

## Maharashtra Weekly Current Affairs 04 to 10 Mar 2024

### Maharashtra State News

#### National Safety Day

- Observed annually on March 4th, National Safety Day in India is a significant event dedicated to promoting safety awareness and preventing accidents.
- It coincides with the foundation day of the National Safety Council (NSC), established in 1966 to address workplace safety concerns.

#### Significance:

- Raises awareness about safety in workplaces, communities, and homes.
- Encourages adoption of safe practices and adherence to safety protocols.
- Serves as a platform for safety campaigns, rallies, and educational programs.

#### Theme:

- This year's theme is 'Focus on Safety Leadership for Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Excellence'.

#### Did you Know?

- National Safety day was first observed on March 4, 1972, on the foundation day of the council.

#### MH forest department sets Guinness World Record

- The Maharashtra forest department achieved a remarkable feat by setting a Guinness World Record during the Tadoba Festival 2024.
- They used a staggering 65,724 saplings from 26 different species to form the words "Bharat Mata," which translates to "Mother India" in Hindi.
- This impressive arrangement not only earned them the title for the "largest potted sapling word" but also served as a unique way to promote environmental awareness and patriotism.

#### International HPV Awareness Day

- International HPV Awareness Day is marked annually on March 4
- It was developed in 2018 by the International Papillomavirus Society (IPVS)

- It aims to raise awareness about the human papillomavirus (HPV), its associated cancers, and the available preventive measures.

#### About:

- HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection globally.
- While most people clear the virus naturally, certain HPV strains can lead to several cancers, including cervical, anal, and head and neck cancers.

#### Govt gives 7.8cr to restore monuments

- The Maharashtra government has allocated Rs 7.8 crore for the restoration of Soneri Mahal, Delhi Gate and Makai Gates.
- The Soneri Mahal has been granted Rs3.93 crore
- Delhi Gate and Makai Gate received funds worth Rs 2.35 crore. And Rs 1.6 crore respectively.
- This is a positive step towards preserving the state's rich historical and cultural heritage.
- The funds will be used to restore monuments across the state, which will help to attract tourists and boost the local economy.

#### World Wildlife Day

- United Nations World Wildlife Day (WWD) is celebrated every year on March 3.
- It is a global event dedicated to raising awareness about the diverse and magnificent wildlife on our planet.
- It highlights the critical role these animals and plants play in maintaining healthy ecosystems and supporting human well-being.

#### About:

- On 20 December 2013, at its 68th session, the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution UN 68/205, decided to proclaim 3 March, the international day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on the planet raise awareness and benefits fauna and flora in 1973, as World Wildlife Day.

#### Theme:

- This year's theme is, "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation."

#### Did you Know?

- The commemoration was proposed by Thailand

#### Borivali's Historic Mandapeshwar Caves

- Borivali's historic Mandapeshwar Caves, known for their intricate rock-cut carvings, are set to receive a new addition - a 12-Kg silver Shivling.
- The installation of the Shivling is a significant development for the cave temple, which holds cultural and religious significance for the local community.

#### About:

- The Mandapeshwar Caves were originally built around the 6th century as Buddhist viharas (monasteries)
- These caves were later transformed into a Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva.
- During the 16th century, the Portuguese converted the caves into a Christian chapel, adding a cross that is still visible today.

#### Government Initiates Farmer-Focused Schemes with Ambitious Goal of Doubling Income

- Maharashtra CM stated that the State government has implemented several schemes to double farmers' income.
- He highlighted the ongoing support for agriculturists during challenges like drought and excess rain.

#### Key Points:

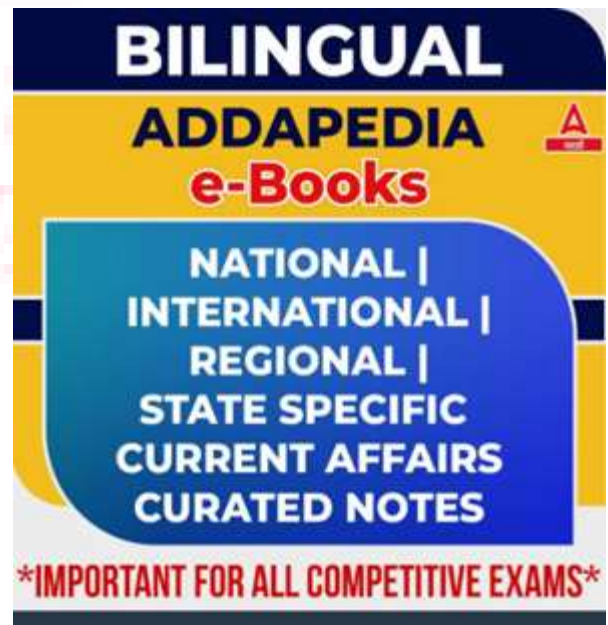
- The Mahayuti government, driven by Balasaheb Thackeray's ideology, has allocated a substantial financial aid of ₹35,000 crore to farmers over the past 17 to 24 months.
- The Maharashtra government introduced crop insurance at an unprecedented cost of only ₹1 for farmers.
- Similarly, govt have implemented various other schemes that are aimed at doubling farmers' income.

#### MH CM lays foundation of Metro Line-12 in Mumbai metropolitan region

- Maharashtra CM laid the foundation stone for Metro Line-12 that will connect Kalyan to Taloja in Navi Mumbai.

#### About:

- Metro Line-12 is one of the several Metro lines that are strategically being developed across the Mumbai metropolitan region (MMR) to complement the exceptional transportation services of the Mumbai metro.
- Metro Line-12 acts as an extension of Metro Line-5 from Kalyan, thereby playing a crucial role in enforcing interconnectivity within the intricate and extensive Metro network.
- Metro Line-12 incorporates a completely elevated structure composed of 19 elevated stations and it constitutes a total length of about 22.173 km.
- The estimated cost of this project is around ₹5,865 crores, and it is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2027.



#### 700 proposals for cluster schools under govt review

- The Maharashtra government is currently reviewing around 700 proposals from 1,900 institutions for establishing cluster schools in the state.

- These schools aim to improve educational access and quality, particularly in rural areas.
- Schools with less than 20 enrolments could be merged with nearby schools so that students get good facilities and quality education.

### World Obesity Day

- World Obesity Day, held annually on March 4th, is a unified day of action to raise awareness and encourage solutions to address the global obesity crisis.

#### About:

- The inaugural World Obesity Day was held on March 4th, 2015.
- It was established by the World Obesity Federation
- It aimed to bring global attention to the rising issue of obesity and encourage collaborative efforts to address it.

#### Theme:

- The World Obesity Day 2024 theme is "Let's Talk About Obesity and..."
- This theme emphasizes to encourage people to start conversations that address obesity from a cross-cutting perspective.
- The idea is to look at health, youth, and the world as a whole in order to find ways to combat obesity together.

### Mastermind of 26/11 Mumbai Attacks, LeT Terrorist Azam Cheema, Passes Away in Pakistan

- Azam Cheema, a key conspirator in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, reportedly died of a heart attack in Pakistan on March 2, 2024.
- He was 70 years old.

#### Key Points:

- He was also involved in the 2006 Mumbai train bombings that killed 188 people and injured more than 800 people.
- The United States had accused him of training terrorists involved in the 26/11 attacks.

### Metro 4 to be operational by Dec 2025'

- MP Rajan Vichare, said that the Thane to Mumbai Metro 4 route is expected to be operational by December 2025
- It connects Kasarvadavli in Thane with Wadala in Mumbai.
- It's a major milestone in Maharashtra's urban development.

### Pune airport new terminal likely to be inaugurated on March 10

- The new terminal building at Pune Airport will be inaugurated online by PM Modi on March 10th, 2024.
- This new terminal, which showcases Maharashtra's rich culture, spans 51,595 square meters and is anticipated to handle 12 million passengers annually, a substantial upgrade from the current capacity of 7.2 million.
- Also a pedestrian bridge has been constructed to reach Aeromall from the airport terminal.

### MMRDA Receives Budget Approval for 2024-25, Allocates Rs 41,955 Crore for Infrastructure

- The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) received budget approval for the 2024-25 fiscal year.
- The total budget is estimated at Rs 39,453 crore, with Rs 41,955 crore allocated specifically for infrastructure projects.
- This significant investment aims to improve the Mumbai Metropolitan Region's infrastructure, including:
  1. Constructing new Metro lines
  2. Building the Thane-Borivali Twin Tube Tunnel Road
  3. Developing an underground tunnel road
  4. Creating a Versova-Virar Sea Link
  5. Constructing the Thane Coastal Road
  6. Establishing growth centers
  7. Redeveloping the Ramabai Ambedkar Nagar slum

## Mumbai to Launch Pod Taxi Service for Smoother Commute to Bandra-Kurla Complex

- Mumbai is set to introduce a futuristic transportation system - pod taxis
- These automated, driverless pods will aim to ease traffic congestion and provide a smoother commute between Bandra and Kurla railway stations, connecting to the Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) business district.

### Key Points:

- **Route:** 8.8 kilometers long with 38 stops
- **Capacity:** Each pod can hold up to 6 passengers
- **Speed:** Up to 40 kilometers per hour
- **Implementation:** Public-private partnership
- This innovative project is expected to revolutionize urban mobility in Mumbai and serve as a model for other cities facing similar traffic challenges.

## MH issues GR for suo moto disclosure of information under RTI Act

- The MH govt issued a **Government Resolution (GR)** urging departments to proactively disclose information as mandated by Section 4 of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.
- This move aligns with the recent Supreme Court emphasis on the importance of "suo motu" disclosures, where public authorities share information without waiting for individual RTI applications.
- This initiative by the Maharashtra government is a positive step towards promoting transparency and citizen empowerment through the RTI Act.
- **Implementing Section 4 effectively is seen as crucial for:**
  1. Reducing RTI application backlog
  2. Increasing transparency

## BMC initiates final launch of girders to connect Coastal Road with Bandra Worli Sea Link

- The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has begun installing the final section of the bridge connecting the Mumbai Coastal

## Road Project (MCRP) to the Bandra Worli Sea Link (BWSL).

- The project involves launching girders to bridge the 850-meter gap between the Worli interchange of the MCRP and the BWSL.
- Almost two girders, measuring 44 and 46 meters each, have already been successfully installed.
- This development brings the MCRP closer to completion, aiming to improve traffic flow and connectivity in Mumbai.

## Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka have met less than 50% of capex target in FY24

- As of January 2024, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka have reportedly spent less than 50% of their allocated capital expenditure (capex) budget for the financial year 2023-24 (FY24).
- **Maharashtra: 37.49%**
- **Karnataka: 41%**
- **Gujarat: 46.4%**
- These figures suggest that these states may not be able to fully utilize their planned investments in infrastructure and other development projects during the current fiscal year.

## Wildlife board concern over ESZ provision violations by states

- The Wildlife Board has expressed significant concern regarding violations of Essential Standard Zone (ESZ) provisions by several states.
- These provisions, established within the framework of (mention the relevant legislation/regulation), aim to protect critical habitats and ensure the well-being of wildlife populations.
- The issue was raised in the 78th Standing Committee meeting chaired by Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav.
- The Board's concerns stem from reports of (mention specific examples of violations, e.g., development projects exceeding permitted limits, inadequate conservation measures).
- These violations, if left unchecked, could have detrimental consequences for (mention potential consequences, e.g., habitat loss, species endangerment).



## Yadava dynasty-era pots found during Satara temple restoration

- Centuries-old clay pots have been unearthed during the restoration and conservation works at Katreshwar's Shivling temple in the Katarkhatav village of Satara's Khatav tehsil.
- The pots could be 800-900 years old.
- The "jirnoddhar" work of the temple has been undertaken by state govt, which has sanctioned Rs 3 crore for the first phase of the work.

### About:

- The Yadava dynasty was a Hindu dynasty that ruled parts of western India from the 9th to the 14th centuries.
- The dynasty is known for its patronage of the arts and architecture, and many temples were built during their reign.

## International Women's Day

- International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated annually on March 8th.
- It's a day to recognize the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.
- It also serves as a call to action for accelerating gender equality.

### About:

- The United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day in 1975, which had been proclaimed the International Women's Year.
- In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly invited member states to proclaim March 8 as an official UN holiday for women's rights and world peace.

### Theme:

- The United Nations has designated the year 2024's theme as 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress'
- It focuses on addressing economic disempowerment
- The campaign theme for this year is 'Inspire Inclusion.'

## CIDCO Allocates Rs 4000 Crores for Housing projects in 2024-25 Budget

- Navi Mumbai is set for a significant improvement in housing and infrastructure development as the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) allocated Rs 4,000 crore for housing projects in its 2024-25 budget.

### About:

- Rs 4,018 crore to construct around 90,000 homes under the Prime Minister Awas Yojana to cater to low and middle-income groups.
- Rs 730 crore for water supply projects to address water scarcity.

### Key Points:

- The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is a flagship initiative by the Indian government to provide affordable housing for all by 2022 (target extended to Dec 2024 for Urban).

### It has two main components:

#### Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U):

- This scheme targets urban poor families, including those living in slums. It offers a credit-linked subsidy (CLSS) on home loans to eligible beneficiaries from Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and Low-Income Group (LIG) categories. Additionally, it provides interest rate subsidy for Middle Income Groups (MIG I & II)

#### Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G/R):

- This scheme focuses on providing rural households with pucca houses. It provides financial assistance for building new homes or renovating existing ones.

## 9,000 MW solar power to provide 12-hr supply to farmers during day time

- Deputy CM issued letters of award to 95 entities for the installation of solar plants to generate 9,000 MW power, creating 25,000 jobs in Maharashtra.

### About:

- This initiative aims to provide a reliable 12-hour daytime electricity supply to farmers

using a massive 9,000 MW solar power plant.

- It will enable 40 per cent agriculture feeders to be driven by solar power by 2025.
- This project is significant for a couple of reasons:
- **Scale:**
- With a capacity of 9,000 MW, this solar plant is a substantial undertaking.
- **Target beneficiaries:**
- By dedicating this power specifically to agriculture feeders, it directly addresses the needs of farmers for daytime electricity to run irrigation equipment and other agricultural operation.

### Torrent Power wins Rs 1,540 crore bid for 306 MW solar project in Nashik

- **Torrent Power** has secured a 306 MW solar power project in Nashik, Maharashtra.
- The project valued at Rs 1,540 crore will be set up across 48 locations in the district.
- The company received the Letter of Award (LoA) from Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co Ltd (MSEDCL).
- The project aims to provide stable daytime electricity to agricultural consumers through decentralized solar power.
- The power generated will be sold at a tariff of Rs 3.10 per kWh for 25 years.
- This project is expected to be commissioned within 18 months.

### CIDCO Allocates Rs 977 Crores for the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport in 2024-25 Budget

- Navi Mumbai is set for a significant improvement in infrastructure development as the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) allocated Rs 977 crore for the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport in its 2024-25 budget.
- The aim is to expedite critical projects like the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), Navi Mumbai Airport Influence Notified Area (NAINA), metro expansion, a coastal road, and a water supply scheme.

#### About:

- Rs 977 crore allocated to expedite the development of the new airport.
- Infrastructure:

- Rs 730 crore for water supply projects to address water scarcity.
- Rs 610 crore for Metro Rail projects for improved connectivity.
- Rs 569 crore for developing NAINA.
- Rs 300 crore for Kharghar-Turbhe Link Road.
- Rs 284 crore for Railway projects.

### Sunrays event at the Ellora Caves on Sun

- Every year, citizens eagerly await a unique celestial phenomenon at the Ellora Caves.
- On a specific day, the sun's rays penetrate through the cave entrance and illuminate the face of a Lord Buddha sculpture located inside Cave number 10.
- This year the phenomenon is most likely to occur on March 10 and 11
- This remarkable event is a popular tourist attraction
- The Sun Rays are expected to illuminate Lord Buddha's face between 4:30 pm and 5:15 pm for two days.

### Maharashtra's 4th Women's Policy unveiled

- Maharashtra has launched its fourth Women's Policy, outlining a roadmap for women's empowerment
- The policy, the fourth after the ones announced in 1994, 2001 and 2014, aims for comprehensive and all-inclusive development of women with focus on eight areas.

These are:

1. Health, nutrition and wellbeing
2. Education and skill development
3. Ending sexual and gender-based violence
4. Gender responsive livelihood enhancement, gender inclusive infrastructure.
5. Gender responsive governance and political participation
6. Gender sensitive natural resource management,
7. Climate change adaptation and disaster management
8. Exclusive sports policy.

#### Three committees will oversee implementation:

- **High-Power Committee:** Chaired by the Chief Minister for high-level oversight.

- **State Task Force:** Led by the Women and Child Development Minister for strategic guidance.
- **District Committees:** Headed by Guardian Ministers for local-level monitoring.

### Electricity Price Hike in Mumbai

- Mumbai residents can expect to see a significant **increase in their electricity bills starting in April.**
- The **Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC)** approved an average tariff increase of around **24%** for **Tata Power customers.**
- This hike comes **after a stay on a previous tariff** revision meant to recover costs.
- The **increase will vary depending on electricity usage, with bills going up by 27-44%** for residential consumers.

### SWAMIH allocates Rs 160 cr to Stans Buildtech Homes for stalled project

- **Government-backed SWAMIH fund allocates ₹160 crore to Stans Buildtech Homes** for completion of their stalled Sky Annex project in Chembur, Mumbai.
- This **Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) project faced delays** due to issues with tenants, approvals, and financing.
- With SWAMIH funding, **the project is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.**

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परिषद, जिल्हा परिषद, SSC & ALL OTHER STATE  
EXAM