



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

28 March 2024

Maharashtra State Specific News

Kitchen Gardens Thrive in Over 24,000 Government Schools Across Maharashtra



Context:

• Over 24,000 govt schools in Maha run kitchen gardens

Key points:

- Over the past year, 24,741 government schools in Maharashtra have established kitchen gardens on their premises.
- Students are responsible for maintaining these gardens under the guidance of their teachers, and the produce is utilized for school meal preparations.
- A competition will be launched by the state education department to recognize the best kitchen gardens across schools statewide.
- In the 2023-24 period, 46,946 schools in Maharashtra participated in the Union government's kitchen garden scheme, with a budget allocation of approximately Rs 20 crore under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in 2019.
- The Union ministry of education has provided guidelines for planning kitchen gardens, specifying suitable plants, including vegetables and fruits, for cultivation.

Discovery of Four New Gecko Species in the Sahyadri Region.



Context:

- Researchers from Shivaji University, Kolhapur (SUK) and Thackeray Wildlife Foundation have found four new species of wild geckos in Northwest Maharashtra.
- These geckos belong to the genus Cnemaspis and are known for their territorial behaviour.
- They are found in a small area and prefer cooler climates, restricting their occurrence to favourable habitats.
- These newly discovered geckos have only been found within their native range during research expeditions.
- The findings have been published in the international journal Zootaxa under the guidance of Dr. Sunil Gaikwad.

Note:

 Geckos are reptiles and are found on all the continents except Antarctica. These colourful lizards have adapted to habitats from rainforests, to deserts, to cold mountain slopes.



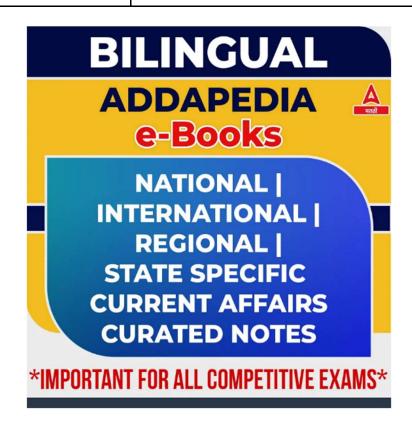
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Maharashtra ATS chief, a 26/11 hero, selected to lead NIA

Context:

- Sadanand Date, a 57-year-old IPS officer recognized for his pivotal role during the 26/11 attacks, has been appointed as the new director general of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the premier counter-terrorism agency in India.
- Currently serving as the director general of the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), Date expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to join NIA, considering it an honour.
- Date led the operation to apprehend Ajmal Kasab and his mentor Ismail Khan at Cama Hospital during the 26/11 attacks, sustaining injuries in the process.
- Despite being wounded, Date led the covert operation in November 2012 to transfer Kasab from Arthur Road Jail to Yerwada Jail in Pune, where the terrorist was eventually executed.
- Notably, during his tenure as the Superintendent of Police in Bhandara, Date played a significant role in reintegrating misguided youth involved in Naxal activities back into mainstream society, achieving notable success such as the surrender of a Naxal along with an AK-47, a first in the state.







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Villagers Rally Against 'Third Mumbai' Plan, Threaten Massive Protest

Context:

- Villagers in Uran, Panvel, and Pen areas of Raigad district oppose the proposed 'Third Mumbai' township.
- Submitted objections to the government, resisting land acquisition for the project.
- Threatened massive agitation involving lakhs if notification is not withdrawn.
- State government issued notifications on March 4, handing over 124 villages around Atal Setu Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link for development to NTDA.
- Villagers responded within the 30-day period given by the government.
- Initially planned a massive morcha, reduced due to code of conduct.
- Warnings of lakhs converging to protest if plan proceeds.
- Objections submitted under "MMRDA Virodhi Shetkari Samiti, Raigad" by gram panchayat members, social activists, and political leaders at Konkan Bhavan office.
- Raised slogans against the plan and MMRDA.

Note on Third Mumbai:

- Urban Development Department (UDD) seeks public input on the proposed Third Mumbai from 124 affected villages.
- Third Mumbai primarily encompasses areas influenced by the newly operational Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), also known as Atal Setu.
- Anticipated economic growth from MTHL prompts the state government to incorporate surrounding regions into the Third Mumbai plan.
- UDD invites suggestions and objections to ensure inclusive development in the affected areas.
- MTHL's impact on regional and state-level economic development drives the government's decision to leverage its potential.





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Bombay	High	Court	Appoints	11
Permanent Judges				

Context:

- Eleven additional judges were elevated to permanent positions at Bombay High Court.
- Swearing-in ceremony held in the Central Court Hall of the Bombay High Court building.
- High Court judges from Goa, Nagpur, and Aurangabad benches participated virtually.
- Justices Kishore Chandrakant Sant, Kamal Khata, Sharmila Deshmukh, Sandeep Marne, Gauri Godse, Rajesh Shantaram Patil, and Arif Doctor sworn in at the Principal Seat.
- Justice Valmiki S.A. Menezes sworn in at the Goa Bench.
- Justice Arun Pedneker sworn in at the Aurangabad Bench.
- Justices Urmila Sachin Joshi-Phalke and Bharat Pandurang Deshpande sworn in at the Nagpur Bench.

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