

### Maharashtra State News

#### Indian Army Day

- Every year on **January 15th**, India celebrates **Army Day**, a day to honor the dedication and sacrifice of the brave men and women who safeguard our nation.
- This day marks the historic event of **Lieutenant General Kodandera M. Cariappa taking over as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army on January 15, 1949.**
- This day serves as a **source of inspiration for young people**, showcasing the values of patriotism, courage, and resilience.
- **“In Service of the Nation” will be the theme for Indian Army Day in 2024**

#### Navi Mumbai international airport will be operational by March 2025

- **Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said the Navi Mumbai International Airport is set to be commercially operational by March 2025.**
- This mega-project promises to **decongest Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA)** and transform travel in the region.
- It is also **aiming to be India's first green airport with extensive rainwater harvesting, solar power, and sustainable practices.**

#### Hyundai to invest Rs 7,000 crore in Pune's Talegaon area

- **South Korean automobile giant Hyundai Motor India is set to invest a whopping Rs 7,000 crore in Pune's Talegaon area**
- It marks a **significant expansion beyond its home base of Tamil Nadu for over 25 years.**
- This strategic move **promises to boost Maharashtra's auto industry and generate considerable economic benefits for the region.**
- The investment will be **utilized to revive the inoperative General Motors plant in Talegaon, giving it a new lease on life.**

#### PMC organizes health awareness drive as part of the Mera Yuva Bharat campaign

- The **health department of Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has organized a series of week-long awareness programmes and activities for the city youths as part of the ‘Mera Yuva Bharat campaign’.**
- The campaign was **launched on National Youth Day on Friday, January 12, and will go on till January 19, 2024.**
- The civic body **targets to reach out to over 11 lakh youths** during the campaign.

#### Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)

- **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)** is an initiative by the **Indian government launched in October 2023**
- It is **aimed at empowering and engaging the nation's youth (aged 15-29 years).**
- It envisions a **"phygital platform", a blend of physical and digital activities to:**
  1. Provide equitable opportunities
  2. Facilitate skill development
  3. Promote social responsibility
  4. Nurture a sense of national pride

#### National StartUp Day

- **National Startup Day is celebrated annually on January 16th**
- It ignites the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship across the nation.

#### About:

- It commemorates the launch of the **"Startup India" initiative in 2016**, a landmark program aimed at fostering a vibrant ecosystem for young minds to thrive.
- **PM Modi announced January 16, the foundation day of Startup India, as National Startup Day in 2022.**

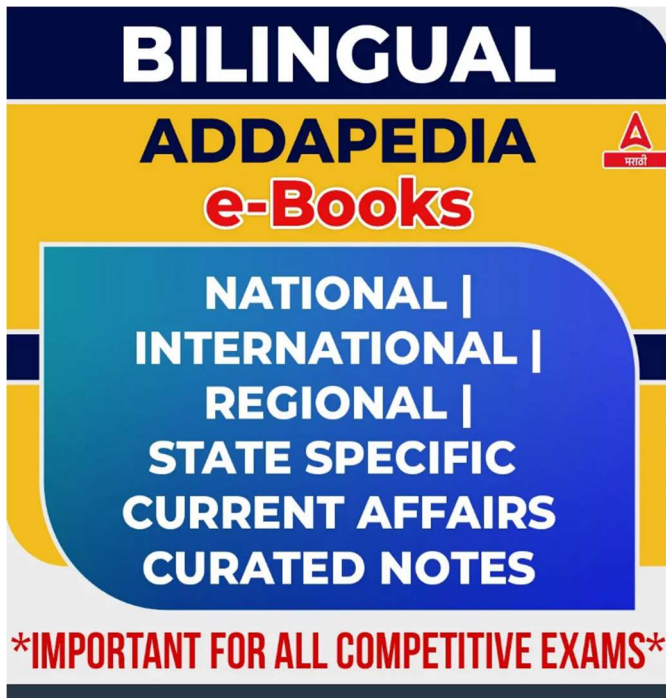
#### Adani Group to provide Dharavi residents 350 sq ft homes

- **Mumbai has introduced the StartUp Mumbai Challenge during the Mumbai Festival 2024.**
- The **StartUp Mumbai Challenge named ‘Forever Planet’** signifies a forward-looking commitment to nurturing early-stage startups.

- It is in collaboration with Turbostart and the United Nations India and aims to position Mumbai as a global hub for innovative and sustainable development.
- The initiative is in line with PM Modi's Mission LiFE.

### Indian Army conducts firepower demonstration 'Exercise Topchi' at Devlali

- The Indian Army conducted an impressive display of firepower and precision during 'Exercise Topchi', an annual training exercise held at Devlali, Maharashtra.
- The exercise showcased the integrated use of a variety of weapons and surveillance platforms, demonstrating the army's capabilities and readiness.



**BILINGUAL**  
**ADDAPEDIA**  
**e-Books**

NATIONAL |  
INTERNATIONAL |  
REGIONAL |  
STATE SPECIFIC  
CURRENT AFFAIRS  
CURATED NOTES

**\*IMPORTANT FOR ALL COMPETITIVE EXAMS\***

### MTHL will open trade opportunities, attract investments for JNPT

- The Mumbai Trans Harbour Link will slash the time taken to transport cargo, thereby elevating the overall operational efficiency of JNPT (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority).
- In turn, this will create a more streamlined supply chain, leading to reduced operational costs, and enhance the port's competitiveness on a global scale.

### Navi Mumbai Airport

- Over 10,000 jobs are expected to be created with the launch of the first two phases at Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) next year.
- About 60% of the airport's construction is complete, with the remaining work on track for completion by the end of 2024.

### Eurasian otters spotted in Pench

- The first record of Eurasian otters in Maharashtra has been found in the waters of Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR)
- The discovery was jointly led by Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR), and experts from Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT), Mumbai, MH
- The discovery also indicates the presence of a healthy ecosystem.

### Coca-Cola India joins forces with Reliance Retail for PET collection, recycling initiative

- Coca-Cola India and Reliance Retail have collaborated on a groundbreaking sustainability initiative, 'Bhool Na Jana, Plastic Bottle Lautana'
- It focuses on used PET bottle collection and recycling through Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) and collection bins.

### Interstate fire safety training centre to be built soon

- An interstate fire safety training centre will be established in Haryana on the lines of the one in Maharashtra's Nagpur
- Moreover, the Fire and Emergency Services Training Centre in Manesar Sector 8 will soon have its own 90m-high hydraulic platform and gym

### Centre imposes 50% export duty on molasses to boost ethanol production

- Central government has imposed a 50% export duty on molasses, a byproduct of sugar cane.
- The decision will come in force from January 18.
- The decision has been taken given the possibility of a decline in domestic sugar production in the current season.

## Mumbai Festival 2024

- The first edition of Mumbai Festival will be held from **January 20 to 28, 2024**, with a mission to showcase the city's cultural kaleidoscope.
- The theme, **Everyone's United**, emphasises the inclusivity of Mumbai as the melting pot that welcomes and embraces everyone in the city of dreams, **Sapno Ka Gateway**.
- The festival will feature cultural and musical events, food festivals, and more.

## Ghrishneshwar temple

- Centre has included the **Ghrishneshwar temple in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district in the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) scheme**, leading to excitement among the stakeholders.
- The temple is one of the 12 Jyotirlinga temples.
- Inclusion in the scheme would enrich religious tourism at different fronts.

### PRASAD Scheme:

- The Government of India launched the PRASAD scheme in the year **2014-2015 under the Ministry of Tourism**. The full form of the PRASAD scheme is the '**Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive**'.
- This scheme focuses on developing and identifying pilgrimage sites across India for enriching the religious tourism experience.
- It aims to **integrate pilgrimage destinations** in a prioritized, planned and sustainable manner to provide a complete religious tourism experience.
- The growth of domestic tourism hugely depends on **pilgrimage tourism**.

## Pune startups witness 70% dip in funding in 2023

Pune had accounted for 3.19 per cent of the funding reported in India for 2023, while it had cornered 4.15 per cent of the funding in 2022.

### Key Points:

- Pune, as per government data, has over 5,900 registered startups that accounted for five per cent of the total startups in the country.
- Advait Kurlekar, TiE Pune Governing Council Member and Chair Nurture 12.0, said the squeeze is mainly because of the issues related to ethics and corporate governance.

- Funding refers to investment by Venture Capital Fund (VC) or Angel Investor into the startup. It can either be in terms of debt or equity (where the investor buys shares of the company).

## State signs MoUs worth ₹3.10 lakh crore in Davos

- The state government of Maharashtra has signed MoUs worth over ₹3.10 lakh crore (\$42.3 billion) with Indian and foreign companies at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

### Key points:

- Adani Group has declared to invest ₹50,000 crore in the next 10 years in Maharashtra by setting up a data centre with a capacity of one gigawatt.
- Among the overseas investors is AB InBev, a **Belgium-based** brewing company, who will set up a unit in Maharashtra.
- The state inked a pact worth ₹600 crore. AB InBev is known for popular beer brands such as Budweiser.
- The development came days after the Shinde-led government decided to revive the Wine Industrial Promotion Scheme for five years.

## INS Shivaji

Indian Navy chief inaugurates **CO2-based AC plant** at INS Shivaji in Pune.

### Key Points:

- This is a major step towards meeting the **government's commitment to reduce global warming and emission of gases harmful to the environment**.
- Navy chief emphasised the anti-piracy operations of the the force while outlining the central government's Anti-Piracy Act.
- "We have two operations ongoing in the Indian Ocean region. One is an anti-piracy operation that has been going on since 2008, which has constant deployment of one ship there. Since 2008 about 108 ships were deployed to counter piracy.

## India gets its first International Dark Sky Park in Pench

- The **Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has been announced as India's first Dark Sky Park**

- It offers **pristine night skies without light pollution**
- Thus, it is an ideal haven for **astronomy enthusiasts and tourists**.

### **PM Modi lays foundation stone of 8 AMRUT projects in Maharashtra's Solapur**

- **PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of several development projects at Solapur in Maharashtra.**
- **AMRUT 2.0 is designed to provide universal coverage of water supply through functional taps to all households** in all the statutory towns in the country and coverage of sewage/septage management

### **Rare sight of Indian vulture spotted in Thane**

- First in many years, a vulture was spotted in the skyline of Thane's Malang Gad by naturalist Sanal Santosh.
- Indian vulture or long-billed vulture (Scientific name *Gyps indicus*) has not been spotted over two decades in the city.

### **Mumbai-Vashi lane on Thane Creek Bridge-3 set to open in April**

- The **ongoing construction of Thane Creek Bridge-3** is designed to **accommodate the increasing vehicular traffic expected once the Navi Mumbai International Airport becomes operational.**
- This **project involves expanding the current Thane Creek Bridge-2 to add six more lanes.**
- **With significant progress achieved on the South Mumbai to Vashi carriage – comprising over 85 per cent of the project – the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) is hoping to open one side of the road, potentially by April 2024.**

### **Maharashtra govt approves separate barrack for transgenders in Nagpur Central jail**

- The **Maharashtra government has sanctioned Rs 3 crore to construct separate barracks for transgender inmates in Nagpur Central prison.**
- **It will be the first central prison in the state to have an independent barrack for transgender inmates.**

- **Presently, they are accommodated in separate cells in prisons for men and women.**

### **'National Aarogya Fair' to be held from Jan 19-22**

- A 'National Aarogya Fair' will be held under the aegis of the Ministry of AYUSH in Maharashtra's Thane from January 19-22
- The theme of the event is 'Ayurveda for All - New Approaches in the Management of Lifestyle Disorders'
- Free patient check-ups and Ayurvedic consultations will be available for several diseases
- Also, citizens can also avail of Ayurvedic medicines at a discount at the venue.

### **Advertising Standards Council warns against greenwashing**

- The **Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI)** has issued its **guidelines to prevent false pro-environment claims**, also known as greenwashing,
- These guidelines **aim to ensure that environmental claims made by advertisers are reliable, verifiable, and transparent.**

### **K'ghar couple invited for Ram temple ceremony**


- **Kharghar-based couple Vithal (53) and Ujjwala Kamble (46)** will be one among the select band of 11 couples picked across the country to participate in the main rituals at Ayodhya Temple
- The grand consecration ceremony of the idols at Ram Temple in Ayodhya is to be held on Jan 22.

### **Declaration of public holiday on 22 January in Maharashtra**

- Maharashtra government declares a public holiday on **January 22, 2024**
- It is in view that Lord Ram will be seated in the grand temple built at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya on this particular day
- The event will be held in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## NGT seeks Talawade fire tragedy report in four weeks

- The National Green Tribunal's principal bench in New Delhi, in a suo motu exercise, directed the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune district magistrate (collector) and the Pimpri Chinchwad municipal commissioner to file their responses related to the fire tragedy at a sparkling candle manufacturing unit in Talawade last year.
- The responses must indicate if the unit was operating with necessary environmental clearance, the action taken against it for violating environmental norms and details of payment to the family members of the deceased victims as also to the injured victims.



**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