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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

19 April 2024

Maharashtra State Specific News

Violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) of DY CM

Why in news?

- The **Election Commission (EC)** has ordered a probe into a remark made by Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister, Ajit Pawar.
- Ajit Pawar allegedly stated that he would stop funds to those who didn't vote for his wife, Sunetra Pawar, who is his party's candidate from Baramati.
- The **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** does not permit the offering of financial inducements to voters.

About the Model Code of Conduct (MCC):

- The Model Code of Conduct is a **set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India to govern the behavior of political parties and candidates** in the run-up to elections.
- **Purpose:** To ensure that electoral contests are conducted fairly and to maintain the integrity of the democratic process.
- **Timing:** It comes into effect immediately after the election schedule is announced and remains in force until the conclusion of the elections.
- **Scope:** Applies to political parties, candidates, and all government bodies.
- **Role of Election Commission:** The **Election Commission (EC)** monitors and enforces compliance with the MCC. The EC can reprimand parties or candidates violating the MCC and take measures like withdrawing security detail or lodging complaints.
- **Complaints and Redressal:** Mechanisms are in place for individuals or parties to file complaints about MCC violations, which are then investigated by the EC.

Did you know?

- **cVIGIL** is a mobile application developed by the **Election Commission of India** to enable citizens to report violations of the **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** during elections.



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Asiatic wild dogs or Dhole

Why in news?

- **Two Asiatic wild dogs** were rescued from a 25-foot deep well in Malvan taluka, **Sindhudurg district**.
- The rescue operation was conducted by members of the forest department and lasted for about an hour.
- The Asiatic wild dog, **also known as Dhole in Marathi, is prohibited from hunting and falls under the endangered category.**

About Dhole:

- Dhole (**Cuon alpinus**) is a wild carnivorous animal, a member of the **family Canidae** and the **class Mammalia**.
- In India, they are **found in the Western and Eastern Ghats, central Indian landscape, and North East India.**
- Dholes play an important role as **apex predators in forest ecosystems.**
- **Conservation Status:**
 - IUCN List of Threatened Species: **Endangered**
 - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (**CITES**): **Appendix II**
 - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule II**
- They may also be found in **small numbers** in the area of **Ladakh.**
- **Threats to the Population of Dholes:**
 - Habitat Loss
 - Decreasing population of ungulates, their main prey, due to excessive hunting and habitat loss
 - Persecution due to livestock predation and disease transfer from domestic and feral dogs
- **World Dhole Day** is celebrated annually on **May 28.**
- The **first World Dhole Conference** happened in February **2019.**
- The **Dhole conservation breeding centre** was sanctioned by the Government of India in 2014, in the **Indira Gandhi Zoological Park in Vishakhapatnam.**



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Tadoba National Park and Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve

Why in news?

- The tigress, known as **NT3**, was translocated from **Tadoba National Park** to **Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR)** in **Maharashtra**.
- The tigress removed her GPS collar, which led to a massive search operation.

About Tadoba National Park:

- Tadoba National Park, officially known as **Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve**, is **one of India's oldest and most renowned national parks**.
- Located in the **Chandrapur district** of Maharashtra.
- Established in **1955**, Tadoba National Park is **named after the local tribal god worshipped by the tribal people, 'Tadoba' or 'Taru'**, and the river that flows through the area, the **Andhari River**.
- It is renowned for its large population of Bengal tigers. Other key wildlife includes leopards, sloth bears, gaur (Indian bison), dhole (Indian wild dog), striped hyenas, jungle cats, sambar, and spotted deer.

About Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve:

- Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve is a significant protected area in **Maharashtra**.
- Located in the eastern part of the state in the **Gondia and Bhandara districts**.
- It was officially declared a tiger reserve in **2013**.
- It spans an area of about 656.64 square kilometers, combining the Navegaon National Park, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary, and several other forest areas into a single ecological unit.



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Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR)

Why in news?

- The **Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR)** urging **policy reforms for minority educational institutions**.
- The MSCPCR emphasized the need for reform in the policy allowing private educational institutions to gain concessions through minority status.

About Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR):

- The Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR) **established to ensure that all laws, policies, and programs are in alignment with the child protection rights** as enshrined in the Indian Constitution and the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**.
- The Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights was established in response to the **Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005**, which **mandates the setting up of such commissions in every state in India**.
- **Purpose:** Its primary purpose is **to monitor the implementation of laws and policies related to children** and ensure that state and private actions comply with these laws.
- While the **commission does not have the same powers as a civil court**, it is **entitled to summon and enforce the attendance of any person and examine them under oath**, demand the discovery of documents, receive evidence, and issue commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents.



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Smart voter slips

Why in news?

- **Jalgaon district** in Maharashtra has introduced smart voter slips, becoming the **first in the state to do so**.
- **Barcodes** have been installed at 250 public spots across the region, allowing residents to access voter details by scanning with their smartphones.

Key points:

- The digital voter slip serves as a confirmation of the voter's registration and provides essential information about where and when to cast their vote.
- It will help individuals have access to their serial numbers in the voters' list and the location of the polling station.
- Voters can check their details using their registered names, phone number linked with an Aadhaar card, or their voter ID card number.
- The digital voter slips and online access to details aim to keep voters more informed and vigilant.

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