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मासिक आवृत्ती | एप्रिल 2024

# ज्ञानकोश

मासिक चालू घडामोडी  
(महाराष्ट्र राज्य)

MPSC, आणि सरळ सेवा भरतीसाठी  
ZP, आदिवासी विभाग, पोलीस भरती आणि इतर स्पर्धा परीक्षांसाठी  
उपयुक्त



राष्ट्रीय न्यायिक नियुक्ती आयोग

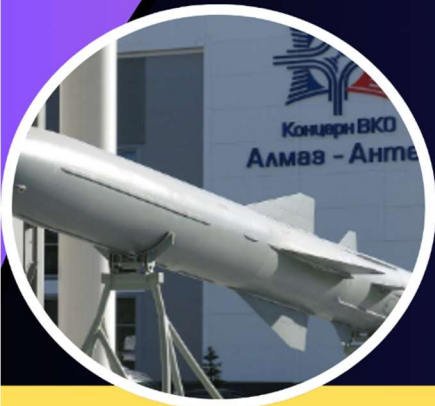
न्यायालयाचा अवमान

घरून मतदानाचा सराव

महाराष्ट्रातील सर्वात मोठा सह-  
स्थित संकरित उपक्रम

8 मुंबई रेल्वे स्थानकांचे नामकरण

दिव्यांगांसाठी विभाग स्थापन करणारे  
महाराष्ट्र हे पहिले राज्य



## Maharashtra State News

### Blindness Prevention Week

- **Blindness Prevention Week** is observed annually from **April 1st to 7th**.
- It is an **initiative by the Indian government** to raise awareness about preventable causes of blindness and promote eye care.
- **Aim:** Educate the public about eye health, early detection of eye diseases, and the importance of regular eye checkups.
- **Significance:** India has a high prevalence of blindness, and many cases are preventable. This week aims to address this issue.
- **Activities:** Eye screening camps, awareness programs, and distribution of informative materials are organized during this week.

#### Theme:

- Theme for 2024 Blindness Prevention Week is **“Taking timely treatments for age-related eye conditions”**

### Rly achieves 100% electrification of tracks in Nanded division

- The **South Central Railway (SCR)** achieved a significant feat by **completing the electrification of all existing broad gauge (BG) tracks in the Nanded division of Maharashtra**.
- This accomplishment marks a major step towards the **national mission of railway electrification**.
- This project involved electrifying the final stretch **between Mirkhal and Maltekdi, covering 43.3 kilometers**.
- With this addition, the **Nanded division now boasts 100% electrification** for its broad gauge network, excluding recently converted meter gauge lines.

### Santosh Kumar Jha to assume role as chairman and managing director of Konkan Railway on April

- **Santosh Kumar Jha**, an Indian Railway Traffic Services (IRTS) officer of the 1992 batch, assumed the role of **Chairman and Managing Director of Konkan Railway on April 1, 2024**.

- **Jha brings a wealth of experience to the position, with a background in operations, infrastructure planning, and business development. He previously served as the Director (Operations & Commercial) at Konkan Railway.**

### Neonatal mortality drops in Maharashtra

- The state of Maharashtra has seen a **positive decline in neonatal mortality rates**.
- This encouraging trend is **attributed to a focus on providing high-quality early care for newborns**.
- **Early care encompasses various aspects crucial for a baby's well-being in the first 28 days of life.**
- This includes access to **skilled medical professionals, proper monitoring, and ensuring mothers receive guidance on breastfeeding and newborn care.**
- These improvements in early care likely play a **significant role in reducing deaths among newborns, leading to a brighter future for Maharashtra's infants.**

#### About:

- **Neonatal mortality** refers to the death of a newborn baby within the first 28 days of life.
- Each neonatal death can be **further clarified into viable and non-viable deaths** depending on the **gestational age at which they were born, and where they were born.**

### Miraj's Sitar and Tanpura Craftsmen Receive GI Tags

- Craftsmen in **Miraj, renowned for their exceptional sitars and tanpuras**, have recently **received geographical indication (GI) tags for their craftsmanship**.
- These artisans use **unique wood and pumpkin gourds** to create these musical instruments, contributing to Miraj's rich musical legacy.

#### About:

- The town, located in the **Sangli district**, has been a hub for crafting these instruments since the mid-nineteenth century.
- Miraj city has the tradition of making string instruments since **1850**.

- GI tags will boost the city on tourist map as the 'music city exporting string instruments'.

### World Autism Awareness Day

- **World Autism Awareness Day** is observed annually on **April 2nd**
- It is a **UN-sanctioned day** to highlight the needs and rights of people with **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**.

It's a day to:

- **Raise awareness:** Increase public understanding of autism and the challenges faced by autistic individuals.
- **Promote acceptance:** Foster a more inclusive society where autistic people can thrive.
- **Celebrate strengths:** Recognize the unique talents and perspectives of the autistic community.

About:

- **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**, or simply autism, is a developmental condition that impacts how people interact with the world around them.
- **It's characterized by:** Social communication challenges: Difficulty with social interaction, understanding nonverbal cues, or expressing oneself clearly.
- **Restricted interests and repetitive behaviors:** A focus on specific topics, repetitive movements (stimming), or an insistence on routines.

Theme:

- The theme of World Autism Awareness Day 2024 is '**Empowering Autistic Voices**'
- It aims at **providing more support and power to the individuals** with this condition, in order to ensure they lead a meaningful life and even pursue successful careers.

Only 7% of health budget allocated for meds spent in 23-24

- Barely 7% of Maharashtra's health budget allocated specifically for medicines and supplies was spent in 2023-24, said activists quoting data from the Budget Estimation, Allocation & Monitoring System (BEAMS)

- Their analysis showed that **71% of the public health department's budget and 52% of the medical education department's budget were spent in 2023-24.**

Maharashtra secure men and women's titles in National Kho Kho Championships

- **Maharashtra emerged victorious in both the men's and women's categories** at the recently concluded **56th National Kho Kho Championships** held in New Delhi.
- The men's final was a thriller, with **Maharashtra edging past Railways in a close 52-50 contest.**
- The women's category saw a more comfortable win for Maharashtra, defeating the **Airport Authority of India 18-16.**
- This impressive performance marks Maharashtra's dominance in the sport.

3% of India's population affected by autism: IAP

- According to the **Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP)**, an estimated **3% of India's population is affected by Autism.**
- To address this growing concern, the **IAP launched a nationwide campaign called 'IAP Ki Baat Community Ke Saath' (IAP Speaks with the Community) on World Autism Day (April 2).**

About:

- The **Indian Academy of Pediatrics** was formed after amalgamating the Association of Pediatricians in India based at **Mumbai** and the Indian Pediatric Society based at **Calcutta** during its joint meeting at Hyderabad in 1963.
- The **IAP Secretariat is situated at Mumbai.**

ECI appoints special observers to oversee elections in Maharashtra, five more states

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** had appointed special observers (general and police) in six states, including Maharashtra, to "ensure a level-playing field" in the upcoming Lok Sabha and assembly elections.
- **Maharashtra, retired IAS officer Dharmendra S Gangwar** was made the general special observer, while former IPS officer **NK Mishra** would be the police special observer.

**About:**

- **Special observers (general and police) had been deployed in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Bihar since the population was over seven crore each.**
- In case of **Andhra Pradesh and Odisha**, the decision was taken keeping in view, **simultaneous polling for assemblies.**

**Clean up marshals re-introduced on Mumbai streets**

- **Mumbai's Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has relaunched its "Clean up Marshal" scheme, from April 2, to combat littering and public hygiene issues.**

**About:**

- It will focus on high footfall areas such as the Gateway of India, Marine Drive, and CSMT.
- **Fines for littering can range from ₹200 to ₹1,000.**
- **Marshals will use a mobile app to issue penalty receipts electronically.**
- Also, now there is an option for **online payment of penalties by scanning the QR code.**

**Did you know?**

- The **first clean-up marshal scheme launched in 2007 was discontinued by the BMC in 2011.**

**World Cloud Security Day**

- **World Cloud Security Day, celebrated annually on April 3rd.**
- It is a reminder of the importance of **securing data stored in the cloud.**
- As cloud technology becomes increasingly integrated into our lives, this day highlights the potential security risks and emphasizes the need for vigilance.

**About:**

- **Cloud storage is a cloud computing model that enables storing data and files on the internet through a cloud computing provider that you access either through the public internet or a dedicated private network connection.**
- **Cloud storage leverages several key technologies to function:**
  1. Remote Servers
  2. Virtualization
  3. Data Distribution

4. Networking
5. APIs (Application Programming Interfaces)

**Theme:**

- The theme for World Cloud Security Day 2024 is **"Evaluate the security of your digital identity"**

**International Day of Mine Awareness**

- The **International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed annually on April 4th.**
- It's a day to raise awareness about the **dangers of landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) on civilians, particularly in conflict zones.**

**About:**

- On **8 December 2005, the General Assembly declared that 4 April of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.**

**Theme:**

- The theme for International Day for Mine Awareness & Assistance in Mine Action 2024 is **'Protecting Lives, Building Peace.'**
- It focuses on the needs and rights of people with disabilities in areas affected by conflict.
- The **United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is highlighting the importance of including people with disabilities in mine action efforts and ensuring their safety and access to assistance.**

**Crisis in state as dam water levels down to 37.52%**

- **Water levels in the MH state's dams have plunged to a critical level of 37.52%, raising serious concerns about water scarcity.**
- This situation is likely to have a significant impact on various sectors, including agriculture, industry, and households.
- **Impact on Agriculture:** Agriculture is the backbone of many states in India, and irrigation plays a vital role in ensuring crop yields. With depleted dam water, farmers may be forced to reduce cultivation or switch to crops that require less water. This could lead to a decline in agricultural output and potentially impact food security.
- **Impact on Industry:** Industries also rely on water for various processes.

- A water shortage could force industries to cut back on production or even shut down operations entirely. This could have a negative impact on the state's economy and lead to job losses.
- **Impact on Households:** Water scarcity can also severely impact households. With limited water availability, people may face challenges in meeting their daily needs for drinking, cooking, and sanitation. This could lead to health problems and a decline in the quality of life.

### Indian Navy Brings 9 Pirates Caught Off Somalia to Mumbai During Anti-Piracy Operations

- In a **successful anti-piracy operation**, the **Indian Navy apprehended nine pirates off the coast of Somalia in late March.**
- The **pirates had hijacked an Iranian fishing vessel with Pakistani crew.**

#### About:

- Following a **12-hour operation**, the **Indian Navy rescued the crew and captured the pirates.**
- **The pirates were brought to Mumbai and handed over to the Mumbai Police.**
- The arrested individuals now face **legal action under the Maritime Anti-Piracy Act of 2022.**
- This incident highlights the Indian Navy's commitment to protecting seafarers in the Indian Ocean Region.

### e-Mulakat brings ease of visitation across MH state prisons

- **Maharashtra Prison Department** data shows that altogether **21,963 of the total 1,38,672, which is around 16 per cent of the total meetings of inmates with their families and lawyers, have happened over the video conferencing system through e-Mulakat system.**
- Since **January this year**, the system became fully functional across **60 prisons in Maharashtra.**

#### About:

- The **e-Mulakat platform is part of the e-prisons system under the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)** launched by the **Union government in 2022**
- The **ICJS comprises a dedicated and secure cloud-based infrastructure**

**operated by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and National Informatics Centre (NIC).**

### Independent Artist Day

- **Independent Artist Day is celebrated annually on April 3rd.**
- It **recognizes the contributions of artists who create and share their work outside the constraints of mainstream galleries, labels, or publishers.**

#### About:

- It was **established by the online art platform Minted in 2022.**
- **They announced the day to mark their 15th-anniversary celebration.**
- This day **highlights the unique voice and vision independent artists bring to the world.**
- It's a chance to appreciate their creativity and support them directly.

### National Maritime Day

- **National Maritime Day is celebrated in India every year on April 5th.**
- It marks the **maiden voyage of the SS Loyalty in 1919**, a pivotal moment symbolizing **India's journey as an independent maritime nation.**

#### Key Points:

- Recognizes the vital role of the **maritime sector in India's history, economy, and development.**
- **Honors the contributions of seafarers and those working in the maritime industry.**
- **Raises awareness** about the importance of maritime trade and the challenges faced by the industry.

#### About:

- **SS Loyalty is the first Indian merchant ship to set sail under the Indian flag in 1919.**
- This historic voyage, **departing from Mumbai for London**, marked a significant step towards India's independence as a maritime nation.
- The **Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd., owned by the visionary industrialist Seth Walchand Hirachand Doshi, played a key role in this achievement.**

**Theme:**

- The Theme for 2024 National Maritime Day is "Navigating the future: safety first!"

**Mum's AQI at 90, BMC credits 'deep cleaning'**

- Mumbai's air quality has **shown signs of improvement, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaching 90.**
- This is an improvement from previous readings and is being **attributed to deep cleaning efforts undertaken by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).**
- While **90 still falls under the 'moderate' category** on the AQI scale, it indicates a **positive trend.**
- The BMC's deep cleaning initiatives including measures like **dust suppression and road cleaning, are likely contributing to this improvement.**

**Note:**

Read about AQI Index

**JN.1 variant has clinical features similar to previous Covid-19 variants: Study**

- A **first-of-its-kind study** conducted by experts from **B J Medical College (BJMC) and ICMR National Institute of Virology (NIV)** has found that **JN.1, the dominant Covid-19 variant in India, has clinical features similar to previous circulating variants in Maharashtra without increased severity.**
- The study titled **'Appearance and prevalence of JN.1 SARS-CoV-2 variant in India and its clinical profile in the state of Maharashtra'** was published in the medical journal **'Cureus of Springer Nature Group'** on March 22.

**About:**

- **JN.1 is thus likely to cause similar symptoms, including fever, cough, fatigue, and trouble breathing.**
- **It doesn't appear to cause more severe illness than previous strains.**

**Nagpur ATC may head air traffic mgmt across India**

- **Nagpur City may be chosen as the country's centre for a unified air traffic management set-up.**
- A proposal on these lines is being **studied by the Airports Authority of India (AAI)**

**About:**

- **Nagpur airport is managed by Mihan India Limited (MIL), which is a joint venture between state government's Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) and AAI.**

**Nagpur Air Traffic Control (ATC):**

- Nagpur ATC manages air traffic in its airspace, which likely covers **central India.**

**Indian Airspace Management:**

- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is **responsible for managing the Indian airspace.**
- The AAI could potentially **establish a centralized air traffic management system based in Nagpur, but this is speculative.**

**Cancer study by researchers from SUK gets two patents**

- A crucial **research to destroy cancer cells using nano composite-based materials** by Prof Dr Sagar Delekar (director of Innovation, Incubation and Linkages of Shivaji University, Kolhapur) and three other researchers has received two patents from the govt of Germany.

**About:**

- The **vivo viability evaluation (kidney, gills muscle tissue, brain and liver) of superparamagnetic iron oxide and chitosan-coated iron oxide nanoparticles** was done on Kaveri Garra fish from Satara, and this **nanocomposite was found to be non-hazardous and biocompatible.**

**International Day of Sport for Development and Peace**

- **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) is celebrated every year on April 6th,**
- **IDSDP recognizes the power of sport to drive positive change.**
- It's a day to **acknowledge how sports and physical activity can:**
  - Promote peace and understanding
  - Foster social development and inclusion

- o Encourage health and well-being

**About:**

- Creating a **historical link to the first modern Olympic Games in 1896**, 6 April was declared the **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace** by the **United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 2013**, and has been **celebrated each year since 2014**.

**Theme:**

- The 2024 theme of IDSDP is **"Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies"**
- It **highlights how sports can bridge divides and create a more peaceful world**.
- This day is a **chance to celebrate organizations and individuals using sports to make a difference**.

**President Murmu launches indigenously-developed CAR T-cell therapy for cancer treatment**

- **President Droupadi Murmu** launched **India's first home-grown CAR-T cell therapy for cancer** at **Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B)** in **Mumbai**
- **CAR-T cell therapy** has been developed through collaboration between the **Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay** and **Tata Memorial Hospital** in association with industry partner **ImmunoACT**.
- It provides a new hope for the whole of humankind. and will be successful in giving new lives to countless patients
- It is also an **example of the 'Make in India' initiative; a shining example of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'**.

**About:**

- **CAR T-cell therapy** is a powerful form of immunotherapy for certain blood cancers
- **Function:** It harnesses the body's immune system to **target cancer**. **T-cells** (immune fighters) are extracted, **genetically modified with a special receptor (CAR)**, and then **infused back into the patient**.
- **The CAR:** This chimeric antigen receptor helps **T-cells recognize and destroy cancer cells** with a specific antigen (marker) on their surface.
- **Treatment for:** CAR T-cell therapy is **effective for some leukemias, lymphomas, and multiple myeloma**, especially when other treatments fail.

- **Process:** It's a **multi-step process** involving **T-cell collection, modification, expansion, and re-infusion**.

**Shift to EVs losing momentum in Pune with just 7 percent spike this year**

- Pune's initial surge in electric vehicle (EV) purchases appears to be waning.
- After a **significant 200% increase in EV registrations in 2022-23**, the growth rate has **slumped to just 7% in the current fiscal year (2023-24)** according to **Regional Transport Office (RTO) data**.
- This slowdown comes **despite a substantial overall rise in vehicle registrations in Pune**.
- While nearly **20,000 new vehicles were registered this year**, only around **2,000 were EVs**.
- **Motorcycles remain the dominant EV category**, with car registrations lagging far behind.

**Alibaug as 'Maynagnagri'**

- **Maharashtra assembly speaker Rahul Narwekar** has urged the state government to rename **Alibaug** as **'Maynagnagri'** in the memory of **admiral Maynak Bhandari**
- **Maynak Bhandari** played a **crucial role in Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's naval prowess**.

**About:**

- **Narwekar** stressed that during the reign of **Maratha warrior king Shivaji**, **coastal security and coastal war campaigns were crucial to prevent foreign invasions** and that **Maynak Bhandari played a crucial role in it**.
- **Bhandari's leadership** is credited with **victories against the British**, including a **crucial one near Alibaug**.

**International Day of Conscience**

- The **International Day of Conscience** is celebrated annually on **April 5**
- It is a **global day of awareness** commemorating the importance of human conscience.
- The day **encourages us to reflect on our values and how we can use them to build a better world**.

**About:**

- It was established by the **United Nations General Assembly on July 25, 2019**, with the adoption of **UN resolution 73/329**.
- On **April 5, 2020**, the first **International Day of Conscience** was celebrated.

**Theme:**

- The theme for 2024 is **"Promoting the Culture of Peace with Love and Conscience."**
- This emphasizes using our conscience to guide actions that foster peace and respect for all.

**World Health Day**

- **World Health Day** is celebrated annually on **April 7th**.
- It was established by the **World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948**

**About:**

- In 1948, the WHO held the **First World Health Assembly**.
- The Assembly decided to celebrate 7 April of each year, **with effect from 1950**, as the World Health Day.

**Theme:**

- The theme for World Health Day 2024 is **"My health, my right"**.
- This theme emphasizes the importance of ensuring everyone, everywhere has access to healthcare services, information, and education to live a healthy life.

**Nag River system to be scanned for flood mgmt**

- The **Maharashtra state irrigation department** has suggested that the **Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC)** conduct a **detailed hydrological study to tackle the flooding issues in Nag River**.
- This suggests that the current flood management strategies for the Nag River may be inadequate.

**About:**

- The **Nag River, the lifeblood of Nagpur city, Maharashtra**, lends its name to the city itself.

**Key Points:**

- **Origin:** Lava Hills, near Wadi
- **Length:** Approximately **17 km** within Nagpur city limits
- **Tributaries:** Merges with **Pioli rivers near Pawangaon, Pora river near Titur**
- Joins the **Kanhan River, part of the Kanhan-Pench river system**

**Final voter list released, gender disparity at 0.1%**

- The final voter list has been released, indicating a very small gender disparity of just **0.1%**.

**About:**

- The statistical data for Nagpur constituency indicates that the **difference between the number of male and female voters, which was at 4.27% in 2009, has reduced to a mere 0.1% or 44,055 voters in the 2024 voters list**.
- The data also shows that **this gender disparity in the voter list in 2014 was 4.33%, which reduced to 2.56% in 2019**.

**Versova Bandra Sea Link: 15% civil work completed**

- The **Versova-Bandra Sea Link** is under construction and **15% civil work has been completed**
- The project deadline has been **extended to May 2028**.
- This is a revision from the previous target of December 2026.

**About:**

- The **Versova-Bandra Sea Link, also known as the Swatanrya Veer Savarkar Sea Link**, is a massive bridge under construction in Mumbai
- It's part of the **second phase of the city's Coastal Road project**.

**Key points:**

- **Length:** **17.17 kilometers (10.67 miles)**
- **Purpose:** Reduce traffic congestion on the Western Express Highway and Mumbai Suburban Railway.
- **Start and End Points:** **Connects Bandra-Worli Sea Link to Nana Nani Park in Versova.**

**Formulate animal welfare committee in state: AWBI**

- The **Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)** encourages **states to establish their own Animal Welfare Committees**.
- These committees would **work alongside AWBI to improve animal welfare within the state**.

**Key Points:**

- **Purpose:**
  - Address animal welfare concerns specific to the state.



- Implement national animal welfare guidelines at the state level.
- **Composition:** Likely to include representatives from:
  - Government departments (Animal Husbandry, Veterinary Services)
  - Animal welfare organizations
  - Veterinary professionals
- **Benefits:**
  - More focused attention on animal welfare issues in the state.
  - Improved enforcement of animal welfare laws.
  - Increased collaboration between stakeholders.

### Greens raise concern over part of lake drying

- **Local environmentalists, often referred to as "Greens",** are expressing concern over cracks that have developed in the bed of the partially dried-up DPS lake, Nerul.
- Experts believe that the reason behind this could be the uneven drying of the lakebed or a drop in the water table.

#### About:

- **DPS Lake is a 30-acre wetland located in Nerul, Navi Mumbai.**
- It's known for **attracting flamingos and other birds**, making it a bit of a **bird watcher's paradise.**
- There have been efforts to conserve the lake as a habitat, and even plans to build watchtowers for visitor.

### Regression among Marathas, 84% deserving of quota: Panel

- **Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission** said that the Marathas constitute 28% of the state population but display "exceptional backwardness" and 84% of them belong to the 'non-creamy layer' 'which deserves an adequate reservation in employment and education as held in Indra Sawhney" case.

#### About:

- The report of the commission, headed by **Justice (ret'd) Sunil Shukre**, forms part of the state's reply in HC to petitions raising a constitutional challenge to the 10% Socially and Educationally Backward Class (SEBC) Act

for a Maratha quota in Maharashtra, reports Swati Deshpande.

### One in five BEST buses now electric makeup 1.6% of all EVs in Mumbai

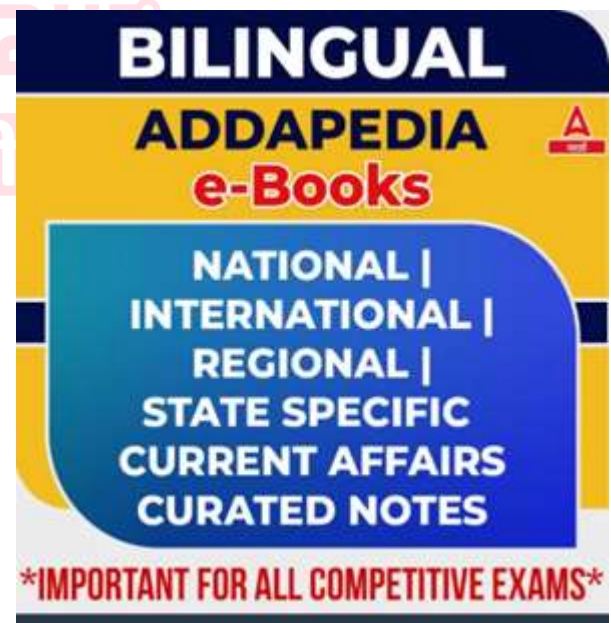
- Mumbai has made **significant progress in electrifying its public bus system.**
- **One in five of the city's BEST buses are now electric, representing 1.6% of all electric vehicles (EVs) in Mumbai.**
- This shift towards electric buses **helps reduce emissions** and improve air quality in the city.

### CRPF Valour Day

- **CRPF Valour Day** is observed every year on **April 9th.**
- It honors the **exceptional courage displayed by CRPF personnel at Sardar Post in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, in 1965.**

#### About:

- It was on this day in 1965, a small contingent of CRPF created history by defeating an invading Pakistani army, several times larger, at the **Sardar Post located in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat.**
- The CRPF men eliminated 34 Pakistani soldiers and captured four alive.



### World Homeopathy Day

- **World Homeopathy Day** is celebrated every year on **April 10th** every year.
- It **honors the birthday of Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathy.**

- It's a day to raise awareness about this alternative medical system that uses natural substances in minimal doses to stimulate the body's healing response.
- It aims to:
  - Increase public understanding of homeopathy.
  - Improve accessibility of homeopathic treatments.
  - Address challenges faced by homeopathy and explore its future potential.

#### Theme:

- The theme for World Homeopathy Day 2024 is 'Empowering Research, Enhancing Proficiency: A Homeopathy Symposium'.
- This theme underscores the significance of continuous research in homeopathy and the need to upgrade capability in its training to give better medical care results.

#### Did you know?

- Mahendra Lal Sircar was the first Indian who became a homeopathic physician.
- The Calcutta Homeopathic Medical College, the first homeopathic medical college was established in 1881.

#### 13L first-time young voters in Maharashtra

- As many as 12.87 lakh young first-time electors in the state will vote in the Lok Sabha election.
- Of these, 7.59 lakh are male as against 5.27 lakh female voters.
- Maharashtra's voter registration numbers in this group are up from the previous election, but still less when compared to the other states.
- Their overall registration in the state is less than 30% of the total 9.24 crore voters.
- The projected population in this demographic is a little under 4.9 crore which means barely 38% first-time voters are on the rolls.
- Young and middle-aged voters collectively constitute over 50% of the voters' list.

#### ICCR Foundation Day

- The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) celebrates its foundation day on April 9th.
- It was established in 1950 by Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad

- He was India's first Education Minister.

#### About:

- The day marks the beginning of India's cultural diplomacy efforts, promoting mutual understanding and cultural exchange between India and other countries.
- It marks the establishment of India's soft power diplomacy, which has been a key component of the country's foreign policy
- The ICCR Headquarter is situated at Azad Bhavan, I.P. Estate, New Delhi.
- Its regional offices are in Bangalore, Chandigarh, Chennai, Cuttack, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Patna, Pune, Shillong, Thiruvananthapuram & Varanasi.

#### Maharashtra aims to export 5,000 tonnes of mangoes to US, Europe

- The Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB) aims to export 5,000 tonnes of mangoes this season.
- This is a significant increase from the previous season, which saw lower exports.
- The mangoes will be processed and exported from MSAMB facilities.
- The target markets are developed countries like the US and Europe, where there is a high demand for Indian mangoes, particularly Alphonso and Kesar varieties.
- This focus on developed markets is due to the expectation of better returns for farmers.

#### National Zoo Lovers Day

- National Zoo Lovers Day is celebrated every year on April 8th.
- It's a day to celebrate our love for animals and the important role zoos play.

#### Key Points:

- Encourages exploration: It's a nudge to visit your local zoo and discover the amazing animals that call it home.
- Highlights zoo contributions:
- Zoos are involved in:
  - Species conservation - Breeding programs help endangered animals.
  - Education - Zoos teach us about wildlife and habitats.
  - Research - Scientists study animals at zoos to improve their well-being.

#### Did you Know?

- **Arignar Anna Zoological Park** was the **first Zoo** established in the country in **1855**
- **Arignar Anna Zoological Park (Vandalur Zoo)** in Chennai holds the title of the **largest zoo in India**
- **Maharajbagh Zoo** is the **smallest zoo in India**.

### National Safe Motherhood Day

- **National Safe Motherhood Day** is observed annually on **April 11th** in India.
- It raises **awareness about the critical issue of maternal health**.
- It **highlights the risks millions of women face during pregnancy and childbirth**.

#### Key Points:

- Established in **2003** by the **White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI)**.
- Aims to **improve access to quality maternal healthcare services**.
- Promotes healthy pregnancy practices and reduces maternal mortality rates.
- This day also serves as a reminder of the importance of ensuring every mother has a safe and healthy experience throughout motherhood.

#### Theme:

- The theme of 2024 is **“Remain at home amid coronavirus, protect mother and infant”**

### White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI)

- The **White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI)** is a **grassroots movement advocating for the health and rights of women and newborns in India**.
- It functions as a broad coalition bringing together individuals, organizations, healthcare professionals, and even government officials.

### Over 100 teams to be deployed for Dharavi survey

- A **large-scale survey of Dharavi**, one of **Asia's biggest slums**, is set to begin with **over 100 teams being deployed**.

#### Key Points:

- This initiative is **linked to the ongoing Dharavi redevelopment project**
- This redevelopment project is aimed at transforming the slum into a modern and planned urban area.

- The purpose of the survey is likely to gather data on various aspects of Dharavi, such as the number of residents, demographics, property ownership, and infrastructure needs.
- The collected data will be instrumental in planning and executing the redevelopment project effectively.

### Metro One introduces convenient wristband payment system

- **Metro One (Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar)** has unveiled an **innovative ticketing system featuring a wearable wristband known as TapTap**, designed for **contactless payments during metro commutes**.

#### About:

- This **TapTap band** is made from **environmentally friendly silicone-based material**, ensuring it is non-allergenic and gentle on the skin
- **Metro One** launched **TapTap with a special introductory offer priced at Rs. 200**, allowing commuters to "wear their tickets instead of carrying them."
- By simply **tapping their wristbands at the AFC gates of Mumbai Metro One**, passengers can **seamlessly embark on their journeys**.

### World Parkinson's Day

- World Parkinson's Day is observed every year on **April 11th**

#### This day serves two key purposes:

1. **Raising Awareness:**
  - Parkinson's disease is a **chronic neurodegenerative disorder** impacting millions globally.
  - World Parkinson's Day brings attention to this condition, its symptoms, and the challenges faced by patients and their families.
2. **Honoring Dr. James Parkinson:**
  - The day also **coincides with the birthday of Dr. James Parkinson**, who first described the condition in **1817**.

#### About:

- In **1997**, the **European Association for Parkinson's Disease (now known as Parkinson's Europe)** announced that **April 11** will be observed as **World Parkinson's Day** every year.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) also co-sponsored the initiative.

**Theme:**

- The theme for World Parkinson's Day 2024 is "Finding Your Light."

**International Day of Human Space Flight**

- The International Day of Human Space Flight is celebrated annually on 12 April.
- It marks the anniversary of the first human space flight by Yuri Gagarin in 1961.

**About:**

- It was proclaimed at the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly on 7 April 2011.

**Key Points:**

- This day celebrates the dawn of the space age and the incredible achievements in space exploration.
- It also highlights the importance of space science and technology for our well-being and sustainable development.

**Theme:**

- The theme for International Day of Human Space Flight is "Encourage scientific curiosity".
- It urges individuals and communities to embrace curiosity as a driving force for discovery and innovation

**Did you Know?**

- Yuri Gagarin was the first human to travel to space.

**Pune district hosts highest registered voters in Maharashtra**

- Pune district has the highest number of voters in the state with 82.8 lakh voters according to the latest data from the state's chief electoral office.
- The Mumbai suburban district follows next with 73.5 lakh voters.
- The registered voters in Thane district are 65.8 lakh.

**About:**

- In the last three weeks, the state has added 3.2 lakh voters to the electoral roll.
- Pune district has the highest number of registered voters because it has four parliamentary constituencies.

**India, Germany give patent to SUK researchers**

- Two researchers at SUK have made a significant contribution to clean energy development.
- Their study on water splitting using nanocomposites for hydrogen production has been granted patents by both the Indian and German governments.
- This technology has the potential to create a more sustainable method for hydrogen fuel production.

**About:**

- Prof Dr Sagar Delekar, Professor from the Department of Chemistry, Shivaji University, and his research student Pramod Abhangrao Koyle conducted the research.
- This includes producing green hydrogen from natural sources such as water and sunlight, using it as a fuel, and reducing carbon emissions.
- The research was published in American Journal of Applied Nanomaterials and International Journal of Hydrogen Energy.

**Mahatma Phule memorial set for expansion**

- MH Deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar said that an expansion of the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Memorial in Pune is being planned, and land acquisition would be expedited for the same.
- It is in view that the existing memorial appears to be congested.

**About:**

- Mahatma Jyotirao Phule (1827-1890) was a pioneering Indian social reformer who fought for equality for all.

**Key Points:**

- **Anti-Caste Activist:** Phule vehemently opposed the discriminatory caste system, particularly the plight of untouchables and lower castes.
- **Education for All:** He and his wife Savitribai Phule, a remarkable figure in her own right, were champions of women's education. They opened the first school for girls in India in 1848.
- **Satyashodhak Samaj:** In 1873, Phule founded the Satyashodhak Samaj ("Truth-seekers' Society") a society promoting reason, critical thinking, and social justice for all.

### Climate vulnerability threat

- For over 24 years now, the average annual temperature in Maharashtra has been recorded as above normal level.
- According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the average annual temperature in Maharashtra has risen one degree above normal level.

#### About:

- Recently, the year 2023 was officially declared as the warmest year globally with average temperature higher than the average of the 1850-1900 pre-industrial level by 1.48 degrees Celsius, and 0.17 degrees Celsius higher than 2016.
- Maharashtra, too, has recorded an increase in temperature since before 2000.
- As per the IMD data, between 1875 and 1970, average temperature in Maharashtra was recorded below normal level by one degree except for a few incidents.
- However, this situation began to change gradually and the number of incidents where average temperature was recorded above normal level increased between 1970 and 2000.
- The change was seen significantly post 2000 when average temperature in Maharashtra was constantly above normal.
- By 2022, the temperature was recorded as one degree higher than normal in Maharashtra.

### Pench Tiger Reserve

- The Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra, is planning to relocate spotted deer and sambars from the reserve's eastern sector to the western side.
- This initiative aims to increase the prey base for carnivores within the reserve, promoting a healthier ecosystem.
- The deer will be captured from Bor Tiger Reserve, East Pench, and Chorbahuli areas.
- This project highlights ongoing efforts in India to conserve wildlife populations through habitat management.

#### About:

- Maharashtra, the third largest state in India, is a key protector of biodiversity and boasts six tiger reserves, tying with Madhya Pradesh for the most in the country.

- One of these reserves is the **Pench Tiger Reserve**, located in the northern part of eastern Vidarbha, spanning the Ramtek, Parseoni, and Saoner tehsils of Nagpur district.
- It is India's **25th tiger reserve** and covers an area of 741.41 sq.km.
- The Pench Tiger Reserve, named after the **Pench River**, is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, including tigers, leopards, sloth bears, Indian gaurs, wild dogs, and wolves, typical of central India.
- It is well-connected to other reserves such as Kanha, Pench (M.P), Tadoba Andhari, Navegao-Nagjhira, and Bor Tiger Reserves.
- The Pench River, which **splits the reserve in half**, and the **Totladoh reservoir**, built on the river, are crucial for the wildlife in the reserve.

### ASI to conserve Goddess Mahalaxmi idol on Apr 14-15

- Devotees visiting Mahalaxmi Temple in Kolhapur will not be able to see the original idol of the goddess on **April 14 and 15** as the **Archeological Survey of India (ASI), New Delhi will inspect and conserve the idol**.
- **The recent ASI's research finds that the idol is damaged.**

#### About:

- The temple is named after **Ambabai/Mahalaxmi**, where it is believed the divine couple resides.
- It is an **architectural relic of the Chalukya empire**, likely constructed around **700 AD**.
- The image of the **four-armed and crowned goddess**, mounted on a stone platform, is crafted from sandstone and stands at a height of 2 feet 8.5 inches.
- A stone lion, representing the **goddess's vahana**, stands behind the statue.
- The temple also features a **carving of the Shri Yantra on one of its corners**, opposite to the mahakali idol.
- Unlike most **Hindu sacred images, which face north or east, this deity faces west (Pashchim)**, allowing the setting sun's rays to directly illuminate the idol's face on specific days (31 January, 01-02 February, 09-11 November) through the mahadwar (main entrance).

## Over 5k in 14 border villages with 2 EPICs to vote in state

- Citizens of 14 villages in Jiwati taluka in Chandrapur district bordering Maharashtra and Telangana have two voter cards.
- Besides availing govt benefits, they have been voting in both states
- Just as another poll looms, close to 5,600 voters from these border villages will vote in Maharashtra in the first phase on April 19.
- Many had voted in the Telangana assembly six months ago.
- The villages include Maharajguda, Mukadamguda, Paramdoli, Paramdoli Tanda, Kotha, Lendijala, Shankarlodhi, Padmavati, Antapur, Indiranagar, Yesapur, Palasguda, Bholapathar and Lendiguda.

## International Turban Day

- International Turban Day is observed annually on April 13th
- It is a day to celebrate Sikh heritage and raise awareness about the significance of the turban in their culture.

### Key Points:

#### Symbol of Faith:

- The turban, also known as a dastar, is more than just headwear for Sikhs.
- It's a mandatory part of their faith, representing commitment, self-respect, and spiritual purity.

#### Raising Awareness:

- This day aims to educate the public about the Sikh religion and combat prejudice against those who wear turbans.

#### Promoting Understanding:

- International Turban Day encourages interfaith dialogue and cultural exchange, fostering a more inclusive and harmonious society.

#### About:

- The day has been celebrated since 2004.
- This is to bring awareness of the strict requirement on Sikhs to put the turban as a mandatory part of their religion.
- The 2024 Turban Day marks the 555th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev and the festival of Baisakhi.

## Ambedkar Jayanti

- Ambedkar Jayanti is observed every year on April 14th.
- It commemorates the birthday of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a revered Indian politician and social reformer.
- Also known as Bhim Jayanti or Equality Day, it honors his significant contributions to Indian society.

#### About:

- Dr. Ambedkar is best known as the "Father of the Indian Constitution" for his chairmanship of the drafting committee.
- A champion for equality, he fought against the caste system and advocated for the upliftment of disadvantaged communities.
- Ambedkar Jayanti is a national holiday in India.
- People pay homage at his statues and memorials, organize educational events and seminars, and reaffirm their commitment to social justice and equality.
- This day has the underlying theme of 'social justice and equality'.

## Maharashtra tops India in 85+ voters

- According to data available till April 8, Maharashtra has the highest number of registered voters in the age-group of 85 years and above (13 lakh)
- Uttar Pradesh comes next with 10.4 lakh, Bihar with 6.6 lakh and Tamil Nadu has 6.1 lakh voters in the 85+ category.
- The total voters in this category in India are 81 lakh.
- Maharashtra's share is as high as 16%.
- The lowest registrations are in the Union Territories.

## Water Reserves in Mumbai's Seven Lakes Hit 3-Year Low at 25.34%

- Mumbai's seven lakes, the city's main water source, are at a critical low, holding only 25.34% of their capacity.
- This is the lowest level in three years and raises concerns about the adequacy of the water supply.

#### About:

- Mumbai heavily depends on monsoon precipitation for its yearly water provision, drawing from seven lakes: Tansa, Bhatsa, Modak Sagar, Tulsi, Vehar, Upper Vaitarna, and Middle Vaitarna.

## World Art Day

- **World Art Day** is celebrated annually on **April 15th**.
- It is an **international celebration of the fine arts** which was **declared by the International Association of Art** in order to **promote awareness of creative activity worldwide**.

### About:

- The idea of celebrating **World Art Day** was **proposed by the International Association of Art (IAA)** in **2011** at the **17th General Assembly** held in **Guadalajara, Mexico**.
- The **first World Art Day** was celebrated on **April 15, 2012**.

### Theme:

- The theme for World Art Day 2024 is **“A Garden of Expression: Cultivating Community through Art.”**
- The theme encapsulates the essence of art as a vibrant and nurturing force that fosters connection, creativity, and collaboration within communities worldwide.

## National Fire Service Day

- **India observes National Fire Service Day on April 14th each year**.
- It commemorates the bravery of firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty, particularly those who died in a massive ship explosion at the **Mumbai docks in 1944**.

### Key Points:

- **Raising Awareness:** Fire safety campaigns and drills are organized to educate the public on fire prevention and preparedness.
- **2024 Theme:** The theme for 2024 was **“Ensure Fire Safety, Contribute Towards Nation Building.”**
- This emphasized the importance of fire safety for national progress

## Child rights panel calls for reform to better enforce RTE

- The **Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR)** said that the **policy of private education institutions getting concessions by opting for minority status** needs to be reformed at government level.
- It was in view that many schools in **Mumbai city and suburbs** were denying admission to children citing minority status.

- They proposed to fix a **minimum percentage for minority students while granting licenses to such schools**
- Aim is to keep Central rules in place for minority edu institutions to ensure “no child is deprived of education”.

## Voting from home made easy for seniors aged 85+

- Every **registered voter aged above 85 years in Mumbai** will be given a **choice to either visit the polling stations or would like election officials to visit them at home to secure their vote**.

### About:

- A **special document, called Form 12D, is being given to them**.
- It is in that form that they are **supposed to communicate their choice: booth or home**.
- The forms will be collected by **April 26**
- Those who **choose home voting will be visited by poll officials between May 9 and May 19** so that they can exercise their franchise.

### Note:

- **Mumbai’s city district has 55,766 people in the age group and suburban 98,124.**

## 20 EV charging stations to come up in Nashik by July

- **Nashik is set to see a significant improvement in its electric vehicle (EV) charging network**.
- A contract has been awarded to **Servotech Power Systems to install 20 EV charging stations** across the **Nashik Municipal Corporation area**.
- This **initiative aims to address the growing demand for EVs by providing convenient and accessible charging facilities**.

### About:

- These stations are expected to be **operational by July 2024** and will cater to both **four-wheeler and two/three-wheeler EVs**.
- This expansion will **significantly bolster Nashik’s EV infrastructure and support the city’s transition towards sustainable transportation**.

## World Voice Day

- **World Voice Day** is commemorated every year on **April 16th**.

- It is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of our voices.
- World Voice Day promotes voice care for everyone, from singers and teachers to business professionals and everyday individuals.
- By taking steps to protect our voices, we can ensure clear and effective communication throughout our lives.

**Theme:**

- The theme for World Voice Day 2024 is "Resonate, Educate, Celebrate."
- This theme was chosen by the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
- It emphasizes the importance of vocal health in our lives.

**Did you Know?**

- World Voice Day originated in Brazil in 1999 and has now become a global event.

**CM Eknath Shinde announces Rs 3,500 crore project to prevent flooding in Kolhapur**

- MH CM has declared that the state government has approved an allocation of Rs 3,500 crore for the comprehensive development of Kolhapur, which has been grappling with persistent flooding.

**About:**

- This allocation aims to address the longstanding flooding issue in Kolhapur, ensuring its permanent resolution.

**State to get 1st welfare centre for veterans of Assam Rifles**

- Maharashtra is set to inaugurate its first Assam Rifles Ex-Servicemen Association (ARESA) Centre on April 21st, 2024.
- This initiative aims to provide much-needed welfare facilities and support services to veterans of the Assam Rifles residing in the state.
- The establishment of this centre coincides with the first-ever Assam Rifles Veterans Day celebrated on March 23rd, 2024.
- This marks a significant step forward in recognizing the contributions of Assam Rifles veterans in Maharashtra, which has over 107 ex-servicemen.
- The inauguration ceremony will be followed by an Ex-Servicemen Rally, fostering a sense of

community and celebrating the veterans' service.

**World Haemophilia Day**

- World Hemophilia Day is observed annually on April 17th.
- It raises awareness about hemophilia and other bleeding disorders.

**Key Points:**

- **Increase understanding:** Educate the public about hemophilia, a genetic condition affecting blood clotting.
- **Improve diagnosis and care:** Advocate for better access to diagnosis and treatment for all, regardless of location or resources.
- **Support the community:** Celebrate the strength and resilience of those living with bleeding disorders.

**About:**

- World Haemophilia Day was started by the World Federation of Haemophilia in 1989
- April 17 was decided as the date to observe the health day every year to honour the founder of the organization Frank Schnabel, who played a significant role in advocating for hemophilia awareness and treatment and dedicated his life towards improving lives of those suffering from the disorder

**Theme:**

- The theme for this year's World Haemophilia Day is, 'Equitable access for all: recognising all bleeding disorders.'
- The main idea of this theme is to make sure everyone gets treated, no matter what type of bleeding problem they have, how old they are, where they live or their gender.

**Maharashtra second in forest land allotment to tribals**

- Maharashtra has emerged as the second highest after Chhattisgarh in distributing forest land under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

**Key points:**

- A status report by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs reveals that Maharashtra distributed more than 58.70 lakh acres of forest land under individual forest rights (IFRs) and



community forest rights (CFRs) till February 29, 2024.

- **Chhattisgarh topped the chart** by distributing 61 lakh acres towards IFRs and CFRs.
- Other states that settled maximum IDRs and CFRs and distributed forest land include Telangana, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat.

### Right To Sleep

- The **Bombay High Court** ruled that the **right to sleep** is a **basic human requirement**.
- The court stated that not providing it violates a person's human rights.

### Context of the Ruling:

- The statement was made in response to a case where the **Enforcement Directorate (ED) questioned a senior citizen throughout the night**.
- The court directed the ED to **maintain "earthly timings" for recording statements**.
- This direction is especially relevant when summons under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)** are issued by the agency.

### Think:

- Know about rights under **Article 21**.
- Know about **Enforcement Directorate (ED)**.

### World Banana Day

- **World Banana Day is celebrated on the third Wednesday of April, which falls on today, April 17th, 2024**
- Bananas are a **source of potassium and other essential nutrients, and can be enjoyed in countless ways**.

### About:

- **Jalgaon banana (GI tag No. 498-2016)** has been given the **GI tag**
- Its **origin is Tandalwadi village of Jalgaon district, Maharashtra**.
- Its **Unique Fibre and mineral rich Jalgaon banana** which is **being exported to Dubai**.
- **Quality is mainly due to its proximity to the Tapi River**.

### Issue of debris in Aarey

- The **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)** and **Aarey Milk Colony** have been passing the responsibility for **clearing the debris dumped in Aarey** along the banks of the **Mithi River** onto each other for months.

- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has ordered the constitution of a **committee to decide who will shoulder the burden**.

### Key points:

- **The committee will decide:**
  - Where the debris dumped from the Jogeshwari Vikhroli Link Road near the Tapeswar Mandir is to be shifted.
  - Who will bear the expenses.
  - How the shifting will be carried out.
- **The committee will be headed by the chief secretary of Maharashtra** and include the **BMC, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Urban Development Department, Aarey Milk Colony, the Environment Department, a scientist from NEERI, and Anil Dikshit, a professor from IIT Bombay**.

### Did you know?

- **Aarey Forest**, often referred to as the '**Lungs of Mumbai**', is a significant green space in Mumbai.

### About Aarey Forest:

- **Location:** Aarey Forest is **located near Sanjay Gandhi National Park** and is situated in **Goregaon (East)**.
- **Size:** It spreads over approximately **2000 acres**.
- **Establishment:** The area was **established in 1949** to revolutionize the processing and marketing of dairy products in the city.
- **Flora and Fauna:** It also houses about 290 species of wildlife, including **five species listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**. These include **leopards, Rusty spotted cat, Sambar deer, Alexandrine Parakeet, and Red-wattled Lapwing**.
- **Conservation:** On 3 September 2020, the Maharashtra government declared **one fifth of the Aarey Colony, an area of approximately 600 acres, as a reserved forest**.

### Think:

- Know about the **PYQ of Aarey Milk Colony**.

### Central Railway to install speed-sensing devices in Western Ghats

- **Central Railway (CR)** plans to install **speed-sensing devices** in the **Mumbai-Pune/Nashik rail corridors** to **make train travel safer in the Western Ghats** during the **monsoon**.
- The **device will monitor and control train speeds** when they operate in the ghats.

### Key points:

- The **devices will be installed** in the **Karjat-Lonavala** and **Kasara-Igatpuri sections** before the monsoon.
- The **Bhor** and **Thal ghats** have a steep gradient of 1:37, meaning a train climbs one metre at a distance of every 37 metres.
- The device will indicate when a train crosses the permissible speed in the ghats and can bring it under control.
- **At present, trains must halt at specific locations on the Karjat-Khopoli-Lonavala and Kasara-Igatpuri sections as a safety measure.** This system will be done away with once the speed-sensing devices are in place.
- The device is being tested at **Monkey Hill Cabin station** on the Karjat-Lonavala belt and is awaiting final approvals.

**Think:**

- Know about the **Bhor and Thal ghats.**

**Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar award**

- **Amitabh Bachchan**, was conferred with the **third Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar award** for his exemplary contribution to the country, people, and society.

**Key points:**

- The **Deenanath Mangeshkar Smriti Pratishthan** instituted the **Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar award after the death** of Bharat Ratna awardee and legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar on February 6, 2022.
- **Past recipients** of the award include **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and singer **Asha Bhosale**.
- **The Pratishthan decided to confer the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar award** for
  - **AR Rahman** for Music direction,
  - Marathi actor **Ashok Saraf** for music;
  - **Padmini Kolhapure** for films,
  - Singer **Roopkumar Rathod** for Indian music,
  - Actor **Atul Parchure** for Marathi theatre;
  - Retired teacher and author **Manjiri Phadke** for literature.
  - Actor, producer, and director **Randeep Hooda** was conferred with a special award for his cinematic contribution.
- The **Marathi play 'Galib'** will be given the **Mohan Wagh award** for **best drama**.
- **Deepstambh Foundation's Manobal project**, a residential training institute for

persons with disabilities, orphans, and economically weak students, will be **recognized for social service.**

**Maharashtra topped sugar production in country**

- As per **Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA)** latest data, **sugar production in Maharashtra**, the country's leading producing state of sweetener, **remained higher at 109.2 million tonnes.**

**Key points:**

- **India's sugar production reached nearly 311 lakh tonnes (lt)** up to April 15.
- Sugar production in **Maharashtra was up at 109.2 lt**, and in **Uttar Pradesh it was higher at 101.45 lt.**
- **Production in Karnataka was down at 50.60 lt**, in Gujarat it was down at 9.19 lt, and in **Tamil Nadu it was at 8.60 lt.**
- Other states including Bihar, Haryana, and Punjab have together produced 31.89 lt.
- The total sugar output across the country has reached 310.93 lt until April 15, **excluding the quantity diverted towards production of ethanol.**

**Violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) of DY CM**

- The **Election Commission (EC)** has ordered a **probe** into a **remark made by Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister, Ajit Pawar.**
- Ajit Pawar allegedly stated that he would stop funds to those who didn't vote for his wife, Sunetra Pawar, who is his party's candidate from Baramati.
- **The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) does not permit the offering of financial inducements to voters.**

**About the Model Code of Conduct (MCC):**

- The Model Code of Conduct is a **set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India to govern the behavior of political parties and candidates** in the run-up to elections.
- **Purpose:** To ensure that electoral contests are conducted fairly and to maintain the integrity of the democratic process.
- **Timing:** It comes into effect immediately after the election schedule is announced and remains in force until the conclusion of the elections.

- **Scope:** Applies to political parties, candidates, and all government bodies.
- **Role of Election Commission:** The **Election Commission (EC) monitors and enforces compliance with the MCC**. The EC can reprimand parties or candidates violating the MCC and take measures like withdrawing security detail or lodging complaints.
- **Complaints and Redressal:** Mechanisms are in place for individuals or parties to file complaints about MCC violations, which are then investigated by the EC.

#### Did you know?

- **cVIGIL** is a mobile application developed by the **Election Commission of India** to enable citizens to **report violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** during elections.

#### Asiatic wild dogs or Dhole

- **Two Asiatic wild dogs** were rescued from a 25-foot deep well in Malvan taluka, **Sindhudurg district**.
- The rescue operation was conducted by members of the forest department and lasted for about an hour.
- The Asiatic wild dog, **also known as Dhole in Marathi, is prohibited from hunting and falls under the endangered category.**

#### About Dhole:

- Dhole (**Cuon alpinus**) is a wild carnivorous animal, a member of the **family Canidae** and the **class Mammalia**.
- In India, they are **found in the Western and Eastern Ghats, central Indian landscape, and North East India.**
- Dhohes play an important role as **apex predators in forest ecosystems.**
- **Conservation Status:**
  - IUCN List of Threatened Species: **Endangered**
  - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (**CITES**): **Appendix II**
  - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule II**
- They may also be found in **small numbers** in the area of **Ladakh**.
- **Threats to the Population of Dhohes:**
  - Habitat Loss
  - Decreasing population of ungulates, their main prey, due to excessive hunting and habitat loss

- Persecution due to livestock predation and disease transfer from domestic and feral dogs

- **World Dhole Day** is celebrated annually on **May 28**.
- The **first World Dhole Conference** happened in February **2019**.
- The **Dhole conservation breeding centre** was sanctioned by the Government of India in 2014, in the **Indira Gandhi Zoological Park in Vishakhapatnam**.

#### Tadoba National Park and Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve

- The **tigress, known as NT3, was translocated from Tadoba National Park to Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) in Maharashtra.**
- The tigress removed her GPS collar, which led to a massive search operation.

#### About Tadoba National Park:

- Tadoba National Park, officially known as **Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, is one of India's oldest and most renowned national parks.**
- Located in the **Chandrapur district** of Maharashtra.
- Established in **1955**, Tadoba National Park is **named after the local tribal god worshipped by the tribal people, 'Tadoba' or 'Taru', and the river that flows through the area, the Andhari River.**
- It is renowned for its large population of Bengal tigers. Other key wildlife includes leopards, sloth bears, gaur (Indian bison), dhole (Indian wild dog), striped hyenas, jungle cats, sambar, and spotted deer.

#### About Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve:

- Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve is a significant protected area in **Maharashtra**.
- Located in the eastern part of the state in the **Gondia and Bhandara districts**.
- It was officially declared a tiger reserve in **2013**.
- It spans an area of about 656.64 square kilometers, combining the Navegaon National Park, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary, and several other forest areas into a single ecological unit.

#### Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR)

- The **Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR)** urging

### policy reforms for minority educational institutions.

- The MSCPCR emphasized the need for reform in the policy allowing private educational institutions to gain concessions through minority status.

### About Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR):

- The Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR) **established to ensure that all laws, policies, and programs are in alignment with the child protection rights** as enshrined in the Indian Constitution and the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**.
- The Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights was established in response to the **Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005**, which mandates the setting up of such commissions in every state in India.
- **Purpose:** Its primary purpose is to **monitor the implementation of laws and policies related to children** and ensure that state and private actions comply with these laws.
- While the **commission does not have the same powers as a civil court**, it is **entitled to summon and enforce the attendance of any person and examine them under oath**, demand the discovery of documents, receive evidence, and issue commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents.

### Smart voter slips

- **Jalgaon district** in Maharashtra has introduced **smart voter slips**, becoming the first in the state to do so.
- **Barcodes** have been installed at 250 public spots across the region, **allowing residents to access voter details by scanning with their smartphones**.

### Key points:

- The digital voter slip **serves as a confirmation of the voter's registration** and **provides essential information about where and when to cast their vote**.
- It will **help individuals have access to their serial numbers** in the voters' list and the **location of the polling station**.
- **Voters can check their details** using their registered names, phone number linked with an **Aadhaar card**, or their **voter ID card number**.

- The digital voter slips and online access to details aim to keep voters more informed and vigilant.

### World Heritage Day on Thursday at Panhala Fort

- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Mumbai Circle** celebrated **World Heritage Day at Panhala Fort**, located 20 kilometres north-west of **Kolhapur** and around 9 hours away from Mumbai.
- The **theme** for this year was **'Discover and experience diversity'**.
- A photo exhibition titled **'Maratha Military Landscapes'** was organised to **showcase the history and heritage of the fort**.

### Key points:

- **Panhala Fort** was **declared a monument of national importance** on January 2, 1954.
- Panhala Fort is one of the most **significant forts of Deccan**, perched atop a roughly triangular hill. It has a rich history, with the transfer of power in the hands of the **Yadavas of Devgiri**, the **Bahamani of Bidar**, the **Adilshahi of Bijapur**, the **Marathas** and the **Mughals**.
- The fort has several **water bodies and structures**, including a three-storied tower called the **Nayikinicha Sajja** or the dancing girl's tower, and the **Ambarkhana** which consists of **3 buildings** known as the **Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati**.

### Mumbai records the maximum temperature in last 10 years

- **Mumbai** experienced its **first heat wave of 2024** on April 16.
- **Santacruz Observatory** recorded a **maximum temperature of 39.7 degrees**, which is 6.3 degrees above normal.

### Key points:

- The **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** issued a heatwave warning for **Mumbai, Raigad, and Thane** for April 16 and 17.
- **The maximum temperature of 39.7 recorded by Santacruz is the highest in the last 10 years (2014 to 2023)**.
- This heatwave warning is issued for April 17 also. The winds in lower levels are predominantly easterly with an **anticyclonic circulation** in mid-levels.

### About anticyclonic circulation:

- Anticyclonic circulation refers to the **rotation of air around a high-pressure system**,

opposite to the direction of the Earth's rotation.

- This is **clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere** and **counterclockwise in the Southern Hemisphere**.
- In an anticyclone, **air descends from higher in the atmosphere to the surface**, typically bringing clearer skies and calmer weather. As the air descends, it warms, which inhibits **cloud formation and leads to mostly clear skies**. This type of weather pattern can lead to **very stable weather conditions**, including dry and warm weather depending on the season and the region affected.

### Sae Vitthal Patil won bronze at EGMO 2024

- A **four-member girls** team represented India at the **13th European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) 2024** and won **two silver and two bronze medals**.
- The team was **trained at Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI)**.

#### Key points:

- This is the **second time all four contestants of the Indian team secured medals at EGMO** since India's debut in 2015.
- The students are **Gunjan Aggarwal (17) from Gurugram, Sanjana Philo Chacko (15) from Thiruvananthapuram, Larissa (16) from Hisar, and Sae Vitthal Patil (17) from Pune**.
- **Gunjan and Sanjana won silver medals, while Larissa and Sae won bronze at EGMO 2024**.
- The objective of EGMO is to **inspire girls to participate in national and international STEM Olympiads**.
- Olympiads such as EGMO help shape the students' interest in the STEM fields and foster cultural exchange among teenagers worldwide. They do not lead directly to any career benefits.

### Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority (MahaRERA)

- Maharashtra's realty regulator receives pleas to de-register 279 housing projects.
- In February 2023, the **Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority (MahaRERA)** permitted the de-registration of housing projects.

#### About Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority (MahaRERA):

- The MahaRERA is a **statutory body established under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016** by the **Government of Maharashtra**.
- It came into effect on May 1, 2017, with the **primary goal of regulating and promoting the real estate sector in Maharashtra**, including the **union territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli**.

#### None of the Above (NOTA)

- The **Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition on NOTA**.
- The **PIL sought directions to the Election Commission (EC) to create awareness about the 'None of the Above' (NOTA) option in Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)**.

#### Key points:

- The Bench stated that the EC and the Maharashtra State Election Commission had already taken sufficient steps to create awareness about the NOTA option.
- The court noted that **'NOTA' is conspicuously mentioned in bold letters on the EVM**, and is available as the last option.
- The EC has published a manual on **Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)** in July 2020 and the SVEEP Strategy 2022-2025.

#### About None of the Above (NOTA):

- "None of the Above" (NOTA), **officially recognized in India**, is an option on **electronic voting machines and ballots, allowing voters to register a vote of rejection for all candidates running in an election**.
- It was **introduced to empower the electorate by providing them the ability to express their disapproval of the available candidates**.
- **NOTA was introduced by the Election Commission of India following a 2013 Supreme Court ruling that mandated its inclusion to uphold the right of voters to express their disapproval with the candidates presented**.

#### Think:

- Know about **Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)**.

#### Dand patta

- The **'dand patta' or gauntlet sword**, reportedly used by **Chhatrapati Shivaji**

**Maharaj** and other Maratha warriors, has been **declared as the state weapon of Maharashtra.**

- The announcement was made by Chief Minister at a function in the **Shivneri fort.**

#### About Dand patta:

- The 'dand patta' is a gauntlet that includes a **90-centimetre sharp blade attached to a glove-like metal extension** designed to fit the knuckles and back of the hand.
- Over the centuries, the 'dand patta' became a legendary weapon associated with the bravery and **martial traditions of Maratha warriors.**

#### 'Mangrove Clean-Up drive' on Sarsole Jetty along Navi Mumbai

- The **Environment Life Foundation (ELF)** started its '**Mangrove Clean-Up drive**' on Sarsole Jetty along Navi Mumbai.
- **ELF, in coordination with the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) and the forest department,** has collected about 450 tons of trash accumulated around mangroves from Nerul to Panvel.

#### About Mangroves:

- Mangroves are unique ecosystems that thrive in **coastal intertidal zones.**
- Mangroves are **salt-tolerant forest ecosystems found along coastlines, river mouths, and estuaries.**
- They are **prevalent in tropical and subtropical regions.**
- Mangrove trees have adapted to their saline environments with **specialized root systems,** such as **prop roots or pneumatophores,** which **help in stabilization and oxygen intake.**

#### India Meteorological Department (IMD)

- The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** issued a heatwave alert.
- The **alert is for eight districts** in Maharashtra: **Mumbai, Thane, Raigad, Palghar, Nashik, Jalgaon, Dhule, and Nandurbar.**
- **Malegaon has been the hottest zone in Maharashtra** so far, with a temperature of 43°C.

#### About India Meteorological Department (IMD):

- The **IMD** was established in **1875** under the British Raj and is **one of the oldest meteorological organizations in the world.**
- Its primary function is to provide **meteorological observations, weather**

**forecasts, and seismology reports.** It is an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** of the Government of India.

- The **headquarters** of IMD is located in **New Delhi, India.**

#### Professor Shireesh Kedare

- **Professor Shireesh Kedare** was appointed as the **director of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay.**
- He is an **Institute Chair Professor** from the **Energy Science and Engineering department** of IIT Bombay.

#### BMC to double property tax for shops without Marathi signboard

- The **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)** is planning to **double the property tax for shops and establishments** that have **not set up signboards in the Marathi language, effective from May 1.**
- The **BMC will cancel the license of the illuminated (glow sign) boards** that have not adhered to the **Devnagri script,** effective immediately.

#### Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR)

- The number of tourists visiting the **Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra** has doubled.
- It has doubled from 41,000 during the pre-Covid period (2020-21) to over 1 lakh visitors in 2023-24. This increase coincides with the **silver jubilee of the park.**

#### About Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR):

- Pench Tiger Reserve is located in the **southern part of the Satpura mountain ranges in Maharashtra, stretching into Madhya Pradesh.**
- It covers a large area and **features a mix of tropical moist, dry deciduous forest, and tropical dry deciduous forest.**
- Pench Tiger Reserve gained international fame as the setting for **Rudyard Kipling's** classic novel "**The Jungle Book,**" which features the fictional **Mowgli's adventures.**

### Chaitra Yatra of Jyotiba

- The **Chaitra Yatra of Jyotiba** which is celebrated annually in **Kolhapur, Maharashtra**.
- The procession of **Sasan-Kathis (huge decorated bamboo sticks)** commenced in the presence of Kolhapur district collector.

#### About Chaitra Yatra of Jyotiba:

- The deity of the temple, **Shri Jyotiba or Kedareshvar**, is believed to be an incarnation of **Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva**.
- According to legend, **Vishnu, Brahma, and Shiva** came together to incarnate as the deity **Jyotiba** who eventually **destroyed the evil demon Ratnasura**.
- **Jyotiba also helped Goddess Mahalakshmi**, the presiding deity of Kolhapur, in her fight with the demons.
- The **original temple was constructed by Navji Saya**, and the present temple was constructed by **Ranoji Shinde in 1730 AD**.

### India's first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) powered bus

- **Maharashtra has launched India's first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) powered bus**.
- The bus will be operated by the **Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC)**.

#### About LNG powered bus:

- **MSRTC plans to convert 5000 of its diesel vehicles to LNG alternative fuel vehicles in phases**.
- **MSRTC has signed an MoU with M/s Kings Gas** for the conversion of buses to LNG.

### Chief Minister Vayoshree Yojana

- The **Maharashtra government** has introduced a new scheme called the '**Chief Minister Vayoshree Yojana**' for **senior citizens**.
- The **scheme is set to benefit around 15 lakh senior citizens suffering from physical or mental disabilities**.

#### Key points:

- Under this scheme, **eligible citizens above the age of 65 will receive financial assistance of three thousand rupees**.

### Digital certificates initiative in Maharashtra

- **Maharashtra** is taking a significant step towards **digitization by using blockchain technology to issue certificates**.
- The **Maharashtra State Board of Skill Development** has decided to issue **blockchain-based certificates to students**.
- Around 10 lakh **digital certificates will be issued to diploma holders of eight educational years**.

#### Key points:

- The state government has **partnered with blockchain startup Zupple** and its blockchain-based application **LegitDoc** to issue tamper-proof digital documents.
- This system **can help issue and verify digital documents that can be verified from anywhere around the world, within seconds**.
- Zupple tied up with the Maharashtra government and started issuing blockchain "**caste certificates**" to up to **65,000 tribals in Gadchiroli** in a bid to stop fraudulent claims on government benefits for the disadvantaged.

### Maharashtra Mangrove Cell

- The **Maharashtra Mangrove Cell** has commissioned the **Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre (MRSAC)** to conduct a new **satellite-based survey of the mangroves along the state's coastline**.
- It aims to **understand the spread and destruction of mangroves**.

#### Key points:

- The survey will span two years and **cover seven coastal districts**:
  - Sindhurg,
  - Ratnagiri,
  - Raigad,
  - Thane,
  - Mumbai,
  - Mumbai Suburban, and
  - Palghar.

#### About Maharashtra Mangrove Cell:

- The Maharashtra Mangrove Cell is a **dedicated unit established by the Government of Maharashtra for the protection, conservation, and management of mangroves**.
- The Mangrove Cell was created on **5th January 2012**.
- It is the **first such state-wide unit in the country**.

- The Cell is headed by the Chief Conservator of Forests.

### SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education & Electoral Participation)

- The Nashik district in Maharashtra, India, has implemented measures to support blind voters in the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections.
- The District Election Office and the Nashik District SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education & Electoral Participation) Committee have been organizing a series of voter awareness rallies.

#### About SVEEP:

- SVEEP is a program designed by the Election Commission of India aimed at increasing voter education and participation, ensuring that all eligible citizens are informed and motivated to vote during elections.
- It was officially launched in 2009 to address the low voter turnout in Indian elections and to tackle the issues of electoral participation across various demographics.

#### National Association for the Blind, India (NAB):

- To further facilitate the voting process, ballot papers in Braille will be provided by the National Association for the Blind, India (NAB), enabling blind voters to cast their votes on electronic voting machines (EVMs) with ease.
- Braille numbers will also be affixed to the EVMs for tactile identification.

### Bengal Monitor Lizard Hemipenes and Soft corals

- 781 Bengal Monitor Lizard Hemipenes and 19.6 kg of soft corals were seized in Mumbai.
- The seizure was made by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)'s Mumbai zonal unit.

#### Key points:

- The endangered Bengal Monitor Lizards are found in Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan.
- The reproductive organ of a male monitor lizard is suspected to be illegally traded as a lucky charm/aphrodisiac by traffickers.
- Soft corals are trafficked for use in the aquarium trade, and some species are used

in traditional medicines and for extracting compounds for pharmaceutical potential.

### Maharashtra becomes first Indian state to buy land in Kashmir

- Maharashtra is set to become the first Indian state to buy land in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the construction of a tourist facility.

#### Key points:

- The facility, named Maharashtra Bhawan, will be constructed in central Kashmir's Budgam.
- This will be the first-ever state Bhawan in the valley.
- Before the abrogation of Article 370, only the permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir could buy land in the erstwhile state. However, the government could lease lands for up to 99 years to industries and people from outside.

### Ahmednagar becomes Ahilya Nagar, Maharashtra Cabinet approves name change

- The Maharashtra Cabinet has decided to rename Ahmednagar district as Ahilya Nagar after the 18th-century queen Ahilyabai Holkar.
- The proposal to rename the city was first announced by Maharashtra Chief Minister on the 298th birth anniversary of Ahilyabai Holkar.
- Earlier, the Maharashtra government changed the names of Aurangabad and Osmanabad to Chatrapati Sambhaji Nagar and Dharashiv, respectively.

### Eleven heritage sites from Maharashtra on its 'Must See Monuments' list

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has included eleven heritage sites from Maharashtra on its 'Must See Monuments' list.



### Maharashtra's 'Must See Monuments'

- 1) Ajanta Caves, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar
- 2) Ancient Buddhist Stupa, Mansar, Nagpur
- 3) Buddha Caves, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar
- 4) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Mumbai
- 5) Devgiri (Daulatabad) Fort, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar
- 6) Elephanta Caves, Mumbai
- 7) Verul Caves, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar
- 8) Fifteen temples at Lonar, Buldhana
- 9) Gavilgad Fort, Chikhaldara, Amravati
- 10) Pandava Caves, Nashik
- 11) Bibi ka Maqbara, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar

### Maharashtra's largest co-located hybrid initiatives

- **Mahindra** plans to invest ₹1,200 crore in a **150 MW hybrid solar and wind energy project in Maharashtra**.
- The project aims to generate **460 million kWh of clean energy**.
- This initiative marks the **entry of Mahindra Susten into the hybrid renewable energy sector**.
- The **focus** of the project is on **reducing 4,20,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions**.
- The **project** is set to be **one of Maharashtra's largest co-located hybrid initiatives**.

### Renaming of 8 Mumbai Railway Stations

- The **Maharashtra Cabinet** has **approved the renaming of 8 Mumbai Railway Stations**.
  - Curry Road has been renamed to Lalbaug.
  - Sandhurst Road has been renamed to Dongri.
  - Marine Lines has been renamed as Mumbadevi.
  - Cotton Green has been renamed to Kalachowki.
  - Charni Road has been renamed to Girgaon.
  - Dockyard Road has been renamed to Mazgaon.
  - King Circle has been renamed to Tirthakar Parshivnath.
- The cabinet has also decided to rename **Mumbai Central Station as Nana Jagannath Shankarsheth Station**.
- **A proposal for this has been sent to the Railways Ministry**.

### Pod taxi project

- The **Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority** has **approved the Pod Taxi project in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), Mumbai**.
- The approval was chaired by CM.
- The project aims to ease commuting for thousands with a **Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) system**.
- The **route covers 8.8 km** with 38 stations, **connecting BKC, Kurla, and Bandra stations**.
- The project follows the **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model**.

### Rashmi Shukla

- **Rashmi Shukla** is the **first woman Director General of Police (DGP) of Maharashtra**.
- She is a senior **Indian Police Service (IPS) officer**.
- She has previously **served in central roles**, including as the **Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**.
- She has also served as the **additional Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**.
- **She has been granted an extension till January 3, 2026**, from her initial retirement date in June 2024.
- A legal opinion was sought, citing Supreme Court rulings, to ensure a minimum 2-year term for DGP appointment.

Think:

- Know about Prakash singh case

### Ellora Ajanta International Festival 2024

- The **Ellora Ajanta International Festival 2024** is a significant event spanning over 3 days.
- The festival is **organized by the District Collector-Chatrapati Sambhaji Nagar**, in association with the **Directorate of Tourism, Government of Maharashtra**.
- The event **celebrates the art, architecture, and culture of the region**.
- A special focus of the festival is on the iconic **Ellora and Ajanta Caves**, which are **recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites**.
- The festival aims to **promote local tourism through the celebration of these cultural landmarks**.

### India's first Dark Sky Park

- Maharashtra's **Pench Tiger Reserve** has made history by becoming **India's first Dark Sky Park**.
- It has secured the **fifth position in Asia**.
- The **International Union for Conservation of Nature** recognizes the night sky as a vital natural, cultural, and historical resource.
- The establishment of 'Dark Sky Parks' is actively promoted by the **International Astronomical Union**.

### Overseas voters in India

- Maharashtra ranks **second in terms of overseas voters**.
- However, **Kerala is far ahead of all other states, including Maharashtra**, in this regard.

#### Key points:

- The **right to vote for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Indian citizens** was granted through a **pre-2010 amendment**.
- **Overseas electors can enroll in constituencies** that match their **Indian residential address specified in their passports**.
- Any changes in their overseas residential address, including those due to employment or education alterations, must be updated with the **Electoral Registration Officer (ERO)**.

### Atpadi Conservation Reserve

- A new reserve has been established that links the **Maini Conservation Area with the Maldhok Bird Sanctuary**.
- The Atpadi Conservation Reserve has been **set up to safeguard the habitat of various wildlife species including wolves, deer, foxes, and civets**.
- The reserve is **located in the Atpadi region of Sangli district**.

### BP Technical Solutions India

- **British Petroleum (BP)** has announced the **establishment of BP Technical Solutions India (BP TSI) in Pune, Maharashtra**.
- The aim of this initiative is **to enhance BP's global technical and engineering capabilities**.
- The **BP-owned center will provide high-quality services to both hydrocarbons and new energy businesses worldwide**.
- The center is expected to open in **Q2 2024**.

- **Molyama Kromah** has been appointed as the **Head of BP Technical Solutions India**.

### Light pollution

- The recent deaths of **flamingos in Navi Mumbai** have raised concerns among **environmentalists** and local authorities.
- **Light pollution is suspected to be one of the causes for these deaths**.

#### Key points:

- The **bright street lights around the water body could have blinded young flamingos flying into or out of the DPS Lake in Nerul**.

#### About Light pollution:

- Light pollution is the **presence of unwanted, inappropriate, or excessive artificial lighting in the environment**. It includes various types of light emissions such as **glare, skyglow, light trespass, and clutter**.
- **Many wildlife species depend on natural light patterns for navigation, foraging, and reproduction**. Light pollution can **disrupt these patterns, affecting behaviors such as migration and breeding**.

### Maharashtra Cow Service Commission Bill

- The **Maharashtra Cow Service Commission Bill** was **tabled** in the State Assembly.
- The **bill was announced** by Deputy Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis in the state budget**.

#### Key points:

- The bill aims at **promoting and protecting indigenous cattle breeds**.
- **Composition of the Commission:** The Maharashtra Cow Service Commission will be a **25-member body**. It will **comprise members from the Animal Husbandry and other governmental departments, as well as members from various universities and NGOs**.
- **Responsibilities of the Commission:** The commission will be responsible for **safeguarding indigenous cows, bulls, bullocks, and calves**. It will **promote rearing and breeding of indigenous cows and handle the registrations and overall supervision of cow shelters**.

## Maharashtra, first state to set up department for Divyang

- The Maharashtra state government recently approved the formation of a separate government department for the divyang (differently abled).
- This announcement was made on the International Day of Disabled Persons.

### Key points:

- Maharashtra is the first state in India to set up a separate department for Divyang (differently-abled).
- The department is established to serve the physically and mentally disabled people in the state, both educationally and professionally.
- The department seeks to ensure the welfare of the Divyangs and effectively implement various government schemes targeting them.

## Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC)

- The Union Ministry of Electronics and IT recently approved the greenfield Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) at Pune.

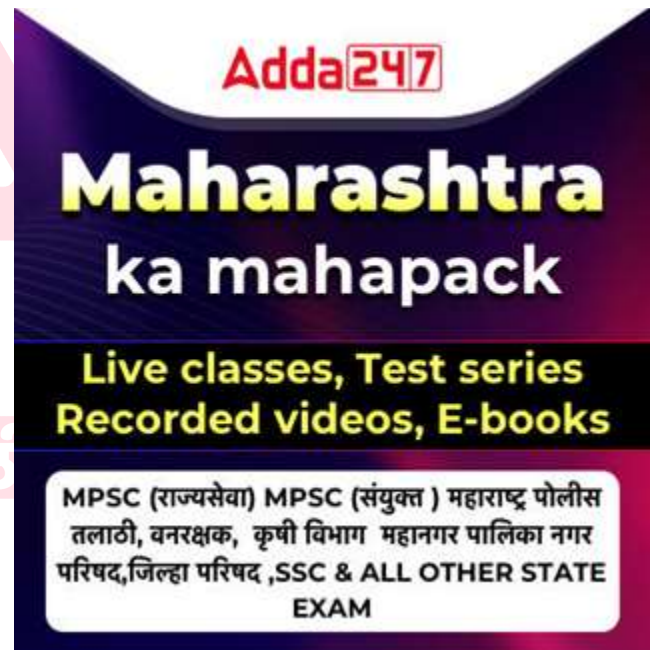
### Key points:

- An Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) is a manufacturing cluster designed to provide the necessary facilities and amenities for manufacturing electronic products like mobile phones, cables, etc.
- Maharashtra's first greenfield EMC project is to be established in Ranjangaon, near Pune.
- The Central Government's approval was given to Maharashtra's State Industrial Agency and Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC).

## Dahi Handi

- Dahi Handi has been given the status of a game in Maharashtra and will be considered a type of adventure sports.

- Govindas participating in Dahi Handi will receive benefits of government schemes, including a 5 percent reservation in government jobs.
- Insurance protection will be provided to Govindas. In case of an accident during Dahi Handi:
- If a Govinda dies, an amount of Rs 10 lakh will be given to the family members of the concerned Govinda as help.
- If a Govinda suffers a serious injury, such as losing both eyes, both legs, both hands, or any two important parts of the body, an amount of Rs 7.5 lakh will be given as help from the state government.
- If a Govinda loses an arm, a leg, or any part of the body in an accident, an amount of Rs 5 lakh will be given as help.



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