

Maharashtra Weekly Current Affairs 17 to 23 September 2023

Maharashtra government to implement NaMo 11-point programme

- Maharashtra government to implement **NaMo 11-point programme** as an array of welfare measure to commemorate PM Modi's 73rd birthday.

Key Points:

- The NaMo 11-point programme is a **set of welfare schemes** announced by the Maharashtra government in September 2023, on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 73rd birthday.
- The programme is aimed at **benefiting all sections of society, including farmers, women, youth, and the underprivileged.**

The 11 schemes included in the NaMo 11-point programme are:

1. NaMo Women Empowerment Mission
2. NaMo Construction Worker Welfare Mission
3. NaMo Farm Pond Mission
4. NaMo Self-sufficient and Solar Energy Village Campaign
5. NaMo Poor and Backward Class Dignity Mission
6. NaMo Village Secretariat Mission
7. NaMo Smart Tribal School Mission
8. NaMo Divyang Shakti Abhiyan
9. NaMo Sports Ground and Garden Mission
10. NaMo City Beautification Project
11. NaMo Pilgrim and Fort Protection Mission

Awareness about the water conservation is the theme of Ganesh festivities

- **Water conservation campaign** to be highlight of Ganesh festivities.
- Awareness of water conservation would be at the center of Ganesh festivities in **Maharashtra's Latur district**, which has not received enough rainfall this monsoon
- The campaign is part of the '**Jal Saksharta Abhiyan**'.

Key Points:

- **Jal Saksharta Abhiyan (JSA)** is a nationwide campaign launched by the Government of India in 2022 to raise awareness about water conservation and management.
- The campaign aims **to educate and empower all citizens, especially women and children** to understand the importance of water and to take action to protect and conserve this precious resource.

Did you know?

- **Jalyukt shivar yojana** is the water conservation campaign of maharashtra

The Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST)

- **BEST** to replace regular electric meters with **prepaid smart meters** to enhance **accuracy in data collection on electricity consumption.**

Key Points:

- The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) is a **public transport and electricity provider based in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.**
- It was **originally set up in 1873 as a tramway company** called "Bombay Tramway Company Limited".

Maharashtra millet mission

- To celebrate the eve of the international year of millet 2023, the **Maharashtra government also launched its mission on millet 2023.**

Key Points:

- The year 2023 is being celebrated as 'International Year of Nutritious Cereals'.
- It is a comprehensive issue that covers all aspects of nutritious cereals, from their nutritional value to their cultivation and consumption.
- The issue also includes articles by experts from various fields, including agriculture, nutrition, and public health.

Did you know :

Maharashtra is the leading producer of jowar

Nashik District Onion Traders Association NOT to be a part of Onion auction

- The Nashik District Onion Traders Association have decided not to participate in the onion auction as the central government entered the trade.
- Onions procured through NAFED and National Consumers' Cooperative Union (NCCF) are sent to the domestic market, traders' goods are not sold abroad.
- 40 percent tax has slowed down exports.

New Launch **Bilingual**



Maharashtra

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Key Points:

- The **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)** is the apex cooperative marketing organization in India.
- It was established in 1958 with the objective of promoting the cooperative marketing of agricultural produce and to provide better returns to farmers.
- NAFED is a member-based organization, with its members being state cooperative marketing federations, national cooperative federations, and primary cooperative marketing societies.

Trafficking of "Common Crane" Birds

- Trafficking of "Common Crane" Birds on rise in Maharashtra region.
- It has been revealed that the smuggling of these birds, which are being smuggled from West Bengal to Mumbai city, is at an international level.

Key points:

- 'Common Crane' is a bird protected under **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.**
- The common crane (*Grus grus*) is a large, long-legged wading bird in the family Gruidae.
- It is the only crane commonly found in Europe besides the demoiselle crane (*Grus virgo*) and the Siberian crane (*Leucogeranus leucogeranus*) that only are regular in the far eastern part of the continent.
- **IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern.**
- Common Cranes are medium-sized cranes that weigh between 3-6kg.

Drought Like Conditions in Maharashtra

- Drought-like condition in thirteen districts; Severe shortages in Nagar, Sangli, Satara, Jalna, Beed.
- Out of 36 districts of the state, drought-like conditions have arisen in 13 districts.
- According to the India Meteorological Department, the state received nine percent less rainfall than the average from June 1 to September 18

Major reason for this - El-Nino phenomenon.

About El-Nino:

- El Niño is the warming of seawater in the central-east Equatorial Pacific that occurs every few years.
- During El Niño, surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific rise, and trade winds — east-west winds that blow near the Equator — weaken.
- Normally, easterly trade winds blow from the Americas towards Asia.
- Due to El Niño, they falter and change direction to turn into westerlies, bringing warm water from the western Pacific towards the Americas.
- It occurs every 3-6 years and lasts for about 9-12 months.
- It can cause droughts, flooding, and changes in temperature.
- It can lead to below-normal rainfall, which affects India's agricultural sector.

India Meteorological Department

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is the national meteorological service of India.
- It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- The IMD is headquartered in New Delhi

The IMD provides a wide range of meteorological services, including:

1. Weather forecasting for the general public, aviation, maritime, and other sectors
2. Climate monitoring and research
3. Monsoon forecasting
4. Severe weather warnings and advisories
5. Agrometeorological services
6. Environmental monitoring

Maratha quota panel

- MH state government has formed a 20-member team to assist the panel headed by retired Justice Sandeep Shinde to meet the demand of recognising Maratha community as Kunbi and grant them OBC certificates

Key Points:

- The team includes officials of a deputy secretary and under-secretary rank. Deputy secretary (home) Vijay Powar, under secretary (finance) Rasik Khadse and under secretary (civil supplies) Pooja Mankar are among those appointed on the team.
- The state has issued a resolution granting the team a month's time to carry out the work.
- The appointment of the staff is till the completion of the given assignment.

Secessionist movement

- The term separatism was first coined by Pandit Nehru in a speech in Colombo in 1954.
- Abstention from militaristic and factional politics in the international arena is separatism. Detachment can be interpreted as 'affirmative neutrality'

Key Points:

- A secessionist movement is a political movement that advocates for the withdrawal of a territory from a state or nation.
- Secessionist movements can be motivated by a variety of factors, such as ethnic nationalism, religious differences, or economic grievances.

Person in news: Rajnish Seth (New MPSC Chairman)

- Director General of Police Rajnish Seth to be MPSC New Chairman
- Rajnish Seth, the current State Director General of Police, is likely to be appointed as the Chairman of the State Public Service Commission (MPSC).

Historic (Shri Ganapati) silver coin

- Historians are reminded of the silver coin inscribed 'Shri Ganapati' when Ganapati Bappa was welcomed with great enthusiasm.
- This very rare coin belongs to the Maratha Empire.
- 1759 to 1806 was the reign of Mughal Emperor Shah Alam (II).
- According to history scholar Ashok Thakur, this coin was produced by **Patwardhan of Miraj Sansthan**, a Maratha ruler.

World Bamboo Day is observed on September 18 every year to raise awareness about bamboo worldwide.

- A success story written by the women of Melghat reflects how Bamboo supports 'Chitri' economy.
- Bamboo, which has been developing as an important natural resource in the last few years, has started to transform the economy of Chitri village in Melghat.
- Money has started coming into the hands of the women here through the production of various bamboo products.

Key Points:

- Chitri is a village of barely 70 houses and population of 462 in Dharani taluk of Melghat.
- Majority of the population of Bhilala, Korku, Gond, Gawli communities are in this village. Agriculture, labor and livestock management are the major sources of income.
- The entire bamboo center trained 60 people from 23 households in this village to make various items from bamboo.

Fungus destroyed 30% of soybeans in MH

- Due to Sudden increase in the temperature, soybeans were attacked by fungi.
- Crops have turned yellow, and have started to dry up.
- Around 30 percent of soybeans are lost due to fungus.

Key Points:

- Experts are saying that this fungal disease is being seen for the first time in hundred years.
- Fungus infestation has increased in Wardha district.
- Soybeans are currently being affected by mealybug, whitefly, camel worm, leafhopper, tobacco leaf-eating worm, cutworm, yellow mosaic disease.

Alleviate Water Scarcity in Marathwada

- The Shinde-Fadnavis government recently approved some water resources projects to solve the water shortage in Marathwada.

Key Points:

- Efforts are being made to bring water from North Konkan to Marathwada.
- Accordingly, diversion of a total of 22.9 TMC of water from North Konkan river basins to Godavari basin through **flow diversion scheme and Upsa river connection/diversion schemes** will be undertaken on priority.
- A total fund of Rs 14,040 crore will be allotted for this.

Flow Diversion Scheme

- A flow diversion scheme is a water management project that diverts water from one river basin to another.
- This can be done for a variety of reasons, such as to provide irrigation water to arid regions, to generate hydropower, or to improve water quality.
- Flow diversion schemes can be complex and expensive to build, and they can also have a significant impact on the environment.
- For example, diverting water from one river basin can reduce the flow of water in that basin, which can harm downstream ecosystems.

Upsa river connection/diversion schemes

- The Upsa river is a tributary of the Krishna river. It flows through the Telangana state in India.
- The Upsa river connection/diversion schemes are a series of proposed projects that would divert water from the Upsa river to the Krishna river basin.
- The goal of the Upsa river connection/diversion schemes is to provide additional water to the Krishna river basin, which is facing a water shortage.
- The schemes would also generate hydropower and improve water quality in the Krishna river basin.

The BEST initiative has decided to preserve the last non-AC double decker bus in the BEST fleet.

- Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking(BEST) is a public transport company that operates buses in Mumbai, India.
- The BEST initiative is a program launched by the Maharashtra government in 2016 to improve the quality and efficiency of BEST bus services.

Did you know?

The last non ac bus will be kept in the museum as a part of memories of mumbaikar.

BILINGUAL

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The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation(MTDC) conducted a test run of 'Deccan Odyssey 2.0'.

- Deccan Odyssey 2.0' will run up to Delhi along with Konkan.
- The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation(MTDC) conducted a test run of 'Deccan Odyssey 2.0'.
- The train has been tested between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus and Panvel.

About deccan odyssey

- It is one of the luxurious trains of the country.
- It was first launched in 2005 in collaboration between maharashtra government and Indian railway to boost tourism
- It is operated by MTDC
- This luxurious train covers the tourist spots of Maharashtra and lets travelers get a glimpse of the state's rich cultural heritage.

Gold Award for 'Lokmat Times'

- The award was given to 'Lokmat Times' for the initiative called , '**Because Local Issues Matter More**' in the newspaper category.
- The event, held under the aegis of 'Asian Customer Engagement Forum and Awards' (ACEF)
- This multifaceted initiative became part of the relaunch edition of Lokmat times which was launched on gandhi jayanti
- The motto of initiative is "Wherever we live, local issues affect us and touch our hearts".

International University in the name of Lata mangeshkar

- The state government has decided to establish an international music school in name of Lata Mangeshkar
- An international university to be established in Sangli district of maharashtra
- Necessary space will be provided through Ganpati Panchayat.

Ban to take sugarcane to foreign states, MH

- Export of sugarcane ban by Maharashtra government has double crisis for farmers along with drought

Key facts

- Lack of expected rainfall affected the state's sugar belt this monsoon.
- The yield and production got affected due to lack of rainfall
- In the backdrop of the situation , the Maharashtra government implemented a notification banning factories from other states from importing sugarcane.
- No export policy of government will affect remuneration of farmers

About Sugarcane pricing

- Sugarcane is a tropical grass that is grown in tropical and subtropical areas.
- The FPR (Fair and Remunerative price) is administered to the sugarcane crop instead of MSP
- The sugarcane crop price is decided by the cabinet committee on economics chaired by PM.

World Tourism Center, Pune

- Recently the deputy CM of Maharashtra has announced that the **Kuswali plateau in Maval taluka in the Pune district** will become a world tourist center.

Key points:

- A World Tourism Center (WTC) is a city or region that is a major destination for international tourists.
- WTCs are typically characterized by their rich cultural heritage, natural attractions, and well-developed infrastructure.
- They offer a variety of tourism products and services.
- WTCs play an important role in the global tourism industry and importantly in **employment generation**
- They attract millions of visitors each year and generate billions of dollars in revenue.

Nandadeep Foundation' in Yavatmal

- Nandadeep Foundation' in Yavatmal is going to start activities like treatment and counseling and self employment -small industry center for psychiatric patients!

Key Points about Nandadeep Foundation

- It is a non-profit organization that works to help homeless mentally ill people in Yavatmal, Maharashtra.
- It was founded in 2015 by **Sandip and Nandini Shinde**, who were inspired by their own experiences with mental illness.
- Nandadeep Foundation provides a variety of services to mentally ill people

Did you know?

- It also works to raise awareness about mental illness and to promote social inclusion of mentally ill people.

Trailguard AI' technology

- As the human-wildlife conflict in India's tiger habitats continues to grow, artificial intelligence-based camera alert technology has been developed.

About Trailguard AI

- 'Trailguard AI', has been developed by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority, Global Tiger Forum, NGO Resolve and Clemson University**.
- TrailGuard AI is a **camera-based wildlife monitoring system** that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to **detect and identify animals**.

- It is designed to help rangers and conservationists to **protect wildlife from poaching and other threats.**

Did you know?

MSTRIP is the project for tigers.

APMCs

- Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) are **statutory bodies** established by state governments in India to regulate the marketing of agricultural produce.
- They were established under the **Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Act, 1964.**
- APMCs play an important role in protecting the interests of farmers by ensuring that they get a fair price for their produce.
- They also help to regulate the supply of agricultural produce to the market and to prevent exploitation of farmers by middlemen.

Scrub typhus cases reported in MH

- 16 cases of Scrub typhus cases reported from Maharashtra after other states

Key Points:

- Cases are reported in three districts: Aurangabad, Jalna, and Buldhana.
- With several states in India grappling with an outbreak of this disease ,
- The Maharashtra public health department has alerted all districts to increase surveillance.

Scrub typhus

- Scrub typhus is a **mite-borne rickettsial disease** that is caused by the **bacteria Orientia tsutsugamushi.**
- It is found in tropical and subtropical regions of Asia, Africa, and South America.
- Scrub typhus is transmitted to humans through the **bite of infected chiggers (larval mites).**
- Chiggers attach to the skin and feed on blood, injecting the bacteria into the bloodstream.
- The bacteria then multiply in the lymph nodes and spread to other parts of the body

Symptoms:

- The symptoms of scrub typhus typically develop 5-14 days after being bitten by an infected chigger.

Symptoms include:

- ❖ Fever
- ❖ Headache
- ❖ Muscle Aches
- ❖ Rashes

PM Atma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana

- 'Prime Minister Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana' (PMASBY) scheme was announced on 1st February, 2021, with an outlay of about Rs.64,180 Cr over six years (till FY 25-26).

- This will be in addition to the National Health Mission.

The main interventions under the scheme to be achieved by FY 25-26 are:

- Support for 17,788 rural Health and Wellness Centres in 10 High Focus States
- Establishing 11,024 urban Health and Wellness Centres in all the States.
- Setting up of Integrated Public Health Labs in all districts and 3382 Block Public Health Units in 11 High Focus states;
- Establishing Critical Care Hospital Blocks in 602 districts and 12 Central Institutions;
- Strengthening of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), its 5 regional branches and 20 metropolitan health surveillance units;
- Expansion of the Integrated Health Information Portal to all States/UTs to connect all public health labs;
- Operationalisation of 17 new Public Health Units and strengthening of 33 existing Public Health Units at Points of Entry, that is at 32 Airports, 11 Seaports and 7 land-crossings;
- Setting up of 15 Health Emergency Operation Centres and 2 mobile hospitals; and
- Setting up of a national institution for One Health, a Regional Research Platform for WHO South East Asia Region, 9 Bio-Safety Level III laboratories and 4 regional National Institutes for Virology.

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