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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

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Maharashtra State News

Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana (MPJAY)	Why in the news? • The Maharashtra government has increased package rates for critical treatments under the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana (MPJAY) to improve healthcare facilities for patients.
	 About MPJAY: The Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana (MPJAY) is a flagship health insurance scheme by the Government of Maharashtra. Initially launched as the Rajiv Gandhi Jeevandayee Arogya Yojana (RGJAY) in 2012, it was renamed to MPJAY in 2017. Key Features:
Family Courts	Why in the news? • The Bombay High Court has advised family courts to adopt a realistic approach and consider waiving the six-month "cooling off period" for divorce once they are convinced that the parties have made a conscious decision to separate and

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	move forward.
	About Family Courts:
	 Family Courts in India are specialized courts established to handle cases related to family disputes, such as marriage, divorce, child custody, and maintenance. These courts were set up under the Family Courts Act, 1984, with the primary objective of promoting conciliation and ensuring the speedy settlement of family disputes. Establishment: Family Courts are established by the State Governments in consultation with the High Courts. It is mandatory to set up a Family Court in every city or town with a population exceeding one million. Objective: The main aim is to provide a platform for resolving family conflicts in a conciliatory manner, focusing on mediation and quick resolution. Jurisdiction: These courts handle cases related to marriage, divorce, child custody, maintenance, and other family-related issues.
Ecologically sensitive areas (ESA) in Maharashtra	Why in the news? • 2,515 villages in 13 districts of Maharashtra included in the ecologically sensitive areas (ESA) list along the Western Ghats.
	 ▶ Prohibitions: Complete ban on mining, quarrying, and sand mining in these eco-sensitive areas. Prohibition on new thermal power projects and expansion of highly polluting industries. ▶ Western Ghats ESA: Total Area: 56,825 sq km across six states. Maharashtra's Share: 17,340 sq km. ▶ MMR Villages: Mostly in tehsils like Shahapur, Murbad, Wada, Mokhada, and Jawhar in Thane and Palghar districts. ▶ Historical Context: 2011 Gadgil Committee: Recommended 75% of the 129,037 sq km Western Ghats area as environmentally sensitive.



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- 2014 Kasturirangan Panel: Scaled down the ESA to 50%.
- 2018 Draft Notification: Further scaled down the area to 37%.
- Previous Notifications: None were finalized due to objections from state governments.









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