

Maharashtra State News

Lifetime Achievement given to Digambar Gadgil

In News:

- This year's Bird Friend Lifetime Achievement Award was announced to Digambar Gadgil from Nashik.

Key Points:

- 'Maharashtra Pakshimitra' has announced the 2023 Pakshimitra Awards.
- It is an organization working on birds in Maharashtra for the last four decades.

About Lifetime Achievement Award:

- The Maharashtra Pakshimitra Award is given to individuals or organizations who have made significant contributions to the conservation of birds in Maharashtra.
- The organization was founded in 1981 and has since grown to become one of the leading bird conservation organizations in India.

Vishnudas Bhave award to Prashant Damle

In News:

- Vishnudas Bhave Gauravpadak, which is regarded as an honor in Marathi theater, was presented to senior actor, theater artist Prashant Damle.

About Vishnudas Bhave award:

- The Vishnudas Bhave Award is a prestigious award given to Marathi theater personalities for their outstanding contributions to the field.
- The award was instituted in 1959 by the Akhil Bharatiya Natya Vidyamandir
- The award was instituted in memory of Vishnudas Bhave, one of the pioneers of modern Marathi theater.
- The award is presented annually on November 5th, which is celebrated as Marathi Rangbhumi Din (Marathi Theater Day).
- The recipient of the award is selected by a committee of eminent theater personalities.
- The Vishnudas Bhave Award is one of the most coveted awards in Marathi theater.
- It is a recognition of the recipient's talent, dedication, and contributions to the field.

Reservation for the Maratha community

Context:

- Efforts have been started at the government level to get reservation for the Maratha community.

- The work of collecting empirical data is going on to prove the backwardness of the Maratha community in the Supreme Court and Kunti records are also being checked at the state level.

About Maratha community:

- The Maratha community is the largest social group in Maharashtra, accounting for approximately 30% of the state's population.
- The Marathas are traditionally a peasant community, but they have made significant progress in education and employment in recent decades.
- Despite their social and economic advancement, the Marathas continue to lag behind other communities in terms of representation in government jobs and educational institutions.
- This is why the Maratha community has been demanding reservation for itself.
- In 2018, the Maharashtra government passed a law granting 16% reservation to the Maratha community in education and jobs.
- However, the law was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2021 on the grounds that it breached the 50% reservation ceiling in the state.

MH govt encourages farmers to cultivate bamboo to curb menace of air pollution

Context:

- The Maharashtra CM has appealed to farmers to cultivate bamboo in large quantities through group farming
- He also said bamboo parks will be established in cities in view of the increasing pollution in urban areas.

Significance of Bamboo:

- Sugarcane cultivation generally yields about 100 tons per hectare and the price is at least Rs 2,500 per ton, the minimum production per hectare of bamboo is 100 tons but the price is at least Rs 4,000 per ton Thus, making cultivators financially stronger.
- Bamboo production starts in the third year and it is better for soil protection and water conservation.
- In order to boost the agricultural economy, ethanol is being produced from bamboo.
- If one hectare of sugarcane is cultivated, two crore liters of water is needed for it and if one ton of

sugarcane is crushed, 80 liters of ethanol is produced.

- If one hectare of bamboo is cultivated, 20 lakh liters of water is required and if one ton of bamboo is crushed, 400 liters of ethanol can be produced,
- Bamboo also releases 320 kg of oxygen in the air in a year.

Maharashtra Namu Shetkari Maha Samman Nidhi Yojana

Context:

- The Maharashtra Namu Shetkari Maha Samman Nidhi Yojana (NSMN) is a scheme launched by the Government of Maharashtra to provide financial assistance to farmers in the state.
 - Financial Assistance of Rs. 6,000/- per Year to all Farmers.
 - This Assistance will be Provided in 3 Installments of 2,000/- each in every 4 Months.
- The scheme provides Rs. 6,000 per year to eligible farmers, in addition to the Rs. 6,000 per year that they receive under the Central Government's Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN).
- This means that eligible farmers in Maharashtra will receive a total of Rs. 12,000 per year under the NSMN and PM-KISAN schemes.

Kunbi records of Marathas

Context:

- Drive of tracing documents of Kunbi antecedents of Marathas, which is currently being implemented in the Marathwada region, will be carried out across the State.
- This campaign should be implemented in a mission mode.
- The Kunbis are a community of agriculturalists in Maharashtra.
- They are classified as Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the state and enjoy reservation benefits in education and government jobs.
- The Marathas are a dominant caste in Maharashtra.
- They were traditionally warriors and landowners.

Did you Know?

- During the Nizam era, the Marathas of Marathwada were officially classified as Kunbis.

Hingoli district to have a medical institution

Context:

- Hingoli, the only district in Marathwada without a medical college, is set to receive a new medical institution with a capacity of 100 students.
- This initiative is part of a broader development package for the Marathwada region worth ₹59,000 crore.
- The government aims to complete the project before the next academic year in 2024-25.

Tata Memorial Hospital to set up Ayurveda-based cancer hospital in Khopoli

Context:

- Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai will become the first cancer hospital in India to offer Ayurveda treatment.
- The hospital plans to integrate Ayurveda with modern medicine and will also grow its own medicinal plants for research purposes.
- The hospital has received funding of INR300 crore (\$39.8m) from the Department of Atomic Energy for the project.
- The facility is expected to be operational by 2026 and will also provide standard cancer treatments such as radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

RTS Act may be amended to include compensation clause

In News:

- The state government is considering amending the Maharashtra Right to Public Services Act, 2015, to include a clause on providing compensation to citizens facing delays.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Fellowship Program

Context:

- The following benefits will be provided to fellows/selected applicants under Maharashtra Chief Minister Fellowship Program:-
 - Position Equivalent to Grade - A Officer will be Provided.
 - Monthly Stipend of Rs. 70,000/- per Month.
 - Rs. 5,000/- per Month separately will be provided for Travel and Other Expenses.
 - Accidental Insurance Cover.
 - Special Academic Course Certificate from IIT Mumbai or IIT Nagpur.
 - Fellowship Completion Certificate from Maharashtra Government.
 - Leave of 8 Days during the Period of Fellowship.

The Udyog Ratna Award

Key Points:

- The Udyog Ratna Award is a prestigious award that recognizes the outstanding achievements of entrepreneurs and industrialists in India.
- It is conferred by the Institute of Economic Studies, India (IES), affiliated with the government of India.
- The award is given to individuals who have made significant contributions to the economic development of the country.

The Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme

Key Points:

- The Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme is a flagship initiative launched by the Maharashtra government
- Aim is to enhance connectivity and improve the lives of tribal communities residing in the state.
- Named after the revered tribal leader and freedom fighter Birsa Munda, the scheme aims to connect all tribal villages in 17 districts of Maharashtra with main roads, addressing the challenges faced by these communities in accessing essential services and fostering their socio-economic development.

The Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme is driven by several key objectives:

1. **Improved Connectivity:** Connecting tribal villages with main roads will significantly enhance accessibility to healthcare facilities, educational institutions, markets, and other essential services.
2. **Economic Empowerment:** Improved connectivity will facilitate better market access for agricultural produce and handicrafts, thereby boosting the economic opportunities for tribal communities.
3. **Social Inclusion:** By bridging the connectivity gap, the scheme aims to promote social inclusion and integration of tribal communities into the mainstream society.
4. **Infrastructure Development:** The construction of roads will not only enhance connectivity but also stimulate infrastructure development in tribal areas.

Mumbai: The City of Seven Islands

Key Points:

- Mumbai, formerly known as Bombay, is the capital of the Indian state of Maharashtra and the most populous city in India.
- It is also a major financial and commercial center. Mumbai is located on the western coast of India, on a peninsula that juts out into the Arabian Sea.

- The city is known as the "City of Seven Islands" because it was built on what was once an archipelago of seven islands.
- These islands were eventually joined together by land reclamation projects.

The seven islands are:

- Isle of Bombay
- Parel
- Mazagaon
- Mahim
- Worli
- Old Woman's Island (Little Colaba)
- Colaba
- In 1947, India gained independence from Britain. Mumbai became the capital of the new state of Bombay.
- In 1950, the state of Bombay was split into two states: Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Air Quality MH

Context:

- Pimpri Chinchwad, a city in Maharashtra, has reported PM2.5 levels
- It is almost double the safe limit and thus making it one of the most polluted cities in the state.
- Other cities in Maharashtra, including Mumbai and Pune, also exceeded the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has developed an action plan to address the high pollution levels, which includes controlling vehicular pollution, using dust suppression

systems at construction sites, and removing old vehicles.

About Air Quality Index:

- To assess the severity of air pollution, the Air Quality Index (AQI) was developed
 - It provides a numerical value that categorizes air quality based on the concentration of five major air pollutants:
1. **Particulate Matter (PM2.5 and PM10):** These tiny particles can penetrate deep into the lungs, causing respiratory problems, heart disease, and even premature death.
 2. **Ozone (O3):** This gas can irritate the lungs and eyes, aggravate asthma, and contribute to respiratory infections.
 3. **Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2):** This pollutant can damage the lungs and reduce lung function, especially in children and individuals with respiratory conditions.
 4. **Sulfur Dioxide (SO2):** This gas can irritate the airways, causing coughing, wheezing, and difficulty breathing.
 5. **Carbon Monoxide (CO):** This gas reduces the oxygen supply to the body, affecting the heart, brain, and other organs.
- The AQI ranges from 0 to 500, with higher values indicating more severe air pollution.

Shivraj Maharaj statue

Context:

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue unveiled in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district.
- This equestrian statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj has been erected at 41 National Rifle (Maratha LI) near the India-Pakistan border in Kashmir's Kupwara district.
- MH govt. expressed joy in unveiling of this statue as On October 20, 2023, a grand ceremony marked the arrival of the equestrian statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj from Mumbai Raj Bhavan.

Mid-day meals

Context:

- Government schools in MH are set to diversify their mid-day meal offerings, bringing more nutritious choices to students.
- Children in these schools will now enjoy a broader menu that includes egg pulav, egg biryani, boiled eggs, and local fruits, in addition to the traditional khichdi.

About Mid-Day Meal Scheme:

- The Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) is now known as the POSHAN Scheme
- It is a flagship program of the Government of India that provides free lunches on working days to children in government and government-aided primary and upper primary schools, government-aided Anganwadis, Madrasas, and Maqtabs.
- The scheme aims to improve the nutritional status of children, enhance enrollment and attendance in schools, and reduce child labor.

Shasan Aplya Dari program

In News: 1.5 crore people reap benefits from Maha's govt at your doorstep program, says CM Shinde

- MH govt. announced that 1.5 crore individuals have derived benefits from the government's prominent Shasan Aplya Dari program
- It is designed to deliver government schemes directly to the common people's doorsteps.
- The Government at Your Doorstep initiative was introduced by the state government in May 2023.

Shasan Aplya Dari program:

- It is a government initiative in Maharashtra that aims to bring government services to the doorsteps of citizens.
- Under the program, government departments will set up camps in rural and urban areas to provide citizens with a variety of services, including:
- Identity documents, such as Aadhaar cards, PAN cards, and voter ID cards
- Social welfare schemes, such as pension schemes, housing schemes, and education schemes
- Agriculture and allied services, such as crop insurance, soil testing, and animal husbandry
- Healthcare services, such as vaccination, health checkups, and treatment.

Maha govt to acquire iconic Air India building

Context:

- The Maharashtra government decided on Wednesday to pay Rs 1,601 crore to acquire the iconic Air India building located in Mumbai's Nariman Point.
- The building was constructed in 1974 on land owned by the state government, which will now use it for its office space.
- After the 2012 fire at Mantralaya, the state secretariat building in south Mumbai, four major departments public health, medical education, water supply and sanitation, and rural

development have been operating from GT Hospital.

170 butterfly species recorded

In News:

- The Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR), Maharashtra, is home to 170 species of butterflies, revealed a pre and post monsoon citizen science-based survey

Key Points:

- With 35 new records, PTR is now home to 170 species of butterflies.
- The survey is conducted twice a year, once during the pre-monsoon season and once during the post-monsoon season.
- It involves volunteers from all over the country, who help to collect data on a variety of species, including butterflies, birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

Pench Tiger Reserve:

- Maharashtra, being the third largest state in India and a leader in protecting biodiversity, bears maximum numbers (six) of tiger reserves in India along with Madhya Pradesh.
- Pench Tiger Reserve situated in the northern part of eastern Vidarbha is spread in Ramtek, Parseoni and Saoner tehsil of Nagpur district.
- It is the 25th tiger reserve of India.
- The Pench Tiger reserve (PTR) which derives its name from its lifeline - the River Pench is spread over 741.41 Sq.km of area.

Maharashtra govt approves export promotion policy

In News:

- The Maharashtra government approved its first export promotion policy with an objective to create employment opportunities by attracting the foreign direct investment

Key Points:

- The policy is to be implemented from the current financial year till 2027-'28,
- It would facilitate investment of Rs 25,000 crore in the state.
- The policy aims at increasing exports of the state from 72 billion dollars to 150 billion dollars i.e, to increase the state's exports from the current 7% to 14%.

High powered committee for Dhangar schemes

Context:

- The Maharashtra government has formed a high power committee (HPC) to oversee the

implementation of schemes for the Dhangar community

- The committee is led by CM Eknath Shinde
- The Dhangars, currently classified as Nomadic Tribes, are seeking Scheduled Tribe (ST) status, which would entitle them to a higher quota.
- The community represents around 9% of Maharashtra's population.

Shiv Bhojan scheme

In News:

- The Maharashtra government's Shiv Bhojan scheme has been facing funding issues in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar district.

About Shiv Bhojan scheme:

- The Shiv Bhojan scheme is a government-subsidized meal scheme in the Indian state of Maharashtra.
- It was launched in January 2020
- Its aim is to provide nutritious and affordable meals to the poor and needy.
- Under the scheme, a thali (plate) of food is provided for Rs. 10 only, while the actual cost of the thali is Rs. 50 in urban areas and Rs. 35 in rural areas. The government subsidizes the rest of the cost.

State News

Air pollution in states

Context

Delhi and parts of the surrounding States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh encounter their annual air quality inflection point.

Reasons for pollution of North India in winters

- Stubble Burning
- Geographical location
- Temperature inversion
- Firecrackers due to festive season
- Vehicular Pollution
- Construction

About CAQM

- CAQM stands for Commission for Air Quality Management.
- CAQM is a statutory mechanism to coordinate and oversee diverse efforts to improve air quality in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and UP, with the underlying remedial approach.

Enemy property' Butler Palace to turn into a tourist haven

Context

Lucknow's once-grand three-storey Butler Palace, left deserted and in darkness for many decades, will see a facelift.

Key points

- Built a century ago, the palace is a mix of Rajasthani and Indo-Mughal styles
- The palace, originally built as the official residence of the Commissioner of Avadh, Harcourt Butler, in 1915, was owned by the royal family of Mahmudabad.
- By its own account, the family migrated to India in the 13th century and settled in erstwhile Avadh, current Lucknow, in the 16th century, and owed allegiance to the Mughals.
- Mohammed Amir Ahmad Khan, the king at the time of Independence, migrated to Pakistan, while his son Mohammad Amir Mohammad Khan, stayed on in India as a citizen, fighting a legal battle over several properties, including Butler Palace.
- After the India-Pakistan war in 1965, Butler Palace was declared "enemy property" by the Government of India
- After being declared enemy property in the 1960s, the premises were handed over to the Uttar Pradesh government, who used it as a sales tax office.
- In the 1980s, it was given to the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, an organisation under the Union Human Resource Development Ministry.

Fact Checking Unit (FCU) by the Tamil Nadu government**In news**

- The PIL in High Court challenges formation of Fact Checking Unit by the government.

Key points

- Objective of FCU: Fact Check Unit is to act as a deterrent to creators and disseminators of fake news & misinformation and to provide people with an easy avenue to report suspicious and questionable information pertaining to the Government of India for fact-checking.
- The Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2020 ensures that all electronic documents, records, and information of Indian citizens are retained in data centers located in India.
- The bill also gives the government the power to direct decryption and block information

Bihar seeks to raise reservation to 65%**In news**

- The Bihar Cabinet has approved a proposal to increase reservations in the State for SCs, STs, OBCs and Extremely Backward Classes EBCs to 65%.
- Decision comes after caste survey report published.

Key point

- Reservation for SCs, STs, OBCs and EBCs to become 65%.
- Including 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), quota will go up to 75% crossing the ceiling set by the Supreme Court.
- Currently 50% quota in the state.

According to survey**SCs:-**

19.7% population, should get a quota of 20%, higher than the current 16%.

STs:-

1.7% share in population, should get reservation doubled from 1% to 2%.

OBCs:-

27% population to get a quota of 12%, while EBCs 36% of the population and get a quota of 18%; together should get a quota of 43%.

Odd-even vehicle rotation scheme to return in Delhi**Context**

As air pollution in Delhi touched about 18 times the limit set by the World Health Organization, the Environment Minister announced that the government would implement an odd-even vehicle rotation scheme in the city to reduce air pollution.

About Scheme

- The odd-even scheme entails allowing vehicles whose registration number ends in even digits to ply on even dates and those with odd digits to ply only on odd dates.
- On odd days, only vehicles with license plates ending in one, three, five, seven, and nine will be allowed, while on even days, vehicles with numbers ending with zero, two, four, six, and eight will be allowed to operate.