

Maharashtra State News

Maharashtra to bring in Ferrero academy to India

- As a part of the **Lakshyavedh** scheme, the Maharashtra government has **signed up with JC Ferrero Tennis Academy of Spain to develop the racquet game in the state.**
- Under the programme, **JCFTA will work with the Maha Tennis Foundation (MTF)** and the sport's governing body in the state (MSLTA) to train the players as well as the coaches through the latest training methodology.
- **Hemant Bendrey, the coach of India's top women's player Ankita Raina, will head the programme**

Think:

- Read about Lakshyavedh scheme

MH Govt. to recognise as Kunbis kin of Marathas whose Kunbi caste records found

- The Maharashtra government issued a notification recognizing blood relatives of Maratha community members with documented Kunbi ancestry as belonging to the Kunbi caste.
- The Kunbi community, an agrarian community, falls under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category, while Marathas currently lack reservation benefits.
- "Sage soyare" (blood relatives) include close family members across generations within the same caste
- This move aims to address demands from some Maratha groups seeking OBC benefits

Thane's Masunda Lake: 1200-Year-Old

- **Masunda Lake, also known as Upvan Lake, is a 1200-year-old artificial lake in Thane, Maharashtra**
- The lake was built by the Shilahara dynasty in the 9th century AD. It was originally used for irrigation and drinking water

About:

- **Thane was once known as "City of Lakes"**
- **Historically Thane boasted over 60 lakes and their accompanying temples.**

- **Today only 36 Lakes** remain in the Thane Municipal corporation area.

Beating retreat ceremony

- The **Beating Retreat ceremony is a vibrant spectacle marking the culmination of Republic Day festivities in India.**
- It is held on the **evening of January 29th at the iconic Vijay Chowk in New Delhi.**
- The music bands of **Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)** will play 31 captivating and foot-tapping Indian tunes before a distinguished audience.
- Audience comprises President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces **Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh,** other Union Ministers, senior officials and the general public.
- The event will come to a close with the ever-popular tune of '**Sare Jahan se Acha**'.
- '**Beating Retreat**' traces its origins to the early 1950s when Major Roberts of the Indian Army indigenously developed the unique ceremony of display by the massed bands.

Martyr's Day

- **Martyrs' Day, also known as Shaheed Diwas, is a day observed in several countries to honor and remember those who have died for their cause, particularly those who have died for their nation.**
- This day also marks the assassination of **Mahatma Gandhi, the "Father of the Nation."**
- Gandhi was shot dead in 1948 by **Nathuram Godse**
- He was on his way to address a prayer meeting at Birla Bhawan in Delhi when the fateful incident occurred.

State colleges to design plan for electoral literacy

- **The Higher and Technical Education Department of the Maharashtra government**

has directed all state colleges to design a plan for promoting electoral literacy among students.

- This initiative aims to raise awareness about the voting process, importance of informed participation, and combat voter apathy among the young generation.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on electoral literacy was linked between the Election Commission of India and the Ministry of Education.

Maharashtra remains No 2 in overall enrollment in the country

- Maharashtra continues to hold the strong position of second in the country when it comes to overall educational enrollment.
- This signifies the state's commitment to providing access to education for its citizens at all levels.
- Also, the students seeking admissions in postgraduate and PhD courses in the state have steadily risen, indicating widespread disparity in trends at different levels in education.
- UP holds the First position.

Green energy, steel plant: MH govt signs MoUs worth Rs 3.16 lakh cr in a day

- The Maharashtra government signed a massive ₹3.16 lakh crore worth of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in a single day, marking a significant stride towards green energy and industrial development.
- These MoUs fall into two key categories:

Green Energy:

- **Value:** ₹2.76 lakh crore MoUs signed with seven companies
- **Focus:** Green hydrogen projects with a combined capacity of 910 kilotons per annum (KTPA)
- **Benefits:** Generate 63,900 jobs, reduce carbon emissions by 511 crore kg annually, align with
- **Companies involved:** NTPC Green Energy, Avada Green Hydrogen, Renew E-Fuels, Inox Air Products, L&T Green Tech, JSW Green Hydrogen, Welspun Godavari GH2

Steel Manufacturing Plant:

- **Value:** ₹40,000 crore MoU

- **Benefits:** Create 83,900 jobs, boost industrial growth

Walmart Foundation announces 3 grants to strengthen agriculture in Maharashtra

- The Walmart Foundation recently awarded three grants totaling over \$3 million to empower smallholder farmers and strengthen agriculture in Maharashtra.
- These grants target:
- **BAIF Development Research Foundation:** \$1.56 million to improve livelihoods and gender integration through value chain initiatives in tribal regions (Palghar, Nasik, Jalgaon), impacting 14,700 farmers.
- **Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR):** \$1 million to enhance climate resilience and water management for 15,000 farmers across five districts.
- **Collective Good Foundation:** \$500,000 to drive climate-resilient growth for 10,000 farmers (70% women) across five districts through FPOs and access to financial resources.

Maratha forts to be India's nomination for UNESCO World Heritage List

- India has nominated a group of 12 forts, collectively known as "Maratha Military Landscapes of India", for inscription on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List.
- These forts, spread across Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, showcase the brilliance and ingenuity of Maratha military architecture and strategy.
- The nomination highlights the forts' diverse locations (hill forts, island forts, etc.) and their role in shaping the Maratha Empire's rise and resilience.

The 12 forts nominated are

- Salher
- Shivneri
- Lohagad
- Khanderi
- Raigad
- Rajgad
- Pratapgad
- Suvarnadurg
- Panhala
- Vijaydurg and
- Sindhudurg in Maharashtra and

- Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day observed in Mumbai

- Members of Mumbai's Jewish community gathered to commemorate International Holocaust Day, which is observed by the United Nations General Assembly on January 27
- The Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed to pay respects to the nearly 6 million Jews killed in Europe during and after the Second World War.

2,851 farmers ended lives in 2023 despite loan waivers, schemes

- According to data compiled by the state relief and rehabilitation department, 2,851 farmers had to end their lives last year in view of distress
- In 2022, 2,942 debt-ridden farmers died by suicide and in 2021, the number was 2,743.
- Vidarbha (1,439) saw the highest number of farmer suicide cases in 2023, followed by Marathwada (1,088).

World Leprosy Day

- World Leprosy day is celebrated in India annually on 30 January.
- World Leprosy Day helps to create awareness about the disease and eliminate the stigma and discrimination faced by those who suffer from the disease.
- The theme for World Leprosy Day 2024 is "Beat Leprosy"

About:

- World Leprosy Day is observed on the last Sunday of January across the globe.

Ashok Saraf to be honored with MH Bhushan Award 2023

- Ashok Saraf, who is well known for his stellar performances in Marathi and Hindi films, has been selected for Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2023.
- The actor will be honored for his immense contribution to the field of art.

Indian Coast Guard Day

- Indian Coast Guard Day is celebrated annually on February 1st to commemorate the formation of the Indian Coast Guard in 1977.

This vital organization plays a crucial role in safeguarding India's maritime interests, including:

1. **Maritime Security:** Guarding against piracy, terrorism, and illegal activities at sea.
1. **Search and Rescue:** Conducting rescue operations during maritime emergencies and saving lives.
2. **Environmental Protection:** Preventing marine pollution and enforcing environmental regulations.
3. **Fisheries Protection:** Combating illegal fishing and protecting marine resources.
4. **Disaster Relief:** Providing assistance during natural disasters and coastal emergencies.

New guidelines after ASER 2023 report

Context:

- The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023 report, focusing on Nanded district as a representative for Maharashtra, revealed worrying deficiencies in Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) skills among 14-18-year-olds in government schools.
- To address these concerns, the Maharashtra State School Education Department issued new guidelines.

Key New Guidelines:

- Surprise Inspections and Learning Assessments:
- Performance-Based Teacher Training
- Enhanced Reporting and Accountability

PM Narendra Modi to Be Honored with Shiv Sanman Award

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to be honored with the prestigious Shiv Samman Award on February 19, 2024
- It coincides with the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the legendary Maratha warrior king.
- The award, instituted by the Satara royal family and Shiv devotees, recognizes

individuals who embody the ideals of Shivaji Maharaj, including bravery, leadership.

reserves in the country; Melghat Tiger Reserve; Navegaon Nagzira National Park; and Tipeswar Wildlife Sanctuary.

The image shows the cover of an e-book titled 'BILINGUAL ADDAPEDIA e-Books'. The cover is primarily blue and yellow. At the top, it says 'BILINGUAL' in white on a blue background. Below that, 'ADDAPEDIA' is written in blue on a yellow background, with a small red 'A' logo to the right. Underneath, 'e-Books' is written in red. A large blue box in the center contains the text 'NATIONAL | INTERNATIONAL | REGIONAL | STATE SPECIFIC CURRENT AFFAIRS CURATED NOTES' in white. At the bottom, a red banner says '*IMPORTANT FOR ALL COMPETITIVE EXAMS*'. There is also a small red 'A' logo with the word 'मराठी' below it.

Agricultural conversion and afforestation destroys savanna biodiversity in MH

- Savannas are unique ecosystems with a balance of trees and grasses, crucial for biodiversity and local communities.
- Maharashtra hosts diverse savannas with endemic plants and grazing grounds for pastoral communities.

Threats to Savanna Biodiversity

1. **Agricultural conversion:** Replacing savannas with intensive tillage agriculture destroys native plants and disrupts ecological balance.
2. **Afforestation:** Converting savannas to tree plantations, aiming for forest restoration or carbon sequestration, can unintentionally harm savanna-adapted species.

Impacts:

1. **Loss of native species:** Keystone perennial grasses and other flora crucial for the ecosystem are eliminated.
2. **Degradation of habitat:** Fragmented landscapes and altered soil properties hinder natural recovery.
3. **Livelihoods affected:** Dhangar communities depending on savannas for grazing lose vital resources.

World Wetlands Day 2024

- World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually on February 2nd
- It aims to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for both people and the planet.
- It also commemorates the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1971, an international treaty for the conservation and wise use of wetlands.
- The theme for 2024 is: "Wetlands and Human Wellbeing"
- It focuses on the interconnectedness between wetlands and various aspects of human wellbeing, including physical, mental and environmental health

About:

- Wetlands are ecosystems where water saturates the land for extended periods,

Vidarbha has huge potential to attract industries

- Union Minister Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said that Maharashtra's Vidarbha region has the potential to attract investments and asserted that Gadchiroli will become the highest tax-paying district in the State in five years

About:

- The region is bordered by the state of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and the Marathwada and Khandesh regions of Maharashtra.
- Vidarbha region comprises 11 districts in total: Amravati, Akola, Bhandara, Buldhana, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Gondia, Nagpur, Wardha, Washim, and Yavatmal. Nagpur, the largest of them all, and Gadchiroli, home to a fossil park.
- Vidarbha region is known for its rich biodiversity and is home to several wildlife parks and sanctuaries - Some of them are Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, one of the largest and oldest national parks in Maharashtra; Pench National Park, one of the premier national parks and tiger

creating unique habitats for diverse plants and animals.

- Examples include marshes, swamps, bogs, mangroves, and even rice paddies.

Did you Know?

- The state of Tamil Nadu (14) has the most Ramsar sites in India, followed by the state of Uttar Pradesh with 10 sites.
- India currently has 80 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

CSMIA registers 87% YOY growth of e-commerce shipments

Context:

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) in Mumbai experienced an impressive 87% year-on-year (YOY) growth in e-commerce shipments during the festive season of 2023.
- This surge is attributed to the growing popularity of online shopping and the increased demand for faster deliveries.
- Perishable items saw a significant rise, with mango exports witnessing a record-breaking 318% growth, reaching 4,700 metric tons.
- This growth highlights the critical role of airports in supporting the e-commerce ecosystem and the need for efficient cargo handling infrastructure.

Maha to implement 'Vatsalya' to reduce mother & child mortality

- In order to reduce mother and child mortality, the state government is set to implement the 'Vatsalya' programme in Maharashtra
- It will be done by integrating various maternal- and child- care programmes.
- Under this first-of-its-kind programme, pregnancy and postpartum care will be provided to the mother and child up to three years post-delivery

Rs 798 crore for Mumbai railway infrastructure works

- The Indian government allocated Rs 798 crore in the interim budget for ongoing capacity expansion projects in Mumbai's Western and Central Railways under Mumbai Urban Transport Projects (MUTP).

- This allocation aims to improve Mumbai's suburban railway network, a crucial lifeline for millions of commuters.
- Specific projects funded might include additional platforms, new lines, and rolling stock upgrades.

Bullet train gets Rs 25000 crore in interim budget

- The budget allocated Rs 25,000 crore to India's first High-Speed Rail (HSR) corridor, the bullet train project connecting Mumbai and Ahmedabad.
- This is a significant boost for the project, facing land acquisition delays and cost escalations.
- The funds will likely be used for civil works contracts and further project development.

BMC Unveils Rs 59,954 Crore Budget for 2024-25, Marking 10.5% Increase

- The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) presented its budget for the fiscal year 2024-25, outlining a significant 10.5% increase from the previous year.
- The total budget stands at Rs. 59,954 crore, showcasing ambitious plans for Mumbai's development.
- The focus lies on enhancing infrastructure, public services, and overall quality of life for residents.
- Estimated revenue income for 2024-25 is Rs. 35,749 crore, indicating a Rs. 2,459 crore rise compared to the previous year's estimates.
- A surplus budget of Rs. 58.22 crore highlights the BMC's commitment to fiscal responsibility.

BMC announces ₹3,497.82 crore budget for education

- The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has presented a budget of ₹3,497.82 crore for the education sector in its upcoming fiscal year.
- This marks a significant increase from the previous year's allocation, highlighting the BMC's commitment to improving educational opportunities for students in Mumbai.

Key highlights of the budget:

- Increased allocation for infrastructure development in schools and colleges.
- Focus on improving teacher training and recruitment.
- Introduction of new scholarship schemes for underprivileged students.
- Allocation for digitization initiatives in schools.
- Emphasis on promoting extracurricular activities and holistic development.

Boosting Green Public Transport: BEST Mumbai Receives ₹928 Crore for E-Buses

- The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) Undertaking, which caters to over 30 lakh bus passengers daily, has been allocated a mere 1.5% of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) massive ₹59,954.75-crore budget for 2024-25.
- In the budget presented, the civic body allocated ₹928.65 crore to BEST, although the cash-strapped undertaking had sought ₹3,000 crore.
- The BMC's budget document considers BEST's financial position and proposes to give the undertaking ₹800 crore as a grant, and another ₹128.65 crore towards purchasing 2,000 electric buses.
- The grant will help BEST meet expenses towards infrastructure development, purchase of capital equipment, repayment of loans, payment to wet lease operators, employee expenses such as bonus and gratuity, dues of pensioners, electricity dues and so on.

Free higher education proposed for female students with family income below ₹8 lakh


- The state government has principally sanctioned the provision of free higher education to female students from families with incomes below ₹8 lakh
- Currently, female students admitted under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) and Economically Weaker Section (EWS) categories receive a 50% fee waiver.

PM Modi to inaugurate partial stretch of Mumbai's coastal road on Feb 19

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate a partial stretch of the highly anticipated coastal road project on February 19th.
- This opening marks a crucial milestone in addressing chronic traffic congestion in the city.

Project Details:

- **Inaugurated Segment:** The southbound lane, extending from Bindumadhav Thackeray Chowk in Worli to Marine Drive, will be officially opened to the public.
- **Public Access:** Following the inauguration, the southbound lane will become operational for public use starting February 20th
- **Project Scope:** The entire coastal road project comprises two phases:
- **Phase 1 (Southbound):** Currently being inaugurated, this 10.58 km stretch aims to ease traffic flow between Nariman Point and Marine Drive.
- **Phase 2 (Northbound):** Scheduled to open by May 15th, this 8-lane section features twin tunnels, further enhancing connectivity.
- **Project Cost:** The total project cost stands at an estimated ₹12,721 crore (₹13,983 crore according to some sources).


Maharashtra
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