, UAE, Hungary, Germany, Spain, South Africa and Bangladesh will participate.
- This exercise will be conducted in two phases.
  - The first phase will be held in Sullur, Tamil Nadu from 6 to 14 August.
  - After this, the second phase will be held in Jodhpur from 29 to 14 September.
- In this exercise, all the countries will share each other's war skills along with training.
- The exercise will include fighter jets, AWACS, mid air refuelers, helicopters and transport aircraft.
- India is hosting this type of exercise for the first time.

### **2. Maheshwari Chauhan**

- Maheshwari Chauhan hails from Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- She is the only female player from Rajasthan to participate in the Paris Olympics 2024.
- Maheshwari is the first woman from the state to participate in the Skeet event.

### **3. An additional pension amount of Rs 1,000 payable on 100% disability in Rajasthan**

- An additional amount of Rs 1,000 will be given along with the prescribed pension to specially abled people with 100% disability by the State Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- In the budget 2024, the state government has announced to give scooties to 2 thousand Divyangjans with a view to providing support to the young Divyangs.
- From April 1, 2024, under the Social Security Pension Scheme, an increased pension is being given by increasing the base rate of Divyangjan Samman Pension yojana by 15% annually.
- At present, specially abled below 75 years of age will be paid a pension of Rs 1,150 per month and specially abled of 75 years and above will be paid a pension of Rs 1,250 per month.