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03 July 2024

Maharashtra State Specific News

<p>Passport Seva Kendra case</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● CBI recovers further ₹1.59 crore cash in the Passport Seva Kendra case in Mumbai. <p>About Passport Seva Kendra case:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Initiative: Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) is an initiative by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).● Objective: To deliver passport-related services to citizens in a timely, transparent, and accessible manner.● Services Offered:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ New Passport Issuance: Application and issuance of fresh passports.○ Passport Renewal: Renewal services for expired or expiring passports.○ Miscellaneous Services: Name change, address change, adding spouse's name, etc.○ Tatkal Services: Expedited processing for urgent passport needs.
<p>Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● CBI recovers further ₹1.59 crore cash in the Passport Seva Kendra case in Mumbai. <p>About CBI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Establishment:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Year: Established in 1941 as the Special Police Establishment (SPE).○ Renamed the Central Bureau of Investigation in 1963.● Jurisdiction:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Scope: National jurisdiction, with the power to investigate cases across India.○ Authority: Operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Headquarters: New Delhi, India.● Structure:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Director: The CBI is headed by a Director, who is an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer.○ Divisions: Includes Anti-Corruption Division, Special Crimes Division, Economic Offences Division, and others.
Maharashtra policy on premature release of prisoners	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Bombay High Court recently criticized the Maharashtra Government for failing to follow its own protocols on the premature release of prisoners. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● According to Maharashtra's guidelines, a life-imprisoned convict becomes eligible for premature release based on the number of years prescribed in specific categories of the policy.● For instance, if a convict has served more than 14 years of actual imprisonment, the State Government can order premature release.● However, the recent case of Papa Rathod, who had served 15 and a half years in prison, highlights discrepancies.● Rathod's remission and time served add up to 25 years, exceeding the 20-year eligibility under the State's policy.
BNHS tags 10 long-billed vultures	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● In a significant conservation effort, the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) recently tagged 10 long-billed vultures in the Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR), Maharashtra. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● These endangered birds were brought from the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre in Pinjore, Haryana, and placed in a pre-release aviary within the Pench Tiger Reserve.● The tagging process involved attaching GPS tags to monitor their movements.● This initiative aims to boost the population of these vultures, which had declined significantly due to factors like the use of the NSAID drug Diclofenac in domestic cattle.



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long-billed vultures

Why in the news?

- In a significant conservation effort, the **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)** recently **tagged 10 long-billed vultures in the Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR), Maharashtra.**

About :

- **Scientific Name:** Gyps indicus
- **Common Name:** Long-Billed Vulture, **Indian Vulture**
- **Conservation Status:** Critically Endangered (IUCN Red List)
- **Habitat:**
 - **Geographical Range:** Predominantly found in the **Indian subcontinent, including India, Pakistan, and Nepal.**
 - **Preferred Habitat:** Inhabits open and semi-open landscapes such as **savannas, grasslands, and agricultural areas; often nests on cliffs or tall trees.**
- **Threats:**
 - **Diclofenac:** The **use of the veterinary drug diclofenac** has caused a **dramatic decline in population due to kidney failure in vultures** consuming treated livestock.
- **Conservation Efforts:**
 - **Diclofenac Ban:** India banned the veterinary use of diclofenac in 2006 to prevent vulture poisoning.
 - **Vulture Safe Zones:** Establishment of vulture safe zones where the use of harmful drugs is monitored and controlled.

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