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16 March 2024

Maharashtra State Specific News

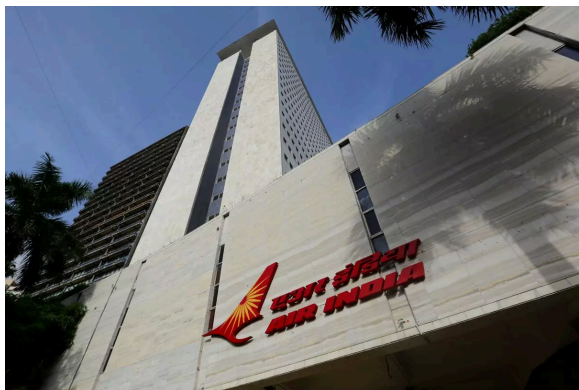
<p>Transgender cell made mandatory in colleges, to ensure inclusivity, prevent bias</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Maharashtra government's 2024 guidelines mandate the creation of transgender cells in all colleges. • This aims to foster a more inclusive learning environment and prevent discrimination against transgender students. • University-level cells will provide a comprehensive approach, with dedicated coordinators offering counselling, career guidance, and academic support. • College-level cells will act as watchdogs, ensuring a prejudice-free atmosphere and addressing issues like mental harassment.
<p>Country's first LNG buses roll in Mumbai</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) is introducing Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) buses in Mumbai. <p>This initiative aims to achieve a two-fold benefit:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduced Carbon Emissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LNG burns cleaner than diesel, leading to a projected 10% decrease in CO2 emissions. ○ This helps combat air pollution and contributes to a greener Mumbai. 2. Cost Savings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MSRTC expects significant fuel cost savings by switching to LNG. ○ They project an annual saving of Rs 235 crore by converting their fleet of 5,000 buses from diesel to LNG.
<p>Air India building transferred to Maharashtra Govt.</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian government transferred ownership of the iconic Air India building in Mumbai to the Maharashtra state government. • The deal involved a payment of ₹1,601 crore by Maharashtra and waived dues of ₹298.42 crore owed by Air India Assets Holding Company Ltd (AIAHL). • This decision marks the culmination of a long process and benefits both parties. • Maharashtra acquires a prime property near the state secretariat, while the central government clears dues and sheds a non-core asset.



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About:

- Air India's roots trace back to **1932**, when it was founded as **Tata Airlines** by **JRD Tata**, making it
- It began with a **single-engine aircraft** carrying airmail.
- After **World War II**, it became a public company and was renamed **Air India**.

World Sleep Day

Context:

- **World Sleep Day** is observed on the **Friday** before the **March equinox** (This year it is 15th March)
- It is a global event raising awareness about the importance of sleep.

Key Points:

- It is organized by the **World Sleep Day Committee of the World Sleep Society**, formerly **World Association of Sleep Medicine (WASM)**
- The **first** World Sleep Day was held on 14 March **2008**.

Theme:

- The theme for this World Sleep Day is “**Sleep Equity for Global Health**”
- The day promotes the benefits of adequate sleep and the negative consequences of sleep disorders.
- It aims to educate people about sleep medicine, prevention, and management of sleep problems.

About:

- The **March equinox** or **northward equinox** is the equinox on the Earth when the subsolar point appears to leave the Southern Hemisphere and cross the celestial equator, heading northward as seen from Earth.
- The **March equinox** is known as the **vernal equinox** (spring equinox) in the Northern Hemisphere and as the **autumnal equinox** (autumn equinox) or **fall equinox** in the Southern Hemisphere.

National Vaccination Day

Context:

- On 16 March **1995**, the **government of India** started the **pulse polio Immunization Programme** as the first attempt of eradicating the disease from the country.
- Since then, **March 16** has been celebrated as **National Vaccination Day**.



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About:

- **National Vaccination Day** aims to raise awareness about the importance of vaccines.
- It recognizes the life-saving benefits of vaccination in preventing serious diseases.
- This day encourages people to get vaccinated and stay up-to-date on their immunizations.

Key Points:

- The vaccination campaign, "Do Boond Zindagi Ki," has targeted children between the ages of 0 and 5, and two drops of the vaccine orally are administered at public health centers.

Theme:

- The theme for National Vaccination Day 2024 is "Vaccines Work For All"

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