

**Maharashtra Weekly Current Affairs 30 October to 05 November 2023**

**Maharashtra State News**

**CPCB orders 45 of 105 Maharashtra sugar units shut**

**In News:**

- In a major setback to sugar barons in the state, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has ordered closure of 45 cooperative sugar factories in Maharashtra for blatant violation of the Environmental Protection Act.

**Key points:**

- Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has issued closure directions to the non-complying sugar industries under section 5 of the Environmental Protection Act
- It was done on account of non-installation/non-connectivity of Online Continuous Emission/Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) or for non-compliance with the notified standards/other shortcomings observed during inspections conducted by CPCB.

**What is CEMS?**

- Continuous emission monitoring system (CEMS) is a real time air and water pollution monitoring system.
- It is a system that comprises sampling, conditioning, and analytical components and software that is designed to provide direct, real time, continuous measurements of pollution by analyzing representative samples of air and water.
- It is an important tool for pollution monitoring, control and reporting.
- The system ensures data accuracy, higher monitoring frequency, minimal manual intervention, firm regulatory monitoring and better transparency to strengthen the pollution control regime.

**Idol of Lord Ram to be installed at Ayodhya temple**

**In News:** Idol of Lord Ram to be installed at Ayodhya temple on Jan 22: Mohan Bhagwat

- RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said that the idol of Lord Ram will be installed at the Ayodhya temple on January 22.

**Key Points:**

- He added that on that day, Indians can organize programmes at the temples across the country to celebrate.

- Bhagwat also said that the world is today looking at India to overcome its problems.

**October records third-highest temperature in a decade**

**Context:**

- Saturday witnessed Mumbai experiencing its highest daytime temperature of the season at 37.4 degrees, ranking as the third-highest October daytime temperature in the past decade
- In 2018, the highest October temperature reached 38 degrees on October 29, while in 2015, daytime temperatures reached a scorching 38.6 degrees on October 17.
- Weather officials attributed this temperature rise to a delayed sea breeze and the influence of Cyclone Tej, which formed in the Arabian Sea, further contributing to the delay in the onset of the sea breeze.

**GRP to launch safety app for women**

**In News:**

- Government Railway Police (GRP) has tied up with a women's app called the Coto Community, urging them to express their views on security issues and experiences within an ecosystem of fellow women travelers on the app.

**Key Points:**

- Women experience incidents of chain-snatching, harassment, or eve-teasing;
- In order to provide them with a safe space and strengthen their security, the GRP will launch women's app called the Coto Community
- The programme, named 'Sakhi in Khaki', aims to bring the women in the city to consider railway police women personnel as their 'sakhis' (friends) and express their safety concerns and the unpleasant experiences they face while commuting by local trains.

**Parents concerned as APAAR ID consent form requires students' personal information**

**In News:**

- Parents have raised concerns about the consent forms of the new Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) student identity system as it requests that parents grant access to students' personal information, including their name, address, age, date of birth, gender, and photograph, to educational institutions and

recruitment agencies.

#### Key Points:

- The state has mandated that schools seek parental consent for the creation of APAAR IDs.
- The unique student identity system is part of the central government's ambitious "One National, One Student" project.
- These IDs are designed to track students' educational progress, achievements, and personal details.

#### City's AQI continues to be 'moderate', 7 of 23 stations record 'poor'

**In News:** A majority of the city's air quality monitoring stations continued to record 'moderate' air pollution levels with seven of 23 locations experiencing 'poor' air.

#### Key Points:

- An AQI level between 101 and 200 falls under the 'moderate' category, and from 201-300 is categorized as 'poor'.
- Environmentalists and meteorologists have attributed the drop in air quality levels to natural factors such as early monsoon withdrawal this year and low wind speed that is essential to the dispersal of pollutants, as well as anthropogenic activities in the form of large-scale construction across the city, vehicular exhaust emissions and resuspension of road dust.

#### Think:

- Read about AQI.

#### MahaMADAT app to assess drought

**In News:** MahaMADAT app to assess drought faulty: BJP MLA Gore

#### Key Points:

- The assessment of drought is done through Maharashtra Monitoring and Assessment of Drought Using Advanced Technology (MahaMADAT)
- It is the remote sensing application developed by the state government jointly with the National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad and Maharashtra Remote Sensing Applications Centre.
- The state government had told the district administrations to carry out 'ground-truthing' in 42 tehsils of Maharashtra to declare them as Trigger 2 drought.

#### About MahaMADAT:

- MahaMADAT is a web-based geo-portal developed by the Maharashtra Remote Sensing Applications Centre (MRSAC)
- Aim is to provide real-time monitoring and assessment of agricultural drought in Maharashtra.
- The portal uses a variety of data sources, including remote sensing data, meteorological data, and agricultural data, to generate drought maps and other products that can be used by farmers, government officials, and other stakeholders to make informed decisions about drought management.

#### Nerul lad breaks Asian pyraminx cubing record

**In News:** 11-year-old Nerul lad breaks Asian pyraminx cubing record

- 11-year-old Imaad Sohel Ajani from Navi Mumbai becomes the first Asian record holder in unscrambling a Pyraminx Cube, with a time of 1.02 seconds.

#### Key Points:

- He aims to break the world record of 0.75 seconds.
- The Asian Pyraminx is a 4-sided puzzle similar to the Pyraminx, but with a different shape and mechanism.
- The Asian Pyraminx is also known as the Chinese Pyraminx, the Japanese Pyraminx, or the Korean Pyraminx.
- The Asian Pyraminx is made up of four layers, with each layer containing four triangular pieces.
- The goal of the puzzle is to twist and turn the layers until all of the pieces are in the same position, with the same color on each side.

#### Temple caves older than the Elephanta discovered in Ratnagiri

**In News:** Temple caves older than the Elephanta discovered in Ratnagiri

- A professor of ancient Indian history and his team of researchers have discovered two rock-cut Shaivite temple caves in a forested area near Rajapur, Ratnagiri.

#### Key Points:

- These rock-cut caves of the Shaiva sect are present around 8km from Rajapur town.
- A similar cluster of such Shaivite caves were earlier discovered in the Cazule area of south Goa.

- The monolithic-cut laterite cave temple was created sometime around 5th or 6th century CE, and so are even older than the Elephanta caves.

#### About Elephanta Caves:

- The Elephanta Caves are a collection of rock-cut cave temples predominantly dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva.
- They are located on Elephanta Island (also known as the Island of Gharapuri), in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.
- The caves are thought to have been carved out between the 5th and 8th centuries CE
- The caves are divided into two groups: the west group (Caves 1-5) and the east group (Caves 6-7).
- The west group is the more important of the two groups, and contains the most impressive sculptures, including the famous Trimurti sculpture of Shiva.

#### PCMC wins award for The City with the Best Non-Motorized Transport System

**In News:** PCMC gets award from urban ministry

- The Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) has received the award for 'The City with the Best Non-Motorized Transport System' at the Urban Mobility India Conference 2023 hosted by the ministry of housing and urban affairs.

#### Key Points:

- The event was held in Delhi where the civic body was awarded for Non-Motorised (NMT)-friendly Pimple Saudagar Neighbourhood Project.

#### About Urban Mobility India Conference 2023:

- The Urban Mobility India Conference (UMI) is an annual event that brings together policymakers, practitioners, and experts from around the world to discuss and collaborate on the future of urban transportation in India.
- The 2023 UMI Conference was held in New Delhi from October 27-29, 2023.
- The theme of Urban Mobility India Conference 2023 was "Integrated and Resilient Urban Transport."

#### MH govt plans to make the state drought free

**In News:** To make Maharashtra drought-free: Fadnavis seeks PM's help to expedite river-linking projects

- Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's help to expedite the ambitious river-linking water projects to make Maharashtra drought-free.

#### Key Points:

- During Modi's visit to Ahmednagar, Fadnavis raised the issue of drought in parts of Maharashtra.
- Almost 50 per cent Maharashtra is drought-prone.
- Elaborating on two mega projects that the state government has been working on, Fadnavis said, "One of the projects envisages diverting Konkan River water into Godavari basin. The water can help in overriding drought in Marathwada and North Maharashtra," he said.

#### Thane bags 'Best Station for Cleanliness Shield'

**In News:** Thane bags 'Best Station for Cleanliness Shield'

- Thane, which is one of the most crowded railway stations on the Mumbai division of the Central Railway (CR), has bagged the 'Best Station for Cleanliness Shield'.

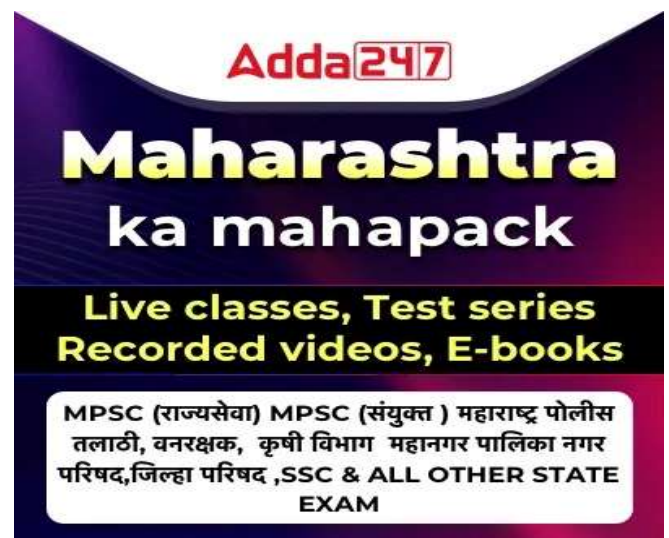
#### Key Points:

- The station that witnesses a footfall of nearly six lakh passengers daily was chosen for the 'Best Station for Cleanliness Shield' for 2022 under the non-suburban grade 1 to 4 categories.

#### Central Railway (CR) will implement flexible working hours

**Context:**

- Central Railway (CR) will implement flexible working hours for its staff in the Mumbai division.
- This makes CR the first central government organization to start such an initiative.
- This will benefit employees to avoid peak hours for traveling by trains from their residences to CSMT.



**Adda247**

# Maharashtra ka mahapack

**Live classes, Test series  
Recorded videos, E-books**

**MPSC (राज्यसेवा) MPSC (संयुक्त) महाराष्ट्र पोलीस तलाठी, वनरक्षक, कृषी विभाग महानगर पालिका नगर परिषद, जिल्हा परिषद, SSC & ALL OTHER STATE EXAM**

## Thallium as a murder weapon

### Context

In Mahagaon village in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra, two women allegedly killed five family members by lacing their food with poison in the form of thallium.

### About thallium

- It is a chemical element with the atomic number 81, was discovered by Sir William Crookes in 1861.
- It is a soft, heavy, inelastic metal.
- Thallium is tasteless and odourless and has been used by murderers as a difficult-to-detect poison.
- Appearance: A soft, silvery-white metal that tarnishes easily.

### Sources:

- It is found in trace amounts in the earth's crust.
- It is found in several ores. One of these is pyrites, which is used to produce sulfuric acid. Some thallium is obtained from pyrites, but it is mainly obtained as a by-product of copper, zinc and lead refining.

### Uses of Thallium

- Thallium's utilization is restricted due to its toxic nature.
- Thallium sulfate, once a rodent killer, is now banned for household use in many developed nations.
- It finds application in the electronics industry for photoelectric cells.
- Thallium oxide is used to create high-refraction glass and low-melting glass.
- It is also used in the manufacturing of low temperature thermometers, and imitation jewels.

### Health Hazards:

- Thallium can damage the nervous system causing headaches, weakness, and irritability. Repeated exposures can cause tremors, hallucinations, coma and death.

## UGC has announced a draft of a new policy

### In News:

- Higher education institutions across the country will have to publish information such as syllabus, fee structure, fee refund policy, hostel facility, scholarship, ranking, rating category on the website, UGC announced in a draft of a new policy

### Key Points:

- The draft of Minimum Mandatory Disclosure was approved in the 572nd meeting of UGC.

- This draft has been opened for objection suggestions and it has been clarified that a deadline of 15 November has been given for it.
- Under the National Education Policy 2020, emphasis has been placed on effective use of technology, transparent disclosure of information for efficient and transparent work of higher education institutions.
- However, it has been seen that the websites of higher education institutions are not updated and minimum information is not available on them

### About National Education Policy 2020:

#### Key Points:

- The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) is a comprehensive framework for education in India.
- It was approved by the Union Cabinet on 29 July 2020 and replaces the previous National Policy on Education, 1986.
- The NEP 2020 aims to transform India's education system into a world-class system that is rooted in Indian ethos and values.
- It is based on the five guiding pillars of access, equity, quality, affordability, and accountability.
- The NEP 2020 makes a number of key changes to India's education system, including:
  1. Changing the school education structure from 10+2 to 5+3+3+4, with a focus on early childhood care and education (ECCE) and foundational literacy and numeracy.
  2. Introducing a flexible curriculum that allows students to choose subjects across streams and to pursue multiple pathways of learning.
  3. Promoting multilingualism and Indian languages.
  4. Increasing the focus on vocational education and skill development.
  5. Strengthening teacher education and professional development.
  6. Improving the quality of research and innovation in education.

## More than 50 species of migratory birds at dams and lakes in Gondia district

### In News:

- Four months stay of more than 50 species of migratory birds at dams and lakes in Gondia district

- The arrival of migratory birds has started in Gondia district due to increasing cold.

#### Key points:

- Due to this, the enthusiasm of the bird lovers and the beauty of the dams and lakes have started to increase.
- These birds travel by keeping in mind the favorable environment and the availability of desired food.
- Migratory birds travel thousands of kilometers to come here in November, December and January, while their return journey begins from Vasant Panchami.
- Migratory birds include Greylock Goose, Common Pochard, Red Crested Pochai, Malai, Gargany, Arctic Tern, Siberian Stork, Black-tailed Godwit, etc.

#### Did you Know?

- Gondia district is widely known as the district of lakes.

#### About Crop Demonstration Scheme:

##### Key Points:

- A crop demonstration scheme is a program that provides farmers with the opportunity to see and learn about new agricultural technologies on their own farms.
- This is done by setting up demonstration plots on farmers' fields, where new technologies are used to grow crops.
- Crop demonstration schemes are typically implemented by government agencies, agricultural research institutions, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- **The goals of these schemes include:**
  - To introduce farmers to new and improved agricultural technologies
  - To demonstrate the benefits of using these technologies
  - To provide farmers with hands-on experience in using these technologies
  - To encourage farmers to adopt these technologies on their own farms

#### 'Hirkani Kaksh' made mandatory in all commercial and private buildings

**In News:** The state urban development department has planned to make it mandatory for all new commercial, educational, mercantile, assembly, public, semi-public, and institutional buildings to have a 'Hirkani Kaksh'

##### Key Points:

- It is a room for lactating mothers and mothers having children up to six years.
- Hirkani Kaksh is named after 'Hirkani' a milkmaid from Raigad in the 17th century.
- The first of its kind was set up in the Maharashtra assembly, when NCP MLA Saroj Ahire, with her child, came to attend the winter session in Nagpur.
- Upon seeing her, there was a great demand to set up a Hirkani room in the assembly.

#### 'Ajat' community

##### In News:

- The history of the 'Ajat' community in the district has come into discussion in the backdrop of the ongoing Maratha reservation movement.

##### Key Points:

- A community of Mangrul Dastgir village is known as 'Ajat', whose caste is not mentioned in any certificate such as birth, death, school, agriculture.
- However, this 'Ajat' community has faced conflict in the name of caste.

#### About Ajat Community:

- The Ajat community is a tribal community in the state of Maharashtra, India.
- They are also known as Adivasis or Vanvasis, which means "original inhabitants" or "forest dwellers."
- The Ajats are one of the largest tribal communities in Maharashtra, with a population of over 2 million people.
- The Ajats are a semi-nomadic community, and they traditionally rely on hunting, gathering, and agriculture for their livelihood.

#### Invitation to the University of Wales for youth MLAs

**In News:** Invitation to the University of Wales for youth MLAs from various parties in the state

- The Wales tour for youth MLAs is organized from November 19 to 25, courtesy of a national English newspaper in the country.

##### Key Points:

- Getting an invitation from a prestigious university like Wales is an honor.
- The University of Wales, England, which completed two hundred years of its establishment last year, has organized a workshop on Good Governance and Public Policy.
- The initiative is designed with the aim of developing value-based and sustainable leadership to address various global challenges.

#### State cabinet declares drought in 40 talukas in



## Maharashtra

**In News:** State cabinet declares drought in 40 talukas in Maharashtra

### Key Points:

- MH CM and Deputy CM have instructed a cabinet sub-committee, chaired by the Relief and Rehabilitation Minister, to expeditiously assess and declare drought-like conditions in remaining talukas facing insufficient rainfall.
- The Relief and Rehabilitation Department presented vital data during the cabinet meeting, considering mandatory and effective indices outlined in the Drought Management Code of 2016.
- This year, Maharashtra has experienced a notable 13.4 percent reduction in rainfall.

## 'Drone' focus on MNREGA works; Central Government orders to all states

### Context:

- The central government has decided to monitor MNREGA works through drones.
- The District Grievance Redressal Officer has to inspect the works through drones in case of complaints about Rohyo works.
- The 'Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme' (MNREGA) will monitor the work being done in rural areas through drones.

## Kas flower festival

### In News:

- The Kas Flower Festival ended 15 days earlier this year because of lack of rainfall at the end of September and the beginning of October
- The festival otherwise stays for two months, but it was only 43 days this year.

### About Kas flower festival:

- The Kas Flower Festival is an annual event that celebrates the blooming of over 850 species of wildflowers on the Kas Plateau in Maharashtra, India.
- The festival typically takes place from September to October, but the exact dates vary each year depending on the monsoon rains.
- The Kas Plateau is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is home to a unique ecosystem that supports a wide variety of plant and animal life.
- The wildflowers that bloom on the plateau are particularly diverse and colorful, and the festival is a great opportunity to see them up close.

## Adivasis get community center in Belapur, a first in the

## city

### Context:

- The local tribal community in Belapur has a reason to rejoice as the small community has been blessed with an Adivasi Bhavan, the first of its kind in Navi Mumbai.
- The Bhavan is being built at a cost of Rs 25 lakh on 1,000 square feet plot adjacent to the civic ground in sector 8, near Artist Village of Belapur.
- The tribal community will be able to hold various programmes like marriages, festivals, exhibitions, gatherings etc besides daily recreational activities.

## Distribution of 'Loksatta Durga Awards'

**In News:** Sai Paranjpe's Lifetime Achievement; Distribution of 'Loksatta Durga Awards'

- Veteran director, playwright and screenwriter Sai Paranjpe will be conferred with this year's 'Loksatta Durga Lifetime Achievement Award'.

### Key Points:

- She will be felicitated with this award at the 'Loksatta Durga Award' distribution ceremony to be held in Dadar.
- On this occasion, nine Durgas who have been 'unusual among the common' will be honored and entrepreneur and Vice Chairman of Piramal Group Dr. Swati Piramal, retired Justice Mridula Bhatkar and renowned classical singer Aarti Anklekar will be present.

### About Loksatta Durga Awards:

- The Loksatta Durga Awards are a set of annual awards **presented by the Marathi newspaper Loksatta to nine women** from different fields who have made significant contributions to society.
- The awards are **presented during the Navratri festival**, and the recipients are known as the "Navdurga" (nine Durgas).
- The Loksatta Durga Awards were **first presented in 2014**, and they have since become **one of the most prestigious awards for women in India**.
- The awards are given to women from a wide range of fields, including education, healthcare, social work, business, and the arts

## Lek Ladki Yojana:

### Context

Poor girls in the state will get a gift of Rs one lakh.

### Key Features

- Aim increases the birth rate of girls by encouraging the birth of girls, promote the education of girls, reduce the death rate of girls and prevent child

marriage, reduce malnutrition, reduce the number of out-of-school girls to zero.

- Implementation of the scheme through the Integrated Child Development Service Scheme Commissionerate.
- Applicable to one or two daughters born on or after 1st April 2023 in yellow and orange ration card holder families.
- About two and a half lakh girls in the state will get the benefit of this scheme through direct beneficiary transfer DBT
- Mandatory for the mother and father to submit the family planning certificate after second child.

### Lahuji Vastad Salve

#### Context

The state government to build memorial to revolutionary Lahuji Vastad Salve at Sangamwadi.

#### Key facts

- State Department of Social Justice and Special Assistance sanctioned Rs 81 crore for the construction of a memorial.
- The memorial includes a mausoleum of Lahuji Vastad Salve, gathering space, administrative building, auditorium for audio video presentation, four-storied academic block, seven-storied boys and girl's hostel.

#### About Lahuji Vastad Salve

- He was born into Mang community near Purandar in the Maharashtra state of India.
- He was the Mang mentor of the Vasudev Balwant Phadke
- He is also referred to as "Lahujibuwa Mang".
- Lahuji also taught martial arts to Some of the most prominent revolutionaries of that time Jyotiba Phule, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Vasudev Balwant Phadke.

### 95 species of butterflies Found in Ratnagiri

#### Context

In Ratnagiri district kundi village scientists have found 95 species of butterflies

#### Key points

- Information about finding has been published in the international journal 'Bioinfolet'
- Kundi village is located near the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, nestled in the valley of Mahimat Fort in Ratnagiri district.
- Butterfly species, including rare ones like Abnormal Silverline, Malabar Banded Peacock, and

Black Raja. The discovery of the 'Abnormal Silverline' butterfly, previously considered extinct, is particularly noteworthy.

- It is considered as an indicator of good environmental conditions.
- findings are crucial for the conservation of the area.