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Wildlife DNA Testing Lab

- **Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray** inaugurated India's 1st State government-owned **Wildlife DNA testing laboratory** at Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) in **Nagpur, Maharashtra.**
- At present, there are 2 central government-owned Wildlife DNA testing laboratories at Dehradun & Hyderabad.
- CM Uddhav Thackeray also launched **3 Fast Track DNA testing units** in Mumbai and Pune under the Central Government's **Nirbhaya Scheme to test human DNA samples.**
- The Labs will be exclusively dealing with cases registered under **Protection of Children From Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.**

Source: TOI

Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship

- **Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan** launched the **Phase-II of Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF)** under the **SANKALP programme.**

About Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF):

- It is a **two-year long fellowship** conceived to create opportunities for young, dynamic individuals to contribute to enhancing skill development at the grassroots.
- **MGNF Phase-I (Pilot):** Launched with IIM Bangalore as Academic Partner and 69 are Fellows currently deployed in 69 districts across 6 States.

- **MGNF Phase-II (National Roll Out):** Launched on 25th October with 661 MGNFs who will be deployed across all districts of the country.
- MGNF is an opportunity for young women and men in the age group of 21-30 years who already possess some level of academic or professional expertise.

Source: PIB

Oscars 2022

- **Tamil film Koozhangal (Pebbles),** directed by filmmaker PS Vinothraj, has been selected as India's official entry for the **94th Academy Awards (Oscars 2022).**
- Koozhangal is a realistic family drama produced by Nayanthara and Vignesh Shivan.
- If selected, the film will compete for the Academy Award for 'Best International Feature Film'.
- The 94th Academy Awards are scheduled to take place on March 27, 2022, in Los Angeles.

Source: HT

IPL 2022

- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** announced **Ahmedabad** and **Lucknow** as the 2 new teams for the **IPL** (**Indian Premier League) 2022**.
- The **Sanjiv Goenka's RPSG Group (RPSG Ventures Ltd.)** picked **Lucknow** as their home base with a winning bid of Rs 7090 crores while **CVC Capital Partners (Irelia Company Pte Ltd.)** have opted for **Ahmedabad** with a bid of Rs 5625 crores.
- IPL 2022 will now comprise 10 teams.

Source: India Today

Anita Anand

- **Indian-origin Canadian politician Anita Anand** was appointed as the new **Defence Minister of Canada** in the latest cabinet reshuffle by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.
- Ms. Anand (54 year old) will replace long-time Defence Minister Indian-origin Harjit Sajjan.

Source: The Hindu

75th Infantry Day

- The **75th Infantry Day** to commemorate the contributions of Infantry, the largest fighting arm of the Indian Army was celebrated on **27 October 2021.**
- This day has a unique significance for the Nation, as it was on this day in 1947 that Infantrymen from the Indian Army, led by 1 SIKH, landed at Srinagar Airfield and saved the State of J&K from a ruthless and treacherous Pakistani invasion.
- As part of the Infantry Day celebrations, a 'Wreath Laying' ceremony was held at National War Memorial to honour the fallen heros of the Infantry, who made the supreme sacrifice on various battlefields in service of the Nation.

Source: TOI

Maharashtra Municipal Corporation and Nagarpalika

- Due to the rapid increase in population in urban and semi-urban areas in the last ten years, a decision was taken in the state cabinet meeting to increase the number of corporators in all municipal corporations and municipalities in the state except Mumbai.
- At present there are 27 Municipal Corporations and 379 Municipalities - Nagar Panchayats in the state including Mumbai.
- Based on the census conducted every 10 years, the number of corporators in the corporation is determined by the urban development department in proportion to the population.
- At present the number of members in the corporation is minimum 65 and maximum 175.
- The number of members in the Municipal Council is minimum 17 and maximum 65.
- Mumbai Municipal Corporation has not increased its membership. The current membership of 227 in Mumbai will be maintained.
- The current number of corporators in the municipalities is based on the 2011 census data.
- Considering the average rate of population growth in the last ten years, the government has decided to increase the minimum number of members in Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils by an average of 17 per cent.

Municipal Corporation:

- 3 to 6 lakh population- minimum 76 & maximum 96
- 6 to 12 lakh population - minimum 96 - maximum 126
- 12 to 14 lakh population - minimum 126 - maximum 156
- 24 to 30 lakh population - minimum 156 - maximum 168
- Population over 30 lakhs - minimum 168 - maximum 185

Nagarpalika

- Class A - 40 to 75
- Class B - 25 to 37
- Class A - 20 to 25

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Source: Loksatta

Matoshri Gram Samrudhi Shet-Panand Road Scheme

- An important decision was taken in the cabinet meeting to implement 'Matoshri Gram Samrudhi Shet-Panand Road Scheme' for construction of farm roads and Panand roads in the villages of the state.
- According to the plan, 2 lakh km of roads will be constructed in the state.
- The concept of 'I am prosperous, village prosperous and village prosperous, my Maharashtra prosperous' is being implemented through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGA) and State Employment Guarantee Scheme with the objective of making farmers and villagers prosperous in the state.
- The scheme will enable construction of farm roads, panands which can be used by all farms for proper quality perennials.
- Each village needs an average of 5 km of farmland and paved roads. Thus, 2 lakh kilometers of roads will be constructed in the state.

Source: Loksatta

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