

## States must appoint District Officers under Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013 (PoSH Act): Supreme Court

- SC directions came on a **petition by NGO 'Initiatives for Inclusion Foundation'** and others in 2017 seeking directions for implementation of PoSH Act.
- **Key SC directions**
  - ⊕ Principal Secretaries of Ministry of Women and Child Development of every states/UTs to ensure **appointment of District officer in every district within four weeks** under Section 5 of **PoSH Act**.
    - ◆ Each appointed District Officers would **constitute Local Complaints Committees to receive complaints from women employed in small establishments** with less than 10 workers or cases in which the assailant is the employer himself (section 6 of Act).
    - ◆ **Chairperson and every Member of Local Committee** shall **hold office for such period, not exceeding three years, from date of their appointment** as may be specified by District Officer.
  - ⊕ Identify a **'nodal person' within Department** to oversee implementation of PoSH Act and **coordinate with Centre**.
  - ⊕ Each State/UT Government is to **submit a consolidated report of its compliance with the directions to Centre within eight weeks**.
    - ◆ Centre to consolidate reports, identify/remedy lapses in compliance by State, before filing a consolidated affidavit of compliance within 12 weeks.

### PoSH Act 2013

- It was enacted for making **workplaces safer for women by preventing, prohibiting and redressing acts of sexual harassment** against them in workplace.
- It is based on **Vishakha guidelines** laid down by SC in 1997.

## Archaeologist discovers inscription announcing the death of King Kulashékara Alupendra I at Someshwara (Karnataka)

- It was the **first record of the Alupa Dyansty** that announced the death of a king.
  - ⊕ The inscription is significant in the **study of Tuluva history** and culture.
- **Alupa Dyansty** were one of the **longest reigning dynasties of Tulu Nadu** (in Karnataka).
  - ⊕ Barkur was the capital city of the royal family.
  - ⊕ The Alupas had shifted their capital to **Barkur from Udyavara**.
  - ⊕ Tulu has a **rich oral literature tradition** with **folk-song forms** like paddana, and traditional folk theatre yakshagana.
  - ⊕ The **Halmidi Inscription (Hassan, Karnataka)** mentions about a **grant recommended by King Pashupati** of Alupa and the **Chief Commander of Kadamba forces**.
- **About Kulashékara Alupendra I**
  - ⊕ He **ruled Tulunadu** from 1156-1215 A.D.
  - ⊕ He established new city **Kulashékara** in Mangaluru.
  - ⊕ He laid down **strict rules and regulations for temple administration**, which are still followed in all temples in this region.
  - ⊕ He was **first ruler to give royal patronage to Tulu language** and culture.
  - ⊕ In inscriptions, Alupa emperor was described as **"Lokantamanta"**, meaning **'famous in the universe'** in Tulu.
  - ⊕ **Someshwara temple** was built during his time in honour of Soma and adorned with Nava Durgas.
    - ◆ Soma cult was founded by one Soma Sharma of Gujarat in the 11<sup>th</sup> century AD and it spread across the country.



## Human Reproduction Programme (HRP) calls for self-care interventions for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) to advance universal health coverage

- » Self-care is the **ability of individuals, families and communities to protect their own health**, prevent disease, and **maintain health and cope with illness and disability** with or without the support of a health worker.
  - ⊕ Self-care interventions are **evidence-based, quality tools that support self-care**.
  - ⊕ These include medicines, diagnostics, digital technologies that can be **accessed fully or partially outside of formal health-care facilities**.
- » **Need for intervention in SRHR**
  - ⊕ **164 million** women of reproductive age worldwide have unmet need for contraception.
  - ⊕ **Everyday 800 women die from preventable causes** related to pregnancy and childbirth.
  - ⊕ **Health worker shortages** are estimated to reach **10 million by 2030**.
- » **Suggestions to promote self-care interventions for SRHR**
  - ⊕ **Diversify financing** to ensure universal coverage of self-care interventions.
  - ⊕ Build a **competent, accessible health and care workforce** for providing trust, expanded access.
  - ⊕ Policy and legal frameworks to facilitate **regulated, quality self-care interventions**.
  - ⊕ Forge **multi-sectoral partnerships** involving international and national NGOs, civil society, etc.
- » **Steps taken for SRHR:** LaQshya (Labour room Quality Improvement Initiative); Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK); Draft Menstrual Hygiene Policy 2023 etc.

### Human Reproduction Programme (HQ: Geneva, Switzerland)

- » HRP (established in 1972) is a UNDP- UNFPA-UNICEF-WHO- World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction.
- » It is main instrument within UN system for research in human reproduction etc. **to identify and address priorities for research to improve SRH**.

## Global Maritime India Summit 2023 concluded

- » The summit was **organised by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways along with Indian Ports Association and FICCI**.
  - ⊕ India has secured over 10 lakh crore investments during the summit for its maritime sector.
- » **India's Maritime sector:**
  - ⊕ **Overall:** About **95% of the country's trade volume** and **70% of trade value** are undertaken through maritime transport.
  - ⊕ Estimated Size of the **Blue Economy** in India: **about 4% of GDP**.
  - ⊕ India has **12 major and 200 non-major ports**.
  - ⊕ **India's top export destinations:** US, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, China, Germany.
  - ⊕ **Key commodities:** Petroleum products, coal, automobile, iron ore, etc.
  - ⊕ **2 Indian Ports in Global top 40 Ports** (Mundra & JNPA).
- » **Challenges in the Maritime sector:**
  - ⊕ **Inadequate infrastructure:** Shallow ports, subdued capacity utilisation at ports.
  - ⊕ **Poor connectivity:** The lack of expressway connectivity between major ports and hinterland, impacting ports' turnaround times and India's trade competitiveness.
  - ⊕ **Regulatory hurdles:** Several export-import (EXIM) processes are not digitized, impacting efficiency of logistics.
- » **Initiatives taken:**
  - ⊕ **Sagarmala Program** - Port led development for robust economic growth.
  - ⊕ **Revised Model Concession Agreement** - Making sector attractive for PPP.
  - ⊕ Major Port Authorities Act, 2021.
  - ⊕ Marine Aids to Navigation Act, 2021.

## Frequent Earthquakes in Afghanistan

- » Recently, an Earthquake of 6.3 magnitude followed by 5.4 tremors hit northwest of Afghanistan's Herat city.
- » **Reasons for Frequent Earthquakes**
  - ⊕ Afghanistan is **located on the Eurasian plate**.
  - ⊕ In southern Afghanistan, the **Arabian and Indian plates adjoin and both subduct** under Eurasian plate.
- » **Types of Seismic Waves**
  - ⊕ **Body waves:** They are of 2 types and they **travel through the earth's interior**.
    - ◆ **P or primary waves:** Compressional waves that do not produce much damage. It can **pass through the Earth's core**.
    - ◆ **S or secondary waves:** Shear waves that deform the ground perpendicular to their direction of travel.
      - » They are **unable to pass through air and liquids** such as water and magma.
      - » Thus **cannot pass through Earth's core**.
  - ⊕ **Surface waves:** They are also of 2 types and they **move along the surface of the Earth**
    - ◆ **Rayleigh waves** produce a long rolling motion along the earth's surface much like the motion in a boat on the open sea.
    - ◆ **Love waves** have horizontal motion that is perpendicular to the direction the wave is traveling.
- » During an earthquake, first wave to arrive would be a **P-wave (the fastest)**, then the **S-wave**, and finally, the **Love and Rayleigh (the slowest) waves**.

## Supreme Court issues contempt notice to National Company Law Appellate Tribunal members for disobeying orders

- SC issued **show cause notices** to **two members** of NCLAT for **not initiating contempt proceedings** against them for allegedly defying its directions in a dispute relating to Finolux Cables.
- Contempt of court (CoC) seeks to **protect judicial institutions from motivated attacks and unwarranted criticism**, and as a legal mechanism to punish those who lower its authority.
  - ⊕ CoC is one of the **"reasonable restrictions" listed under Article 19(2)**, on the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression.
  - ⊕ **Article 129** conferred on **Supreme Court** the **power to punish contempt of itself**, and **Article 215** conferred same on **High Courts**.
- **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971** gives it statutory backing.
  - ⊕ Act classifies it as **Civil contempt** (wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court) and **Criminal contempt** (publication by words, signs, or otherwise of any matter which lowers any court authority).
  - ⊕ Punishment for CoC is **simple imprisonment for a term up to six months** and/or a **fine of up to Rs.2,000**.
- **Issues with Tribunal**
  - ⊕ **Non- uniformity** with respect to **matter of qualifications, appointments** etc.
  - ⊕ **High pendency rate**.
  - ⊕ **Inadequate judicial infrastructure**.



### Show cause notices

- It is a **formal document issued by court**, competent authorities etc. when a **person/company is held responsible for misconduct**.
- **Purpose:** To give employee / person an **opportunity to defend themselves and provide evidence or explanations** before any disciplinary action is taken.

## Also in News



### Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)

- Supreme Court held that **DTAA cannot be given effect unless notified under the Income Tax Act**.
  - ⊕ **Section 90** of Income Tax Act **prescribes tax relief under the DTAA**.
- DTAA is a **tax treaty signed between two or more countries**.
  - ⊕ Its objective is that tax-payers in these countries can **avoid being taxed twice** for the same income.
  - ⊕ It applies in cases where a **tax-payer resides in one country and earns income in another**.



### Traditional attar production

- **Kannauj** is known for its **traditional attar production**, with a rich heritage dating back centuries.
  - ⊕ **Attar** is a fragrant liquid made from flower and herb extracts.
- Kannauj is a significant hub for the fragrance and flavor industry in India, contributing to the country's exports. Hence, it is known as **Perfume city**.
  - ⊕ **India is the world's largest exporter of attar**.
  - ⊕ **Kannauj Perfume has also received GI Tag**.



### "Chakra-II" operation

- CBI recently searched many locations under **"Chakra-II" operation**.
  - ⊕ It is aimed at **combating and dismantling infrastructure of organized cyber-enabled financial crimes** in India.
  - ⊕ CBI conducted it **jointly with national and international agencies and private sector giants**.
- **Chakra-1** was conducted by the **CBI in coordination with the Interpol, the FBI and police forces of multiple countries**.



### Little Ice Age (LIA)

- Recent study showed the record of moist conditions during LIA from Western Ghats, India.
- LIC was **one of the coldest periods of the past 10,000 years**, a period of cooling that was particularly **pronounced in North Atlantic region**.
  - ⊕ It is attributed as a **period between 16th and 19th centuries**.
  - ⊕ This cold spell was said to be responsible for **crop failures, famines and pandemics** throughout Europe, resulting in misery and death for millions.
- LIA is attributed to a **combination of cooling from volcanic aerosols and low solar activity** producing lower surface temperatures.





### Niemann-Pick Disease

- Parents of patients suffering from the **Niemann-Pick disease** have urged the government to list it as a **rare disease**.
  - This would enable patients to receive financial support from the government.
- Niemann-Pick Disease**
  - It refers to a group of **inherited metabolic disorders** in which **abnormal amounts of lipids (oils, cholesterol, etc) build up in the brain, spleen, liver, lungs and bone marrow**.
- Symptoms:** Enlarged liver and spleen, difficulty in coordinating movement, frequent respiratory infections, slurred speech among others.



### Thallium

- Thallium is a **soft, heavy and inelastic metal**. It is **tasteless and odorless**. It is **found in trace amounts** in the earth's crust.
  - Appearance:** Bluish-white metal that turns **gray on exposure to air**.
  - It **does not dissolve in water**.
- It is used to make certain **medical agents and electronics**; used in **rodent killers and hair removal products**.
  - Diagnosis of thallium poisoning may be difficult**, because it is **often unsuspected**.
- Side Effects of its consumption:** Nausea and vomiting followed by failure of multiple body organs, brain injury, and death.



### Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (FIST) Programme

- Researchers in Alappuzha have developed a hybrid electrode-based flexible symmetric supercapacitor.
  - This research was **provided by Department of Science and Technology (DST) through FIST programme**.
  - Supercapacitors** are electronic devices which are **used to store extremely large amounts of electrical charge**.
- FIST (by DST) is intended to provide basic infrastructure and enabling facilities for promoting R&D activities in new and emerging areas and attracting **fresh talents in universities & other educational institutions**.
  - Duration of support** for each FIST Project will be for a **period of 5 years**.



### Kati Bihu

- Assam is celebrating the auspicious **harvest festival of Kati Bihu (aka Kongali Bihu)**.
- Kati means to cut** and this marks the **relocation time of rice saplings**.
  - It typically **falls in mid-October**. In 2023, it is being **celebrated on October 18**.
  - People **worship the Goddess Lakshmi and Tulsi plant for a good harvest**.
  - People illuminate a **special lamp called Akash Banti or Sky Candle** in their paddy fields. These lamps, **fueled by mustard oil, are positioned atop bamboo poles**.



## Places in News



### Australia (Capital: Canberra)

Recently, Australians **rejected creating an Indigenous Voice** in the final referendum voting.

- Political Boundaries**
  - It is the **smallest continent** and **one of the largest countries on Earth** lying between the **Pacific and Indian oceans** in the **Southern Hemisphere**.
- Geographical features:**
  - Highest point:** Mount Kosciuszko
  - Lowest point:** Lake Eyre, also called Kati Thanda.
  - A **chain of highlands**, known as the **Great Dividing Range** runs from inland to coast.
  - Longest river:** Murray River



AHMEDABAD



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI



SIKAR