



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

06 May 2024

Maharashtra State Specific News

Why in news?

 The Maharashtra forest department is preparing to translocate a few tigers from the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Chandrapur to Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (STR), the only tiger reserve in the state's western region.

About STR:

- STR is one of only five tiger reserves in India with zero tigers.
- The others are **Kaval in Telangana**, **Kamlang in Arunachal Pradesh**, **Dampa in Mizoram**, and **Satkosia in Odisha**.
- STR, spread over 1,165 sq km, straddles Kolhapur, Satara, Sangli, and Ratnagiri districts in western Maharashtra.
- The Maharashtra forest department is awaiting final approval from the Union Environment Ministry to tranquilise the tigers in TATR for the translocation process.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) cleared the translocation plan in October 2023.
- The translocation project aims to conserve tigers in the forests of the northern Western Ghats, which form a key wildlife corridor between Maharashtra and Karnataka.



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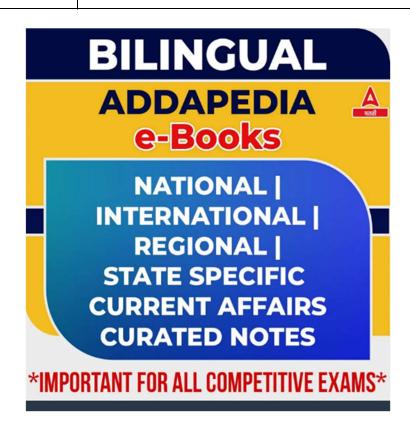
Onion export

Why in news?

- The Centre has lifted the ban on onion exports ahead of polling in Maharashtra's onion belt.
- The export policy of onions has been amended from 'prohibited' to 'free' with immediate effect.

Key points:

- The government has been urged to free exports entirely for farmers to get a reasonable return on their investment.
- The heat wave and early onset of summer have led to storage loss and affected the quality of the stored bulbs.
- The ban was enforced last December to boost domestic availability due to an estimated 20% decline in kharif and latekharif crops.
- The amendment was enacted under the powers conferred by Section 3 and Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation)
 Act, 1992, along with relevant provisions of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023.







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Electoral bonds

Why in news?

 Nagpur Municipal Corporation faces allegations for favoring Electoral Bond Megha Engineering.

About Electoral bonds:

- Electoral bonds are a financial instrument introduced by the Indian government to provide a legal and transparent mechanism for individuals and corporations to contribute to political parties.
- Electoral bonds are interest-free bearer bonds or money instruments that can be purchased by companies and individuals in India from authorised branches of the State Bank of India (SBI).
- These bonds are sold in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore.
- They can be **purchased through a KYC-compliant account** to make donations to a political party.
- There is no cap on the number of electoral bonds that a person or company can purchase.
- The government brought in amendments to four Acts to introduce the Electoral Bond Scheme via the Finance Act of 2016 and 2017.
- The Supreme Court struck down the Electoral Bonds Scheme of 2017, holding it to be unconstitutional.





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Flamingo Lake	 Why in news? The Flamingo Lake in Nerul, Navi Mumbai, which has gone dry due to alleged negligence by the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO). The DPS Flamingo Lake in Nerul, protected by a Bombay High Court judgment.
	 About Flamingo Lake: Location and Size: DPS Lake, also known as Flamingo Lake, is a 30-acre wetland located in Nerul, Navi Mumbai. It's a significant site for biodiversity within the region. Conservation Efforts: The Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) has committed to conserving the area, particularly in response to its status as a crucial habitat for flamingos and other migratory birds. Flamingo Population: The lake is a notable destination for flamingos, with counts from the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) indicating that as many as 5,000 flamingos have landed at the site during peak migration periods.
Kshitij Zarapkar	Why in news? • Kshitij Zarapkar, a renowned actor in the Marathi film industry, passed away.
	 About Kshitij Zarapkar: Zarapkar had been a part of several Marathi films, including Gola Berij, Thenga, Ekulati Ek, Ideachi Kalpana, and Baalgandharva. Apart from acting, he was also a director and a writer. He also wrote many articles for the Marathi newspaper Saamana.

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