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Daily News Analysis

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1. MISHTI Scheme

- Prelims - MISHTI Scheme
- Mains - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- Over the past two years, the Union government has undertaken restoration and conservation of approximately 22,560 hectares of mangrove land under the MISHTI programme.

Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) scheme

- **Aim:** It is a government-led initiative aimed at increasing the mangrove cover along the coastline and on salt pan lands.
- **Launch:**
 - “MISHTI” comes after India joined the ‘Mangrove Alliance for Climate’ launched during the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the UNFCCC held in Egypt in November 2022.
 - It was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change on the occasion of World Environment Day, on 5th June 2023.
- **Focus Areas:** The scheme is primarily focused on the Sundarbans delta, Hooghly Estuary in West Bengal, India, and other bay parts of the country, but also includes other wetlands in the country.
- **Features**
 - Under the MISHTI scheme, the government is providing financial assistance to local communities to undertake mangrove plantation activities.
 - The scheme also involves awareness campaigns to educate people about the importance of mangroves and their role in protecting the environment.
 - The plantation activities are carried out in a participatory manner, involving local communities and NGOs, to ensure sustainability and community ownership of the initiative.
 - It leverages the strengths and provisions of different government schemes and initiatives such as the MGNREGS, the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) Fund and other relevant sources.



2. Kittur Rani Chennamma

- **Prelims** - Kittur Rani Chennamma
- **Mains** - GS 1 - Modern History

Why in the news?

- Birth anniversary of Rani chennamma was celebrated on 23d October.

Kittur Rani Channamma (1778 - 1829)

- **Birth**: Belagavi district of Karnataka.
- **Marriage**: She became queen of Kitturu (now in Karnataka) when she married Raja Mallasarja of the Desai family.
- **Way to Conflict**
 - After Mallasarja died in 1816, his eldest son, Shivalingarudra Sarja, ascended the throne.
 - Before he died in 1824, Shivalingarudra adopted a child, Shivalingappa, as the successor.
 - However, the British East India Company refused to recognise Shivalingappa as the kingdom's successor under the 'doctrine of lapse'.
- **Kittur Rebellion**
 - John Thackeray, the British official at Dharwad, launched an attack on Kittur in October 1824.
 - In this first battle British forces lost heavily and the Kitturu forces killed the Collector and political agent, St. John Thackeray.
 - Two British officers, Sir Walter Elliot and Mr. Stevenson, were also taken as hostages.
 - However, the British army again attacked the Kittur Fort and captured it.
 - Rani Chennamma and her family were imprisoned and jailed at the fort in Bailhongal, where she died in 1829.



3. PM- Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM - ABHIM)

- **Prelims** -PM- Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM - ABHIM)
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Social Justice

Why in the news?

- The Pradhan Mantri–Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) was highlighted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for its significant progress in building pandemic-ready healthcare infrastructure across India.

PM- Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM - ABHIM)

- **Launched**: 2021
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- **Nature**: Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
- **Aim**: To strengthen public health infrastructure across urban and rural India and prepare for future pandemics and health emergencies.
- **Objectives**
 - Develop robust health systems for surveillance, diagnosis, and treatment.
 - Strengthen primary, secondary, and tertiary care infrastructure.
 - Build integrated public health laboratories at all levels.
 - Create an IT-enabled disease surveillance network under the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).
 - Ensure India's self-reliance in health preparedness under the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.
- **Key Components**
 - **National Health Institutions**
 - ★ Establish National Institute for One Health (NIOH).
 - ★ Four new Regional NIVs and 15 BSL-III labs.
 - ★ Strengthen National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).
 - **Surveillance & Digital Systems**
 - ★ Expand Integrated Health Information Portal (IHIP) to all districts.
 - ★ Create 5 regional research platforms for epidemic preparedness.



→ Infrastructure Development

- ★ 17,788 Rural and 11,024 Urban Health & Wellness Centres.
- ★ Critical Care Blocks in all districts (50–100 beds each).
- ★ District Integrated Public Health Labs in 730+ districts.

→ Capacity Building

- ★ Training for epidemiologists, virologists, and public health managers.
- ★ Promotion of AI-based surveillance and digital health tools.



4. Maha MedTech Mission

- **Prelims** - Maha MedTech Mission
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Governance

Why in the news?

- The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has launched the MAHA-MedTech Mission.

Maha MedTech Mission

- **What is it?:** The Maha MedTech Mission is a flagship initiative launched by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate indigenous innovation and development in India's medical technology sector.
- **Objectives:**
 - Foster innovation, reduce import reliance, and deliver affordable, high-quality healthcare technologies across India.
 - Fund transformative projects in medical technology (devices, diagnostics, implants, assistive and surgical devices, consumables, software-based solutions, including AI/ML platforms and robotics), especially those aligned with national health priorities such as tuberculosis, cancer, neonatal and primary care.
- **Key Features:**
 - Funding support ranges from ₹5 crore to ₹25 crore per project, reaching up to ₹50 crore for exceptional proposals.
 - Eligible entities: Academic and R&D institutions, hospitals, startups, MSMEs, industry players, and consortiums combining these entities.
 - The mission aims to support around 50 projects over five years with a total outlay of approximately ₹750 crore.
- **Application Process:**
 - Two-stage process: Concept notes accepted from 15 September to 7 November 2025 via the ANRF portal.



→ shortlisted proposals to be submitted in December 2025 for full evaluation.

- **Enabling Ecosystem:**

→ **Patent Mitra:** For IP protection and technology transfer.

→ **MedTech Mitra:** Regulatory guidance and clearances.

→ **A Clinical Trial Network:** For clinical validation and evidence generation.

→ Mentorship from industry experts.



5. Western Ghats and Conservation Concerns Over the Western Ghats

- **Prelims** - Western Ghats and Conservation Concerns Over the Western Ghats
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in its recent World Heritage Outlook, 2025 report, classified the Western Ghats as being of “significant concern” due to escalating threats.

Western Ghats

- **Location**
 - Stretches ~1,600 km along India’s western coast, from Tapti River (Gujarat–Maharashtra border) to Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu).
 - Passes through six states: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
- **Ecological Significance**
 - It is one of biodiversity hotspot in India.
 - It is known for shola forest and known for species like Nilgiri langur, Lion Tailed Macacu.
- **Conservation Concerns Over the Western Ghats**
 - **Developmental Pressure**
 - ★ Hydropower projects: e.g., ₹5,843 crore Sillahalla Pumped Storage Project (Nilgiris).
 - ★ Large-scale dams, mines, and roads fragment habitats and alter river ecology.
 - **Deforestation & Habitat Loss**
 - ★ Expansion of plantations (tea, coffee, rubber, eucalyptus, acacia) replacing native forests.
 - ★ Encroachment for agriculture and real estate development.
 - **Climate Change**
 - ★ Altered rainfall patterns, increasing temperature, and species migration to higher altitudes.



- ★ Example: Nilgiri flycatcher and black-and-orange flycatcher shifting ranges.

→ Tourism & Waste

- ★ Unregulated eco-tourism leading to solid-waste accumulation, forest degradation, and wildlife disturbance.
- ★ Garbage often consumed by animals like elephants — increasing human–wildlife conflict.

→ Invasive Alien Species

- ★ Spread of eucalyptus, acacia, and lantana has replaced native vegetation.
- ★ Affects soil moisture and biodiversity composition.

→ Infrastructure & Fragmentation

- ★ Roads and railways among the top five emerging threats (as per IUCN Outlook-4, 2025).
- ★ Fragmentation leads to loss of connectivity for migratory and large mammals.

→ Mining & Quarrying

- ★ Illegal and unregulated iron-ore and bauxite mining causing pollution, landslides, and river siltation.

● Conservation Efforts

- **Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP)** – Gadgil Committee (2011): Recommended declaring 64% of the region as Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA).
- **Kasturirangan Committee (2013)**: Reduced ESA to 37%, balancing development and conservation.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Site (2012)**: 39 serial sites recognized for Outstanding Universal Value.
- **IUCN World Heritage Outlook-4 (2025)**: Rated as of “Significant Concern” due to rising pressures.
- National Biodiversity Mission, Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs), and LiFE Mission support conservation.



6. Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls

- **Prelims** - Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Polity

Why in the news?

- The Election Commission of India has announced the second phase of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls across 12 States and Union Territories, beginning on October 28, 2025.

Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls

- **What is it?:** SIR is a comprehensive, time-bound house-to-house enumeration of voters, aimed at a fresh revision of electoral rolls rather than only incremental updates.
- **Legal Basis:**
 - Constitution of India, Article 324 empowers the Election Commission of India (ECI) with superintendence, direction and control of electoral roll preparation.
 - Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RP Act), Section 21(3), allows special revision of electoral rolls “at any time for reasons to be recorded”.
- **Rationale behind the Exercise:**
 - Significant demographic changes (urbanisation, migration, internal shift of populations) since the last major intensive revision; many voters may be missing or duplicated.
 - Ensuring only eligible citizens register as electors, and maintaining integrity of the electoral roll (avoiding non-citizens, duplicates, bogus entries) in line with the constitutional mandate of universal adult suffrage (Art. 326) and citizen-only criterion (RP Act S.16).
 - Preparation for upcoming major elections: states going to polls need accurate rolls. For example, SIR began in Bihar ahead of its 2025 Legislative Assembly elections.
- **Process of SIR:**
 - BLOs (Booth Level Officers) conduct house-to-house verification.
 - All eligible citizens are enumerated, and existing voters may be asked to submit fresh documentation, including proof of citizenship, date, and place of birth.
 - Electors not matching previous intensive revision rolls are issued notices and must submit documents to establish eligibility.



- A hybrid approach uses both intensive (door-to-door) and summary (form-based updation) features in the ongoing exercise.
- Data collection includes deletions (dead, shifted, duplicate, non-citizen) and additions (new 18-year-olds, migrating voters, omitted electors).
- **Significance:**
 - Ensures integrity and accuracy of the voter register, a foundational element of free and fair elections.
 - Addresses demographic shifts, internal migration, urban-rural changes, ensuring electoral inclusion of new voters and removal of ineligible entries.
 - Strengthens the exercise of universal adult suffrage by ensuring that only eligible citizens vote and that eligible citizens are not omitted.
 - Contributes to democratic legitimacy, credibility of electoral outcomes and trust in electoral processes.
- **Challenges and Criticisms:**
 - **Risk of disenfranchisement:** Critics argue that stringent document requirements or short timelines may exclude large numbers of eligible voters (e.g., poor, migrants, minorities).
 - **Transparency & fairness:** The need for clear reason for deletions; the judiciary asked ECI to focus on “inclusion, not exclusion”.
 - **Operational difficulties:** House-to-house enumeration is resource-intensive, and large scale across multiple states is logistically challenging.
 - **Political concerns:** Perceived as favouring certain parties if timing aligns with elections and concerns over bias in execution.
 - **Legal compliance & timelines:** Ensuring proper notice, hearing, due process in deletions- court has flagged issues.
- **Way Forward:**
 - Use technology and digital platforms (e.g., online enumeration forms) to reach migrant or absent voters.
 - Ensure robust grievance redressal mechanisms and transparency of deletions/additions lists along with public awareness generation.
 - Standardise enumeration forms and processes across states. to maintain uniformity.
 - Safeguard inclusion: ensure that document requirements do not unfairly burden vulnerable electors; accept widely-held identity proofs (EPIC, Aadhaar, ration card) as directed by the Supreme Court.