

Maharashtra State New

Maharashtra MSME Defence Expo 2024

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** took a major step towards **strengthening India's self-reliance in defense** equipment during the **Maharashtra MSME Defence Expo 2024**.
- They transferred crucial technology to domestic industries by signing **23 Licensing Agreements for Transfer of Technology (LATOT)** with **22 companies**.

About:

- These agreements span various fields crucial for defense, including **electronics, lasers, armaments, life sciences, materials science, combat vehicles, naval systems, and aeronautics**.
- This initiative aims to **empower Indian companies, particularly micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), to contribute to the nation's defense needs**.

Key Points:

This collaboration between DRDO and the private sector is expected to:

1. **Reduce dependence on foreign imports:** By enabling domestic production of defense equipment, India can lessen its reliance on overseas suppliers.
2. **Boost domestic defense industry:** The technology transfer empowers Indian companies to participate in defense manufacturing, creating jobs and fostering innovation.
3. **Support "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" (Self-reliant India) initiative:** This initiative aligns with the government's vision of achieving self-sufficiency in critical sectors, including defense.

Maharashtra to roll out policy for boosting defense manufacturing

- Deputy CM said that a **new aerospace and defense policy** will be formulated to provide

a boost to defense manufacturing in Maharashtra

• This policy aims to:

1. Enhance the success of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the sector.
2. Establish a robust supply chain for defense manufacturing.

Key points:

- This initiative builds upon Maharashtra's existing efforts in defence manufacturing, including being the **first state to introduce such a policy in 2017**.
- The new policy will be collaboratively developed with industry stakeholders.
- The government plans to **create four dedicated clusters to strengthen the supply chain**.
- This renewed focus on defence manufacturing is seen as a crucial step towards achieving self-reliance in the sector.

Four defence clusters to come up in the State

- The Maharashtra government has announced **plans to establish four new defence manufacturing clusters across the state**.
- These clusters are aimed at consolidating Maharashtra's position as a leading destination for defence production.
- **Locations: Nagpur, Shirdi, Pune, and Ratnagiri will house the new clusters**.

Objectives:

- Foster innovation and collaboration in the defence sector.
- Stimulate economic growth.
- Leverage the existing strength of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the state.

Significance for Pune:

- Pune, already a hub for various industries, will further strengthen its position in the defence sector with the establishment of this cluster.
- This **initiative aligns with the Government of India's "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" (Self-reliant India) program**.

- The creation of these clusters is expected to generate employment opportunities, attract investments, and contribute to the overall growth of the state's economy.

Pune gets state's second 30-bed AYUSH hospital

- PM Modi virtually inaugurated the state's second 30-bed AYUSH hospital in Pune.
- Developed under the National AYUSH Abhiyan, this hospital promotes traditional Indian medicine systems like Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy.

AYUSH:

- AYUSH is an acronym in India standing for Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homoeopathy.
- These represent a group of traditional and non-conventional systems of medicine practiced widely in the country.
- Ancient Origins: Ayurveda, the oldest system, boasts a documented history exceeding 5,000 years.
- Holistic Approach: AYUSH systems emphasize a holistic approach to health, focusing on prevention, promoting well-being, and treating diseases.
- Governmental Support: Recognizing their significance, the Indian government established a dedicated Ministry of AYUSH in 2014 to promote research, education, and development in these fields.

PM Modi to inaugurate ₹1,800 crore rail works of South Central Railway

- PM Modi will be inaugurating railway projects worth ₹1,800 crore of the South Central Railway (SCR) on Today(February 26).
- About 06 stations are in Maharashtra
- 34 stations are in Andhra Pradesh, 15 stations in Telangana and two stations in Karnataka
- The combined cost of nearly ₹925 crore and 156 road over bridges (RoBs) and road under bridges (RuBs) at a combined cost of nearly ₹927.31 crore comprise the projects.

Mankapur sports complex gets cabinet nod for ₹747cr upgrade

- The Maharashtra cabinet approved ₹747 crore to renovate and upgrade the divisional sports complex in Mankapur on the lines of Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex at Balewadi in Pune.
- It would be revamped to provide state-of-the-art international-level facilities to sportspersons in Vidarbha.
- After upgradation, the sprawling Mankapur facility would have world-class facilities like Olympic-size swimming pool, squash court, tennis court, basketball court, archery range, hockey, and football pavilion among others.

MH, TN to get ₹83,000cr port projects ahead of polls

- In a bid to boost infrastructure and create jobs ahead of the assembly elections, the central government has sanctioned ₹83,000 crore worth of port projects in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu
- These projects are expected to give a major fillip to the maritime sector in these states.

About:

- The projects include the development of a new greenfield port at Sagar in Maharashtra and the expansion of existing ports in Chennai and Kamarajar in Tamil Nadu.
- The development of these ports is expected to improve cargo handling capacity, create new jobs, and boost the overall economy of the two states.

Maharashtra, one of the successful States in implementing PMFBY

- The central government has recognized MH as one of the leading states in successfully implementing the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme.
- Since the program's inception, over 8.46 crore farmer applications have been enrolled in Maharashtra, highlighting its significant participation.
- This recognition underscores Maharashtra's commitment to supporting its agricultural sector and ensuring the well-being of its farmers.

About:

- PMFBY is a **crop insurance scheme** launched by the **Indian government in 2016**.
- **It aims to:**
- Provide financial support to farmers who suffer crop loss due to natural calamities, pests, and diseases.
- Stabilize farmers' income and encourage them to stay in agriculture.
- Promote modern farming practices and ensure a steady flow of credit to the agriculture sector.

Maharashtra govt presents supplementary demands worth Rs 8,609.17 crore

- The Maharashtra government, on the **first day of its five-day budget session, presented supplementary demands worth Rs 8,609.17 crore**.
- This is a **significant decrease compared to the Rs 55,520.77 crore requested in the winter session last year**.
- The additional funds are meant to cover various government expenses, including:
- **Rs 2,210 crore in financial assistance to farmers** affected by unseasonal rains, hailstorms, and water scarcity.
- **Rs 2,031 crore as subsidy for electricity** supplied to agricultural pumps, handloom, and powerloom consumers.

National Science Day

- **National Science Day** is celebrated in **India on February 28th each year**.
- It **commemorates** the groundbreaking **discovery of the Raman Effect by the renowned Indian physicist Sir C.V. Raman in 1928**.
- This remarkable work earned C.V Raman the prestigious **Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930**.
- The purpose of National Science Day is to:
 1. Promote scientific awareness and inspire interest in science, especially among youth.
 2. Recognize contributions of scientists to the field of science and technology.
 3. Encourage scientific temper and a spirit of inquiry within society.

Theme 2024:

- The theme for National Science Day 2024 is **"Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat."**

Did you Know?

- The **first National Science Day** was celebrated on **February 28, 1987**.
- The **National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC)**, in 1986, asked the **Government of India to announce February 28 as National Science Day**.

Modi to launch development projects in MH

- PM Modi will participate in a public programme in Maharashtra's Yavatmal district and will inaugurate and dedicate to the nation various development projects.
- He will also **release benefits under the PM KISAN** and other schemes during the programme
- He will also **inaugurate the statue of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya in Yavatmal city**.
- PM Modi will **release the 16th installment amount of more than Rs 21,000 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) through direct benefits transfer to beneficiaries**.
- **With this release, an amount of more than Rs 3 lakh crore will be transferred to more than 11 crore farmers' families**.
- The PM will also **disburse second and third installments of 'Namo Shetkari MahaSanman Nidhi' of about Rs 3,800 crore and benefiting nearly 88 lakh farmers across Maharashtra**.
- The scheme **provides an additional amount of Rs 6,000 per year** to the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana in Maharashtra, the release said.
- Modi will also **disburse Rs 825 crore of Revolving Fund to 5.5 lakh women Self Help Groups (SHGs) across Maharashtra**.

Marathi Language Day

- **Marathi Language Day, also known as Marathi Bhasha Gaurav Din, is celebrated annually on February 27th**.
- This day **commemorates the birth anniversary of the renowned Marathi poet,**

Vishnu Vaman Shirwadkar, popularly known as Kusumagraj.

Significance:

- Celebrates the **rich cultural heritage and vibrant language of Marathi.**
- **Honors the contributions of Marathi speakers to literature, art, music, and society.**
- Raises awareness about the importance of preserving and promoting Marathi.

Did you Know?

- **First successful celebration of Marathi Bhasha Gaurav Din was in 1999.**

About:

- **Marathi is an Indo-Aryan language predominantly spoken by Marathi people in Maharashtra.**
- It is the **official language of Maharashtra, and an additional official language in the state of Goa.**
- It is **one of the 22 scheduled languages of India.**

Maharashtra sees rise in fiscal and revenue deficits

- Maharashtra is grappling with **rising fiscal and revenue deficits.**
- The recent **interim budget for 2024-25 projected a revenue deficit of Rs 9,733 crore and a fiscal deficit of Rs 99,288 crore.**
- Revised estimates show the **revenue deficit reaching Rs 19,531 crore, exceeding the initial budget estimate of Rs 16,122 crore.**
- Even more concerning, the **fiscal deficit crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark for the first time, reaching Rs 1.11 lakh crore.**

World NGO Day

- **World NGO Day is an annual celebration held on February 27th to acknowledge and appreciate the vital work of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) around the world.**
- The **concept originated in 2010 and gained official recognition in 2014, with support**

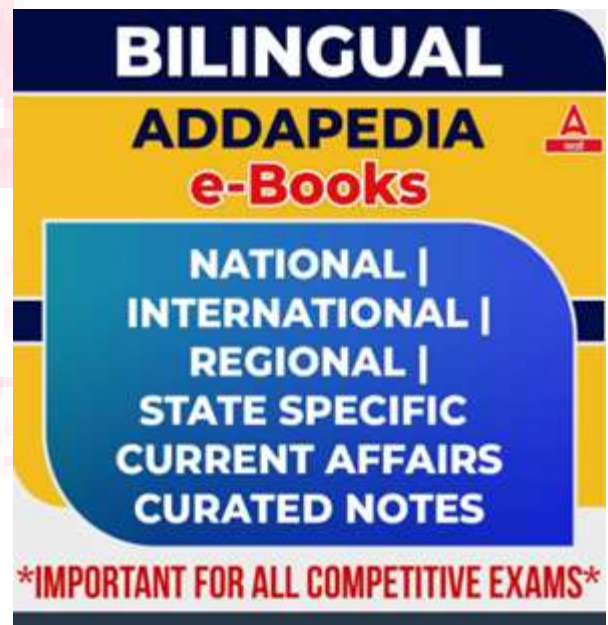
from organizations like the United Nations and the European Union.

About:

- These organizations, also known as charities, non-profits, or civil society organizations, operate independently of government control and work in diverse areas like:
 1. Humanitarian aid and disaster relief
 2. Environmental protection and sustainability
 3. Education and healthcare access
 4. Social justice and human rights advocacy

Theme:

- The theme for the **2024 World NGO Day is 'Building a Sustainable Future: The Role of NGOs in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).'**



7 stations to monitor noise in Pune, Pimpri Chinchwad

- The **Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) is setting up seven real-time noise monitoring stations across Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad under Phase II of the Centre's National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network (NANMN).**
- The stations will **monitor noise levels, generate reports, and help mitigate issues like traffic congestion, sleep problems, and**

noise from industrial and construction activities.

- The stations will be located at:

A. Pune:

- Karve Road
- near Katraj Dairy
- Hadapsar Industrial Area near Honeywell Industries
- Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) campus

B. Pimpri Chinchwad:

- Jagtap Dairy in Pimple Nilakh
- Dange Chowk
- Rose Garden near Bhosari

Zero Discrimination Day

- **Zero Discrimination Day**, observed annually on **March 1st**, is a global initiative to **promote equality and combat discrimination in all its forms**.
- **UNAIDS** had launched its **Zero Discrimination Campaign** on 'World AIDS Day' in **December 2013**.
- The day was **first celebrated** on **March 1, 2014**
- The day **emphasizes everyone's right to live a dignified and fulfilling life free from prejudice and bias**.
- This **year marks the 10th anniversary of Zero Discrimination Day**

Theme:

- The Theme of **Zero Discrimination Day 2024** is "**To protect everyone's health, protect everyone's rights.**"
- It emphasizes upon **building association with human rights and public health** and achieving the goal of **eliminating AIDS by 2030**.

Pavana river now among most polluted in country

- The **Pavana River** has earned the **dubious distinction of being one of the most polluted rivers in India**.
- This alarming development is a **consequence of water quality readings, with Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels exceeding 30 mg/L** in recent tests conducted between **November 2023 and January 2024**.

- Previously **categorized as 'priority 2'** by the Central Pollution Control Board (**CPCB**), the river's **current state** has necessitated an **upgrade to 'priority 1,'** signifying the urgent need for intervention.

Did you Know?

- **Origin:** The river originates from the Western Ghats, about 6 km south of Lonavala.
- **Course:** It flows eastwards initially, then turns southbound and passes through the suburbs of Ravet, Thergaon, Chinchwad, Pimpri, and Dapodi before its confluence with the Mula river near Sangvi.
- **Length:** The total length of the river is nearly 60 kilometers
- The Pavana river is the main source of water for the twin cities, with the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) sourcing **80% of drinking water for its citizens from this waterbody**.

World Civil Defence Day

- **World Civil Defence Day** is an annual event observed on **March 1st** to **raise awareness about the importance of civil defence and emergency preparedness**.
- This day **highlights the crucial role of civil defence organizations in protecting communities from natural disasters, conflicts, and other emergencies**.
- It also encourages individuals to be prepared for various crises.
- It was established by the **International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO)** in **December 6, 1990**

Theme:

- The theme of World Civil Defense Day 2024 is "**Honor Heroes and Promote Safety Skills.**"

Postal dept begins its survey in Marathwada for Surya Ghar scheme

- The **Postal Department** has initiated a survey in **Marathwada to assess the feasibility of the Surya Ghar scheme**.
- This **scheme aims to provide solar powered homes to residents in the area**.

- During the survey, postal department **officials will visit households to gather information about their electricity needs** and assess their suitability for solar panel installation.
- The **collected data will be used to determine the scope of the Surya Ghar scheme in Marathwada.**

About Surya Ghar Scheme

- **Launched in February 2024**, it aims to promote rooftop solar panels and provide free electricity to Indian households.

Key features:

- **Target:** Equip 1 crore (10 million) homes with rooftop solar systems.
- **Benefit:** Up to 300 units of free electricity per month.
- **Subsidy:** Up to 60% of system cost for 2 kW systems, 40% for additional costs in 2-3 kW systems (capped at 3 kW).

Maharashtra's GSDP has expanded by 10%, govt focus on farmers

- Finance Minister Ajit Pawar said that Maharashtra's gross state domestic product (GSDP) has grown by 10 per cent in the **current fiscal year** and the government is committed to ensure that revenue deficit doesn't cross the prescribed limit
- He also said that the **fiscal deficit** has been **restricted at 2.32 per cent of state GDP.**
- Also the **GST revenue has increased 19.9 per cent, which is the highest for a state in the country.**

About:

- **GSDP indicates total economic output generated within a state's boundaries** over a specified period, typically a fiscal year.
- Pawar said the **state's current debt is 18.02 per cent of the GSDP** and added the prescribed limit should be 25 per cent.

Diversion of 18 lakh tonne of sugar for ethanol production

- The **National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Mills** has demanded to divert 18 lakh tonnes of sugar for ethanol production

- It has also demanded an **increase in MSP of sugar and removal of the 90% mandatory sale** of the monthly quota order.

Did you Know?

- **National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Mills** is the apex body of cooperative sugar mills in India.

'Trafficking of women has increased post-Covid'

- **Rupali Chakankar**, chairperson of Maharashtra State Commission for Women said that **cases of trafficking of women and girls have increased post-Covid**, and the commission has traced nearly 1,750 of them so far.
- She said some of them have already been brought back to India, and the rest are in the process of being brought back.
- Reason is being stated that during Covid, many **girls and young women lost their fathers and brothers** who were the backbone of the family.

Modi inaugurates projects worth over ₹4,900 crore in MH

- PM Modi inaugurated and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects related to rail, road and irrigation worth more than ₹4900 crores at Yavatmal in Maharashtra recently.
- He also released benefits under PM KISAN and other schemes during the program
- Modi also initiated the distribution of 1 crore Ayushman cards across Maharashtra
- The PM launched the Modi Awaas Gharkul Yojana for OBC category beneficiaries and also flagged off two train services.
- Lamenting the leakage in the financial assistance to farmers, tribals and the needy during the previous governments, the **PM highlighted the contrast during today's occasion of disbursement of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi worth ₹21,000 crores** and deemed the gesture as Modi ki Guarantee.

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