

Maharashtra Weekly Current Affairs 13 to 19 November 2023

Maharashtra State News

Sachin Tendulkar leads 'One Day for Children'

In News: Sachin Tendulkar leads 'One Day for Children' at Wankhede stadium

- Sachin Tendulkar and Muttiah Muralitharan illuminated Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium in UNICEF's cyan blue hue during the India-Sri Lanka match.
- The event, called 'One Day for Children,' is part of a partnership between UNICEF and the International Cricket Council (ICC)
- Aim is to support children's causes during the ICC Men's World Cup Cricket 2023.

About 'One Day for Children' Event:

- It is held to raise awareness and funds for the most vulnerable children around the world.
- It is held on a dedicated day during the ICC Cricket World Cup
- On One Day for Children, cricket fans and players from all over the world come together to support UNICEF's work to ensure that all children have the chance to survive, learn, and thrive.
- The campaign raises funds through a variety of activities, including ticket sales, donations, and merchandise sales.

New initiatives taken to improve air quality in MH

Context:

- The Air Quality Index (AQI) in various areas ranged from 100 to 130.
- To combat the worsening air quality, authorities have introduced new measures and initiatives such as
 - Washing roads
 - Sprinkling water on construction sites
 - Use of Fogging Guns to cleanse the air.
 - Refrain from bursting firecrackers during Diwali

MH to include 200 cancer tests

Context:

- MH will be incorporating over 200 investigations, including advanced molecular, genetic, and radiological cancer tests, into its health insurance program to improve cancer care.
- The Mahatma Phule Jan Arogya Yojana (MJPJAY) will also introduce a specialized annual follow-up

package for post-cancer treatment individuals to ensure early detection of recurrence.

- It is done on recommendations from the Tata Memorial Centre

About Mahatma Phule Jan Arogya Yojana:

- Mahatma Phule Jan Arogya Yojana (MJPJAY) is a government-funded health insurance scheme launched by the Government of Maharashtra in 2018.
- The scheme provides free hospitalization coverage of up to INR 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
- It is in collaboration with the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS).
- The scheme is open to all citizens of Maharashtra who are below the poverty line (BPL) or belong to the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), or Minority Communities.

World Diabetes day

Context:

- It is observed annually on November 14
- It is a global awareness campaign dedicated to diabetes mellitus.

Key Points:

- World Diabetes Day was established in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) with support from the World Health Organization (WHO).
- It became an official United Nations Day in 2006.
- The theme for World Diabetes Day 2023-2025 is "Access to Diabetes Care".
- This theme focuses on the importance of ensuring that everyone with diabetes has access to the care and support they need.
- Approximately 1 in 10 adults worldwide have diabetes, and over 90% of them have type 2 diabetes.
- There are two main types of diabetes: type 1 and type 2.
- Type 1 diabetes: It is an autoimmune disease that causes the body to attack and destroy the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas.
- Type 2 diabetes: It is the most common form of diabetes and is caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors

Did you Know?

The date, November 14, was chosen to honor the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered insulin along with Charles Best in 1922

Cotton production likely to decline by 25%

Context:

- Cotton production in north Maharashtra is likely to decline by 25% this year due to inadequate rainfall.
- Of the total cotton acreage, 60% is non-irrigated and 40% is irrigated.
- There were no showers during more than 40 consecutive days in July and August, which is the primary period of growth for cotton crops.
- These districts had received showers in September. Some of the crops survived, but the yield was affected.

Fort Raigad

Context:

- The flow of Shiva lovers and tourists has increased at Raigad fort.

About Raigad Fort:

- Raigad Fort is a majestic hill fortress located in the Sahyadri Mountains of Maharashtra, India.
- It served as the capital of the Maratha Empire during the 17th century, under the rule of the legendary Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- Its construction dates back to the 10th century, but it was during Shivaji's reign that Raigad Fort gained prominence.
- The fort was surrounded by strong walls and bastions, making it difficult for enemies to breach its defenses.
- The fort had an ingenious water supply system, with cisterns and tunnels ensuring a reliable source of water even during sieges.
- Raigad Fort represented the rise and dominance of the Maratha Empire under Shivaji's leadership.
- The fort served as the administrative hub of the Maratha Empire, where Shivaji and his successors oversaw the kingdom's affairs.

Pollution on Konkan coast at hazardous levels

Context:

As per Study:

- The state's 720-km Konkan coastline has reached dangerous levels due to pollution.

- Coastal pollutants include microplastics, chemicals from pharmaceuticals, and this pollution poses a threat to marine life and human health.
- Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague and Maharashtra College in Mumbai conducted research on pollution along the state's west coast.

AI used to translate Bombay High Court judgments

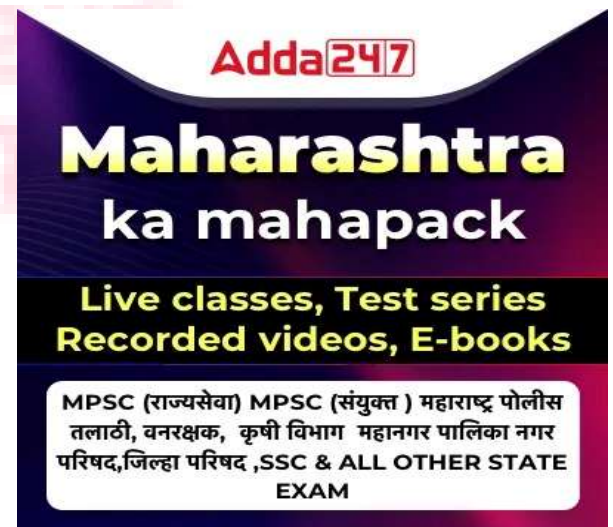
Context:

- A project has been started to translate Bombay High Court judgments from English to Marathi, Konkani and Gujarati with the help of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- Marathi - Official language of Maharashtra
- Konkani - Official language of Goa
- Gujarati - Official language of Gujrat

Sikander Sheikh becomes 66th Maharashtra Kesari

Context:

- MH Sikander Sheikh, a renowned wrestler from Maharashtra, has been named the 66th Maharashtra Kesari.
- The title of Maharashtra Kesari is awarded annually to the winner of the Maharashtra Kesari wrestling tournament, one of the most prestigious wrestling tournaments in India.



Adda247

Maharashtra ka mahapack

Live classes, Test series
Recorded videos, E-books

MPSC (राज्यसेवा) MPSC (संयुक्त) महाराष्ट्र पोलीस तलाठी, वनरक्षक, कृषी विभाग महानगर पालिका नगर परिषद, जिल्हा परिषद, SSC & ALL OTHER STATE EXAM

The Maharashtra Vaibhav-State Protected Monument Care Scheme

Key Points:

- The Maharashtra Vaibhav-State Protected Monument Care Scheme is a government-sponsored initiative aimed at preserving, restoring,

and maintaining the state's rich historical and cultural heritage.

- The scheme was launched in 2007 to address the growing concerns regarding the deterioration of several state-protected monuments across Maharashtra.

Objectives of the Scheme:

- Preserve and restore the state's protected monuments to their former glory
- Promote public awareness about the importance of preserving historical and cultural heritage
- Encourage public participation in the conservation efforts
- Facilitate the development of tourism and cultural activities around the protected monuments

PM Kusum Scheme benefits 72 thousand farmers

Context:

- 'PM Kusum Yojana' is being implemented to provide transmissionless solar agricultural pumps for agricultural use to the farmers of the state to make it possible for the farmers to irrigate during the day.

About PM Kusum Yojana:

- PM-KUSUM Scheme (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) is a government-funded scheme launched in India in 2019.
- Aim is to provide farmers with access to solar-powered irrigation pumps and to promote the installation of grid-connected solar and other renewable energy power plants on barren land.
- It also aims to ensure energy security for farmers, reduce their reliance on diesel-powered irrigation pumps, and contribute to the country's renewable energy goals.

Key components:

- **Component A:** Setting up of 10,000 MW of Decentralized Grid Connected Renewable Energy Power Plants on barren land.
- **Component B:** Installation of stand-alone solar agriculture pumps of capacity up to 7.5 HP.
- **Component C:** Solarisation of existing grid connected agriculture pumps of capacity up to 7.5 HP.

37th National Games: Maharashtra clinches the overall championship

Context:

- Maharashtra topped the medal table and took the Raja Bhalindra Singh Trophy for the overall championship in the 37th National Games held in Goa
- MH won 228 medals including 80 golds

Final medal tally (top 5, read as State, gold, silver, bronze and total):

1. Maharashtra (80, 69, 79 = 228)
2. Services (66, 27, 33 = 126)
3. Haryana (62, 55, 75 = 192)
4. Madhya Pradesh (37, 36, 39 = 112)
5. Kerala (36, 24, 27 = 87).

India-America 2+2 Dialogue Meeting

Context:

- Against the backdrop of China's struggle for superpower and China trying to support American dominance in the 'Indo-Pacific region' by going beyond West Asia, the unique importance of the 'Two Plus Two' dialogue meeting was held between India and the US
- China's struggle for superpower, the Russia-Ukraine War and the current Israel-Hamas conflict seem to be affecting the post-Cold War global restructuring.
- China's plan to attack Taiwan is also well known.
- Thus, the 'Two Plus Two' dialogue meeting is trying to give a new direction and new energy to mutual cooperation.

Ranibaug records highest number of visitors

Context:

- The Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Zoo and Botanical Garden, commonly referred to as Ranibaug, experienced its highest visitor turnout of the year.
- A total of 39,793 individuals visited Ranibaug during the day, resulting in ticket sales amounting to Rs 14.41 lakh
- Humboldt Penguins and tigers are among the attractions of the zoo

Manjhi Kanya Bhagyashree Scheme

Context:

- The Manjhi Kanya Bhagyashree Scheme is a government scheme launched by the Government

of Maharashtra to provide financial assistance to the parents of girl children.

- The assistance is provided in the form of a monthly stipend of Rs. 2,000 for each girl child.
- The stipend is paid directly into the bank account of the mother of the girl child.
- The scheme was launched on 1st August 2017.

Objectives of the scheme:

1. Reduce the financial burden on parents of girl children
2. Encourage parents to send their daughters to school
3. Prevent child marriage

Navi Mumbai Metro line 1 ready for public use

Context:

- After a prolonged nine-year delay, Navi Mumbai is set to inaugurate its first Metro line, **the Belapur-Pendhar Line 1**
- The **foundation stone** for the project was laid by then **CM Prithviraj Chavan** in May 2011
- The line is **11.1 km** (6.9 mi) long with 11 stations.
- The line **starts at Belapur Terminal station** and **ends at Pendhar station**.
- It passes through the CBD Belapur, Kharghar, and Taloja nodes of Navi Mumbai.

Attendance of students in the state will now be online

Context:

- Attendance of students from **classes 1st to 10th** in local bodies, private aided and partially aided schools in the state will now be **registered online from December 1**.
- Attendance of students will be **recorded through Swift Chat app**.
- In order to speed up and facilitate the data collection and analysis process in the education sector in the state, the Maharashtra Primary Education Council has implemented Vidya Samishka Kendra in Pune.
- Students have been **trained to use 'Attendance Bot'** to record their attendance online.

Urban Heat

Context:

Mumbai faces urban heat threat as temperatures rise, leading to heat islands and health risks.

Key Points:

- **Air Pollution Combat:** BMC is addressing air pollution, but another threat, "**urban heat,**" **looms over Mumbai**, warns the Mumbai Climate Action Plan (MCAP) by the World Resources Institute (WRI).
- **Temperature Control Urgency:** To avert urban heat, BMC must act promptly to not only reduce pollution but also control temperature at its source, emphasizing the need to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2030-50.
- **Warming Trend:** Over 47 years (1973-2020), Mumbai exhibited a warming trend of 0.25 degrees Celsius per decade, as per MCAP, with ten heat waves and two extreme heat wave events recorded.
- **Data Consistency:** Analysis aligns with Indian Meteorological Department data, indicating a temperature rise in sync with global climate models and the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report**.
- **Global Impact:** The IPCC report highlights a clear global warming trend, impacting countries like India significantly, according to architect Lubaina Rangwala from WRI, a contributor to MCAP.

For first time ever MH road transport body records Rs 35 crore single-day revenue

Context:

- The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) made record revenue earnings in a single day of over Rs 35 crore.
- Due to running of additional buses on three days, it earned a huge revenue of Rs 15.2 crore

India-Sri Lanka 'Mitra Shakti' begins

Context:

- The '**Mitra Shakti**' military exercise between the Indian and Sri Lankan forces began at the Aundh Military Station in Pune.
- The main objective is to **jointly practice sub-conventional operations under Chapter VII of the UN Charter**.
- The **Maratha Light Infantry Regiment** is **representing the Indian Army** in this exercise.
- While Sri Lanka is represented by 53 infantry units.

- A total of 20 Air Force personnel of both the countries are participating in this exercise.

Operation Flush Out

Context: Operation Flush Out' to round up 1k goons, gamblers under lens

- City police chief **Amitesh Kumar** launched 'Operation Flush Out' to make the city crime-free in the run-up to the winter session of the assembly.
- At least 1,000 goons will be rounded up and history-sheeters, bootleggers and gambling den operators would be under 24x7 surveillance.
- Action would include detaining and arresting criminals, raiding dens and picking up their aides.
- Gangsters would top the police list during the operation

NAINA

Context:

- **The Navi Mumbai Airport Influence Notified Area (NAINA)** is a proposed planning area located in the Raigad district of Maharashtra, India.
- It is centered around the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA).
- The development of NAINA is **aimed at creating a self-sustaining urban ecosystem** that will provide housing, employment, and amenities to millions of people.
- It is **envisioned as a 'smart city'** that will incorporate cutting-edge technology and infrastructure to promote sustainable living and economic growth.

Key objectives of NAINA:

1. Planned development:
2. Economic hub
3. Sustainable city
4. Improved connectivity
5. Smart city infrastructure

Breaking chains of paperwork

Context:

- Maharashtra govt has finally initiated a process whereby, by the end of **December, medical records of patients will be readily accessible with a simple click on a computer.**

- It will be implemented at most government medical colleges and hospitals (GMCH) in Maharashtra.
- This eliminates the need to carry cumbersome hard copies to hospitals.
- The state medical education department is **implementing Health Management Information System (HMIS) in GMCHs** across the state to streamline record-keeping, reduce human error, and cut down waiting time for patients.
- HMIS will be initiated on a trial basis in six medical colleges and hospitals in Mumbai, Pune, Aurangabad, Nagpur, Dhule and Kolhapur.

Maharashtra govt to use AI to write resumes of youths

Context:

- The **Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** Ministry of the Maharashtra government has announced to launch an initiative, under which it will use artificial intelligence to design and write resumes of one lakh job seekers, which will help them in getting employment.
- The initiative is the brainchild of minister **Mangal Prabhat Lodha**
- Lakhs of youths in the state will be able to get high quality and perfect resumes in just a few minutes by just **sending Hi to 8655826684 on WhatsApp** and answering some simple questions.

World Memory Championship for mental athletes

Context:

- The **International Association of Memory's World Memory Championship 2023** is set to take place in **India for the first time.**
- The competition **involves 779 participants from 13 countries** who will compete in various memory-related disciplines, such as memorizing historic and future dates.
- The event is expected to be one of the largest in the competition's history.
- Memory athletes use techniques like visualization and the memory palace method to improve their memory skills.
- The championship highlights the importance of memory training in the digital age, where information retention is crucial.

The World Memory Championship (WMC)

Key Points:

- The World Memory Championship (WMC) is a prestigious annual competition that brings together the world's top mental athletes to test their memory prowess across a variety of disciplines.
- The championship is **organized by the International Association of Memory (IAM)** and features a wide range of memory events, including:
 1. **Numbers:** Memorizing strings of digits, binary numbers, and other numerical sequences
 2. **Names and Faces:** Memorizing lists of names and their corresponding faces
 3. **Speed Cards:** Memorizing decks of playing cards in the fastest possible time
 4. **Abstract Images:** Memorizing sequences of abstract images and reproducing them in the correct order
 5. **Random Words:** Memorizing lists of random words and recalling them in order
 6. **Poetry:** Memorizing and reciting long poems
 7. **Dates:** Memorizing historical and future dates
 8. **Speed Stacking:** Memorizing and performing sequences of cup stacking with the fastest possible time

Maharashtra Forest Industrial Development Corporation (MFIDC)

Context:

- Maharashtra is establishing the MFIDC, a dedicated government institution.

Key points:

- Institution: MFIDC is a new dedicated government institution being established in Maharashtra.
- Inspiration: Modeled after the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation.
- Objective: To explore business opportunities related to various forest yields.

Advisory Committee:

- A Government Resolution (GR) by the forest department on November 17 announced the formation of a multi-member advisory committee for the MFIDC.
- The committee will guide and shape the objectives

and functioning of the MFIDC.

Focus Areas of MFIDC:

Emphasis on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) like fruits, nuts, vegetables, medicinal plants, resins, essences, barks, and fibers.

- Special focus on establishing furniture clusters involving bamboo.

Forest Area in Maharashtra:

- The state has a significant forest area of **61,907** square kilometers, about **20%** of its geographical area.
- Deputy Secretary of the forest department, Vivek Hoshing, underlines the necessity of strategic planning and exploring funding options for the MFIDC.

Rashtrapati ka Nishaan

Context:

- President Droupadi Murmu will present the prestigious 'President's Colour' to the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) on December 1 for the health services they have provided to the Indian armed forces over the last **75** years.

Key facts:

- The President's mark, also known as the 'President's Colour', is the highest honor for any military unit.
- It is an insignia that all unit officers wear on the left sleeve of their uniform.
- Getting the President's Mark means:
 - Acknowledgment of meritorious service of the unit
 - Recognition of battalion's feats

India's largest township for workers

Context:

- RAY Nagar Township is a Visionary Project for Unorganised Sector Workers

Key Points:

- Located in Kumbhari, **12** km from Solapur.
- RAY stands for Rajiv Awas Yojana, a Congress-era initiative.
- Phase 1 with **15,000** houses to be inaugurated in December by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Maharashtra Trans Harbour Link Inauguration

Context:

Considered to be India's longest sea bridge, is set to be inaugurated for public use by Dec 25.

Key Points:

- Also known as Atal Bhari Vajpayee link.
- **21.8 km (13.5 mi) 6-lane** access-controlled expressway grade road bridge, which will connect Mumbai with Navi Mumbai–Raigad, its satellite city.
- The bridge will begin in Sewri, South Mumbai, will cross Thane Creek north of Elephanta Island, and will terminate at Chirle near Nhava Sheva.
- The road will be linked to the Mumbai–Pune Expressway in the east and to the under-construction Coastal Road in the west.

Committee to include Dhangars in ST list

Context:

- Maharashtra government forms a nine-member committee to study inclusion methodologies in ST category.
- Committee to visit Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Telangana for research.

Key Points:

- Nine-member committee led by IRS officer Sudhakar Shinde.
- Includes four non-governmental members.
- Tasked with submitting a report within three months.

Committee's Objectives

- Study methodology used in three states to include new castes in the ST category.
- Examine relevant provisions in the law.
- Collect necessary documents and details of any court cases.
- Hold discussions with representatives of non-ST castes to understand their perspectives.
- Constitutional challenges cited, emphasizing the need for Dhangars to prove belonging to the Oraon tribe for ST inclusion.
- Top-up policy to boost forestation
-
-

Context:

-
- The Maharashtra government has approved a top-up policy for forestation drive across the state
- These works will now get funds from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)
- Forestation works will be converged with various other soil and water conservation works undertaken within the MGNREGS.
- While Rs 270 per day labor charges will be paid through the Centre's scheme, the state government will pay Rs 170 additional top up from its funds

Blue Dart and India Post enter partnership for enhanced services

Context:

- Blue Dart Express has partnered with India Post to introduce automated digital parcel lockers at selected post offices.
- This collaboration allows customers to conveniently retrieve their shipments without the need for personal receipts or signing for a package.
- The lockers are secure and easily accessible, with deliveries able to be collected at any time by authorized personnel.
- This initiative is part of Blue Dart's commitment to revolutionize hyper-connected city logistics and provide a reliable and secure experience for customers.

State forms committee to explore ways to include Dhangars in ST list

Context:

- To pacify the agitating Dhangar community, the Maharashtra government has formed a nine-member committee that will travel to Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Telangana to study the methodology adopted for the inclusion of other castes in the ST category.
- The committee is led by IRS officer Sudhakar Shinde
- It will have four non-governmental members and will submit its report within three months.

Namo Tirthsthal Sudhar Abhiyan

Context:

- Under the campaign (on the occasion of 73rd birthday of PM), 73 historic religious places across the state will be improved.
- This includes the Pandava-era Karneswar temple in Sangameswar taluk. Therefore, these shrines will be transformed by August 2024.
- This program is being implemented by the tourism and cultural affairs department of the government.
- The 73 historical sites identified by the government include temples, graves, historical buildings, lakes.

'Loksatta Lokankika' Competition

Context:

- The 'Loksatta Lokankika' competition, which connects all the youth of Maharashtra, gives scope to their latent talent and opens the door to professional opportunities in the field of arts, has been re-launched.

About 'Loksatta Lokankika' competition:

- Loksatta Lokankika is a prestigious annual one-act play competition for college students in Maharashtra, India.
- The competition is open to all undergraduate and postgraduate students studying in any college in Maharashtra.
- The plays must be in Marathi and must be original works written by the students themselves.
- The plays are judged on the basis of their creativity, originality, acting, direction, and overall impact.

The Maharashtra Lek Ladki Scheme

Context:

- The Maharashtra Lek Ladki Scheme is a financial assistance program launched by the Maharashtra government to empower girls from economically disadvantaged families.
- The scheme aims to provide financial support to girls from their birth till they reach adulthood,

enabling them to pursue education and achieve their aspirations.

Key Features of the Scheme:

- Eligibility: Girls born on or after April 1, 2023, to families holding yellow or orange ration cards are eligible for the scheme.
- Financial Assistance: The scheme provides financial assistance in five stages:
 - At Birth: ₹5,000
 - First Standard: ₹4,000
 - 3Sixth Standard: ₹6,000
 - Eleventh Standard: ₹8,000
 - Upon Attaining Adulthood (18 Years): ₹75,000
- Total Financial Assistance: A total of ₹1,01,000 is provided to each girl under the scheme.

Objectives of the Scheme:

- To promote girls' education and reduce school dropout rates.
- To empower girls and encourage their participation in higher education.
- To improve the socio-economic status of girls from underprivileged families.
- To foster gender equality and women's empowerment in Maharashtra

Smart cities to get a fund of 130 crores

Context:

- Central government has announced a '**Cities 2.0' campaign for 100 cities** across the country.
- Out of this, **18 cities will get funds of 120 to 130 crores.**
- Although the term of Smart City campaign has expired, the **new term 'Cities 2.0' has been given till 2024.**

About 'Cities 2.0' campaign:

- It is a flagship initiative launched by the **Government of Maharashtra in 2022**

Aim -

- to transform and modernize 100 cities across the state into smart, sustainable, and inclusive urban centers.

- to enhance the quality of life for urban residents, promote economic growth, and make cities more livable and resilient.

Key Objectives:

- Enhance urban infrastructure and connectivity
- Improve urban governance and service delivery
- Promote sustainable urban development practices
- Foster economic development and job creation
- Enhance citizen participation and engagement

Birsa Munda Krishi Kranti Yojana

Key Points:

- Under the scheme financial assistance is provided in the form of **100 per cent subsidy to ST farmers** holding land **0.20 ha to 6 ha** and having annual income **upto ₹ 1.50 lakh**, with an objective to provide sustainable irrigation facility such as new well (for new well minimum 0.40 ha land is essential), old well repairing, plastification of farm pond, inwell boring, pumpset, electric connection charges, HDPE/PVC pipe, micro irrigation set, kitchen garden, etc.

Still no dam on Vashishti river

Context:

- MIDC in 2017 sanctioned 25 crores for construction of Kolhapur style dam on **Vashishti river**.
- But, even after six years there is no progress in construction of Kolhapur style dam

About Vashishti River:

- It is a prominent river in the Konkan region of Maharashtra, India.
- It **originates in the Sahyadri Mountains, also known as the Western Ghats** and meanders its way westward towards the **Arabian Sea**.
- The river plays a crucial role in the ecology and economy of the region, supporting agriculture, fisheries, and tourism.
- It flows through the scenic valleys and lush greenery of the Konkan region, passing through towns like Chiplun, Alore, and Khed before finally merging into the Arabian Sea near Dabhol.

MMRC gets 'Tunneling project of the year' award

Context:

- Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC) has been conferred with the **'Tunneling project of the year'**

and **'Safety initiative of the year'** awards by the **Tunnelling Association of India (TAI)**.

Key points:

- TAI is the Indian Chapter of the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association (ITA) and was **established in the year 1991** under the aegis of the Central Board of Irrigation and Power, GOI.
- MMRC is presently executing the **32.5-km-long Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ Metro 3 underground corridor**.

Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan 2.0

Key Points:

- **Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan 2.0** is being implemented in the State from **January, 2023**.
- **Implement soil and water conservation** works in villages where the first phase of Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan and other watershed development programmes were not previously implemented, **provided they meet the village selection criteria**.
- Undertake **watershed development** works in villages where the first phase of Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan and other watershed development programmes were already implemented, particularly in areas still needing water and where gaps exist.
- Focus on **ensuring water availability and its efficient use in villages through water literacy initiatives**.
- Promote sustainable development in watershed areas by utilizing available groundwater resources as part of the abhiyan (campaign).

ST Corporation to start a stall for women's self-help groups

Context:

- CM directed the **ST Corporation to start a stall for women's self-help groups at every bus stand** in the state, to **open a clinic** at the bus stand in the district and to give a stall at the bus stand to the **widows and wives of ex-servicemen** and the disabled in 10 percent places.
- He also approved the introduction of 3 thousand 495 ST buses in the Corporation for the better convenience of the passengers.

ASMITA yojana

Context:

- The Maharashtra **ASMITA Yojana is also known as the Aapli Saath Marathi Shashankitichi Mission**
- It is a flagship initiative launched by the Government of Maharashtra in India.
- **Aim is to promote the study and preservation of the Marathi language.**
- The scheme aims to encourage students to pursue higher education in Marathi, support Marathi scholars and writers, and foster a vibrant Marathi literary and cultural ecosystem.

Redevelopment of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT)

Key Points:

- The project aims to maintain the station's present face while providing modern facilities.
- It was built in **1887** and is one of the most important railway stations in India.
- CSMT is also the **headquarters of Central Railways.**
- **CSMT was formerly known as Victoria Terminus.**
- **CSMT is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.**

Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

Context:

- It is a maternity benefit scheme in India launched in 2017
- It provides a cash incentive of **₹5,000 to pregnant women and lactating mothers for the first living child of the family**
- Aims to **improve the health and nutrition status of pregnant and lactating women**
- **Implemented** through the platform of **Anganwadi Services scheme** under Ministry of Women and Child Development
- Payment is made in **three installments:**
- **First installment - ₹1,000** after registration of pregnancy
- **Second installment - ₹2,000** after registration of at least one ante-natal check-up after six months of pregnancy
- **Third installment - ₹2,000** after institutional delivery or registration of birth and getting the first cycle of vaccination of the child

Somasekhar Sundaresan appointed as additional HC judge

Context:

- The appointment follows a recommendation made by the Supreme Court collegium in February 2022.

Key Points:

- Notification confirms the appointment of Somasekhar Sundaresan as an **additional judge of the Bombay High Court**, overcoming objections related to his social media expressions through the collegium's reiteration of **his right to free speech and the absence of bias.**

Samarth Scheme

Context:

- The Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS), also known as the Samarth Scheme, is a flagship **skill development scheme** of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.
- It aims to **provide demand driven, placement oriented National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) compliant skilling programmes** to incentivize and supplement the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the organized textile and related sectors, covering the entire value chain of textile, excluding Spinning and Weaving.
- The scheme also promotes skilling and skill upgradation in the traditional sectors of handlooms, handicrafts, sericulture and jute.
- The Samarth Scheme was **launched in 2016** with an **initial outlay of Rs. 600 crore** and has since been **extended till March 2024.**

Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojna

Context:

- It is a **social welfare scheme** launched by the Government of Maharashtra, India.
- The scheme is **aimed at providing financial assistance to destitute persons, blind, disabled, orphan children, persons suffering from major illnesses, divorced women, abandoned women, women freed from prostitution, outraged women, transgender, etc**

Eligibility Criteria

- To be eligible for the scheme, the applicant must meet the following criteria:
 1. Be a resident of Maharashtra
 2. Be of Indian origin
 3. Be destitute and have no source of income

4. Be unable to earn a livelihood due to old age, disability, illness, or other reasons

