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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

26 March 2024

Maharashtra State Specific News

Monthly grant to World War-II veterans and war widows by Maharashtra Government.

Context:

- The State Department of Sainik Welfare **increases the monthly grant for World War II veterans from Rs 6,000 to Rs 11,000,**
- This will benefit around **16,000 war widows and 16 veterans in Maharashtra, aged in their 90s.**
- **This amount is the highest in the country.**

About:

- During World War II (WWII), the **British government recruited numerous Indian soldiers to fight on various global battlefields from 1939 to 1945.**
- Post-war, these soldiers were repatriated **without receiving any financial benefits or recognition.**
- **After India's independence, they were not granted ex-servicemen status or monetary assistance.**
- Other states like Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, and Uttarakhand provide monthly grants ranging from Rs 6,000 to Rs 9,000 to war veterans.
- **The government has implemented the decision since January.**



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Maharashtra Cash Crop Production Triples Under High Density Planting System (HDPS)

Context:

- Over **550 cotton farmers** from Nagpur and Wardha districts achieved a **threefold increase** in cash crop production.
- Implemented in Maharashtra during 2023-24, the **high density planting system (HDPS) pilot project** facilitated this surge.
- The central government offered a **₹16,000 per hectare incentive to encourage farmers to adopt HDPS**, aiming to boost production.
- Previously, Vidarbha farmers typically yielded 6-10 quintals of cotton per acre using conventional methods.
- Notably, a **30-year-old farmer from Wardha attained the highest yield of 19 quintals per acre.**

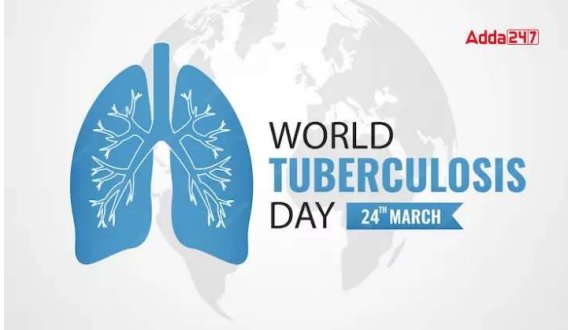
HDPS:

- HDPS was introduced in India by the **Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR)**, and it has shown promising results in various states, including **Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu.**
- High Density Planting System (HDPS) is an innovative cultivation method for cotton that aims to increase yield by optimizing the use of available resources such as land, water, and nutrients. The key features of HDPS include:
 - **Narrower plant-to-plant spacing**
 - **Compact cotton varieties**
 - **Higher plant population**
 - **Efficient resource use**
 - **Reduced weed pressure**



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World Tuberculosis day



Context:

- Every year on March 24th, **World Tuberculosis (TB) Day** is observed worldwide to raise awareness about the devastating health, social, and economic consequences of TB, and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic.
- This day commemorates the date in 1882 when **Dr. Robert Koch** announced his discovery of **Mycobacterium tuberculosis**, the bacteria that causes tuberculosis, a disease that still affects millions globally.

It aims to:

- **Raise Awareness:**
 - a. World TB Day serves as a platform to educate individuals, communities, policymakers, and healthcare professionals about the signs, symptoms, transmission, prevention, and treatment of tuberculosis.
- **Mobilize Resources:**
 - a. World TB Day mobilises resources from governments, international organisations, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders to support TB research, innovation, and implementation of evidence-based interventions aimed at ending the TB epidemic.
- **Empower Communities:**
 - a. Empowering communities and engaging affected individuals as advocates and agents of change are key components of TB control efforts. World TB Day encourages community involvement, active participation,
- **Promote Partnerships:**
 - a. Collaboration and partnerships among governments, non-governmental organisations, academia, communities, and affected individuals are essential to achieve the ambitious targets set for ending TB.

Theme:

- The theme for World Tuberculosis (TB) Day 2024 is “Yes! We can end TB!”



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Dr Pragya D Yadav is new director-in-charge at National Institute of One Health , Nagpur



Context:

- **Dr Pragya D Yadav**, senior scientist at the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology, **has been appointed the director-in-charge of the National Institute of One Health, Nagpur.**

About:

- Dr. Yadav, renowned for **research on communicable diseases and viral infections, including COVID-19, will oversee NIOH Nagpur** alongside her role at ICMR-NIV Pune.
- She played a pivotal role in **detecting India's first COVID-19 cases and led the team behind Covaxin, the country's first indigenous vaccine.**
- Dr. Yadav will wield administrative and financial authority as Director-in-Charge of **NIOH Nagpur, aligning with ICMR's efforts to enhance biosafety infrastructure nationwide through the PM-ABHIM program.**

Note:

- The National Institute of One Health (NIOH) focuses on interdisciplinary research at the intersection of human, animal, and environmental health.
- It aims to address global health challenges, promote collaboration between sectors, and develop holistic approaches to disease prevention and control.

Thane's Hariyali Lake



Context:

- **Thane's Hariyali Lake** is the source of pride for Chendani Koliwada residents.

About:

- **Hariyali Lake (meaning "greenery")** in Thane dries up in summer, but monsoons bring water that hides under a blanket of new plants. **This seasonal cycle inspired its name.**
- **The lake also supports a local fishery with 10-15 fish varieties sold in Wagle Estate.**
- **First Indian train used Thane's Hariyali Lake for water.**

Note:

- Under the **AMRUT 2.0 goal, beautification projects have been under progress.**
- Residents are concerned about water quality during **Thane's Hariyali Lake beautification and urge better maintenance.**
- They believe the lake has potential to be a water source after proper filtration.



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