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### Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

# 21 March 2024 Maharashtra State Specific News

### **International Day of Forests**



### Context:

- The International Day of Forests is celebrated every year on 21st March
- This day is dedicated to raising awareness about the vital role forests play in our lives.

### About:

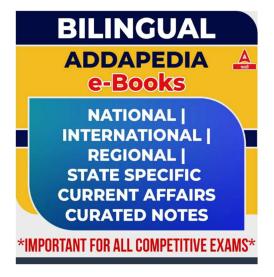
 International Day of Forests was established by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on November 28, 2013.

### **Key points:**

- Forests are viewed as the lungs of the planet.
- Trees filter the air by decreasing CO2 and helping maintain a balance in the environment.
- They are fundamental for sustaining life on the planet and play a significant part in battling climate change.
- In any case, the danger of deforestation and degradation threatens the survival of forests around the world.

### Theme:

- This year's theme is "Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World."
- It highlights the critical role of innovation and technology in protecting our forests.







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43 Maharashtra colleges get a grant of Rs 5
cr each, 2 from Mumbai

### Context:

- 43 institutions in the state will receive the grant of Rs
   5 crore each under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA).
- Dadar's Kirti College and Chembur's Vivekanand Education Society's College of Arts, Science and Commerce are among them
- Additionally, four districts have been identified for gender inclusion and equity initiatives, for which almost Rs 10 crore each have been allocated.

### About:

- PM-USHA is a centrally sponsored scheme that aims to provide strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions.
- The scheme was launched in 2013 and is currently in its second phase.

### The objectives of PM-USHA are to:

- Improve the quality of teaching-learning processes in order to produce employable and competitive graduates, post-graduates and PhDs.
- Increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education.
- Promote equity and inclusion in higher education.
- Strengthen the research and innovation ecosystem in higher education institutions.

### Maha govt sanctions ₹2cr for Belagavi, Bidar

### Context:

- Maharashtra govt has sanctioned a special fund of Rs 2 crore for various works in the border districts-Belagavi and Bidar.
- The fund has been sanctioned to various organizations and trusts.
- Rs 25 lakh each has been sanctioned to construct Maharashtra sanskritik bhavans in Nippani and Bidar towns
- Also, Rs 25 lakh has been sanctioned for the construction of a community hall at Raghunath Maharaj Education Institute in Bidar.
- Another Rs 25 lakh has been allotted to Satyam Shivam Sundaram Development Association in Bidar.
- Funds were also approved for various service organizations to set up libraries, build classrooms and halls and purchase medical vans.





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MH Govt offers free shooting at Government locations; introduces single-window clearance for filmmakers

### Context:

- The Maharashtra government has introduced two new initiatives to promote filmmaking in the state
- These initiatives are expected to make Maharashtra a more attractive destination for filmmakers and boost the state's film industry.

### Initiatives:

### Free Shooting at Government Locations:

- Filmmakers can now shoot at government locations for free.
- This will help reduce production costs and provide filmmakers with more diverse shooting locations.

### Single-Window Clearance:

- The government has also introduced a single-window clearance system for filmmakers.
- This will streamline the permission process and make it easier for filmmakers to get the approvals they need.

### **World Sparrow Day**



#### Context:

- World Sparrow Day is celebrated on March 20th every year
- It is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of conserving sparrows and other common birds in urban environments.

### About:

- The Nature Forever Society of India, along with other organizations around the world, started World Sparrow Day in 2010.
- The idea hatched during a casual discussion at the Nature Forever Society in India, founded by conservationist Mohammed Dilawar.
- Inspired by efforts to save the house sparrow, they proposed a day to raise awareness about the decline of these common birds.

### Theme 2024:

- The theme for World Sparrow Day 2024 is **"I Love Sparrows"**.
- This theme highlights the special connection between humans and sparrows.

### **IUCN: Endangered**

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