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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

22 November 2023

### Maharashtra State Specific News

**Maharashtra Forest Industrial Development Corporation (MFIDC)**

**Context:**

- Maharashtra is establishing the **MFIDC**, a dedicated government institution.

**Key points:**

- **Institution:** MFIDC is a new dedicated government institution being established in Maharashtra.
- **Inspiration:** Modeled after the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation.
- **Objective:** To explore business opportunities related to various forest yields.

**Advisory Committee:**

- A Government Resolution (GR) by the forest department on November 17 announced the formation of a multi-member advisory committee for the MFIDC.
- The committee will guide and shape the objectives and functioning of the MFIDC.

**Focus Areas of MFIDC:**

- Emphasis on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) like fruits, nuts, vegetables, medicinal plants, resins, essences, barks, and fibers.
- Special focus on establishing furniture clusters involving bamboo.

**Forest Area in Maharashtra:**

- The state has a significant forest area of 61,907 square kilometers, about 20% of its geographical area.
- Deputy Secretary of the forest department, Vivek Hoshing, underlines the necessity of strategic planning and exploring funding options for the MFIDC.



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<p><b>Rashtrapati ka Nishaan</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b> President Droupadi Murmu will present the prestigious '<b>President's Colour 'to the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC)</b> on December 1 for the <b>health services</b> they have provided to the <b>Indian armed forces over the last 75 years.</b></p> <p><b>Key facts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The President's mark, also known as the '<b>President's Colour</b>', is the <b>highest honor for any military unit.</b></li><li>• It is an insignia that all unit officers wear on the left sleeve of their uniform.</li></ul> <p><b>Getting the President's Mark means:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acknowledgment of meritorious service of the unit</li><li>• Recognition of battalion's feats</li></ul>
<p><b>India's largest township for workers</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b> <b>RAY Nagar Township is a Visionary Project for Unorganised Sector Workers</b></p> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Located in <b>Kumbhari</b>, 12 km from Solapur.</li><li>• RAY stands for <b>Rajiv Awas Yojana</b>, a Congress-era initiative.</li><li>• Phase 1 with 15,000 houses to be inaugurated in December by <b>Prime Minister Narendra Modi.</b></li></ul>
<p><b>Maharashtra Trans Harbour Link Inauguration</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b> <b>Considered to be India's longest sea bridge, is set to be inaugurated for public use by Dec 25.</b></p> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Also known as <b>Atal Bihari Vajpayee link.</b></li><li>• <b>21.8 km (13.5 mi)</b> 6-lane access-controlled expressway grade road bridge, which will connect <b>Mumbai with Navi Mumbai-Raigad</b>, its satellite city.</li><li>• The bridge will begin in <b>Sewri, South Mumbai</b>, will cross Thane Creek north of Elephanta Island, and will terminate at Chirle near Nhava Sheva.</li><li>• The road will be linked to the Mumbai-Pune Expressway in the east and to the under-construction Coastal Road in the west.</li></ul>



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### Committee to include Dhangars in ST list

#### Context:

- Maharashtra government forms a nine-member committee to study inclusion methodologies in ST category.
- Committee to visit Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Telangana for research.

#### Key Points:

- Nine-member committee led by IRS officer Sudhakar Shinde.
- Includes four non-governmental members.
- Tasked with submitting a report within three months.

#### Committee's Objectives

- Study methodology used in three states to include new castes in the ST category.
- Examine relevant provisions in the law.
- Collect necessary documents and details of any court cases.
- Hold discussions with representatives of non-ST castes to understand their perspectives.
- **Constitutional challenges cited, emphasizing the need for Dhangars to prove belonging to the Oraon tribe for ST inclusion.**

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