

Maharashtra Weekly Current Affairs 08 to 13 April 2024

Maharashtra State News

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.

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.

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.**

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:

- **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.

About:

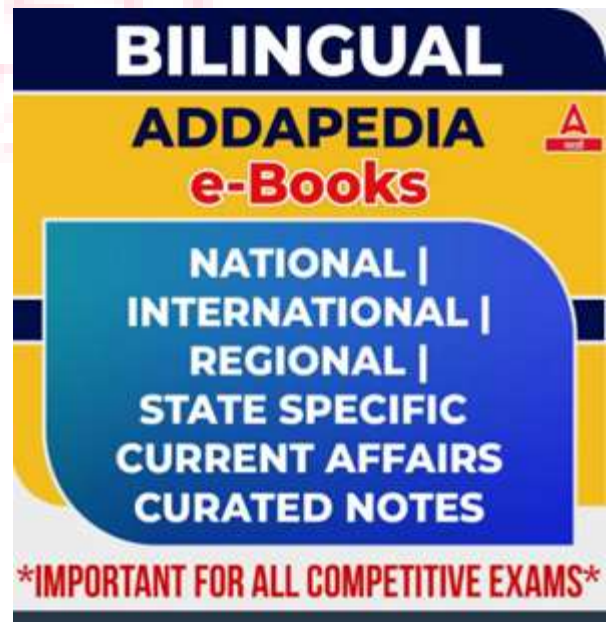
- It was on this day in 1965, a small contingent of CRPF created history by defeating an invading Pakistani army, several times larger, at the **Sardar Post located in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat.**
- The CRPF men eliminated 34 Pakistani soldiers and captured four alive.

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 (retired) Sunil Shukre**, forms part of the state's reply in HC to petitions raising a constitutional challenge to the 10% Socially



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:

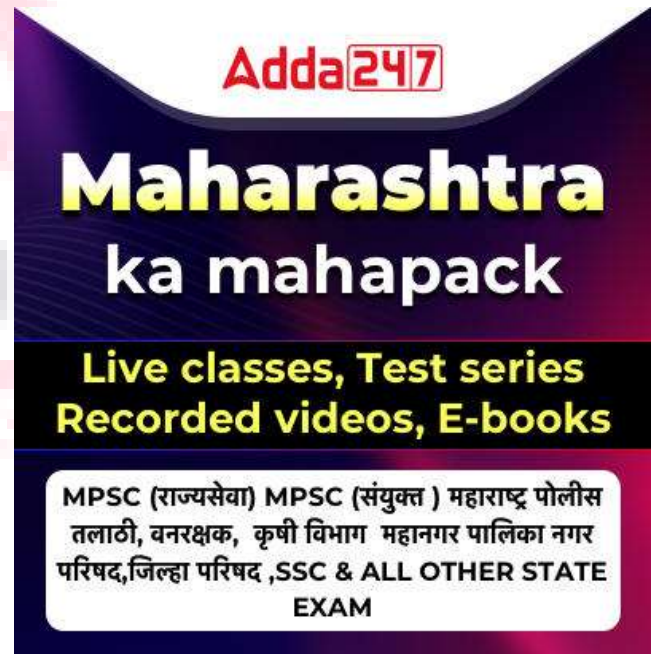
- This day aims to **educate the public about the Sikh religion** and combat prejudice against those who wear turbans.

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**.



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Maharashtra ka mahapack

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