

Maharashtra Weekly Current Affairs 10 to 16 September 2023

Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project

- National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) is implementing the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project.
- The land for the project is spread over three districts – Thane, Palghar and Mumbai Suburban in Maharashtra.
- The **508 km-long Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project** is the pet project of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL), a joint venture of the central government and participating state governments, is implementing the project.

Thane depot of bullet train project to be built on Japan's Shinkansen depots' standards

- The Thane depot is one of the three depots planned for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project.
- The **Thane depot, to be designed on the lines of the Japanese Shinkansen depots.**
- The Shinkansen, also known as the bullet train in Japan, is famous for its high-speed rail technology and safety standards.

Person in news: Sushiladevi Salunkhe

- Sushiladevi Salunkhe's work is an inspiration for the new generation today.
- National, social and educational work done by Sushiladevi Salunkhe in the pre-independence and post-independence period is unforgettable.
- Mata Sushila Devi Salunkhe played a major role in **setting up Sri Swami Vivekananda Education Institute all over Maharashtra** along with Education Maharishi Dr. Bapuji Salunkhe.
- Sushila Devi took an active part in the Indian Freedom Movement, Chale Jav Movement, Samyukta Maharashtra Movement

Dhangars' long-pending quota demand

- Dhangars' long-pending quota demand remains a complex issue in Maharashtra.
- The Dhangars, who account for up to 9% of the population and get 3.5% reservation, have been demanding inclusion in the ST category
- The community has for the past several decades been fighting for reservation under the Scheduled Tribe category.

Climate Change impact on Maharashtra

- Climate change: Maharashtra's extreme temperatures, rainfall, cyclones rise 1.5 times more than average
- The climate change has triggered the temperatures across Maharashtra almost three times the usual over 24 days with the overall summer-monsoon (June to August) season witnessing a rise of 1.5 times the average climate activities such as rainfall and wind triggered by the heat.

- The overall departure of long-term average temperature during the season was 0.8 degrees celsius i.e nearly one degree above (0.2 degrees less)

₹837 Crore Project To Deal With Cyber Crimes in MH

- The project aims to bring all modern technologies under one umbrella, which will also include a control and command center, technology-assisted investigation, a center of excellence, a Computer Emergency Response Team, a cloud-based data center, a security operations center
- Under this project, people can register their complaints on a 24x7 call center, according to the decision passed by the state cabinet.

International Literacy Day 2023

- On the occasion of International Literacy Day, Rotary Club Osmanabad distributed the 'Rashtra Prachikar Award' 2023-24 at Rotary Eye Hospital.

Key points:

- It is observed on 8th September.
- UNESCO in November 1966, formally designated September 8th as International Literacy Day.
- The observance of ILD aims to reinforce public opinion in support of the ongoing endeavours against illiteracy.
- International Literacy Day 2023 will be celebrated under the theme "Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies".

National Lok Adalat in Mumbai

- National Lok Adalat in Mumbai awards ₹722 cr. to over 12,000 cases.
- National Lok Adalat has awarded over ₹722 crore by settling more than 12,000 cases here.
- The cases included compoundable criminal offenses, cheque bouncing as well as matters under the Payment and Settlement Act. A total settlement amount of ₹722,82,71,891 was distributed to 12,472 cases.

New Launch **Bilingual**

Maharashtra

Test Mate

MPSC | Saral Seva | Talathi & Others

600+ Total Tests

Did you know?

- National Lok Adalat (NLA) is a forum for amicable settlement of disputes at national level.
- It is organized by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in collaboration with the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) and District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs).

Pune, Pimpri Chinchwad register 30% of all EV sales in state.

- Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad now have around 30% of the total number of electric vehicles (EVs) registered in the state, data from the ministry of road transportation.
- In addition, a significant increase has also been seen in the registration of CNG vehicles in the twin cities.
- Around 95,000 of the 3,22,225 EVs registered in the state are in Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad alone.

Rs 4,500 crore plan to empower Thane with 24-hour power

- A plan has been drawn to upgrade the power distribution system with a budget of Rs4,500 crore for uninterrupted and round-the-clock power supply to Thane district, said union minister Kapil Patil.
- Under the plan, the power distribution network will be strengthened in the 850 villages of Thane district.
- Work worth Rs1,200 crore will be done in the first two years and the remaining will be completed in next five years.

IIT Council ties up with American univ assn to form research institute

- With a seed fund of \$10 million, the IIT Council on behalf of all higher educational institutes in India has entered into an MoU with the Association of American Universities (AAU) to establish the Indo-US Global Challenges Institute.
- The intent of the institute was announced in June this year, during the US visit of PM Modi.
- This institute will seek to address some of the "consequential" economic, environmental and technological challenges "that have the potential to affect the security, prosperity, and stability of both countries."

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)

- The poor response from universities in Maharashtra to their participation in National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has got the state education department taking a serious view about its implementation.
- Director of higher and technical education in Maharashtra Shailendra Deolankar had sent three reminders to universities in Maharashtra to submit data about colleges that have been poor in responding to the NAAC gradation which was also not submitted by the universities

About NAAC:

- The NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL (NAAC) conducts assessment and accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions (HEI) such as colleges, universities or other recognised institutions to derive an understanding of the 'Quality Status' of the institution.
- NAAC evaluates the institutions for its conformance to the standards of quality in terms of its performance related to the educational processes and outcomes, curriculum coverage, teaching-learning processes, faculty, research, infrastructure, learning resources, organisation, governance, financial well being and student services.

Vultures breeding: 50 captive vultures will be released in the wild soon

- Over the next one year, 50 captive vultures will be released in the wild in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- These vultures are part of the 650 that have been bred over the last 20 years at four Conservation Breeding Centres by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) with funding by the Royal Society for Protection of Birds, UK, and later by the state forest department where the centers are located.

Did you know?

- The chief cause for the decline in vulture population was the use of diclofenac injections in cattle.
- The Panna tiger reserve has a large number of wild vultures.

BNHS members explore Amboli's Biodiversity and Bioluminescent Fungus

- Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) recently discovered hundreds of species of native plants in a small forest patch in Devrai (Sacred Groves) near Amboli.

Key points:

- BNHS members spotted endemic herpetofauna, including the Malabar Pit Viper, Amboli Bush Frog, Malabar Gliding Frog, and the Critically Endangered Amboli Tiger Toad.
- They witnessed bioluminescent fungus during one of the night trails.

Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)

- It is a Non-Governmental Organisation in India engaged in conservation and biodiversity research.
- It was founded on 15 September 1883.
- BNHS is the partner of **BirdLife International in India**. It has been designated as a 'Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation' by the Department of Science and Technology.
- Logo: The BNHS logo is the **great hornbill**.
- Internet of Birds platform: IT consultancy firm Accenture and the Bombay Natural History Society have developed **Internet of Birds platform** that identifies bird species found in India using Artificial Intelligence technology, including machine learning and computer vision, from digital photos that are uploaded by the public.

Constitutional Provisions Governing Reservation in India

- States do not have authority to grant reservation, says Maharashtra education minister.
- Maharashtra education minister Deepak Kesarkar said the issue of reservation was related to the Constitution and the states did not have much authority to grant quotas.

Let us understand the Constitutional Provisions governing Reservation in India:

- Part XVI deals with reservation of SC and ST in Central and State legislatures.
- Article 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution enabled the State and Central Governments to reserve seats in government services for the members of the SC and ST.
- The Constitution was amended by the Constitution (77th Amendment) Act, 1995 and a new clause (4A) was inserted in Article 16 to enable the government to provide reservation in promotion.
- Later, clause (4A) was modified by the Constitution (85th Amendment) Act, 2001 to provide consequential seniority to SC and ST candidates promoted by giving reservation.
- Constitutional 81st Amendment Act, 2000 inserted Article 16 (4 B) which enables the state to fill the unfilled vacancies of a year which are reserved for SCs/STs in the succeeding year, thereby nullifying the ceiling of fifty percent reservation on total number of vacancies of that year.
- Article 330 and 332 provides for specific representation through reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the Parliament and in the State Legislative Assemblies respectively
- Article 243D provides reservation of seats for SCs and STs in every Panchayat.
- Article 233T provides reservation of seats for SCs and STs in every Municipality.
- Article 335 of the constitution says that the claims of STs and STs shall be taken into consideration constitutively with the maintenance of efficacy of the administration.

Gaurav K.T Patil's Statue

- Gaurav K.T. Patil's statue was unveiled by Deputy CM, Devendraji Fadnavis.
- The conference was held in Bhosle High School in Dharashiv city.
- Gaurav K.T. Patil was the Founder Secretary of Adarsh Shikshan Prasarak Mandal.

Ayushman Bhava campaign

- Maharashtra health department has started screening children in the age group of 0-18 under **Ayushman Bhava campaign** which has been rolled out in all districts.
- Under this campaign, **32 tests will be done free of charge for all children.**

- Till date, 25 crore Ayushman cards have been distributed across the country under the initiative 'Ayushman Aya Dari'.

Inauguration of Maha Arogya Camp under " Ayushman Bhava" Campaign at Vashi

- It was held at Karmaveer Mamasahab Jagdale College.
- In this camp, **64 types of diseases will be examined free of charge.**
- On this occasion, Swasthya Rath (Mobile Medical Unit) was also inaugurated.

Highly prestigious Nation Builder Award for exemplary teacher

- The highly prestigious Nation Builder Award presented by the Rotary Club was presented to **Shyamsunder Mahadev Tanmore.**

Key points:

- Mr. Tanmore is a primary graduate teacher of Sanja International School.
- Mr. Tanmore was awarded as the "Outstanding Teacher" based on students' evaluation of Sanja School.
- The Nation Builder Award provides recognition to outstanding teachers of Government and Government aided schools, through a participatory evaluation process through the students and head.

Marathwada witnessed 685 farmers suicides in 2023

- 685 farmers ended their lives in Marathwada region in 2023.
- The district with the highest number of such incidents is Beed.

Did you know?

- Marathwada is an arid region in central Maharashtra consisting of eight districts Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed, Parbhani, Nanded, Osmanabad, Hingoli and Latur.

No takers for 19k RTE seats in state's private schools.

- Every year, there is a clamor for seats under the Right to Education (RTE) Act with lakhs applying for free admission in private schools.

BILINGUAL

MAHARASHTRA PRIME TEST PACK

300+ TOTAL TESTS

- This year, nearly **19,000 seats under the 25% scheme are vacant in Maharashtra** even though 3.64 lakh applications were received by the state education department for the 1.01 lakh seats.
- Education officials said that the vacant seats were in non-popular schools and with government schools also providing quality education, many preferred to study there.

Did you know?

- The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act) is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted on 4 August 2009.
- The Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 inserted Article 21-A in the Constitution of India to provide free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right.

The Kharif 2022 crop insurance case

- State Level Grievance Redressal Committee directed the Insurance Companies to deposit the remaining 350 crore rupees of Insurance to farmer's accounts.

Key points:

- The State Level Grievance Redressal Committee gave a judgment in favor of farmers in the Kharif 2022 crop Insurance case.
- The companies are reluctant to pay the amount.
- The Kharif 2022 crop insurance case is a legal case filed by a group of farmers in the Supreme Court of India challenging the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

Impulsive response to Multimedia Exposure

- Students participated in the digital multimedia exhibition organized on behalf of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Central Bureau of Communications, Solapur and District Administration.
- The topic was 9 years of service to the Central Government, good governance and welfare of the poor and nutrition, food grains, youth, women, public representatives and citizens in large numbers.

Lok Adalat settles 58 cases

- At least 58 matters were settled, and compensation to the tune of Rs 3.5 crore was awarded in cases heard during the Lok Adalat organized in Maharashtra's Raigad district,
- Lok Adalat is a forum where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at the pre-litigation stage are settled/compromised amicably.
- **Lok Adalats have been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.**

NIA offers cash reward of Rs 3 lakh for information on ISIS Pune Module case suspects

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has offered a cash reward of Rs 3 lakh for each individual who provides information leading to the apprehension of four wanted accused individuals in the ISIS Pune module case.

- The accused persons have been identified as Mohammed Shahnawaz Shafiuzzama Alam alias Abdulla, Rizwan Abdul Haji Ali, Abdulla Faiyaz Shaikh alias Diaperwala and Talha Liyakat Khan,

Did you know?

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is a central agency of India responsible for investigating and prosecuting terrorist activities, crimes against the nation, and offenses under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.
- It was established in 2008 in the wake of the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

Private hospital to combat drug resistant tuberculosis (DRTB)

- The Nagpur Municipal Corporation's (NMC's) pilot project involving a private hospital to combat growing cases of patients suffering from drug resistant tuberculosis (DRTB) is showing encouraging results with 18 persons being cured of the deadly disease within four months of its launch.
- The NMC had roped in Astha Critical Care Centre at Suyog Nagar to provide free services to DRTB patients who were shunned by even other overburdened and stressed public hospitals.

National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP):

- The NTEP is a government-led program that aims to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) in India by 2025.
- The program was launched in 1997 and has made significant progress in reducing the TB burden in India.
- In 2018, India accounted for 27% of the global TB burden, but only 10% of the global TB deaths.
- The NTEP is implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and works with state and district governments, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Shyam Hotel to be converted into a monument for Dr. Ambedkar

- The Nagpur Metropolitan Region Development Authority (NMRDA) has now decided to take up the ambitious work of renovation of Shyam Hotel at Sitabuldi and convert it into a monument for Dr. Ambedkar.

Key points:

- The project is titled as '**Bhimsrushti**' and it involves strengthening the dilapidated structure and redoing the room in which Dr. Ambedkar stayed.
- The architect of the Indian constitution and messiah of dalits Bharat Ratna, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar stayed at Shyam Hotel when he came there for embracing Buddhism at Deekshabhoomi.

Water literacy lessons for 200 villages with aquifer mapping

- The aquifer mapping of 200 villages in Maharashtra project is launched at the Gokhale Institute of Economics and Politics (GIPE), Pune.

Key Points:

- It is a part of Mission Easy Water Literacy and hopes to address water scarcity and drought-related challenges.
- This initiative is a collaboration between the Dr Dhananjayrao Gadgil Centre for Sustainable Village Development at GIPE and Sahaj Jalbodh to involve the public in aquifer mapping to improve water management.
- Significant water scarcity issues has lead to farmer suicides and rural-to-urban migration in search of livelihoods.

Shivaji's Wagh Nakh may be displayed in 5 Indian cities; will fuel research: V&A

- London's Victoria and Albert Museum which will soon return the wagh nakh (a dagger resembling tiger claws).

Key Points:

- It was used by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to kill Afzal Khan
- The state government has said that the wagh nakh's display in India may enable new research into their history.
- Adrian Grant Duff was given the tiger claws when he was resident of Satara by the Prime Minister of the Peshwas of the Marathas.
- Duff took it to Britain with him and his descendants donated the weapon to the V&A Museum

Pola 2023: Date, Rituals and Significance

- Pola is a traditional and one of the most famous festivals of Maharashtra.
- People of Maharashtra celebrate Pola at the end of monsoon season and beginning of agricultural year
- On this auspicious day, they worship cattles especially bulls who have a big contribution in farming activities.
- It is the day when farmers seek blessings for a bountiful harvest.
- This year, the festival of Pola is being celebrated on the Amavasya Tithi of Bhadrpada Month i.e., September 14, 2023.

IIT-Bombay makes AI, Data Science must for undergrad students

- The Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) has decided to introduce Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (AI-DS) as a mandatory course for undergraduate students — BTech as well as Bachelor of Science (BS) — from this academic year.
- Earlier, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology used to be common courses which everybody had to learn, now AI-DS is a new addition to that list in our curriculum.

Maharashtra Speaker Begins Hearing Disqualification Petitions

- The Supreme Court had stated that “the Speaker must decide on the disqualification petitions within a reasonable period”.

- Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar began hearing the disqualification petitions filed against each other by the two rival Shiv Sena factions led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Sena (UBT) chief and former CM Uddhav Thackeray.

Disqualification Powers of Speakers

- The **Tenth Schedule or the anti-defection law**, introduced in 1985, gives the Speaker of the House the power to disqualify legislators who ‘defect’ from the party.
- In 1992, the Supreme Court ruled that the decision of the Speaker in this regard is subject to judicial review.

'Divyanga Ke Dari' campaign by Maha Govt

- Maharashtra's Disability Welfare Department is implementing the campaign 'Divyanga Ke Dari'.
- Aim - To provide the benefits of various government schemes to the disabled and also to obtain the necessary documents.
- This campaign will be held on Thursday 21 September 2023 at Chayadeep Mangal Office, Aurangabad Road, Osmanabad.
- In this campaign, the disabled beneficiaries will be registered online in a category-wise manner. It is planned to take appropriate action on the applications of disabled beneficiaries received from Asha Sevika and Anganwadi Sevika as well as the applications pending earlier.

A young male tiger died in a road hit near Murdoli village in the buffer zone of the Nawegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve

- Nawegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve is located in the Gondia, Maharashtra.
- Navegaon is also a home to almost 60% of the bird species found in entire Maharashtra. It was notified as the 46th Tiger Reserve of India in December 2013.

Did you know?

- India's top sugarcane-growing states are Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu.
- The first three account for 85-90% of the sugar produced in the country.

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Maharashtra - first position in attracting FDI

- Maharashtra has once again surged ahead of other states to regain its first position in terms of attracting foreign direct investments (FDIs) in the country.
- Over the last one year the state has successfully attracted around Rs 1.25 lakh foreign direct investment taking Maharashtra ahead of Karnataka and Gujarat.

Did you know?

- Foreign direct investment (FDI) is an investment made by a company or an individual in one country into business interests located in another country. FDI is an important driver of economic growth.

TReDS platforms

- The Reserve Bank of India has recently announced a new initiative to boost the liquidity and credit availability for MSMEs by allowing insurance companies to participate in the trade receivable discounting system (TReDS), an online platform for financing trade receivables.

Key Points:

- TReDS stands for Trade Receivables Discounting System.
- It is an electronic platform that facilitates the discounting of trade receivables of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) by multiple financiers.
- The TReDS platform is a centralized marketplace where buyers and sellers of trade receivables can interact with each other

Committee to study lacunae in private farm market

- The Maharashtra government has appointed a ten-member committee to study the lacunae in the present private farm markets in the state and provide recommendations to overcome it.
- The move comes after the central government repealed three farm-laws following sustained agitation by farmers across the country in 2021
- Out of the three laws, The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act had provided for setting up a mechanism allowing the farmers to sell their farm produce outside the Agriculture Produce Market Committees (APMCs).

Indian Parliament in September 2020 passed the three farm laws:

- The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020
- The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020
- The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020

These laws were passed with the aim of reforming the agricultural sector in India and giving farmers more freedom to sell their produce. However, the laws have been met with widespread protests from farmers, who fear that they will lead to exploitation by big corporations and lower prices for their crops.

- The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, allows farmers to sell their produce outside of the regulated markets, known as mandis. This is intended to give farmers more freedom to choose where to sell their produce and get better prices.
- The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, allows farmers to enter into contracts with buyers for the sale of their produce. This is intended to give farmers more certainty about the price they will receive for their crops.
- The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020, removes some of the restrictions on the storage and movement of essential commodities, such as wheat and rice. This is intended to make it easier for traders to store and transport these commodities, which could lead to lower prices for consumers

New India Literacy Programme sets target of educating over 12 lakh illiterate people by 2024

- The New India Literacy Programme (NILP), a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at eradicating illiteracy among those above 15 years of age, is in full swing in Maharashtra.
- The course material prepared by Maharashtra State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT) is ready and available online in Marathi, English, Hindi among other languages on the DIKSHA portal.

Key points:

- The New India Literacy Programme (NILP) is launched by the Government of India in 2022.
- It aims to cover 5.00 crore non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above in five years, i.e., 2022-2027.
- The programme has been implemented in all the states and union territories of India.
- The NILP is a convergence programme, which means that it will be implemented in partnership with other government departments and agencies, such as the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Rural Development, and the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

DIKSHA portal

- DIKSHA stands for Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing.
- It is a national digital platform for sharing educational resources and content.
- The platform was launched by the Ministry of Education, Government of India in 2017.
- The DIKSHA platform is available in 12 languages and can be accessed by anyone with an internet connection.

DIKSHA provides access to a variety of educational resources, including:

1. Textbooks and other teaching materials
2. Audio and video lectures
3. Interactive exercises
4. Assessment tools
5. Teacher training modules

Tata Steel, U.K. govt. to invest £1.25 billion in Port Talbot

- Tata Steel and the U.K. government have agreed to **invest in an electric arc furnace at Port Talbot** with a capital cost of £1.25 billion, including a grant of up to £500 million from the U.K.
- The project would bolster U.K.'s steel security and be the **first major step towards decarbonisation of the local steel industry**, reducing direct emissions by 50 million tonnes over a decade.

Key Points:

- Port Talbot is a town located in South Wales, United Kingdom, known for its rich industrial history, particularly in the steel and manufacturing sectors.
- Tata Steel is one of the largest and oldest steel manufacturing companies in India and among the top global steel producers.
- Tata Steel was founded by Jamsetji Tata in 1907, Tata Steel has a rich history of innovation, sustainability, and corporate responsibility.

Nagpur shines in vibrant Marbat festival celebrations.

- In Nagpur, Maharashtra crowds gathered enthusiastically to participate in the Marbat festival
- The focal point of this grand spectacle was the **clay effigies, known as 'Marbats,'** representing both Kali (in black) and Pivli (in yellow),

Key Points:

- The Marbat festival is a unique and traditional festival celebrated in Maharashtra, primarily in the city of Nagpur and its surrounding regions.
- It is a unique 150-year-old tradition celebrated exclusively in this region.
- As per the time-honored custom, devotees led a colorful procession, bearing effigies symbolizing evil forces

Access to Justice is a Fundamental Right

- Bombay HC observed that **access to justice is a fundamental right** and delay in filing appeals in NIA cases can be condoned.
- Bombay High Court ruled that appellate courts can condone delays and hear appeals filed beyond the mandatory 90-day period under the NIA Act.

Key points:

- The Constitution of India has provided for Constitutional articles (Article 39A, Article 14, and Article 21) that guarantee the citizens the right to access to justice.
- Right to legal aid is also now firmly entrenched in various acts including the Legal Services Authorities Act, the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and various Lok Adalats being set up in district and remote villages in India to provide legal help to the ones who cannot afford it.

ICMR's National Institute of Virology, Pune, sent its mobile BSL-3 lab to Kozhikode for early detection of Nipah virus cases.

- Aim is to test samples for Nipah virus in the Kozhikode district after five cases, including two deaths, were reported there.
- A team of experts from the Department of Animal Husbandry has also been deployed to assist the state in the surveillance of animals

Key Points:

- The National Institute of Virology (NIV) is a premier research institution under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), dedicated to the study of viruses and viral diseases.
- NIV plays a crucial role in understanding, diagnosing, and combating viral infections that have public health implications.
- NIV is involved in the development and evaluation of vaccines against viral diseases.

About Nipah Virus:

- Nipah virus (NiV) is a highly contagious and deadly zoonotic virus that can cause severe respiratory and neurological diseases in both humans and animals.
- Nipah virus was first identified in 1999 during an outbreak in Malaysia. It was named after the village of Sungai Nipah, where the initial cases occurred.
- The natural hosts of the virus are fruit bats (Pteropus spp.), also known as flying foxes.
- Human infections often occur through direct contact with infected bats, consumption of contaminated fruits or date palm sap etc
- Nipah virus is categorized as a priority pathogen by the World Health Organization (WHO) due to its epidemic potential and high mortality rate.

Iconic double-decker buses of Mumbai retire after 8 decades of service

- After 86 years of serving various routes across 'Maximum City', these non-air-conditioned double-decker buses bid adieu to daily commuters and tourists
- It was in wake of a decision by Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) authorities to phase out the diesel-run buses as part of modernisation and operational cost-cutting measures.
- Introduced in 1937, the double-decker buses became synonymous with the city itself, etching themselves into the collective memory of its residents and tourists.

Marathwada Liberation Day

- Marathwada Liberation Day, also known as Marathwada Mukti Sangram Din, is celebrated in Maharashtra on 17 September annually.
- It marks the anniversary of Marathwada's integration with India when the Indian military, liberated State of Hyderabad, and defeated the Nizam on 17 September 1948, 13 months after Indian independence.
- Marathwada, Telangana and Kalyana-Karnataka were part of the former princely Hyderabad state.

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A

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आता तयारी झाली एकदम सोपी !