



Current Affairs of the Day

PAPER 2:

➤ Polity & Governance:

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PAPER 3:

➤ Environment & Biodiversity:

1. Malabar gliding frog spotted at Pullad
2. 'Deforestation leading to many diseases'



Malabar gliding frog spotted at Pullad

Malabar gliding frog (*Rhacophorus malabaricus*):

- A green frog with a slender body, webbed feet, unusual body positions, very well camouflaged and gliding in the air.
- This was how a juvenile Malabar gliding frog (*Rhacophorus malabaricus*), a rare amphibian that can glide in the air up to 10-12 m, was spotted in the orchard of a house at Pullad, near Kozhencherry in Kerala, on Saturday.
- The frog endemic to the rain forests of the Western Ghats.
- Their gliding abilities help these frogs cover 10-12 ft in one leap.
- The frog has got a body length of 10 cm, making it one of the largest mossy frogs.
- The fingers and toes are like sticks to attach to and walk through tree branches. Males are smaller than females.



3 States yet to reply on labour law changes

- More than a month after the **Parliamentary Committee on Labour** wrote to eight State governments seeking explanation on the changes brought to the labour laws during the extended lockdown, three BJP-ruled States — Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh — have not responded, despite two reminders from the committee.
- The three States have effected the most significant changes, suspending the majority of the **labour laws** for a period of up to three years.
- The committee had sought details of the amendments made by them and also the instruments (executive order or ordinance) used to effect the change.
- A total of 13 State governments had diluted the labour laws in May, with eight of them raising the daily working hours from eight to 12.

Major cause of concern:

- the amendments made by the three States pushed 80% of the workforce out of coverage of labour laws.



- In these three States, barring the child labour laws and laws related to women working the night shift, most other laws have been suspended in the name of reform.
- Under the changes, employers can hire and fire at will without paying necessary compensations.

India looks to deploy Naval Liaisons

- After joining the **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)** as Observer in March, India is looking to post Navy Liaison Officers at the **Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC)** in Madagascar and also at the European maritime surveillance initiative in the **Strait of Hormuz** for improved **Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)**.

Significance:

- This will be in the overall realm of improving linkages of the Navy's **Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)** in Gurugram with other IFCs and become the repository for all maritime data in the IOR.

About Indian Ocean Commission (IOC):

- The RMFIC functions under the aegis of the IOC, of which India became an Observer in March 2020 along with Japan and the United Nations.
- The IOC is a regional forum in the Southwest Indian Ocean, comprising five nations — Comoros, France (Reunion), Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles. China and the European Union (EU) have been Observers in the IOC since 2016 and 2017, respectively.

European Maritime Awareness in the Strait of Hormuz (EMASOH):

- The EMASOH headquarters is composed of Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and French officers and based at the French naval base in Abu Dhabi.
- The aim is “to monitor maritime activity and guarantee freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR):

- The Navy set up the IFC-IOR in December 2018 within the premises of the Information Management and Analysis Centre in Gurugram to track maritime movements in the region.
- France became the first country to deploy a LO at the IFC-IOR, followed by the U.S. and several other countries including Australia, Japan and the United Kingdom have announced their intention to post LOs.



'Deforestation leading to many diseases'

Observation of High Court:

- The High Court of Manipur has linked deforestation to diseases, including COVID-19, and ordered the State authorities to restore the forest cover for avoiding the threat of animal-borne diseases.
- A two-judge had said there was a need to keep the forest intact to the extent possible with the pandemic having 'trampled' upon continents to decimate humans.
- The court referred to several books and articles by naturalist Charles Darwin, Nobel laureate and biologist Sir Peter Medawar, journalist Jim Robbins and Carl Bergstrom of the University of Washington, an authority on pandemic and infectious diseases.

Sahakar Mitra: Scheme on Internship Programme (SIP) launched

- Union Agriculture Minister launched **Sahakar Mitra: Scheme on Internship Programme (SIP)**.

Key Points:

- Its objective is to **help cooperative institutions** access innovative ideas of young professionals while the **interns** will **gain experience** of working in the field to be self-reliant.
- The scheme is an initiative by **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)**, the cooperative sector development finance organization.
- **Professional graduates** in disciplines such as **Agriculture and allied areas**, IT etc. will be eligible for internship.
- Professionals who are pursuing or have completed their MBA degrees in Agri-business, Cooperation, Finance, International Trade, etc. will also be eligible.
- Each intern will get financial support over a **4 months** internship period.