



29 August 2024

Maharashtra State News

Geoglyphs	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Maharashtra government has declared 1,500 geoglyphs across 70 locations in a 210-square-kilometre area of the Ratnagiri district as a 'protected monument'. <p>About Geoglyphs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geoglyph: A geoglyph is a design drawn on the earth, typically using durable elements like stones, gravel, or earth.• Visibility: They are difficult to see from the ground but are easily appreciated from the sky.• Types of Geoglyphs:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Positive Geoglyph: Formed by arranging and aligning materials on the ground, similar to petroforms (outlines created using boulders).○ Negative Geoglyph: Created by removing part of the natural ground surface to reveal differently colored or textured ground, similar to petroglyphs.○ Arborglyph: A variation involving seeding plants in a special design, visible after years as the plants grow.○ Chalk Giants: Geoglyphs carved into hillsides, exposing the bedrock beneath.• Famous Examples: The Nasca lines in Peru and the horse and human figures in southern England, such as the Uffington White Horse and the Cerne Giant.
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Rajkot Fort	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Maharashtra government has formed a joint technical committee to investigate the collapse of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue at Rajkot Fort in Sindhudurg district. <p>About Rajkot Fort:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rajkot Fort is located around 3 km from its more famous counterpart, the Sindhudurg Fort.• Sindhudurg Fort, built by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, is situated on the south-western coast in the Arabian Sea.• Rajkot Fort is considered a subsidiary of Sindhudurg Fort, similar to Sarjekot.
Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), clarified that there is no ban on recruitment in scheduled areas of the states.• The recruitment under the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) (PESA) Act has been halted in Maharashtra. <p>About PESA 1996:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Its purpose is to ensure self-governance through traditional Gram Sabhas (village assemblies) for people residing in the Scheduled Areas of India.• These Scheduled Areas are specifically identified by the Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.• Extension of Part IX of the Constitution: The Act extends the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution (which relates to Panchayats) to the Scheduled Areas, subject to certain exceptions and modifications.• Gram Sabha Empowerment: Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas have special powers, especially concerning the management of natural resources.• Customary Law and Traditional Practices: State legislation on Panchayats in these areas must be in consonance with customary law, social and religious practices, and traditional resource management.• Gram Sabha Responsibilities: Gram Sabhas approve development plans, identify beneficiaries for poverty alleviation programs, and certify fund utilization by village-level Panchayats.



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- **Reservation of Seats:** Seats in Panchayats within Scheduled Areas are reserved in proportion to the population of different communities, with at least half reserved for Scheduled Tribes, including all Chairperson seats.

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