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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 Uchcharat 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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