

Maharashtra Weekly Current Affairs 11 to 17 December 2023

Maharashtra State News

NAINA scheme

- The **opposition to the NAINA scheme of CIDCO** by Panvel villagers has now taken the shape of an indefinite fast and villagers are ready to die unless withdrawal of this scheme
- The **Navi Mumbai Airport Influence Notified Area (NAINA) project** within **25 km radius of the Navi Mumbai airport** is spread over 371 sq km comprising 174 villages.
- It **does not entail the traditional land acquisition process.**
- The scheme proposes **land pooling by villagers wherein CIDCO, the Special Planning Authority for the project, gets to keep 60% of the land for infrastructure development and the PAPs get the remaining 40% with 2.5 FSI. CIDCO does not have to pay any monetary compensation to the villagers.**

Homelessness a violation of human rights

- The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHRA)** has termed **homelessness as a global human rights violation.**
- It was in view of **World Human Rights Day observed on December 10**
- It was also suggested to **take the steps that need to be taken by the state in addressing homelessness in the city.**

Did you Know?

- The **regulated theme to celebrate Human Rights Day 2023 is 'Freedom, Equality and Justice for All.**

Kolhapur airport gets IFR license for next 5 yrs

- The **airport in Kolhapur city** has now got the **IFR (Instrument Flights rules) license** for a period of five years.
- This **license is crucial for aircraft take-offs and landings in low-visibility conditions,**
- It will help the Kolhapur airport offer smooth and efficient air services in every weather condition.

Betting, Gaming in 28 percent GST

- Maharashtra **Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar introduced** a proposed **amendment bill** to bring betting and gaming in purview of GST
- The **bill aims to categorize online gaming, betting, casinos, horse racing, and lottery under the highest GST bracket of 28 percent.**
- The bill, if accepted, will amend the **Maharashtra Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.**

Rising traffic violations in MH

- There has been a massive increase in traffic violations in MH.
- In view of this, the **District Legal Services Authority, Mumbai, has issued notices to a total of 17,10,519 motorists,** urging them to promptly clear their pending fines.

About:

- **District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) is a statutory body constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 .**
- Aim is to **provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of society.**

Goods train derails in Thane's Kasara

- **Two coaches** of a goods train derailed near **Thane's Kasara**
- **Kalyan station road ART** (accident relief train) and **Igatpuri station rail ART** (accident relief train) were ordered and moved to the accident site.

Demand to scrap of govt's 'Love Jihad' committee

- **Samajwadi Party MLA Rais Shaikh** demands to scrap **Maharashtra 'Interfaith Marriage Family Coordination Committee'.**
- He stated that it has **received only 402 complaints** since its formation a year ago.
- The **committee was established on December 13, 2022 by former state Women and Child Development (WCD) minister Manga Prabhat Lodha**
- It was aimed to **track cases of 'Love Jihad.'**

Bade Miya, Papa Pancho's are open after FDA action

- The two restaurants which top Mumbai's culinary landscape- Bade Miya and Papa Pāncho da Dhaba have recently reopened after an FDA (Food and Drug Administration) raid in April

About:

- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is a federal agency responsible for protecting public health by ensuring the safety, efficacy, and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, medical devices, and our food supply.
- It also regulates cosmetics, tobacco products, and products that emit radiation.

56 % surge in cybercrime incidents

- With the rapid advancement of technology, the incidence of cybercrime in the Navi Mumbai region has increased by 56%
- There is a significant increase in the conversion of applications into First Information Reports (FIRs), thereby enhancing the detection of cybercrimes in the area.

Unique expedition Tracing Lord Rama's footprints

- To strike a balance between spirituality and physical fitness, three ex-service men from Maharashtra embarked on a unique international bicycle expedition titled 'Ram Van Gaman Path'.
- It is to trace out the footprints of Lord Rama wherever they were available.
- The trio, Subedar Ullas Kulkarni, Colonel Shivanarayan Mishra and Dr. Sahebrao Kasav set out on the expedition on November 24 from Ram Janmabhoomi at Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.

National Seed Congress

- A three-day 12th National Seed Congress will be hosted by the Parbhani-based Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Agricultural University.
- Over 300 agricultural scientists, field experts, and top government officials will be taking part.

- The event will witness discussions themed on innovation and challenges in quality seed availability under the changing climate.
- "The principle of "3As"—Availability, Access, and Affordability—needs to be followed in the seed sector while providing quality seeds
- Millet cultivation will be one of the subjects of discussion during the event.

Mumbai Air Quality improved

- The Bombay High Court observed that Mumbai's air quality had improved since its last directions in a suo motu PIL on air pollution
- The Air Quality Index(AQI) data submitted by the state has largely shown "moderate" levels.
- HC said that a collective effort is needed to bring the AQI below 50, the "satisfactory" level.

Assured maize procurement for ethanol production

- In response to the expected decrease in sugar production in Maharashtra and Karnataka, the government plans to focus on grain-based ethanol production, particularly from maize.
- The scheme involves the registration and procurement of maize from farmers at MSP by government agri-cooperatives NAFED and NCCF
- The maize will then be supplied to grain-based distilleries.
- The food ministry will bear the incidental costs to ensure farmers receive MSP and promote maize cultivation.

Separate state university for Latur in Marathwada

- Different civil society groups have raised the demand for setting up a separate state university for Latur in Marathwada.
- Latur has established an identity as an educational hub of Maharashtra over the years.
- These groups have sought bifurcation of the Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada (SRTM) University, Nanded, to carve out a new varsity.

Ayushman Bharat

- Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar has witnessed the enrollment of over **23.3 lakh beneficiaries** of **Ayushman health cards** but only **19%** of the mandatory **e-KYC** of these cards has been done so far.

About:

- The **Ayushman Bharat** is a **flagship scheme** of the **Government of India** that offers a defined benefit cover of **Rs 5 lakh per family per year**.
- Launched as **recommended by the National Health Policy 2017**, it aims to achieve the vision of **universal health coverage (UHC)**.

Namo Maharozgar Yojana

- Namo Maharozgar Yojana** is an **initiative by the Maharashtra government** to address **unemployment** in the state.
- It primarily **focuses on organizing large-scale job fairs** called "**Namo Maharozgar Melava**" where companies and potential employees can connect directly.
- The initiative **collaborates with the private sector** to bring in job opportunities.

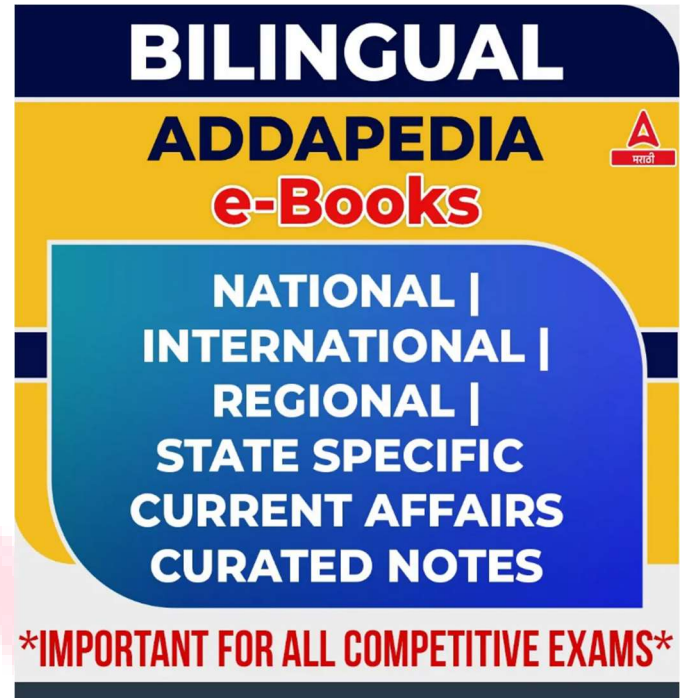
Indian Coast Guard plans to increase fleet to 200 ships, 100 aircraft

- The **Indian Coast Guard** are planning to increase the fleet to **200 ships, 100 aircraft** by the **end of 2025 or 2026**.
- Presently the **Indian Coast Guard** has around **157 ships** and about **78 aircrafts**.
- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** is a **multi-mission, armed paramilitary force** in India
- It was **headed by the Director General**, with **headquarters in New Delhi**.

Dalai Lama to attend 'Dhamma Diksha'

- The **Dalai Lama** will **attend an international conference on Buddhism**, '**Dhamma Diksha**', to be held at the **Mahalaxmi Race Course**.
- Dhamma Diksha**, meaning "**initiation into the Dharma**," will be a **landmark international conference on Buddhism** to be held on **December 15-16, 2023**, in **Mumbai**.
- It will be a **historic event fulfilling the vision of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, who planned to

organize such a conference after his conversion to Buddhism in 1956.



Integrated cyber platform to tackle online crime

- The **Maharashtra government** is going to establish a **dedicated cyber platform** aimed at **detecting and combating cybercrime**.
- It will be a **very dynamic platform** with all **financial institutions including banks, NBFCs, all social media sites** etc to be brought together on this platform.
- It will be **integrated with the latest software** which will create a very fast response time

Entire BEST fleet to have clean energy-powered buses by 2027

- Entire BEST fleet** to have **clean energy-powered buses by 2027**
- It has **already completed tender work** for **3,000 electric buses** and **200 buses that run on compressed natural gas (CNG)**
- Of these **3,000 e-buses**, **900 will be double-deckers**

Amruta Pujari wins Women's Maharashtra Kesari wrestling title

- **Amruta Shashikant Pujari** of Shirol won the prestigious **Maharashtra Kesari title** at the **Maharashtra Kesari Wrestling Championship** held in Chandrapur
- The **competition witnessed the participation of over 600 wrestlers** from across the state.

CIDCO to undertake expansion of Ulwe River

- To **mitigate and avert flood-like situations** in villages surrounding the **Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA)**, the **City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO)** has undertaken the **expansion and de-siltation of the Ulwe riverbed**
- A portion of the **river passing from the state Highway (SH)-54 to National Highway (NH) - 4B** is to be re-sectioned to avert flooding in five villages, namely **Paragoan, Dungi, Dapoli, Bhangarpada, and Khalche Ovale**.

Govt to rejuvenate Matheran's Charlotte Lake

- The **state government** has decided to **rejuvenate Charlotte Lake** in Matheran, which is the **only source of potable water to the hill station**
- It will be carried out under the **Centre's Amrut 2.0 Abhiyan**
- The project also includes **development of infrastructure for tourists** by **developing the dam wall, the approach and setting up plazas**.