

Gyankosh

Monthly Current Affairs (Maharashtra State)

For MPSC, & Saral Seva Bharti
Useful for ZP, Nagar Palika, Municipal Corporation &
Other Competitive Exams



Mumbai's iconic double-decker bus
to shut down in October

Maharashtra has declared

the Silver Pomfret as the state fish

Maharashtra to set up 5 international ITIs

Shivaji Maharaj's Wagh Nakhe returned to India

'Arpita' of Aurangabad's Siddharth Zoo

gave birth to three calves

The Thane depot of the bullet train project will be

built on the standards of Japan's Shinkansen depot

Shyam Hotel will be converted into Dr Ambedkar Memorial

Government of Maharashtra's 'Doors of Disabilities' campaign

Maharashtra ranks number one in attracting FDI

Government of Maharashtra is going to implement

NAMO 11-clause programme

Scrub typhus patients have been found in Maharashtra

Two more tunnels will be constructed at

Borghat on the Pune-Mumbai Expressway

Pune Civic Board's decision to start

'Signature Walk' at Sinhagad Fort and Shiv Srishti

Gecko lizards were spotted in Pench Tiger Reserve

Sangli railway station is the top in cleanliness



Maharashtra State Specific Monthly Current Affairs | September 2023**Hinglaj Devi Temple**

- Hinglaj Devi Temple at Hinglajwadi Dharashiv taluka has a seventeenth century temple of Lord Shiva Shankar and the Idol of Shiva Shankar in this temple moves round.
- It was built in 1694.
- Circular rotating idol of Lord Shiva Shankar is made of stone.
- At the entrance of the temple, the idol of Hanumanta is carved with excellent craftsmanship

Sushila Devi Salunke

- Founder Sushiladevi's work is inspiring for today's generation, Prof. Dr. Machindra Nagare.

Key Points:

- Sushila Devi Salunke was an Indian educationist and social worker.
- Shri Swami Vivekananda Education Institute, Kolhapur run Ramakrishna Paramahansa College, Osmanabad, the birth anniversary of Institution Mata Sushila Devi Salunke was celebrated with great enthusiasm.
- Mata Sushila Devi Salunke played a major role in setting up Swami Vivekananda Education Institute.

Committee to explore reservation for Marathas

- Maharashtra Govt. forms a committee to explore reservation for Marathas.

Key Points:

- CM Eknath Shinde said his government has constituted a panel that will submit a report telling how Marathas from Marathwada region can be included in the OBC category and given the Kunbi Caste Certificate.
- The Kunbi is a generic term applied to castes of traditional farmers in Western India. They are largely found in the state of Maharashtra but also exist in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala and Goa.

Expedite redevelopment proposals of old buildings

- The self-redevelopment of old buildings in Maharashtra will now be expedited as the State government recently instructed its authorities to approve such proposals within three months.
- The resolution was passed by Maharashtra Housing Department
- The resolution says: "Once resolution is passed by the housing societies within a majority, the competent authority shall issue notice to landowner or builder to expedite the process of self- development"

Ayushman Bhava Arogya yojancha

- It was launched by Sarpanch Didi Kale of the rural hospital.
- Ayushman Bhava Yojana is a new health care program launched by the Government of India in September 2023.
- The program aims to provide health insurance coverage of up to Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year to all Indian citizens.

International Vulture Awareness Day:

- International Vulture Awareness Day: Maharashtra's first vulture conservation and breeding center to come up near Pune.
- For the first time in Maharashtra, a vulture conservation and breeding center will be set up at Pingori near Pune.
- IVAD is celebrated on the first Saturday in September each year.
- The aim of IVAD is to raise awareness about the plight of vultures and the threats they face.

National Award to Teachers 2023 for Higher Education.

- IITB 'night teacher' to receive national award to teachers 2023 for higher education.
- Night teacher Raghavan Sunoj from the India Institute of Technology Bombay will go on to accept the National Award to Teachers 2023 for Higher Education.
- The National Award to Teachers carries a cash prize of Rs. 50,000, a certificate of merit, and a silver medal.
- The awardees are also invited to the award ceremony by the President of India.

Soybean Crop Insurance

- Soybean Crop Insurance: 21 more circles have been included for Soybean Advances after earlier 52.



Key Points:

- Soybean advance crop insurance has been approved in 73 out of 86 circles.
- Now in 73 out of 86 circles it has been decided to get advance crop insurance for the soybean crop and the survey of remaining 13 circles is still going on.
- Soybean crop insurance is a type of crop insurance that protects farmers against financial losses due to crop failures caused by natural calamities such as drought, flood, hailstorm, and pests

Manoj Jarange

- Manoj Jarange Patil's hunger strike continues.

Key Points:

- Maratha protester Manoj Jarange Patil's hunger strike continues. Today is the ninth day of his fast.
- The protestors are aggressive due to the non-resolution of the reservation.
- Maratha reservation is likely to have repercussions across the state even today.
- More than 3515 winners of the 4082 house draw of the Mumbai Board of MHADA were distributed online by the Mumbai Board on Monday.

Shiromani Akali Dal

Shiromani Akali Dal to join India alliance; Big events in Delhi.

Key Points:

- Shiromani Akali Dal will join the India Alliance. A meeting in this regard will be held at the residence of NCP chief Sharad Pawar in Delhi and the entry of Shiromani Akali Dal into India Aghadi will be sealed.
- Sharad Pawar is an Indian Politician. He is a member of the Rajya Sabha.

Double- Deck Buses

- Mumbai's iconic double- deck buses to shut operations in October.

Key Points:

- The iconic double - deck buses are set to bid abide on September 15.
- The Open- Double - deckers, which are hit with tourists for joy rides to Gateway of India and Marine drive, will also be phased out by 15 October.
- BEST is currently operating 16 air - conditioned e-double- decker buses manufactured by Switch Mobility.

Nutritional Status of MH Children

- According to the survey, Over 63,000 children are suffering from moderate and severe anaemia,
- Over 8,137 were obese,
- Over 7,800 children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM)

- Over 1,000 have goitre and
- Over 22,000 are Vitamin A deficient.

As per recent survey by MH State health department-

- Nutritional deficiency found in many children across Maharashtra.
- Of 2.25 crore children screened, 1.76 lakh found to be deficient in some or the other nutrient.
- Anaemia, Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), goitre obesity and Vitamin A deficiency were among the top five issues.

POSHAN Abhiyaan

- It is the central government's flagship initiative.
- POSHAN Abhiyaan focuses on the nutritional needs of pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls and children under the age of six years in a comprehensive manner.

Do you know?

- Union ministry of women and child development is observing month-long POSHAN Abhiyaan event - 6th Rashtriya Poshan Maah (National Nutrition Month)

MH declares Silver Pomfret as its State Fish

- Maharashtra government on Sept 5, 2023 declared the silver pomfret (a.k.a sarangi or paplet) as the state fish.

Key Points:

- As per International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the population of silver pomfret are declining.
- Major objective for declaring it as state fish - to conserve the fish as its numbers are declining in the region.
- Silver pomfret is mainly found in the coastal areas of MH and Gujarat.

Maharashtra to implement cyber security project at Rs 837 crore

- MH govt. decides to implement a cyber security project worth Rs 837 crore.
- Objective - to curb cyber crime and make the state a "cyber safe" state.

Patgaon village of Maharashtra

- It is the only village from Maharashtra selected in the 'Best Rural Tourism Village' competition organized by the Union Ministry of Tourism.

Key Points:

- The village is implementing a pilot project of sustainable development through their initiative 'Madhache Gaon Patgaon' in five village panchayats.
- It helped the locals to be self-reliant and employed through the production, sale and tourism of pure and natural honey.

Do you know?

- To make Patgaon and surrounding villages self-sufficient by employing women including honey producers and sellers, 'Patgaon Madhutpadak Shetkari Company' has been established at this place with the cooperation of NABARD.

Maharashtra to set up 5 international ITIs

- It will be established in Govandi, Sambhajnagar, Pune, Nagpur and Nashik.
- Maha govt. to set up 5 international Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)
- It helps to meet global demand for skilled labour
- Maharashtra's ministry of skills, employment, entrepreneurship and innovation has set up an international placement centre, called Maharashtra International.

Maharashtra govt. approves Rs 837 crore cyber safety project

- MH's cyber safety project aims to bring all modern technologies under one umbrella, which will also include a control and command centre, technology-assisted investigation, a centre of excellence, a Computer Emergency Response Team, a cloud-based data centre, a security operations centre, the government said in a statement.

12-member panel for Nag River Pollution Abatement project headed by Satish Wate

- Maharashtra government approved the decision to appoint a 12-member panel of environmentalists.
- The panel is headed by former NEERI director Satish Wate, for monitoring Nag, Pora and Pili rivers pollution abatement programme.
- The panel of experts will provide suggestions and guide the NMC for implementing ₹1,923.99 crore Nag River Pollution Abatement project.

Do you know?

- For implementing the project, the government is taking loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- The expert panel, which will work free of cost, would provide advice and guidance from an environmental perspective for controlling pollution at all the three rivers of Nagpur.

Shivaji Maharaj's Wagh Nakh to return to India

- UK to give back the dagger shaped like tiger claws — used by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to kill Afzal Khan, general of the Bijapur sultanate, in 1659.

Do you know?

- Shivarai's Jagadamba Talwar and Vaghankhe are in London.
- The tiger claws is kept in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Vijayawada railway station gets coveted Platinum rating of IGBC

- In an incredible achievement, Vijayawada Railway Station was certified with a Platinum rating by IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) in September.
- In the recertification process this year, Vijayawada railway station outperformed and immensely improvised its amenities in almost all aspects compared to the 2019 Gold Standard Rating and clinched the Platinum standard IGBC Rating.

'Arpita' of Aurangabad's Siddharth Zoo gave birth to three calves

- Three cubs have been born to a pair of tigers Veer and Arpita of Aurangabad Municipal Corporation's Siddharth Zoo.
- The white tigress, Arpita, of the Siddharth Zoo of the Municipal Corporation gave birth to three white calves
- Arpita the tigress and the calf have been examined by the zoo veterinarian.

Pandharpur Temples Act doesn't affect religious rights

- Pandharpur Temples Act doesn't affect religious rights: Maharashtra to HC
- The Maharashtra government told the Bombay High Court that the Vitthal and Rukmini temples in Solapur are open to people of all faiths and that the Pandharpur Temples Act of 1973, does not impair or curtail the rights of the devotees or pilgrims but was introduced in the interest of the general public.
- The Pandharpur Temples Act, 1973 is an Act of the Maharashtra legislature that was enacted to provide for the better administration and management of the Pandharpur temples

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.

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?

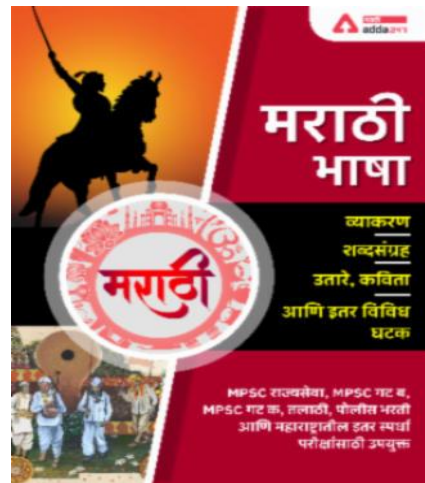
- The chief cause for the decline in vulture population was the use of diclofenac injections in cattle.
- The Panna tiger reserve has a large number of wild vultures.

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.
- 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 Mohmmmed 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 Bhadrapada 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.

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 moves 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

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.

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.

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 Kuswadi 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.

Pune civic body decided to launch 'Signature Walk' to Sinhgad Fort and Shivrushti.

- Pune civic body decided to launch 'Signature Walk' to Sinhgad Fort and Shivrushti to take citizen to these iconic destination

Key points:

- It is in the wake of the positive response received for the civic body's Heritage Walk initiative.
- Shivrushti is a historical theme park located in pune and founded by babasaheb purandare.
- Shivrushti is dedicated to the life and achievements of shivaji maharaj
- The Signature Walk will involve arranging buses from Swargate, providing guided tours to these historic sites, and offering participants insights into their rich histories

Did you Know?

- Sinhgad Fort is also known as Kondhana Fort and was built in 17th century by Shivaji Maharaj

Maharashtra government puts a hold on women empowerment scheme within 24 hours of announcement

- The scheme "Mukhymantri Mahila Sashaktikaran Abhiyan" was to be implemented in the state from October 2, 2023, to October 1, 2024 but is now being put on hold by MH government

Adda247

Saral Seva MAHAPACK

महाराष्ट्र पोलीस, तलाठी, वनरक्षक, कृषी विभाग, महानगरपालिका, नगरपरिषद, जिल्हा परिषद & All Other State Exam

Live classes, Test Series, Recorded Videos, E-Books

About scheme:

- Mukhyamantri Mahila Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (MMSSA) program of the Government of Maharashtra.
- The scheme aims to empower women by providing them with vocational training, skills development, and employment opportunities.

Objective - to make women self-reliant and economically independent.

1. To enhance the social, economic, and educational status of women.
2. To rehabilitate women affected by disasters, violence, or other vulnerabilities into the mainstream of society

In Maharashtra, this year, till the end of September, as many as 30 tigers have died due to various reasons.

- The tiger is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- The tiger occupancy has increased from 1758 cells of 100 km² in 2018 to 1792 cells of 100 km² in 2022.

Did you know?

- A total of 142 tigers had died in the country during the entire year 2022 till sep 2023.

Two more tunnels will be made on Borghat on Pune-Mumbai Expressway.

- 2.5 thousand crores for eight tiers has been allocated
- The two more lanes are to increase the number of vehicles on the expressway and for future growth
- The 'Missing Link' project was started by the Road Development Corporation and is to break the deadlock as is in its final stage.
- It is a 12.1-kilometre-long stretch of road that will connect the Mumbai-Pune Expressway to the Yashwantrao Chavan Expressway,
- It will bypass the ghat section of the Mumbai-Pune Expressway.
- The project consists of two tunnels, two viaducts, and a cable-stayed bridge.

Govt schools in state can now be adopted by private & public sector for 5 or 10 years

- The school education department issued a government resolution forming state and zonal level coordinating committees to give over 62,000 government schools in the state for adoption of govt schools.

Key points

- The school adoption scheme is part of the National Education Policy, s 'Vidyanjali' initiative.
- Right from arranging for repair, maintenance and painting of schools to increasing enrollment by focusing on health, hygiene and use of modern technology will be included in the adoption scheme.

Vidyanjali Initiative

- It aims at strengthening schools through community and private sector involvement across the country.
- Corporate houses can adopt schools through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds.

The police have given a tribute to the martyrs of the Chirner Jungle Satyagraha situated in the Raigad district of Maharashtra.

- This year the program was held in a simple manner as the government is ignorant about the event.
- This year it was 93rd Memorial Day.

About Chirner Jungle Satyagraha

- It was a non-violent civil disobedience movement in pre-independence era .
- It was organized against the British colonial government in India.
- It took place on September 25, 1930, in the village of Chirner in the Raigad district of Maharashtra.
- It was launched in response to the number of forest laws enacted by the British government that restricted the access of local people to forest resources, including firewood.

Did You Know?

- Keshav Mahadev Joshi was a local leader who organized the satyagraha
- Mahatma Gandhi and Nagya Katkari also participated in the Satyagrah

Clean food day is observed on 24th of sept

- On the occasion of Clean Food Day, health inspectors conducted a special inspection campaign of canteens at railway stations in Bhusawal division
- The inspection campaign is a part of Swachhata Pakhwada program run by Indian railway.

Did you know?

- The swachhata pakhwada campaign is run on the theme of swachhata hi seva.

Recently deputy CM of Maharashtra gave a call for Change in Mathadi Act

- On the occasion of Mathadi Mela , he talked about the change required in the Mathadi Labor Act.
- He expressed a strong opinion that changes in the Mathadi Act are essential, in order to bring the industry to the state and sustain it, without touching the core

About mathadi act

- The Maharashtra Mathadi, Hammal and other Manual Workers (Regulation of Employment and Welfare) Act, 1969 is also known as the Mathadi Act,

- It regulates the employment of unprotected manual workers employed in certain occupations in Maharashtra.
- It aims to protect the interests of these workers, who are often exploited and denied their basic rights.

Did you Know?

- Mathadi Mela was organized on the occasion of Annasaheb Patil's 90th birth anniversary.

Bird study and research center is to be set up in the name of the great ornithologist Salim Ali at Kihim in Alibag taluka

- Aim is to promote the growth of tourism.
- To convey the information to the people
- To provide employment opportunities
- 60% work has been completed so far

Did you Know?

- Salim Ali is called as the 'Birdman of India'
- He was the pioneer ornithologist and environmentalist of the country.

Recently a Israeli scientist Mikhal Yakir visits Kaas Plateau

- Eminent Israeli botanist, scientist and well-known homeopath Dr. Mrs. Mikhal Yakir visited the well-known Kaas Plateau.
- He also visited the world famous Toseghar Falls along with Kumudini Lake.

About kaas plateau

- The Kaas Plateau is a plateau situated 25 kilometers west from Satara city in Maharashtra, India.
- It falls under the Sahyadri Sub Cluster of the Western Ghats
- It was declared as a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site in 2012.

Did you know?

- The plateau is known for its unique biodiversity, with over 850 species of flowering plants, of which 60% are endemic to the Western Ghats

Very rare 'Povla snake' found in Panchgani.

- The scientific name of this snake is Calliophis beddomei Smith.
- This snake is endemic to the entire Western Ghats
- It is a very rare snake
- It is a venomous snake and is nocturnal

Did You Know?

- Povla Snake is called as Munga Saap in Hindi

Dayal became Sangli's city bird in Atiti's contest, securing 561 votes

- After the counting of votes for the City Bird Election, Dayal won by 4 votes
- The Dayal (Mycopsthedea cafer) is also known as the Grey-headed Myna

Did you Know?

- Dayals are omnivores and their diet includes fruits, insects, and small animals.

Gecko lizards are seen in the Pench tiger reserve.

- Gecko lizard found in the Chorbahuli hill range of Pench tiger reserve
- It is the first record of this reptile species in Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR), Maharashtra.

About Gecko lizard

- The lizard is called Giri's geckoella (Cyrtodactylus varadgiri),
- It is a species of the gecko in the gekkonidae family.
- It is nocturnal, insectivorous and terrestrial.
- It is endemic to India and found in parts of western and Central India, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and MP.
- The gecko was first discovered in 2016.

The first Sangeet Gurukul in the state will be established in Meera-Bhander

- State's First Music Guruku will open in the name of Bharat Ratna Lata mangeshkar
- It will be built in the Mira-Bhayander near Mumbai
- The building of this music gurukula is also going to be designed in a way that suits the music field.
- A three-year course in Music Education will be taught here.
- A request has been made to the Chief Minister so that music degree can be obtained in Meera Bhayander itself.

"World Pharmacist Day" celebrated at Govindrao Nikam College of Pharmacy in Chiplun

- The day is celebrated every year on 25th September worldwide
- It recognizes and appreciates the important role of pharmaceutical manufacturers in the healthcare system.
- This year's theme highlights the important role that pharmacists play in supporting strong and resilient healthcare systems.

Did you Know?

- The theme for World Pharmacist Day 2023 is "Pharmacy Strengthening Health Systems".

Scientists from Pune have discovered a species of unique plant with medicinal properties.

- It is found in the forest of Kurung Kume district of Arunachal.
- The name of this species is 'Smilax turban'.
- Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) plant scientists have rediscovered the 'Smilax turban' species.
- Smilax turbans is a flowering plant species in the genus Smilax.
- It is a shrub
- It is native to the Eastern Himalayas and Assam in India.
- It is used in traditional Ayurvedic medicine to treat a variety of ailments, including skin diseases, rheumatism, and arthritis.

Did you Know?

- After about 100 years, this species has been rediscovered.

Breastfeeding and nutrition program

- To reduce malnourishment in children, district authorities in Nashik decided to run a nutrition program.

Key facts

- There are around 2597 undernourished children in the district.
- 423 children in the age of zero to five are under the severe category.

About program

- It will be conducted in the collaboration of IIT Mumbai
- Under the program 59 guides and 30 facilitators have been selected
- The training will be provided to the officers and employees of all health departments through selected guides
- 89 people have been selected for breastfeeding, nutrition focus, health care worker training for malnutrition relief.

Did you know?

- The special app is designed for this program with the help of artificial intelligence.

Hi-Tech System in Patrolling Boats

- Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra has decided to go for underwater surveillance and detection systems.

Key Points:

- It was in view to tackle illegal fishing in the Totladoh dam reservoir.
- Totladoh, also called Meghdoot Reservoir

- It is part of the pench tiger reserve.
- As per the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972 The Supreme Court ordered that fishing is banned inside the reserve.

About system

- It is a combination of underwater surveillance units and cameras coupled with high-resolution displays.
- It will be used to detect and seize boats of the fishermen.

Did you Know?

- The sonar can detect objects up to 600 feet away and works in three modes — forward, down, and side scanning.

The state government announced the Rs 12000 cr under Modi Awas Yojana for OBC category.

- The scheme was designed by the OBC Welfare Department for OBC
- It is also to be implemented for Special Backward Classes (SBC) along with Other Backward Classes.
- Its aim is to provide rightful housing to rural areas belonging to the OBC category.
- Under this scheme, one million houses will be constructed in 3 years.

The Chief Minister's Agriculture and Food Processing Scheme

- The Chief Minister's Agriculture and Food Processing Scheme is being extended by five years.

Key facts

- The scheme will continue till the end of the coming financial year 2026-27.
- 148 projects worth about 645 crores were approved for various types of agricultural projects.

About scheme:

- The scheme was launched in 2017
- It is implemented by the State Agriculture Department.
- It is under the ministry of food processing
- Eligible entrepreneurs can receive a subsidy of up to 30% of the total project cost.
- Another option is a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh, for setting up food processing units.

Special voter registration campaign, Pune

- A special voter registration campaign will be held to raise awareness among the tribals of Pune district to get registered.

Key facts

- Special voter registration drive will be conducted by the district administration to register more voters.

- The special campaign is to help increase the percentage of voters in the nomadic castes and free tribes of the district.
- The campaign is in consonance with the central government's voter registration drive.
- The drive is conducted annually.

Did you know?

- The Central Election Commission has amended the Representation of the People Act, 1950 to conduct a drive

IT Act Amendment rules, 2023

- Recently Bombay High Court has shown concern about some provisions under amendments to IT Rules 2021 as there are many petitions filed against the amended rule 2023.

Key fact:

- The appeal cannot be made against the fact checking unit formed under the amended rule 2023.

About amended Rules 2023.

- No platform can allow harmful unapproved online games and their advertisements.
- No platform should share false information about the Indian government, as confirmed by a fact-checking unit.
- The platform should ensure that online games do not involve any gambling or betting elements.
- An online intermediary should make "reasonable efforts" to not host content related to the Central Government that is "identified as fake or misleading" by a "fact check unit" that may be notified by the IT Ministry.

Soybean crop in this kharif season is attacked by the 'Yellow Mosaic Virus'.

- The virus has infected the Soybean crop not only in Vidarbha but also parts of Telangana and Madhya Pradesh.
- According to Agricultural experts, pest attack is due to the hot and humid environment in the atmosphere.
- According to farmers the "Sangam Phule" variety of soybean distributed by agricultural department could resist pest attack

About Mosaic virus

- It is called the Mungbean virus.
- It is a plant pathogenic virus.
- It is one of the various viral diseases that infects legume crops.

- It turns crops yellow and dries up during the growing season Yellow
- mosaic virus (YMV) is transmitted by whiteflies, which are small, flying insects.

Did you know?

- Yield losses from YMV can be as high as 90%.

Person in news: Dr. Dilip Pandharpatte

- Recently Dilip Dnyaneshwar Pandharpatte has been given additional charge of the Chairman of Maharashtra Public Service Commission by the Governor of Maharashtra.

Key facts

- The charge was given to him as the duration of permanent chairman was completed in mid sept.
- He will hold the office until the appointment of a permanent member is done by the governor.

About Dilip Pandharpatte

- Dr. Pandharpatte is a 1987 State Service batch officer.

Sangli railway station tops in cleanliness

- Sangli was declared as the cleanest and most beautiful station Under 'Mera Station Mera Abhiman 2023' of Railway.
- Vathar station in Satara district won the award in small station category
- Sangli railway station has won this award many times

Did you know?

- Mera Station Mera Abhiman is a campaign launched by the Indian Railways in 2017
- Aim is to promote cleanliness and passenger satisfaction at railway stations.
- The campaign also aims to make railway stations more user-friendly and welcoming for passengers,

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