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Daily News Analysis

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1. Sir Creek

- **Prelims** - Sir Creek
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- Sir Creek witness aggression by Pakistan forces by military build up.

Sir Creek

- **Location**: Sir Creek is a 96-km long, tidal estuary situated in the marshlands of the Rann of Kutch, between Gujarat (India) and Sindh (Pakistan).
- **Strategic Importance**
 - **Maritime Boundary**: The land boundary here determines the maritime Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Arabian Sea.
 - **Natural Resources**:
 - ★ Rich fishing grounds (prawns, fish species).
 - ★ Potential hydrocarbon deposits in adjoining offshore areas.
 - **Security Concerns**: Area prone to smuggling, infiltration, and piracy.
 - **Naval Strategy**: Determines sea lanes and EEZ control in northern Arabian Sea.
- **Core Issues**
 - **India's Stand**: Boundary should run through the mid-channel of Sir Creek (thalweg principle).
 - **Pakistan's Stand**: Boundary lies along the eastern bank of the creek (based on 1914 & 1925 maps/resolutions).
- **Attempts at Resolution**
 - **1965 Rann of Kutch Tribunal**: Settled some boundary disputes, but not Sir Creek.
 - **Joint Survey (2007)**: India & Pakistan agreed on hydrographic survey but failed to agree on interpretation.
 - Sir Creek featured in Composite Dialogue Process (1998 onwards).
 - Post-2008 Mumbai attacks, talks stalled; revived occasionally but with little progress.

2. Scarborough Shoal

- Prelims -Scarborough Shoal
- Mains - GS 2 - International Relations

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Scarborough Shoal

Why in the news?

- China's coast guard raised its flag at disputed Scarborough Shoal on National Day, shortly after declaring it a nature reserve.

Scarborough Shoal

- What is it?:** The Scarborough Shoal is an oceanic coral atoll that developed on top of a seamount into a triangle shape in the eastern part of the South China Sea.
- Fact:** It is the largest atoll in the South China Sea.
- Significance:** The deep waters around the shoal make it a productive fishing area, rich in marine life.
- Dispute:** Dispute between the China and the Philippines.

China and Taiwan Malaysia Vietnam Brunei Philippines

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3. Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme

- **Prelims** - Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Economy

Why in the news?

- The Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) has received applications for incentives in excess of the targets set by the Union Cabinet, said the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme

- **Ministry:** Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw announced.
- **Period:** Six years
- **Focus Areas:**
 - Focused on setting up semiconductor fabrication units and IT hardware, along with finished goods like mobile phones.
 - The scheme also focuses on capital goods, mainly large machinery that is in and of itself used to manufacture other components.
- **Aim:** The scheme aims to boost the value added for electronics goods in India.
- **Features**
 - Not based on a production-linked incentive.
 - They will receive incentives pegged to the factory's turnover and employment creation.
 - The target is to induce ₹59,350 crore in investments, production worth ₹4,56,500 crore, and the creation of 91,600 direct jobs in the coming years.
 - This scheme is targeted at sub-assemblies (such as controllers for displays and phone cameras), and for so-called "bare components," which include circuit boards, hardware enclosures, and lithium ion batteries.



4. Crime Against Women in India

- **Prelims** - Crime Against Women in India
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Social Justice

Why in the news?

- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)'s 2023 Crime in India report data show 0.7% increase of crime against women in India.

Crime Against Women in India

- **Recent Trends: State-Wise Distribution**

- **Highest reporting states:**

- ★ Uttar Pradesh – 66,381 cases (highest in India).
- ★ Maharashtra, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh (next in order).

- **Union Territories:**

- ★ Delhi – 2,278 cases (down from 2,340 in 2022), but highest crime rate among UTs.

- **Sharp increase:** Bihar (1,052 → 1,818 cases), Tamil Nadu (2,607 → 2,999).

- **Decline:** Madhya Pradesh (3,619 vs 3,795 in 2022), Maharashtra (3,970 vs 4,406).

- **Recent Trend: Forms of Crime**

- Cruelty by husband or relatives: 1,33,676 cases (29.8%).
- Kidnapping & abduction of women: 88,605 cases (19.8%).
- Assault on women with intent to outrage modesty: 83,891 cases (18.7%).
- POCSO Act (sexual offences against minor girls): 66,232 cases (14.8%).
- Other crimes: Rape, trafficking, dowry deaths, cybercrimes, workplace harassment, acid attacks.

- **Forms of Crimes Against Women**

- **Violence in the Domestic Sphere**

- ★ Cruelty by husband/relatives (major contributor).
- ★ Dowry-related deaths.
- ★ Domestic violence

- **Sexual Crimes**

- ★ Rape (Among the highest reported crimes).
- ★ Sexual harassment, stalking, voyeurism – strengthened under Criminal Law Amendment Act 2013 (post Nirbhaya case).



★ POCSO Act, 2012 covers crimes against minor girls.

→ **Crimes Related to Marriage**

★ Child marriage.

★ Forced marriages, fraudulent NRI marriages.

→ **Trafficking & Exploitation**

★ Human trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced labour (Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956).

★ Cybercrimes targeting women: morphing, revenge porn, blackmail.

→ **Public Sphere Crimes**

★ Eve-teasing, molestation, acid attacks.

★ Honour killings (linked to caste/community norms).

● **Causes & Underlying Factors**

→ Patriarchal mindset normalization of violence.

→ Dowry & marriage-related practices.

→ Lack of awareness & education among women.

→ Weak enforcement leads to low conviction rates (~27%).

→ Economic dependence on men leads underreporting of crimes.

→ Digital revolution cause rise in cybercrimes against women.

● **Constitutional & Legal Safeguards**

→ **Constitutional Provisions**

★ Article 14: Equality before law.

★ Article 15: Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.

★ Article 21: Right to life and personal liberty.

★ Article 39: Directive Principles for equal pay and protection of health.

★ Article 42: Provision for just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief.

★ Article 51A(e): Fundamental duty to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women.

→ **Legal Measures**

★ New Legal Codes: Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)

★ Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (2012).

★ Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005).



- ★ Dowry Prohibition Act (1961).
- ★ Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (2013).

- **Schemes**

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Save the Daughter, Educate the Daughter).
- One Stop Centres (Sakhi): Support for women facing violence.
- Nirbhaya Fund: Safety and security projects for women.
- Ujjawala Scheme: Rehabilitation of trafficked women.

- **Challenges**

- ★ Underreporting of cases due to stigma.
- ★ Judicial delays and slow justice delivery.
- ★ Limited reach of support services in rural areas.
- ★ Need for awareness of new criminal codes (BNS/BNSS/BSA).
- ★ Resistance to gender equality in certain communities.

- **Way Forward**

- **Strengthen Enforcement:** Training of police and judiciary in new criminal laws.
- **Fast-Track Courts:** Speedy disposal of cases.
- **Awareness and Legal Literacy:** Educating women about their rights.
- **Technology-driven Safety:** Mobile SOS apps, artificial intelligence-based cyber monitoring.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Skill training, self-help groups, financial independence.
- **Community Role:** Panchayats, non-governmental organisations, and civil society.
- **Global Standards:** Alignment with Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality).