




06 August 2024

Maharashtra State News

<p>Bhimashankar Sanctuary</p> <p>Wildlife</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entry of tourists is banned at Bhimashankar waterfalls. <p>About Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: Situated in the Pune district of Maharashtra. Establishment: Declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1984. Flora: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rich in diverse plant species, including semi-evergreen and evergreen forests. Contains sacred groves known as "Devrais" which are preserved by local communities. Fauna: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home to the state animal of Maharashtra, the giant flying squirrel (<i>Ratufa indica elphinstoni</i>). Other notable species include the Indian pangolin, leopards, sambar deer, barking deer, and various species of birds, reptiles, and insects. Avifauna: Significant species include the Malabar whistling thrush, green pigeon, and quaker babbler. Geography: Part of the Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
<p>Humboldt penguins</p> 	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In eight years, Humboldt penguins at Mumbai Zoo have grown from eight to 18 in number. <p>About Humboldt penguins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific Name: <i>Spheniscus humboldti</i> Habitat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native to the coasts of Peru and Chile in South America. Prefer rocky coastal regions and islands.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diet:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Primarily feed on small fish such as anchovies and sardines.○ Also consume crustaceans and squid.• Lifespan:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Typically live up to 15-20 years in the wild.○ Can live longer in captivity, sometimes reaching up to 30 years.• Conservation Status: Classified as Vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).• Threats: overfishing, climate change, habitat destruction, and human disturbances.• Importance to Ecosystem: Serve as indicators of ocean health, with their declining numbers often signaling changes in marine environments.
<p>All India Sindhi Kavi Sammelan</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The All India Sindhi Kavi Sammelan organized in Ulhasnagar. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organizers: Maharashtra State Sindhi Sahitya Academy and Ulhasnagar Municipal Corporation• Venue: Sindhu Bhavan, Ulhasnagar• Purpose: Preserve and promote the Sindhi language• Participants: Poets from all over the country



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