

Maharashtra Weekly Current Affairs 12 to 18 February 2024

Maharashtra State News

National Productivity Day

- National Productivity Day is celebrated in India every year on February 12th.
- It marks the foundation day of the National Productivity Council (NPC), an autonomous organization established in 1958 to promote productivity consciousness and culture in the country.
- The day is recognized as part of a week-long National Productivity Week, observed from February 12th to 18th.
- This year's theme is "Artificial Intelligence (AI)- Productivity Engine for Economic Growth."
- It highlights the crucial role of AI in driving a country's economic growth and productivity.

About:

- This date marks the anniversary of the foundation of the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- The first NPD was celebrated in 1962.

People lose Rs 3 crore to cybercrime across Maharashtra daily'

- Cybercrime has become a major concern in Maharashtra, with citizens losing a staggering Rs 3 crore every day.
- This translates to approximately Rs 1.095 billion annually, highlighting the vast impact of these illegal activities.
- National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data revealed that Maharashtra saw 8,249 cybercrime cases in 2022, which was 48% higher than 5,562 incidents recorded in the previous year.
- Barely Rs 134 crore or 10% of the total Rs 1,300 crore lost to cybercrime in Maharashtra since 2019 have been recovered

About:

- The types of cybercrime reported in the state include:
- **Financial Frauds:** Phishing scams, online investment frauds, mobile wallet thefts, etc.
- **Data Breaches:** Unauthorized access to personal or financial information.
- **Malware Attacks:** Viruses, ransomware, spyware, etc.

Marathwada agricultural university develops seven new crop varieties

- The Parbhani-based Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Agricultural University has developed seven new varieties of crops.
- The new varieties include five field crops and two vegetable crops.

Five Field Crops include:

1. American cotton non-Bt variety NH 677
2. Chickpea variety called Parbhani Chana-16
3. Soybean variety MAUS 731
4. Sorghum variety, Parbhani Shakti (PVK 1009)
5. Trombay Latur til TLT 10

Two vegetable varieties are:

1. A new variety of chili
2. Tomato (PBNT 20)

ASI to conserve 7 Maratha military forts across state

- Additional director general of ASI said that this year the focus of ASI will be on maintaining and conserving the forts located in Maharashtra
- The statement followed the nomination of seven Maratha military forts under its jurisdiction in Maharashtra for the Unesco world heritage tag for the years 2024–25.
- These were among the 12, 17th-century forts marked as the Maratha military landscapes for the nomination this year.
- From Maharashtra, Shivneri, Lohagad, Raigad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg, and Sindhudurg forts are nominated.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science

- The International Day of Women and Girls in Science (IDWGS), celebrated annually on February 11th
- It aims to recognize the critical role women and girls play in science and technology, and promote their full and equal access and participation in these fields.
- This year's theme, "Closing the Gender Gap in Science: Accelerating Action", underscores the urgent need to address the

barriers that hinder women and girls from pursuing and thriving in STEM careers

About:

- On 22 December 2015, the General Assembly decided to establish an annual International Day to recognize the critical role women and girls play in science and technology, through Resolution A/RES/70/212.

Jalyukta Shivar scheme to cover 24,000 villages in state

- State govt aims to target more than 24,000 villages in Maharashtra for recharging groundwater levels and saving water under the Jalyukta Shivar 2.0 scheme.

About:

- Govt initiated Jalyukta Shivar 2.0 in 2022 to carry out works on accumulating water so that it can make water available for drinking and agriculture purposes to local residents.
- During the first phase of the scheme, the government had taken water conservation measures across 22,000 villages in the state, which saved water equal to 1.5 TMC.

₹4,000cr approved for climate resilient project in Maharashtra

- The state irrigation department and CM-led Maharashtra Institution for Transformation (MITRA) has proposed Maharashtra Climate Resilient Development Project (MCRDP)

About:

- It aims to address the concerns related to the floods in Kolhapur and Sangli district and the plan to divert flood waters to drought-prone areas of the state.
- The World Bank has approved Rs4,000 crore for MCRDP, of which 30% of funds have to be shared by the state government.

MAFSU's proposed Wildlife One Health Centre to be first in India

- The Maharashtra Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (MAFSU), Nagpur, has submitted a proposal for Wildlife One Health Centre to the state govt.

- It will be the extension of the present Wildlife Research and Training Centre (WRTC) at Gorewada.
- This ₹30 crore project would be the only institution dedicated to Wildlife Health in the country.

National Women's Day in India

- In India, Sarojini Naidu's birth anniversary, on February 13, is marked as National Women's Day in honour of a woman who represented the spirit of female empowerment throughout her life and championed equality.
- She was a prominent freedom fighter and poet known as the "Nightingale of India".

This day serves as a national observance to:

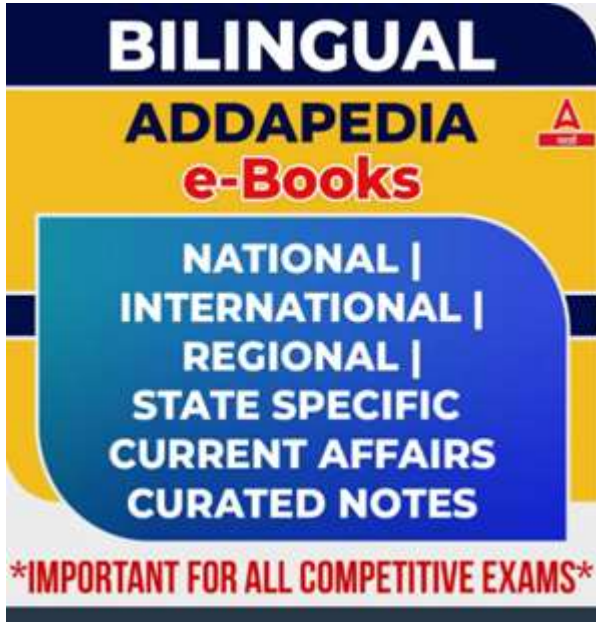
- Recognize the significant contributions of women in various fields
- Highlight their crucial role in shaping the nation's progress
- Raise awareness about persisting gender disparities and challenges faced by women in India

World Radio Day

- February 13th, 2024, marks the 12th Annual World Radio Day, established by UNESCO
- The theme for World Radio Day 2024 is 'Radio: A century informing, entertaining and educating.'
- This year's celebration reflects on the past 100 years of radio's remarkable journey, its present relevance, and its promising future.

About:

- In 2011, the member states of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared February 13 World Radio Day
- It was then adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013 as an international event.
- Radio remains the most widely consumed media platform globally, reaching billions of people, especially in remote areas and those with limited internet access.



MTHL Connection to Mumbai-Pune Expressway Set to Commence Soon

- The construction of a crucial connector linking the Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link (MTHL) with the Mumbai-Pune Expressway is about to begin.
- The estimated cost of project is ₹1,000 crore
- This project promises to revolutionize travel between Mumbai and Pune, offering several benefits:

Reduced Travel Time:

- Bypassing congested areas like Sion-Panvel Highway and Vashi toll plaza, the connection aims to cut travel time between south Mumbai and Pune by about an hour.

Enhanced Connectivity:

- The project involves two six-lane elevated roads, one connecting Chirle-Gavhan Phata and the other linking Palaspe to the Mumbai-Pune Expressway.
- This creates a seamless connection between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, further boosted by future plans to connect MTHL with Worli.

Tiger Safari at Sanjay Gandhi National Park Roars Back After Renovations

- The Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP), also known as Borivali National Park, in Mumbai, has witnessed a surge in visitors to its tiger safari since its reopening after renovations in early 2024.

- The park has experienced a **significant increase in visitors**, with approximately 5,000 people visiting the national park daily and an average of 3,000 people participating in the safari activity each day
- The park now boasts **revamped enclosures, improved infrastructure**, and enhanced safety measures, providing tourists with a thrilling and informative experience while ensuring the well-being of the majestic tigers.

Shil Phata flyover to reduce travel time between city, Mum & Pune

- Shil Phata Flyover, officially known as the ShilPhata Junction Flyover, aims to significantly reduce travel time between Thane, Mumbai, and Pune.
- Located on National Highway 48 (NH-48) in Kalyan, Maharashtra, this flyover addresses a notorious traffic bottleneck known for congestion and delays.

Key Features:

- **Dual carriageway:** Each arm has three lanes, one for Panvel-bound traffic and the other for Thane-bound traffic.
- **Length and width:** 739.5 meters long and 24 meters wide, with a 300-meter viaduct.
- **Cost:** Approximately Rs 45.68 crore.

Private sugar mills surpass cooperatives in MH's sugar industry landscape

- In MH, the landscape of the sugar industry has undergone a significant shift with private sugar mills surpassing co-operatives in terms of sugar production and operational efficiency.
- This trend has several contributing factors:

Investment and Modernization:

- Private mills have invested heavily in modern technology and infrastructure, leading to higher efficiency and capacity compared to co-operatives.

Professional Management:

- Private mills often have professional management teams with expertise in the sugar industry, leading to better decision-making and financial management.

Focus on Efficiency:

- Private mills prioritize operational efficiency, reducing costs and maximizing profits.

Government Policies:

- Recent government policies have been more favorable towards private players, providing them with easier access to loans and other incentives.

Central team visits Nashik to address concerns of onion farmers

- A Central team from the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare recently visited Nashik, MH to address concerns raised by onion farmers.
- This proactive move aimed to prevent potential scarcity and price fluctuations ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

Key concerns of farmers:

- Dissatisfaction with government policies:** This includes export restrictions and procurement practices by organizations like NAFED and NCCF.
- Demand for direct compensation:** Farmers prefer direct financial aid instead of the existing procurement process.
- Limited awareness about procurement centers:** Many farmers reportedly lack information about available support mechanisms.

Hindavi Swarajya Mahotsav 2024

- The Hindavi Swarajya Mahotsav 2024 is a three-day festival held from February 17th to 19th in Junnar, Pune, Maharashtra.
- It commemorates the 394th birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the founder of the Maratha Empire.
- The festival offers a vibrant exploration of Marathi history and culture through diverse activities:
- Plays, folk dances, music programs, and storytelling sessions bring history to life.
- Explore exhibits showcasing Maratha history, artifacts, and small-scale industries.
- Trek historical forts, participate in water sports, and engage in stargazing.
- Attend talks and workshops about Shivaji Maharaj's life and legacy.

State to build 7,000km of roads

- A decision to build another 7,000 km of roads and bridges under CM's Gram Sadak Yojana was taken in the state cabinet meeting.

- Phase-II of CM's Gram Sadak Yojana aims to have 10,000 km of roads.
- It has been decided in which districts to build 7,000 km of new roads.

Water level in dams falls to 50%

- Water levels in dams falling to 50% can be a cause for concern, indicating potential water scarcity.
- The severity of the situation depends on various factors, including:
- Different regions have varying water needs and rainfall patterns.
- A 50% level in a drought-prone area might be more critical than in a region with regular rainfall.
- Dams serve various purposes, including water supply, irrigation, hydropower generation, and flood control.
- A low level for a drinking water reservoir is more alarming than for a flood control dam.

About:

- Maharashtra has 2,994 small, medium and major dams with a total live storage capacity of 40,485 million cubic meters.
- The total stock in these dams in mid-February was 20,472.63 million cubic meters, or 50.57% of the capacity, 18% lower than last year's water level of 68.37%.
- Most dams in the state did not have adequate inflow in 2023 owing to dry spells during the monsoon.

Hi-tech mega projects to be declared thrust sector, get incentives

- The state cabinet in MH has declared hi-tech mega projects as a thrust sector to promote development in backward regions.
- Incentives include stamp duty waiver, power duty waiver, and power bill reduction.
- The cabinet has also approved incentives for integrated industrial areas, including a stamp duty waiver on lease rent.

6 new nursing colleges approved by the cabinet in Maharashtra

- In a Cabinet meeting held, a decision was taken to establish six government nursing

colleges with an admission capacity of 100 students each.

- These colleges will be affiliated with Government Medical Colleges in Jalgaon, Latur, Baramati, Sangli (Miraj), Nandurbar, and Gondia.
- CM Eknath Shinde chaired the meeting and stated that considering the prevalence of infectious diseases in the state and the country, the government is making significant changes to the paramedical curriculum.

MTDC to give 50% off for Women's Day

- On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) has decided to give a 50% discount to women tourists if they reserve their accommodation in MTDC hotels in online mode.
- Additionally, the MTDC will be providing new accommodation amenities for tourists at various Navegaon Bandh in Gondia district, Naleshwar near Kolara Gate of Tadoba Sanctuary in Chandrapur district, Sahastrakund and Tipeshwar in Yavatmal.

Nagpur to host national bridge meet after 28 yrs

- Nagpur, the "Tiger Capital of India," is set to bridge the gap of 28 years by hosting the prestigious National Bridge Championship in 2024.
- This event marks a significant return for the city, which last held the tournament in 1996.

About:

- Anil Padhye, who won a silver medal for India at the World Bridge Championships in Italy in 2022, says the game supports development of the brain and is especially found to help children get comfortable with mathematics.
- He will also take part in the Dr NP Tolani Centennial Celebrations All India Tolani Open National Masters Bridge Championship

Maharashtra amends rule, pvt schools may go out of RTE quota ambit

- Private unaided schools in Maharashtra, mostly English mediums, have been fighting with the state government for reimbursement of their 25% RTE quota admissions fees.
- The government has amended the education rules, exempting schools near government or aided institutions from participating in RTE admissions, which raises concerns about the future of RTE admissions and the effectiveness of state schemes.

Summer onion plantation declines by 40% in Nashik

- The summer onion plantation in four districts of north Maharashtra, including Nashik, Dhule, Jalgaon, and Nandurbar, has decreased by 40% due to less rain.
- The production is estimated to decline to 35 lakh tonnes.
- In the 2022-23 season, the summer onion plantation in Nashik district was 2.21 lakh hectares.

PM Modi to perform Bhoomi Pujan of Wadhwan Port in Maharashtra this month

- PM Modi is expected to perform the Bhoomi Pujan (groundbreaking ceremony) of the Wadhwan Port in Maharashtra
- The port, located in Palghar district, boasts one of the deepest drafts in the country, making it a potential game-changer for Maharashtra's maritime trade and economy.
- The project has faced delays due to environmental concerns, but has reportedly secured all necessary clearances.

Timber used in Ram Mandir cultivated and selected by the FDCM

- The state Forest and Culture minister Sudhir Mungantiwar while lauding Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra (FDCM)'s record profits and dividends urged the corporation to leverage its success to create more employment opportunities.
- He also announced setting up a furniture development corporation under FDCM.

- This new venture, equipped with cutting-edge technology, aims to revolutionize furniture design by crafting pieces that perfectly match the buyer's dream through AI-powered image creation

About:

- The timber used in the iconic Ram Mandir in Ayodhya and the new Parliament building in Delhi was meticulously cultivated and selected by the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra (FDCM).
- This is testament to FDCM's commitment to quality and sustainability, ensuring the longevity of these national landmarks for centuries to come.

Maharashtra increase stipend of medical interns by 64%

- Medical interns in Maharashtra have received a substantial 64% increase in their stipend amount.
- The stipend has been raised from Rs 11,000 to Rs 18,000.
- This development also extends to students enrolled in aided medical, dental, ayurveda, unani, and homeopathy colleges across the state
- This move aims to improve the working conditions and attract more talent to the healthcare sector in the state.

Shiv Jayanti 2024

- Shiv Jayanti, also known as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti, marks the birth anniversary of the revered Maratha emperor, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- This year, it falls on February 19th.

About:

- The day is celebrated with great fervor, especially in the western Indian state of Maharashtra, Shivaji's birthplace.
- Grand processions, cultural performances, lectures, and prayers are held in his honor. Many educational institutions organize essay writing competitions and debates to engage students in his history and leadership principles.
- Shivaji is remembered for his bravery, strategic brilliance, and progressive rule.

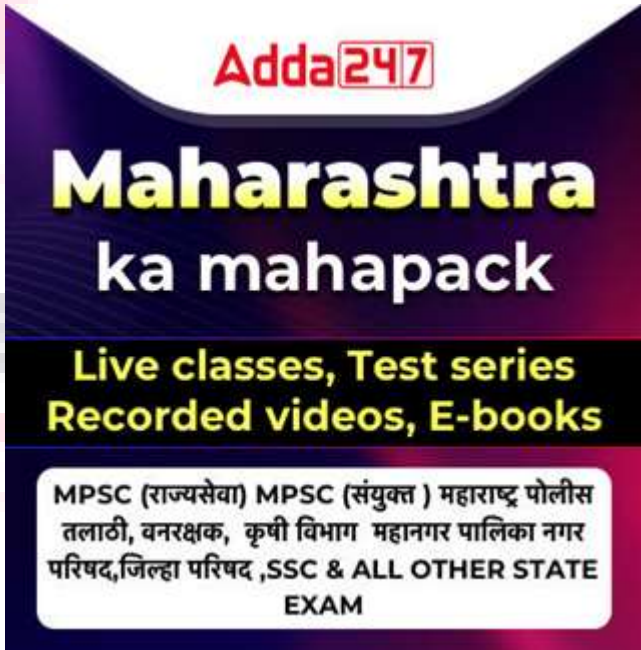
- He established the Maratha Empire, known for its guerilla warfare tactics and efficient administration.

MH Backward Class Commission submits Maratha survey report to Shinde

- The Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission submitted a comprehensive survey report, covering nearly 2.5 crore families, outlining the social, economic, and educational backwardness of the Maratha community.

About:

- This data-backed report will aid in the formulation of a law to ensure reservations for the Maratha community.



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