

**Maharashtra Weekly Current Affairs 24 to 30 September 2023****Pune civic body decided to launch 'Signature Walk' to Sinhadgad Fort and Shivrushthi.**

- Pune civic body decided to launch 'Signature Walk' to Sinhadgad Fort and Shivrushthi to take citizen to these iconic destination

**Key points:**

- It is in the wake of the positive response received for the civic body's Heritage Walk initiative.
- Shivrushthi is a historical theme park located in pune and founded by babasaheb purandare.
- Shivrushthi is dedicated to the life and achievements of shivaji maharaj
- The Signature Walk will involve arranging buses from Swargate, providing guided tours to these historic sites, and offering participants insights into their rich histories

**Did you Know?**

- Sinhadgad Fort is also known as Kondhana Fort and was built in 17th century by Shivaji Maharaj

**Maharashtra government puts a hold on women empowerment scheme within 24 hours of announcement**

- The scheme "Mukhyamantri Mahila Sashaktikaran Abhiyan" was to be implemented in the state from October 2, 2023, to October 1, 2024 but is now being put on hold by MH government

**About scheme:**

- Mukhyamantri Mahila Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (MMSSA) program of the Government of maharashtra.
- The scheme aims to empower women by providing them with vocational training, skills development, and employment opportunities.

**Objective** - to make women self-reliant and economically independent.

1. To enhance the social, economic, and educational status of women.
2. To rehabilitate women affected by disasters, violence, or other vulnerabilities into the mainstream of society

**In Maharashtra, this year, till the end of September, as many as 30 tigers have died due to various reasons.**

- The tiger is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- The tiger occupancy has increased from 1758 cells of 100 km<sup>2</sup> in 2018 to 1792 cells of 100 km<sup>2</sup> in 2022.

**Did you know?**

- A total of 142 tigers had died in the country during the entire year 2022 till sep 2023.

**Two more tunnels will be made on Borghat on Pune-Mumbai Expressway.**

- 2.5 thousand crores for eight tiers has been allocated
- The two more lanes are to increase the number of vehicles on the expressway and for future growth
- The 'Missing Link' project was started by the Road Development Corporation and is to break the deadlock as is in its final stage.
- It is a 12.1-kilometre-long stretch of road that will connect the Mumbai-Pune Expressway to the Yashwantrao Chavan Expressway,
- It will bypass the ghat section of the Mumbai-Pune Expressway.
- The project consists of two tunnels, two viaducts, and a cable-stayed bridge.

**Govt schools in state can now be adopted by private & public sector for 5 or 10 years**

- The school education department issued a government resolution forming state and zonal level coordinating committees to give over 62,000 government schools in the state for adoption of govt schools.

**Key points**

- The school adoption scheme is part of the National Education Policy's 'Vidyanjali' initiative.
- Right from arranging for repair, maintenance and painting of schools to increasing enrollment by focusing on health, hygiene and use of modern technology will be included in the adoption scheme.

**Vidyanjali Initiative**

- It aims at strengthening schools through community and private sector involvement across the country.
- Corporate houses can adopt schools through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds.

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**The police have given a tribute to the martyrs of the Chirner Jungle Satyagraha situated in the Raigad district of Maharashtra.**

- This year the program was held in a simple manner as the government is ignorant about the event.
- This year it was 93rd Memorial Day.

**About Chirner Jungle Satyagraha**

- It was a **non-violent civil disobedience movement** in pre pre-independence era .
- It was organized against the British colonial government in India.
- It took place on September 25, 1930, in the village of Chirner in the Raigad district of Maharashtra.
- It was launched in response to the number of forest laws enacted by the British government that restricted the access of local people to forest resources, including firewood.

**Did You Know?**

- Keshav Mahadev Joshi was a local leader who organized the satyagraha
- Mahatma Gandhi and Nagya Katkari also participated in the Satyagrah

**Clean food day is observed on 24th of sept**

- On the occasion of Clean Food Day, health inspectors conducted a special inspection campaign of canteens at railway stations in Bhusawal division
- The inspection campaign is a part of Swachhata Pakhwada program run by Indian railway.

**Did you know?**

- The swachhata pakhwada campaign is run on the theme of **swachhata hi seva**.

**Recently deputy CM of Maharashtra gave a call for Change in Mathadi Act**

- On the occasion of Mathadi Mela , he talked about the change required in the Mathadi Labor Act.
- He expressed a strong opinion that changes in the Mathadi Act are essential, in order to bring the industry to the state and sustain it, without touching the core

**About mathadi act**

- The Maharashtra Mathadi, Hammal and other Manual Workers (Regulation of Employment and Welfare) Act, 1969 is also known as the Matadi Act,
- It regulates the employment of unprotected manual workers employed in certain occupations in Maharashtra.
- It aims to protect the interests of these workers, who are often exploited and denied their basic rights.

**Did you Know?**

- Mathadi Mela was organized on the occasion of **Annasaheb Patil's 90th birth anniversary**.

**Bird study and research center is to be set up in the name of the great ornithologist Salim Ali at Kihim in Alibag taluka**

- Aim is to promote the growth of tourism.
- To convey the information to the people
- To provide employment opportunities
- 60% work has been completed so far

**Did you Know?**

- Salim Ali is called as the 'Birdman of India'
- He was the pioneer ornithologist and environmentalist of the country.

**Recently a Israeli scientist Mikhal Yakir visits Kaas Plateau**

- Eminent Israeli botanist, scientist and well-known homeopath Dr. Mrs. Mikhal Yakir visited the well-known Kaas Plateau.
- He also visited the world famous Toseghar Falls along with Kumudini Lake.

**About kaas plateau**

- The Kaas Plateau is a plateau situated 25 kilometers west from Satara city in Maharashtra, India.
- It falls under the Sahyadri Sub Cluster of the Western Ghats
- It was declared as a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site in 2012.

**Did you know?**

- The plateau is known for its unique biodiversity, with over 850 species of flowering plants, of which 60% are endemic to the Western Ghats

**Very rare 'Povla snake' found in Panchgani.**

- The scientific name of this snake is Calliophis beddomei Smith.
- This snake is endemic to the entire Western Ghats
- It is a very rare snake
- It is a venomous snake and is nocturnal

**Did You Know?**

- Povla Snake is called as Munga Saap in Hindi

**Dayal became Sangli's city bird in Atiti's contest, securing 561 votes**

- After the counting of votes for the City Bird Election, Dayal won by 4 votes
- The Dayal (Mycopsthedea cafer) is also known as the Grey-headed Myna

**Did you Know?**

- Dayals are **omnivores** and their diet includes fruits, insects, and small animals.

**Gecko lizards are seen in the Pench tiger reserve.**

- Gecko lizard found in the Chorbahuli hill range of Pench tiger reserve
- It is the first record of this reptile species in Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR), Maharashtra.

**About Gecko lizard**

- The lizard is called Giri's geckoella (Cyrtodactylus varadgiri),
- It is a species of the gecko in the gekkonidae family.
- It is nocturnal, insectivorous and terrestrial.
- It is endemic to India and found in parts of western and Central India, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and MP.
- The gecko was first discovered in 2016.

**The first Sangeet Gurukul in the state will be established in Meera-Bhander**

- State's First Music Guruku will open in the name of Bharat Ratna Lata mangeskar
- It will be built in the Mira-Bhayander near Mumbai
- The building of this music gurukula is also going to be designed in a way that suits the music field.
- A three-year course in Music Education will be taught here.
- A request has been made to the Chief Minister so that music degree can be obtained in Meera Bhayander itself.

**World Pharmacist Day" celebrated at Govindrao Nikam College of Pharmacy in Chiplun**

- The day is celebrated every year on 25th September worldwide
- It recognizes and appreciates the important role of **pharmaceutical manufacturers in the healthcare system.**
- This year's theme highlights the important role that pharmacists play in supporting strong and resilient healthcare systems.

**Did you Know?**

- The theme for World Pharmacist Day 2023 is "Pharmacy Strengthening Health Systems".

**Scientists from Pune have discovered a species of unique plant with medicinal properties.**

- It is found in the forest of Kurung Kume district of Arunachal.
- The name of this species is 'Smilax turban'.

- Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) plant scientists have rediscovered the 'Smilax turban' species.
- Smilax turbans is a flowering plant species in the genus Smilax.
- It is a shrub
- It is native to the Eastern Himalayas and Assam in India.
- It is used in traditional Ayurvedic medicine to treat a variety of ailments, including skin diseases, rheumatism, and arthritis.

**Did you Know?**

- After about 100 years, this species has been rediscovered.

**Breastfeeding and nutrition program**

- To reduce malnourishment in children, district authorities in Nashik decided to run a nutrition program.

**Key facts**

- There are around 2597 undernourished children in the district.
- 423 children in the age of zero to five are under the severe category.

**About program**

- It will be conducted in the collaboration of IIT Mumbai
- Under the program 59 guides and 30 facilitators have been selected
- The training will be provided to the officers and employees of all health departments through selected guides
- 89 people have been selected for breastfeeding, nutrition focus, health care worker training for malnutrition relief.

**Did you know?**

- The special app is designed for this program with the help of artificial intelligence.

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**Hi-Tech System in Patrolling Boats**

- Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra has decided to go for **underwater surveillance and detection systems**.

**Key Points:**

- It was in view to tackle illegal fishing in the Totladoh dam reservoir.
- Totladoh, also called Meghdoot Reservoir
- It is part of the pench tiger reserve.
- As per the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972 The Supreme Court ordered that fishing is banned inside the reserve.

**About system**

- It is a combination of underwater surveillance units and cameras coupled with high-resolution displays.
- It will be used to detect and seize boats of the fishermen.

**Did you Know?**

- The sonar can detect objects up to 600 feet away and works in three modes — forward, down, and side scanning.

**The state government announced the Rs 12000 cr under Modi Awas Yojana for OBC category.**

- The scheme was designed by the OBC Welfare Department for OBC
- It is also to be implemented for Special Backward Classes (SBC) along with Other Backward Classes.
- Its aim is to provide rightful housing to rural areas belonging to the OBC category.
- Under this scheme, one million houses will be constructed in 3 years.

**The Chief Minister's Agriculture and Food Processing Scheme**

- The Chief Minister's Agriculture and Food Processing Scheme is being **extended by five years**.

**Key facts**

- The scheme will continue till the end of the coming financial year 2026-27.
- 148 projects worth about 645 crores were approved for various types of agricultural projects.

**About scheme:**

- The scheme was launched in 2017
- It is implemented by the State Agriculture Department.
- It is under the ministry of food processing
- Eligible entrepreneurs can receive a subsidy of up to 30% of the total project cost.
- Another option is a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh, for setting up food processing units.

**Special voter registration campaign, Pune**

- A special voter registration campaign will be held to raise awareness among the tribals of Pune district to get registered.

**Key facts**

- Special voter registration drive will be conducted by the district administration to register more voters.
- The special campaign is to help increase the percentage of voters in the nomadic castes and free tribes of the district.
- The campaign is in consonance with the central government's voter registration drive.
- The drive is conducted annually.

**Did you know?**

- The Central Election Commission has amended the Representation of the People Act, 1950 to conduct a drive

**IT Act Amendment rules, 2023**

- Recently Bombay High Court has shown concern about some provisions under amendments to IT Rules 2021 as there are many petitions filed against the amended rule 2023.

**Key fact:**

- The appeal cannot be made against the fact checking unit formed under the amended rule 2023.

**About amended Rules 2023.**

- No platform can allow harmful unapproved online games and their advertisements.
- No platform should share false information about the Indian government, as confirmed by a fact-checking unit.
- The platform should ensure that online games do not involve any gambling or betting elements.
- An online intermediary should make "reasonable efforts" to not host content related to the Central Government that is "identified as fake or misleading" by a "fact check unit" that may be notified by the IT Ministry.

**Soybean crop in this kharif season is attacked by the 'Yellow Mosaic Virus'.**

- The virus has infected the Soybean crop not only in Vidarbha but also parts of Telangana and Madhya Pradesh.
- According to Agricultural experts, pest attack is due to the hot and humid environment in the atmosphere.
- According to farmers the "Sangam Phule" variety of soybean distributed by agricultural department could resist pest attack

**About Mosaic virus**

- It is called the Mungbean virus.
- It is a plant pathogenic virus.
- It is one of the various viral diseases that infects legume crops.
- It turns crops yellow and dries up during the growing season Yellow
- mosaic virus (YMV) is transmitted by whiteflies, which are small, flying insects.

**Did you know?**

- Yield losses from YMV can be as high as 90%.

**Person in news: Dr. Dilip Pandharpatte**

- Recently Dilip Dnyaneshwar Pandharpatte has been given additional charge of the Chairman of Maharashtra Public Service Commission by the Governor of Maharashtra.

**Key facts**

- The charge was given to him as the duration of permanent chairman was completed in mid sept.

- He will hold the office until the appointment of a permanent member is done by the governor.

**About Dilip Pandharpatte**

- Dr. Pandharpatte is a 1987 State Service batch officer.

**Sangli railway station tops in cleanliness**

- Sangli was declared as the cleanest and most beautiful station Under 'Mera Station Mera Abhiman 2023' of Railway.
- Vathar station in Satara district won the award in small station category
- Sangli railway station has won this award many times

**Did you know?**

- Mera Station Mera Abhiman is a campaign launched by the Indian Railways in 2017
- Aim is to promote cleanliness and passenger satisfaction at railway stations.
- The campaign also aims to make railway stations more user-friendly and welcoming for passengers,

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