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News: New Draft Guidelines for Accessibility Standards

- Recently, the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** has issued draft **guidelines for new accessibility standards.**
- Under **the new regulations**, almost all television channels are required to ensure **that they either carry captions or sign language to help the hearing impaired understand the programming.**
- The draft is released in process to get the **"Accessibility Standards for Television Programmes for Hearing Impaired".**
- These standards will be notified under the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**, to make television content more inclusive for persons with hearing disabilities.
- All programming or content like **music shows, debates, scripted/ unscripted reality shows, etc.;** and advertisements and teleshopping content will have to **adhere to these standards.**

Exemptions

- **Live and deferred live content/events** such as sports: live news, events like live music shows, award shows, live reality shows, etc.

- Channels which have less than 1% average audience share for all households over a year.
- The service providers or broadcasters will have the right to choose any one or more options from “Closed Captioning, Subtitles, Open Captioning and/or Sign Language (not only hand but facial expression also).
- Open captions always are in view and cannot be turned off, whereas closed captions can be turned on and off by the viewer.
- The creators of the content will be responsible to create the content for these services and deliver it to the concerned channels and broadcasters.

Earlier Instances to Support Hearing Impaired

- Doordarshan has been carrying sign language interpretation of the address of President of India on the eve of Independence Day and Prime Minister’s address from the ramparts of Red Fort on Independence Day every year.
- Recently, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has asked Private Satellite News TV channels also to telecast a short programme on Independence Day Celebrations, along with corresponding sign language interpretation, in the afternoon / evening of 15th August.

News: Onake Obavva Jayanti

- The Karnataka government has decided to celebrate 'Onake Obavva Jayanti' on 11th November throughout the state from this year (2021).
- Onake Obavva was a woman warrior who fought the forces of Hyder Ali single-handedly with a pestle ('onake' in Kannada) in Chitradurga in the 18th century.
- Hyder Ali, a ruler of the Mysore Kingdom and father of Tipu Sultan invaded the Chitradurga Fort, which was ruled by Madakari Nayaka in the 18th century.
- Chitradurga Fort, locally known as Elusuttina Kote, (the fort of seven circles in Kannada), is situated in Chitradurga, 200 km northwest of Bengaluru.
- Onake Obavva was the wife of soldier Kahale Mudda Hanuma, who was the guard of the fort.
- Obavva is considered to be the epitome of Kannada pride and celebrated along with other women warriors of Karnataka state like – Abbakka Rani (first Tuluva Queen of Ullal in coastal Karnataka who fought the Portuguese), Keladi Chennamma (the queen of the Keladi Kingdom who is known for fighting against Mughal emperor Aurangzeb), and Kittur Chennamma (Queen of Kittur known for the 1824 revolt against the British East India Company).

- Inspired by Onake Obavva, in 2018, the Chitradurga police started ‘Obavva Pade’, a squad of women police constables to protect and educate women in the district

News: PM Modi to launch RBI Retail Direct and Integrated Ombudsman Scheme on Friday

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch two innovative customer-centric initiatives of the Reserve Bank of India.
- These initiatives are the RBI Retail Direct Scheme and the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme.

Retail Direct Scheme of RBI

- Retail Investor is a **non-professional investor who buys and sells securities or funds that contain a basket of securities** such as mutual funds and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs).
- Under the scheme, **retail investors (individuals) will have the facility to open and maintain the ‘Retail Direct Gilt Account’ (RDG Account) with the RBI.**
- A Gilt Account can be compared with a bank account, except that the **account is debited or credited with treasury bills or government securities** instead of money.

- RDG accounts can be opened **through an online portal** provided for the purpose of the scheme.
- The online portal will give registered users access to primary issuance of G-secs and access to **Negotiated Dealing System-Order Matching system (NDS-OM)**.
- The RBI introduced the NDS-OM in August 2005. It is an electronic, screen based, anonymous, order driven trading system for dealing in G-secs.
- It is a one-stop solution to facilitate investment in G-secs by individual investors.
- RBI seeks to democratize the ownership of government debt securities beyond banks and managers of pooled resources such as mutual funds.

News: Gulf states hold naval exercise with Israel: U.S.

- The **United Arab Emirates and Bahrain are holding their first joint naval exercise with Israel.**
- The five day manoeuvres in the Red Sea, which is **linked to the Mediterranean through the Suez Canal**, are intended to “enhance interoperability between participating forces”.
- It is the **first publicly announced military cooperation by the UAE and Bahrain with Israel since they opened diplomatic relations in September last year.**

Red Sea

- The Red Sea is a semi-enclosed tropical basin, bounded by northeastern Africa, to the west, and the Arabian peninsula, to the east.
- The elongated and narrow-shaped basin extends between the Mediterranean Sea, to the north-west, and the Indian Ocean, to the south-east.
- At the northern end, it separates into the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez, which is connected to the Mediterranean Sea via the Suez Canal.
- At the southern end, it is connected to the Gulf of Aden, and the outer Indian Ocean, via the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb.
- It is surrounded by desert or semi-desert areas, with no major freshwater inflow.

Formation

- The Red sea acquired its present shape over the past 4 to 5 million years, by slow seafloor spreading, a fact that makes it a geologically recent opening and one of the youngest oceanic zones on Earth.
- Today, the basin continues to widen at a rate of 1-2 cm per year.

Biodiversity

- The unique habitats of the Red sea support a **wide range of marine life, including sea turtles, dugongs, dolphins and many endemic fish species.**
- **Coral reefs mainly extend along the northern and central coasts,** and decrease in abundance towards the southern region, as coastal waters become more turbid.

The Reason why it is called Red Sea

- There are various **theories as to how the name came about, with the most popular being a reference to the seasonal blooms of *Trichodesmium erythraeum* (a red-colored algae) near the water's surface.**
- Other scholars believe it is linked to the way Asiatic languages often use colors to refer to cardinal directions, with “red” referring to “south” just as the Black Sea may be referring to the north.



Mediterranean Sea

- Mediterranean Sea is a sea **connected to Atlantic Ocean**, almost completely enclosed by land.
- **Strait of Gibraltar connects Mediterranean Sea with Atlantic Ocean.**
- Strait of Gibraltar is a narrow stretch of only 14 kilometer wide that separates Spain from Morocco.
- **Suez Canal connects Mediterranean Sea with Red Sea.**
- Countries that have coast with **Mediterranean Sea** are **Spain, France, Monaco, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco.**

