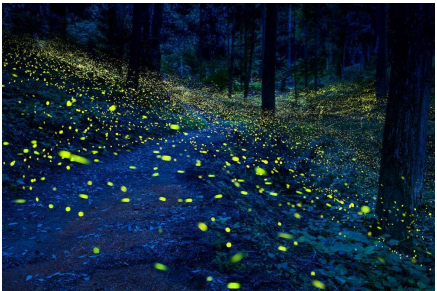




मराठी

09 May 2024

Maharashtra State Specific News

<p><b>Bhimashankar Wildlife Reserve</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>Bhimashankar Wildlife Reserve</b> in the <b>Western Ghats</b> of India is home to a <b>rare phenomenon</b> called <b>bioluminescence</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>Bhimashankar Wildlife Reserve</b> is a significant <b>conservation area located in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra</b>.</li><li>• The reserve spans is situated in the <b>Khed and Ambegaon area of Pune District</b>.</li><li>• It was <b>established in 1984</b> with the primary objective of <b>protecting the endangered species of the Indian Giant Squirrel</b>.</li><li>• It is part of the Western Ghats, a <b>recognized biodiversity hotspot</b>.</li><li>• The reserve is also <b>home to the Bhimashankar Temple Complex, one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva</b>.</li><li>• The <b>reserve is a certified Important Bird Area (IBA)</b>.</li></ul>
<p><b>Bioluminescence</b></p> 	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>Bhimashankar Wildlife Reserve</b> in the Western Ghats of India is home to a <b>rare phenomenon</b> called <b>bioluminescence</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>phenomenon is not a daily occurrence</b> but can be <b>witnessed following evenings of heavy rainfall during the monsoon months</b> of July, August, and September.</li><li>• This <b>phenomenon is observed in large patches in the Western Ghats</b>, leading to <b>39 regions being declared as UNESCO World Heritage sites</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>About Bioluminescence:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bioluminescence is a <b>chemical process that produces light, similar to how fireflies do</b>.</li><li>• It is <b>caused by a fungus</b> belonging to the <b>genus Mycena</b>.</li><li>• The <b>fungus produces an enzyme called luciferase, which reacts with a chemical called luciferin, found on decaying wood, to produce bioluminescence</b>.</li><li>• As a result, the <b>trees radiate a vivid, fluorescent green glow</b>.</li></ul>



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### Legislative Council elections in Maharashtra

#### Why in news?

- The **Maharashtra Legislative Council elections** are scheduled to be held on June 10.
- These four seats include two seats each from the **Teachers Constituency** and the **Graduates Constituency**.

#### About Legislative Council elections in Maharashtra:

- The Council, also known as the **Vidhan Parishad**, is the **upper house in the bicameral legislature** of the state.
- The **Council consists of 78 members**, and its members serve **six-year terms**, with **one-third of the members retiring every two years**.
- The **members of the Council are elected from various constituencies** such as **Graduates, Teachers, Local Authorities, and others**.

### Kashish Pride Film Festival (KPFF)

#### Why in news?

- The **Kashish Pride Film Festival (KPFF)**, **South Asia's biggest LGBTQ+ film festival**, is celebrating its **15th edition this year**.

#### Key points:

- The **festival will take place from May 15 to May 19** and will showcase 133 films including documentaries and narratives from 46 countries.
- The films at Kashish will **focus on the stigmas around the queer community** and look through a sensitive lens around their narratives.
- The **Narrative Jury Members** are **Kiran Rao** and **Sonali Kulkarni**.

### Lesser Florican



#### DWINDLING NUMBERS

- Habitat loss due to declining grassland
- Diversion of grassland for wind turbines, power lines, industry, salt pans
- Pesticide usage in breeding grounds
- Untimely grass harvest, excessive livestock grazing
- Threat of destruction of eggs from wild and domestic animals



**SMALLEST IN BUSTARD FAMILY:** Lesser florican is the smallest bird in the bustard family. This species was put in the red list of IUCN and given the highest protection under the wildlife protection act given its fast dwindling numbers. Its population is restricted to Velavadar in Bhavnagar district and Shokaliya-Bhinai in Ajmer, Rajasthan.

#### Why in news?

- The **Lesser Florican**, the **smallest bird in the bustard family** and a **critically endangered species**, has been **spotted in the Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR), Maharashtra**.
- **This is the first record of the bird in the tiger reserve.**

#### About Lesser Florican:

- The **Lesser Florican** is the **only member of the genus Sypheotides** and is also known as **Tanmor, Likh, or Kharmore** in local parlance.
- The **population of Lesser Floricans is declining** and a **report published by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**, in 2018 affirms that **only 264 mature birds remain in the country** with an **80% decline in their population since 2000 due to destruction of grasslands**.
- **IUCN status:** Critically endangered



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