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## 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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