

## Maharashtra Weekly Current Affairs 15 to 20 April 2024

### Maharashtra State News

#### Ambedkar Jayanti

- Ambedkar Jayanti is observed every year on April 14th.
- It commemorates the birthday of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a revered Indian politician and social reformer.
- Also known as Bhim Jayanti or Equality Day, it honors his significant contributions to Indian society.

#### About:

- Dr. Ambedkar is best known as the "Father of the Indian Constitution" for his chairmanship of the drafting committee.
- A champion for equality, he fought against the caste system and advocated for the upliftment of disadvantaged communities.
- Ambedkar Jayanti is a national holiday in India.
- People pay homage at his statues and memorials, organize educational events and seminars, and reaffirm their commitment to social justice and equality.
- This day has the underlying theme of 'social justice and equality'.

#### Maharashtra tops India in 85+ voters

- According to data available till April 8, Maharashtra has the highest number of registered voters in the age-group of 85 years and above (13 lakh)
- Uttar Pradesh comes next with 10.4 lakh, Bihar with 6.6 lakh and Tamil Nadu has 6.1 lakh voters in the 85+ category.
- The total voters in this category in India are 81 lakh.
- Maharashtra's share is as high as 16%.
- The lowest registrations are in the Union Territories.

#### Water Reserves in Mumbai's Seven Lakes Hit 3-Year Low at 25.34%

- Mumbai's seven lakes, the city's main water source, are at a critical low, holding only 25.34% of their capacity.

- This is the lowest level in three years and raises concerns about the adequacy of the water supply.

#### About:

- Mumbai heavily depends on monsoon precipitation for its yearly water provision, drawing from seven lakes: Tansa, Bhatsa, Modak Sagar, Tulsi, Vehar, Upper Vaitarna, and Middle Vaitarna.

#### World Art Day

- World Art Day is celebrated annually on April 15th.
- It is an international celebration of the fine arts which was declared by the International Association of Art in order to promote awareness of creative activity worldwide.

#### About:

- The idea of celebrating World Art Day was proposed by the International Association of Art (IAA) in 2011 at the 17th General Assembly held in Guadalajara, Mexico.
- The first World Art Day was celebrated on April 15, 2012.

#### Theme:

- The theme for World Art Day 2024 is "A Garden of Expression: Cultivating Community through Art."
- The theme encapsulates the essence of art as a vibrant and nurturing force that fosters connection, creativity, and collaboration within communities worldwide.

#### National Fire Service Day

- India observes National Fire Service Day on April 14th each year.
- It commemorates the bravery of firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty, particularly those who died in a massive ship explosion at the Mumbai docks in 1944.

#### Key Points:

- **Raising Awareness:** Fire safety campaigns and drills are organized to educate the public on fire prevention and preparedness.
- **2024 Theme:** The theme for 2024 was "Ensure Fire Safety, Contribute Towards Nation Building."
- This emphasized the importance of fire safety for national progress

## Child rights panel calls for reform to better enforce RTE

- The Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR) said that the policy of private education institutions getting concessions by opting for minority status needs to be reformed at government level.
- It was in view that many schools in Mumbai city and suburbs were denying admission to children citing minority status.
- They proposed to fix a minimum percentage for minority students while granting licenses to such schools
- Aim is to keep Central rules in place for minority edu institutions to ensure “no child is deprived of education”.

## Voting from home made easy for seniors aged 85+

- Every registered voter aged above 85 years in Mumbai will be given a choice to either visit the polling stations or would like election officials to visit them at home to secure their vote.

### About:

- A special document, called Form 12D, is being given to them.
- It is in that form that they are supposed to communicate their choice: booth or home.
- The forms will be collected by April 26
- Those who choose home voting will be visited by poll officials between May 9 and May 19 so that they can exercise their franchise.

### Note:

- Mumbai's city district has 55,766 people in the age group and suburban 98,124.

## 20 EV charging stations to come up in Nashik by July

- Nashik is set to see a significant improvement in its electric vehicle (EV) charging network.
- A contract has been awarded to Servotech Power Systems to install 20 EV charging stations across the Nashik Municipal Corporation area.

- This initiative aims to address the growing demand for EVs by providing convenient and accessible charging facilities.

### About:

- These stations are expected to be operational by July 2024 and will cater to both four-wheeler and two/three-wheeler EVs.
- This expansion will significantly bolster Nashik's EV infrastructure and support the city's transition towards sustainable transportation.

## World Voice Day

- World Voice Day is commemorated every year on April 16th.
- It is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of our voices.
- World Voice Day promotes voice care for everyone, from singers and teachers to business professionals and everyday individuals.
- By taking steps to protect our voices, we can ensure clear and effective communication throughout our lives.

### Theme:

- The theme for World Voice Day 2024 is "Resonate, Educate, Celebrate."
- This theme was chosen by the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
- It emphasizes the importance of vocal health in our lives.

### Did you Know?

- World Voice Day originated in Brazil in 1999 and has now become a global event.

## CM Eknath Shinde announces Rs 3,500 crore project to prevent flooding in Kolhapur

- MH CM has declared that the state government has approved an allocation of Rs 3,500 crore for the comprehensive development of Kolhapur, which has been grappling with persistent flooding.

### About:

- This allocation aims to address the longstanding flooding issue in Kolhapur, ensuring its permanent resolution.

## State to get 1st welfare centre for veterans of Assam Rifles

- Maharashtra is set to **inaugurate its first Assam Rifles Ex-Servicemen Association (ARESA) Centre** on April 21st, 2024.
- This initiative **aims to provide much-needed welfare facilities and support services to veterans of the Assam Rifles residing in the state.**
- The establishment of this **centre coincides with the first-ever Assam Rifles Veterans Day celebrated on March 23rd, 2024.**
- This marks a significant step forward in **recognizing the contributions of Assam Rifles veterans in Maharashtra, which has over 107 ex-servicemen.**
- The inauguration ceremony will be followed by an Ex-Servicemen Rally, fostering a sense of community and celebrating the veterans' service.

## World Haemophilia Day

- **World Hemophilia Day is observed annually on April 17th.**
- **It raises awareness about hemophilia and other bleeding disorders.**

### Key Points:

- **Increase understanding:** Educate the public about hemophilia, a genetic condition affecting blood clotting.
- **Improve diagnosis and care:** Advocate for better access to diagnosis and treatment for all, regardless of location or resources.
- **Support the community:** Celebrate the strength and resilience of those living with bleeding disorders.

### About:

- World Haemophilia Day was **started by the World Federation of Haemophilia in 1989**
- **April 17** was decided as the **date to observe the health day every year to honour the founder of the organization Frank Schnabel**, who played a significant role in advocating for hemophilia awareness and treatment and dedicated his life towards improving lives of those suffering from the disorder

### Theme:

- The theme for this year's World Haemophilia Day is, **'Equitable access for all: recognising all bleeding disorders.'**
- The main idea of this theme is to make sure everyone gets treated, no matter what type of bleeding problem they have, how old they are, where they live or their gender.

## Maharashtra second in forest land allotment to tribals

- **Maharashtra** has emerged as the **second highest after Chhattisgarh** in **distributing forest land** under the **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.**

### Key points:

- A status report by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** reveals that **Maharashtra distributed more than 58.70 lakh acres of forest land** under **individual forest rights (IFRs)** and **community forest rights (CFRs)** till February 29, 2024.
- **Chhattisgarh topped the chart** by distributing 61 lakh acres towards IFRs and CFRs.
- Other states that settled maximum IFRs and CFRs and distributed forest land include Telangana, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat.

## Right To Sleep

- The **Bombay High Court** ruled that the **right to sleep is a basic human requirement.**
- The court stated that not providing it violates a person's human rights.

### Context of the Ruling:

- The statement was made in response to a case where the **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** questioned a senior citizen throughout the night.
- The court directed the ED to **maintain "earthly timings" for recording statements.**
- This direction is especially relevant when summons under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)** are issued by the agency.

### Think:

- Know about rights under **Article 21.**
- Know about **Enforcement Directorate (ED).**



### World Banana Day

- World Banana Day is celebrated on the third Wednesday of April, which falls on today, April 17th, 2024
- Bananas are a source of potassium and other essential nutrients, and can be enjoyed in countless ways.

#### About:

- Jalgaon banana (GI tag No. 498-2016) has been given the GI tag
- Its origin is Tandalwadi village of Jalgaon district, Maharashtra.
- Its Unique Fibre and mineral rich Jalgaon banana' which is being exported to Dubai.
- Quality is mainly due to its proximity to the Tapi River.

### Issue of debris in Aarey

- The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Aarey Milk Colony have been passing the responsibility for clearing the debris dumped in Aarey along the banks of the Mithi River onto each other for months.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered the constitution of a committee to decide who will shoulder the burden.

#### Key points:

- The committee will decide:
  - Where the debris dumped from the Jogeshwari Vikhroli Link Road near the Tapeshwar Mandir is to be shifted.
  - Who will bear the expenses.

- How the shifting will be carried out.
- The committee will be headed by the chief secretary of Maharashtra and include the BMC, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Urban Development Department, Aarey Milk Colony, the Environment Department, a scientist from NEERI, and Anil Dikshit, a professor from IIT Bombay.

#### Did you know?

- Aarey Forest, often referred to as the 'Lungs of Mumbai', is a significant green space in Mumbai.

#### About Aarey Forest:

- **Location:** Aarey Forest is located near Sanjay Gandhi National Park and is situated in Goregaon (East).
- **Size:** It spreads over approximately 2000 acres.
- **Establishment:** The area was established in 1949 to revolutionize the processing and marketing of dairy products in the city.
- **Flora and Fauna:** It also houses about 290 species of wildlife, including five species listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). These include leopards, Rusty spotted cat, Sambar deer, Alexandrine Parakeet, and Red-wattled Lapwing.
- **Conservation:** On 3 September 2020, the Maharashtra government declared one fifth of the Aarey Colony, an area of approximately 600 acres, as a reserved forest.

#### Think:

- Know about the PYQ of Aarey Milk Colony.

### Central Railway to install speed-sensing devices in Western Ghats

- Central Railway (CR) plans to install speed-sensing devices in the Mumbai-Pune/Nashik rail corridors to make train travel safer in the Western Ghats during the monsoon.
- The device will monitor and control train speeds when they operate in the ghats.

#### Key points:

- The devices will be installed in the Karjat-Lonavala and Kasara-Igatpuri sections before the monsoon.
- The Bhor and Thal ghats have a steep gradient of 1:37, meaning a train climbs one metre at a distance of every 37 metres.

- The device will indicate when a train crosses the permissible speed in the ghats and can bring it under control.
- **At present, trains must halt at specific locations on the Karjat-Khopoli-Lonavala and Kasara-Igatpuri sections as a safety measure.** This system will be done away with once the speed-sensing devices are in place.
- The device is being tested at **Monkey Hill Cabin station** on the Karjat-Lonavala belt and is awaiting final approvals.

Think:

- Know about the **Bhor and Thal ghats.**

### Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar award

- **Amitabh Bachchan**, was conferred with the **third Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar award** for his exemplary contribution to the country, people, and society.

Key points:

- The **Deenanath Mangeshkar Smriti Pratishthan** instituted the **Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar award after the death** of Bharat Ratna awardee and legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar on February 6, 2022.
- **Past recipients** of the award include **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and singer **Asha Bhosale**.
- The **Pratishthan decided to confer the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar award** for
  - **AR Rahman** for Music direction,
  - Marathi actor **Ashok Saraf** for music;
  - **Padmini Kolhapure** for films,
  - Singer **Roopkumar Rathod** for Indian music,
  - Actor **Atul Parchure** for Marathi theatre;
  - Retired teacher and author **Manjiri Phadke** for literature.
  - Actor, producer, and director **Randeep Hooda** was conferred with a special award for his cinematic contribution.
- The **Marathi play 'Galib'** will be given the **Mohan Wagh award for best drama.**
- **Deepstambh Foundation's Manobal project**, a residential training institute for persons with disabilities, orphans, and economically weak students, will be **recognized for social service.**

### Maharashtra topped sugar production in country

- As per **Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA)** latest data, **sugar production in Maharashtra**, the country's leading producing state of sweetener, **remained higher at 109.2 million tonnes.**

Key points:

- **India's sugar production reached nearly 311 lakh tonnes (lt)** up to April 15.
- Sugar production in **Maharashtra was up at 109.2 lt**, and in **Uttar Pradesh it was higher at 101.45 lt.**
- **Production in Karnataka was down at 50.60 lt**, in Gujarat it was down at 9.19 lt, and in **Tamil Nadu it was at 8.60 lt.**
- Other states including Bihar, Haryana, and Punjab have together produced 31.89 lt.
- The total sugar output across the country has reached 310.93 lt until April 15, **excluding the quantity diverted towards production of ethanol.**

### Violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) of DY CM

- The **Election Commission (EC)** has ordered a **probe** into a remark made by **Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister, Ajit Pawar.**
- Ajit Pawar allegedly stated that he would stop funds to those who didn't vote for his wife, Sunetra Pawar, who is his party's candidate from Baramati.
- **The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) does not permit the offering of financial inducements to voters.**

About the Model Code of Conduct (MCC):

- The Model Code of Conduct is a **set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India to govern the behavior of political parties and candidates** in the run-up to elections.
- **Purpose:** To ensure that electoral contests are conducted fairly and to maintain the integrity of the democratic process.
- **Timing:** It comes into effect immediately after the election schedule is announced and remains in force until the conclusion of the elections.

- **Scope:** Applies to political parties, candidates, and all government bodies.
- **Role of Election Commission:** The **Election Commission (EC) monitors and enforces compliance with the MCC**. The EC can reprimand parties or candidates violating the MCC and take measures like withdrawing security detail or lodging complaints.
- **Complaints and Redressal:** Mechanisms are in place for individuals or parties to file complaints about MCC violations, which are then investigated by the EC.

#### Did you know?

- **cVIGIL** is a mobile application developed by the **Election Commission of India** to enable citizens to report violations of the **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** during elections.

#### Asiatic wild dogs or Dhole

- **Two Asiatic wild dogs** were rescued from a 25-foot deep well in Malvan taluka, **Sindhudurg district**.
- The rescue operation was conducted by members of the forest department and lasted for about an hour.
- The Asiatic wild dog, **also known as Dhole in Marathi, is prohibited from hunting and falls under the endangered category.**

#### About Dhole:

- Dhole (**Cuon alpinus**) is a wild carnivorous animal, a member of the **family Canidae** and the **class Mammalia**.
- In India, they are **found in the Western and Eastern Ghats, central Indian landscape, and North East India**.
- Dholes play an important role as **apex predators in forest ecosystems**.
- **Conservation Status:**
  - IUCN List of Threatened Species: **Endangered**
  - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (**CITES**): **Appendix II**
  - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule II**
- They may also be found in **small numbers** in the area of **Ladakh**.
- **Threats to the Population of Dholes:**
  - Habitat Loss
  - Decreasing population of ungulates, their main prey, due to excessive hunting and habitat loss

- Persecution due to livestock predation and disease transfer from domestic and feral dogs

- **World Dhole Day** is celebrated annually on **May 28**.
- The **first World Dhole Conference** happened in February **2019**.
- The **Dhole conservation breeding centre** was sanctioned by the Government of India in 2014, in the **Indira Gandhi Zoological Park in Vishakhapatnam**.

#### Tadoba National Park and Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve

- The **tigress, known as NT3, was translocated from Tadoba National Park to Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) in Maharashtra**.
- The tigress removed her GPS collar, which led to a massive search operation.

#### About Tadoba National Park:

- Tadoba National Park, officially known as **Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, is one of India's oldest and most renowned national parks**.
- Located in the **Chandrapur district** of Maharashtra.
- Established in **1955**, Tadoba National Park is **named after the local tribal god worshipped by the tribal people, 'Tadoba' or 'Taru', and the river that flows through the area, the Andhari River**.
- It is renowned for its large population of Bengal tigers. Other key wildlife includes leopards, sloth bears, gaur (Indian bison), dhole (Indian wild dog), striped hyenas, jungle cats, sambar, and spotted deer.

#### About Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve:

- Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve is a significant protected area in **Maharashtra**.
- Located in the eastern part of the state in the **Gondia and Bhandara districts**.
- It was officially declared a tiger reserve in **2013**.
- It spans an area of about 656.64 square kilometers, combining the Navegaon National Park, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary, and several other forest areas into a single ecological unit.

## Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR)

- The Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR) urging policy reforms for minority educational institutions.
- The MSCPCR emphasized the need for reform in the policy allowing private educational institutions to gain concessions through minority status.

### About Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR):

- The Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR) established to ensure that all laws, policies, and programs are in alignment with the child protection rights as enshrined in the Indian Constitution and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- The Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights was established in response to the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, which mandates the setting up of such commissions in every state in India.
- Purpose: Its primary purpose is to monitor the implementation of laws and policies related to children and ensure that state and private actions comply with these laws.
- While the commission does not have the same powers as a civil court, it is entitled to summon and enforce the attendance of any person and examine them under oath, demand the discovery of documents, receive evidence, and issue commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents.

### Smart voter slips

- Jalgaon district in Maharashtra has introduced smart voter slips, becoming the first in the state to do so.
- Barcodes have been installed at 250 public spots across the region, allowing residents to access voter details by scanning with their smartphones.

#### Key points:

- The digital voter slip serves as a confirmation of the voter's registration and provides essential information about where and when to cast their vote.

- It will help individuals have access to their serial numbers in the voters' list and the location of the polling station.
- Voters can check their details using their registered names, phone number linked with an Aadhaar card, or their voter ID card number.
- The digital voter slips and online access to details aim to keep voters more informed and vigilant.

## World Heritage Day on Thursday at Panhala Fort

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Mumbai Circle celebrated World Heritage Day at Panhala Fort, located 20 kilometres north-west of Kolhapur and around 9 hours away from Mumbai.
- The theme for this year was 'Discover and experience diversity'.
- A photo exhibition titled 'Maratha Military Landscapes' was organised to showcase the history and heritage of the fort.

#### Key points:

- Panhala Fort was declared a monument of national importance on January 2, 1954.
- Panhala Fort is one of the most significant forts of Deccan, perched atop a roughly triangular hill. It has a rich history, with the transfer of power in the hands of the Yadavas of Devgiri, the Bahamani of Bidar, the Adilshahi of Bijapur, the Marathas and the Mughals.
- The fort has several water bodies and structures, including a three-storied tower called the Nayikinicha Sajja or the dancing girl's tower, and the Ambarkhana which consists of 3 buildings known as the Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati.

## Mumbai records the maximum temperature in last 10 years

- Mumbai experienced its first heat wave of 2024 on April 16.
- Santacruz Observatory recorded a maximum temperature of 39.7 degrees, which is 6.3 degrees above normal.

#### Key points:

- The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a heatwave warning for Mumbai, Raigad, and Thane for April 16 and 17.

- The maximum temperature of 39.7 recorded by Santacruz is the highest in the last 10 years (2014 to 2023).
- This heatwave warning is issued for April 17 also. The winds in lower levels are predominantly easterly with an anticyclonic circulation in mid-levels.

#### About anticyclonic circulation:

- Anticyclonic circulation refers to the rotation of air around a high-pressure system, opposite to the direction of the Earth's rotation.
- This is clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and counterclockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.
- In an anticyclone, air descends from higher in the atmosphere to the surface, typically bringing clearer skies and calmer weather. As the air descends, it warms, which inhibits cloud formation and leads to mostly clear skies. This type of weather pattern can lead to very stable weather conditions, including dry and warm weather depending on the season and the region affected.

#### Sae Vitthal Patil won bronze at EGMO 2024

- A four-member girls team represented India at the 13th European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) 2024 and won two silver and two bronze medals.
- The team was trained at Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI).

#### Key points:

- This is the second time all four contestants of the Indian team secured medals at EGMO since India's debut in 2015.
- The students are Gunjan Aggarwal (17) from Gurugram, Sanjana Philo Chacko (15) from Thiruvananthapuram, Larissa (16) from Hisar, and Sae Vitthal Patil (17) from Pune.
- Gunjan and Sanjana won silver medals, while Larissa and Sae won bronze at EGMO 2024.
- The objective of EGMO is to inspire girls to participate in national and international STEM Olympiads.
- Olympiads such as EGMO help shape the students' interest in the STEM fields and foster cultural exchange among teenagers worldwide. They do not lead directly to any career benefits.

#### Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority (MahaRERA)

- Maharashtra's realty regulator receives pleas to de-register 279 housing projects.
- In February 2023, the Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority (MahaRERA) permitted the de-registration of housing projects.

#### About Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority (MahaRERA):

- The MahaRERA is a statutory body established under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 by the Government of Maharashtra.
- It came into effect on May 1, 2017, with the primary goal of regulating and promoting the real estate sector in Maharashtra, including the union territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

#### None of the Above (NOTA)

- The Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition on NOTA.
- The PIL sought directions to the Election Commission (EC) to create awareness about the 'None of the Above' (NOTA) option in Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

#### Key points:

- The Bench stated that the EC and the Maharashtra State Election Commission had already taken sufficient steps to create awareness about the NOTA option.
- The court noted that 'NOTA' is conspicuously mentioned in bold letters on the EVM, and is available as the last option.
- The EC has published a manual on Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) in July 2020 and the SVEEP Strategy 2022-2025.

#### About None of the Above (NOTA):

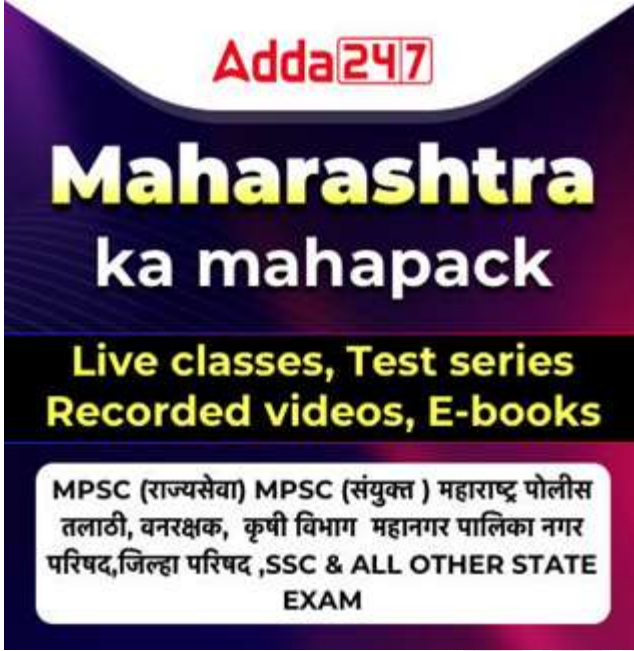
- "None of the Above" (NOTA), officially recognized in India, is an option on electronic voting machines and ballots, allowing voters to register a vote of rejection for all candidates running in an election.
- It was introduced to empower the electorate by providing them the ability to express their disapproval of the available candidates.



- NOTA was introduced by the Election Commission of India following a 2013 Supreme Court ruling that mandated its inclusion to uphold the right of voters to express their disapproval with the candidates presented.

Think:

- Know about Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP).

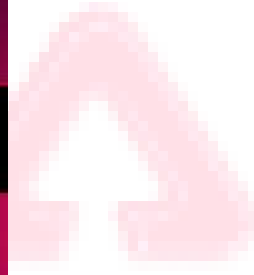


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# Maharashtra ka mahapack

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