

# ज्ञानकोश

मासिक चालू घडामोडी  
(महाराष्ट्र राज्य)

MPSC, आणि सरळ सेवा भरतीसाठी  
ZP, आदिवासी विभाग, राज्य उत्पादन शुल्क, WRD आणि इतर स्पर्धा  
परीक्षांसाठी उपयुक्त



दूरसंचार विधेयक 2023

बेटिंग, गेमिंगवर 28 टक्के जीएसटी

मुंबईतील हवेची गुणवत्ता सुधारली

गालगुंडाचे दुर्मिळ दुष्परिणाम नोंदवले गेले

GN1 कोरोना

बिहारची पकडवा विवाह प्रथा

RBI ने UPI पेमेंट मर्यादा वाढवली

कुडनकुलम अणुऊर्जा प्रकल्प

## Maharashtra State News

### 40 thousand years old stone tools found

#### Context:

- Ongoing 10-year research on Katal Shilp Konkan in Ratnagiri reveals stone weapons in Malvan, Rajapur, Ratnagiri from **Mid-Paleolithic to Mesolithic era (40 to 10k BC)**.

#### Key Points:

- According to the **changes in stone tools over time**, their **shapes, methods, and techniques** of manufacture are determined by their periods.
- With the help of these stones, the Early man started **hunting, cleaning the meat of dead animals, tearing etc.**
- The **stone carvings** of Konkan are evidence of the approximate number of years that **human habitation existed here**.
- Stone tools from the **Middle Paleolithic to Mesolithic periods** found in the carving research provide insight into the evolution of tools and approximate **human habitation duration in Konkan**.

### President Murmu redflags AI misuse to create deep fakes

#### Context:

- **President Droupadi Murmu** red-flagged the **misuse of artificial intelligence (AI)** for creating deep fakes and emphasized on the need to channelise technology for betterment of humanity.
- **Deep Fakes** are a type of **artificial intelligence (AI)** that **uses machine learning** to create synthetic media, such as videos, images, and audio.
- Deepfakes **use AI to morph videos and images** of people to impact their reputation.
- Deep Fakes are **created by using a technique called deep learning**.

### Mahaparinirvana Divas

#### Context:

- On the occasion of **Babasaheb Ambedkar's 66th death anniversary** i.e. **Mahaparinirvana Day**, Mumbai Traffic Police has issued traffic restrictions in Dadar
- It is done in view that a sea of people will flow to pay homage to Babasaheb and will visit **Chaityabhoomi** in Dadar.
- Mahaparinirvan Divas is observed on **December 6th** every year
- He was a prominent **Indian jurist, economist, social reformer, and political leader**.

- He was instrumental in India's constitution and advocated for the rights of Dalits and other marginalized communities.

### PM Modi to attend Navy Day function in Sindhudurg

#### Context:

- **PM Modi** visited **Sindhudurg** district to attend **Navy Day** celebrations, marking **victory of Indian Navy in 1971 war**.
- He will also **unveil a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**.

#### About:

- Sindhudurg is a coastal district in the southwestern part of Maharashtra.
- It is the southernmost district of the state, bordering Goa.
- The coastline of Sindhudurg is about 120 kilometers long.
- Sindhudurg has been chosen as the venue for Navy Day celebrations this year to celebrate the **350th year of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's coronation**; Shivaji had his own navy and Sindhudurg was one of the **best sea forts**.

#### Did you Know?

- **December 4** is celebrated as **Navy Day**

It marks the **victory of the Indian Navy during 1971 India-Pak war**.

### 46.6% year-on-year drop in water storage

#### Context:

#### As per report:

- **Water storage in 11 irrigation projects** in Marathwada has **decreased by 46.6%** compared to the previous year,
- **Insufficient rainfall** this year has resulted in a significant decline in water storage
- It is **currently standing at 50.5%**, in contrast to the 97.14% recorded last year

### Indian Navy Day

#### Context:

- **Indian Navy Day** is celebrated on **December 4th** every year to **commemorate the Indian Navy's successful attack on the Karachi harbour during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971**.
- This operation was called as **Operation Trident**
- This day is also an **occasion to recognise the sacrifices made by the Indian Navy** in protecting the country's maritime borders.

- Theme 2023: “Operational Efficiency, Readiness, and Mission Accomplishment in the Maritime Domain”

#### Did you Know?

- The Indian Navy is known as the fourth largest navy in the world

#### MH to set up welfare board for drivers

##### Context:

- MH govt will set up a welfare board for auto, and taxi drivers and owners.
- The welfare board will provide social security, health insurance, and other facilities
- The board will take up the issue of pension for drivers, health facilities, and insurance plans.
- The board will also work on a plan to provide auto rickshaws at affordable prices for women auto drivers and scholarships for their children.

#### Women harassment cases increased in MH

##### Context:

##### As per data:

- MH topped the country over cases registered regarding online bullying and stalking of women and children in 2022.
- The state also tops when it comes to the cases of voyeurism.
- The state registered maximum cases in the category of “offenses related to religion” and cases against people for “detering a public servant from performing duty”.
- It also saw the highest cases of robberies, thefts and motor vehicle thefts.

#### IIT-B sets up 'Recharge Zone' for students

##### Context:

- IIT-Bombay's Student Wellness Centre (SWC) has launched a 'Recharge Zone' to help students relieve stress during the high-pressure placement season.
- The zone offers various stress-relief activities such as foot spas, pet therapy, art therapy, and yoga.
- The initiative aims to provide a holistic approach to counseling and support students during the ups and downs of the placement process.

- The services are provided free of cost and have received positive feedback from students and faculty alike.

#### PM Modi unveils statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in MH

##### Context:

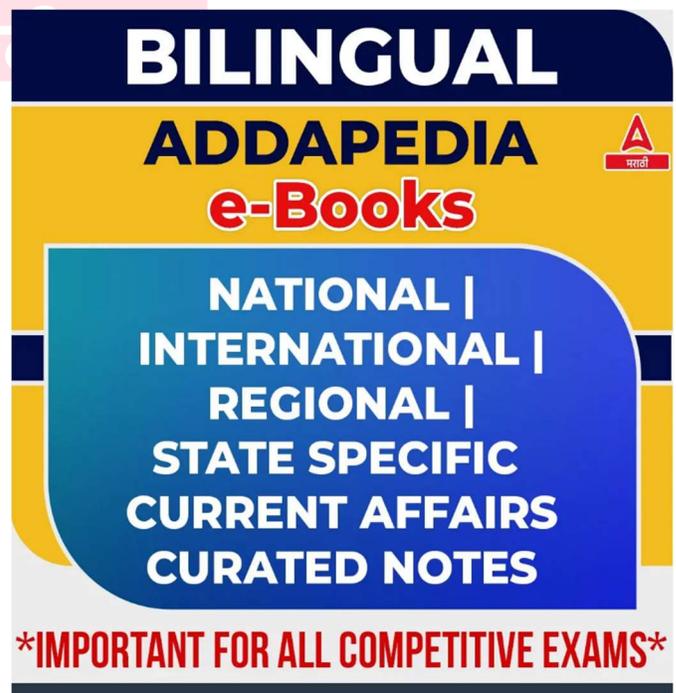
- PM Modi unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot Fort in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.
- It paid homage to the rich maritime heritage of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and his construction of coastal and sea forts.
- PM Modi also attended the Navy Day 2023 celebrations in Sindhudurg and emphasized the importance of strength in the sea for any country.

#### City crime rate down 14%, ranks 8th in India: NCRB

##### Context:

##### As per NCRB

- Nagpur has reported a decline in cognizable offenses in 2022 as compared to 2021 and 2020.
- The Nagpur city police registered 19,250 cases in 2020, 22,302 in 2021 and 19,167 in 2022, which amounts to a 14% drop.
- In 2020, Nagpur was ranked second in India after Patna as far as the crime rate is concerned.



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## Zero prescription policy to be implemented in MH

### Context:

- The MH government announced a new initiative called the **"Zero Prescription Policy" in 2023**
- It aims to improve access to essential medicines for citizens.
- It also aims to ensure that all patients receive necessary medications directly from designated public hospitals without needing prescriptions from private doctors.

## Memorial of Maharaja Yashwantrao Holkar

### Context:

- The Minister of Skill Employment Entrepreneurship and Innovation Department has assured to take the responsibility of erecting a memorial to **Maharaja Yashwantrao Holkar** on behalf of the state government in Mumbai.
- The **248th birth anniversary** of Maharaja Yashwantrao Holkar was celebrated.

## About Maharaja Yashwantrao Holkar

- Maharaja Yashwantrao Holkar was the **sixth Holkar Maharaja of Indore**.
- He was a skilled military leader and played a crucial role in shaping the **Maratha Confederacy**.
- Historians call him **"India's Napoleon"**.

## PM Modi announced special scheme for coastal areas

### Context:

- On the **occasion of Indian Navy Day**, PM Modi announced special schemes for Coastal areas such as Ratnagiri, Devgad, Malvan etc
- He said that the **central government has made a special 'Mishti' scheme** (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes) for this
- **Priority** is to **save residential areas along the coast**.
- Also emphasis will be laid on **increasing the area of mangroves**.
- The Mishti scheme will be implemented over a **distance of 540 square km**.
- In this, **mangroves will be developed in 11 states and 2 Union Territories**.
- **Konkan** is also involved in this.

## Maharashtra Universities announce free education for Transgender students

### Context:

- As suggested by the State Gov, Public universities in Maharashtra have agreed to **provide free education to students from transgender community**.
- Accordingly, such students will get free education in these varsities and allied colleges.
- Higher and Technical Education Minister **Chandrakant Patil** asked the varsities to bear the entire fees of transgender students from their funds.

### Did you know?

The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** has two policy interventions for transgender students:

- **Gender Inclusion Fund (GIF):** This fund is for girls and transgender students to improve the quality of education for them.
- **Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs):** This group includes gender identities, such as transgender individuals.

## Crimes against women is less

### Context:

- Among cities, Mumbai, however, continues to have low incidence for crimes on women and children.
- Though the number of offenses shows a gradual rise over three years, it is **ranked 12th on crime rate**—number of offenses per lakh people— involving offenses against women and 16th for the rate involving children.

## Maharashtra dengue cases doubled

### Context

- **Dengue cases in Maharashtra have doubled**, making it the **second highest contributor to dengue cases in India**.
- The state's dengue cases have surpassed **malaria cases**.
- Urban corporations in **Mumbai, Nagpur, Nashik, Pune, and Thane** are the main contributors, with an increase observed in rural areas
- **Factors** such as **urbanization, crowded living conditions, subpar waste management, and lack of robust public health infrastructure** contribute to the breeding of dengue-carrying mosquitoes

## Mylab's multi-drug Resistance TB Test

### Context:

- In a **significant stride towards eradicating tuberculosis (TB)** the **National TB Elimination Program** has incorporated **Pune based Mylab's multi drug resistance detection test**.
- This **detection kit** will further efforts to **eliminate TB by 2025**.
- **Recognised as the country's first multidrug-resistant TB test**, it is now integrated into the **Ni-kshay portal**.

### Modi to rename Navy ranks "in line with Indian traditions"

#### Context:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday (Dec 4) announced that the Indian Navy will now 'Indianise' the **ranks for personnel below officer (PBOR)** while senior officers will don epaulettes highlighting the "**heritage and legacy**" of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj - founder of the Maratha empire.
- PM Modi made the groundbreaking announcement during his **Navy Day address at Sindhudurg in Maharashtra**.

#### Key Points:

- The PBOR ranks that will be renamed are Master Chief Petty Officer 1st Class, Master Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class, Chief Petty Officer, Petty Officer, Leading Seaman, Seaman 1st Class and Seaman 2nd Class.
- Modi underlined the Maratha king's foresight in recognising the importance of naval capabilities for any nation.
- He cited his words that those who controlled the seas held the ultimate power, and **pointed out how Chhatrapati Shivaji had built one of the most powerful navies in the world**.

#### Did you know?

- Last year, while commissioning India's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, PM Modi unveiled the **new naval ensign which carries the seal of Shivaji, replacing the St George's cross, used earlier**.

### Govt to bring Betting, Gaming in 28% GST slab

#### Key Points:

- Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar introduces a **bill for amending GST rates in online gaming, betting, casinos, horse racing, and lottery**.
- The proposed amendment aims to place these activities under the highest GST bracket of **28 percent**.

- The amendment bill targets changes in the **Maharashtra Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017**.
- The amendment seeks to regulate taxation for specified forms of entertainment and gaming in the state.

### MH 'most corrupt' for 3rd year in a row

#### Context:

#### As per the report:

- **Maharashtra** recorded the highest number of **corruption cases** in the country in 2022, with a conviction rate of **8.2%** and pendency in courts as high as 94%.
- The Maharashtra Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has set up an app and helpline number for complainants.
- NCRB report shows that only two persons were removed from service and six awarded jail or major punishment.

### MH clocks 8% of Maoist crimes

#### Context:

#### As per report:

- The **year 2022 shows that Maoist violence in India is highly concentrated in Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra**
- Maharashtra is **second in the list**, but with only **8% cases of the total Maoist crimes (298)** in India registered here.
- **Chhattisgarh tops with 73%** of the crimes committed by the rebels in India registered in this state.
- The NCRB data also underlined the fact that **six states** in India; **Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana**, have recorded various types of Maoists crimes.

### Environmental protection act violations surge in MH

#### Context:

#### As per report of NCRB,

- MH has seen the highest number (198) of cases being registered under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 (EPA) in 2022.
- EPA, 1986 deals with protecting and improving the quality of the environment by preventing, controlling and abating environmental pollution.

## Lezim Dance

### Context:

- **Lezim is a vibrant and energetic folk dance of Maharashtra**
- It is **traditionally performed by women**, though men and children also participate in some variations.
- The dance is characterized by its rhythmic footwork and the **use of metal plates (tal) held in the hands**.
- The origins of Lezim are unclear, but it is believed to have originated in the rural areas of Maharashtra
- There are several variations of Lezim, some popular variations include:
  1. **Dholki Lezim:** This variation features Dholki as the primary instrument and is often performed in rural areas.
  2. **Tasha Lezim:** This variation features Tasha as the primary instrument and is known for its energetic and powerful sound.
  3. **Khadi Lezim:** This variation is performed with wooden sticks instead of metal plates.

## NAINA scheme

- The **opposition to the NAINA scheme of CIDCO** by Panvel villagers has now taken the shape of an indefinite fast and villagers are ready to die unless withdrawal of this scheme
- The **Navi Mumbai Airport Influence Notified Area (NAINA) project within 25 km radius of the Navi Mumbai airport** is spread over 371 sq km comprising 174 villages.
- It **does not entail the traditional land acquisition process**.
- The scheme proposes **land pooling by villagers wherein CIDCO**, the Special Planning Authority for the project, **gets to keep 60% of the land for infrastructure development** and the PAPs get the **remaining 40% with 2.5 FSI**. CIDCO does not have to pay any monetary compensation to the villagers.

## Homelessness a violation of human rights

- The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHRA)** has termed **homelessness as a global human rights violation**.
- It was in view of **World Human Rights Day observed on December 10**

- It was also suggested to **take the steps that need to be taken by the state in addressing homelessness in the city**.

### Did you Know?

- The **regulated theme** to celebrate Human Rights Day **2023 is 'Freedom, Equality and Justice for All**.

## Kolhapur airport gets IFR license for next 5 yrs

- The **airport in Kolhapur city** has now got the **IFR (Instrument Flights rules) license** for a period of five years.
- This **license is crucial for aircraft take-offs and landings in low-visibility conditions**,
- It will help the Kolhapur airport offer smooth and efficient air services in every weather condition.

## Betting, Gaming in 28 percent GST

- Maharashtra **Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar introduced** a proposed **amendment bill** to bring betting and gaming in purview of GST
- The **bill aims to categorize online gaming, betting, casinos, horse racing, and lottery under the highest GST bracket of 28 percent**.
- The bill, if accepted, will amend the **Maharashtra Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017**.

## Rising traffic violations in MH

- There has been a massive increase in traffic violations in MH.
- In view of this, the **District Legal Services Authority, Mumbai, has issued notices to a total of 17,10,519 motorists**, urging them to promptly clear their pending fines.

### About:

- **District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) is a statutory body constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**.
- Aim is to **provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of society**.

## Goods train derails in Thane's Kasara

- **Two coaches** of a goods train derailed near **Thane's Kasara**
- **Kalyan station road ART** (accident relief train) and **Igatpuri station rail ART** (accident relief train) were ordered and moved to the accident site.

## Demand to scrap of gov't's 'Love Jihad' committee

- **Samajwadi Party MLA Rais Shaikh** demands to scrap **Maharashtra 'Interfaith Marriage Family Coordination Committee'**.
- He stated that it has **received only 402 complaints** since its formation a year ago.
- The **committee was established on December 13, 2022** by former state Women and Child Development (WCD) minister **Manga Prabhat Lodha**
- It was aimed to **track cases of 'Love Jihad.'**

## Bade Miya, Papa Pancho's are open after FDA action

- The **two restaurants which top Mumbai's culinary landscape- Bade Miya and Papa Páncho da Dhaba** have recently reopened after an **FDA (Food and Drug Administration) raid in April**

### About:

- The **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** is a federal agency **responsible for protecting public health** by ensuring the safety, efficacy, and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, medical devices, and our food supply.
- It also **regulates cosmetics, tobacco products, and products that emit radiation.**

## 56 % surge in cybercrime incidents

- With the **rapid advancement of technology**, the **incidence of cybercrime** in the **Navi Mumbai** region has **increased by 56%**
- There is a **significant increase** in the conversion of applications into **First Information Reports (FIRs)**, thereby enhancing the detection of cybercrimes in the area.

## Unique expedition Tracing Lord Rama's footprints

- To strike a **balance between spirituality and physical fitness**, **three ex-service men** from **Maharashtra** embarked on a unique international **bicycle expedition** titled **'Ram Van Gaman Path'**.
- It is to **trace out the footprints of Lord Rama** wherever they were available.
- The **trio, Subedar Ullas Kulkarni, Colonel Shivanarayan Mishra and Dr. Sahebrao Kasav** set out on the **expedition on**

**November 24** from **Ram Janmabhoomi** at **Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.**

## National Seed Congress

- A **three-day 12th National Seed Congress** will be hosted by the **Parbhani-based Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Agricultural University.**
- Over **300 agricultural scientists, field experts, and top government officials** will be taking part.
- The event will witness **discussions themed on innovation and challenges in quality seed availability** under the changing climate.
- **"The principle of "3As"—Availability, Access, and Affordability—needs to be followed** in the seed sector while providing quality seeds
- **Millet cultivation** will be one of the subjects of discussion during the event.

## Mumbai Air Quality improved

- The **Bombay High Court** observed that **Mumbai's air quality had improved** since its last directions in a **suo motu PIL on air pollution**
- The **Air Quality Index(AQI)** data submitted by the state has largely shown **"moderate" levels.**
- HC said that a **collective effort is needed to bring the AQI below 50**, the **"satisfactory" level.**

## Assured maize procurement for ethanol production

- In response to the **expected decrease in sugar production** in **Maharashtra and Karnataka**, the government plans to **focus on grain-based ethanol production**, particularly from **maize.**
- The scheme involves the **registration and procurement of maize from farmers at MSP** by government agri-cooperatives **NAFED and NCCF**
- The **maize will then be supplied to grain-based distilleries.**
- The **food ministry will bear the incidental costs** to ensure **farmers receive MSP and promote maize cultivation.**

## Separate state university for Latur in Marathwada

- Different civil society groups have **raised the demand for setting up a separate state university for Latur in Marathwada.**
- Latur has established an identity as an educational hub of Maharashtra over the years.
- These **groups have sought bifurcation of the Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada (SRTM) University, Nanded, to carve out a new varsity.**

## Ayushman Bharat

- **Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar** has witnessed the enrollment of over **23.3 lakh beneficiaries of Ayushman health cards** but only **19%** of the mandatory **e-KYC** of these cards has been done so far.

### About:

- The **Ayushman Bharat** is a **flagship scheme** of the **Government of India** that offers a defined benefit cover of **Rs 5 lakh per family per year.**
- Launched as **recommended by the National Health Policy 2017**, it aims to achieve the **vision of universal health coverage (UHC).**

## Namo Maharojgar Yojana

- **Namo Maharojgar Yojana** is an **initiative by the Maharashtra government** to address **unemployment** in the state.
- It primarily **focuses on organizing large-scale job fairs** called "**Namo Maharojgar Melava**" where companies and potential employees can connect directly.
- The initiative **collaborates with the private sector** to bring in job opportunities.

## Indian Coast Guard plans to increase fleet to 200 ships, 100 aircraft

- The **Indian Coast Guard** are planning to **increase the fleet to 200 ships, 100 aircraft** by the **end of 2025 or 2026.**
- Presently the **Indian Coast Guard** has around **157 ships** and about **78 aircrafts.**
- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** is a **multi-mission, armed paramilitary force** in India
- It was **headed by the Director General**, with **headquarters in New Delhi.**

## Dalai Lama to attend 'Dhamma Diksha'

- The **Dalai Lama** will attend an **international conference on Buddhism, 'Dhamma Diksha'**, to be held at the **Mahalaxmi Race Course.**
- **Dhamma Diksha**, meaning "**initiation into the Dharma,**" will be a **landmark international conference on Buddhism** to be held on **December 15-16, 2023**, in **Mumbai.**
- It will be a **historic event fulfilling the vision of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, who planned to **organize such a conference after his conversion to Buddhism in 1956.**

## Integrated cyber platform to tackle online crime

- The **Maharashtra government** is going to establish a **dedicated cyber platform aimed at detecting and combating cybercrime.**
- It will be a **very dynamic platform** with all **financial institutions including banks, NBFCs, all social media sites** etc to be brought together on this platform.
- It will be **integrated with the latest software** which will create a very fast response time

## Entire BEST fleet to have clean energy-powered buses by 2027

- **Entire BEST fleet** to have **clean energy-powered buses by 2027**
- It has **already completed tender work for 3,000 electric buses and 200 buses that run on compressed natural gas (CNG)**
- Of these **3,000 e-buses, 900 will be double-deckers**

## Amruta Pujari wins Women's Maharashtra Kesari wrestling title

- **Amruta Shashikant Pujari** of **Shirol** won the **prestigious Maharashtra Kesari title** at the **Maharashtra Kesari Wrestling Championship** held in **Chandrapur**
- The **competition witnessed the participation of over 600 wrestlers** from across the state.

## CIDCO to undertake expansion of Ulwe River

- To **mitigate and avert flood-like situations** in **villages surrounding the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA)**, the **City and Industrial Development Corporation**

(CIDCO) has undertaken the **expansion and de-siltation of the Ulwe riverbed**

- A portion of the **river passing from the state Highway (SH)-54 to National Highway (NH) – 4B is to be re-sectioned to avert flooding in five villages, namely Paragoan, Dungi, Dapoli, Bhangarpada, and Khalche Ovale.**

### Govt to rejuvenate Matheran's Charlotte Lake

- The state government has decided to **rejuvenate Charlotte Lake in Matheran, which is the only source of potable water to the hill station**
- It will be carried out **under the Centre's Amrut 2.0 Abhiyan**
- The project also includes **development of infrastructure for tourists by developing the dam wall, the approach and setting up plazas.**

### Raigad Fort

- **Raigad Fort** lies in the **Sahyadri mountains** of Maharashtra, India,
- It is a powerful symbol of **Maratha pride** and resilience.
- It was built in the **17th century** by the legendary **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**
- This impregnable fortress **served as the capital of the Maratha Empire** for nearly three decades, witnessing the rise and glory of one of India's most celebrated rulers.

### Foreign investors prefer Maharashtra

- **Maharashtra** remains the **top destination for foreign direct investment (FDI)** in India, attracting investments worth **₹28,868 crore** in the last **three months.**
- There is also an **anticipation** of investment of around **₹35,000 crore** in the Raigad district.

### Elephanta Caves

- The **Elephanta Caves**, also known as **Gharapurichi Leni (Caves of Gharapuri)**, are a group of **rock-cut temples located on Elephanta Island, off the coast of Mumbai**
- These caves are **carved out of a single basalt rock face**
- **Elephanta caves are a UNESCO World Heritage Site**
- The caves are believed to have been **excavated between the 5th and 7th centuries CE, during the reign of the Kalachuri dynasty.**

- The caves are **dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva**, with various depictions of his forms and stories.

### Paithani sarees

**Paithani sarees** are exquisite handloom silk sarees, woven with **intricate gold zari work**, originating from **Paithan, a town in Maharashtra**

- They are often called **"Queen of Silks"** for their regal splendor and **intricate weaving techniques.**
- These sarees are renowned for their **vibrant colors, and luxurious texture**, making them coveted possessions and prized heirlooms.
- These sarees are **traditionally woven with pure mulberry silk**
- The intricate zari (gold or silver thread) woven patterns showcasing birds, lotus flowers, paisleys, and geometric designs.

### Chanakya Centre for Excellence

- The **Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation** will build the **'Chanakya Centre for Excellence'** at Karla, Lonavala.
- The centre will include amenities such as a **convention hall, exhibition centre, adventure sports arena and waterpark, tent city, a 42 feet tall statue of Chanakya, a museum, and a wellness centre.**
- This centre will **showcase Arya Chanakya's political theory, economic thought, war strategies, lifestyle, and other philosophical ideas.**

### A new city called 'Third Mumbai'

- The **MH state government** has finalized a broad skeletal proposal for **developing a new city called the 'Third Mumbai'.**
- Aim is to **provide better housing, infrastructure and robust transport facilities** to the growing population of the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR)**
- The city is proposed around the **Navi Mumbai International Airport**
- It will be linked to Mumbai by the crucial connector **Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewri-Nhava Sheva Atal Setu, also known as Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL).**

## Kolhapur jaggery

- **Kolhapur jaggery is a natural sweetener** produced in the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra
- It has a unique taste, aroma, and health benefits.
- It earned the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2014**
- It is **made from organically grown sugarcane** cultivated on the **fertile banks of Panchganga and Krishna rivers.**
- **Sugarcane juice is boiled and clarified using natural agents like okra and lime,** then concentrated and molded into blocks.
- It is **rich in iron, calcium, phosphorus, potassium, and minerals.**
- It has a **source of antioxidants and aids digestion.**

## Lezim dance

- **Lezim is a vibrant and energetic folk dance** form originating from Maharashtra
- It is traditionally **performed by women during festive occasions like Ganesh Chaturthi, Navratri, and weddings.**
- The word "**Lezim**" is derived from the **Marathi word "Lezimga,"** which means "to play."
- Lezim is performed by a group of women, typically ranging from **10 to 50 participants.**
- The dance is **accompanied by energetic drumming on dholkis (cylindrical drums) and sometimes tasha (kettledrums).**
- The **choreography involves synchronized steps, claps, and movements of the hands and arms.**
- The **dancers stand in two lines facing each other,** creating a lively and visually engaging performance.
- Traditional **lezim attire** typically consists of **colorful saris or ghagra-choli sets,** adorned with ornaments like **ghungroos (ankle bells).**

## Ajinkyatara Fort

- The **Ajinkyatara Fort,** also known as the **Sinhagad Fort,** stands sentinel atop a **2,130-foot-high peak** in the **Sahyadri mountain range near Pune, Maharashtra**
- It was **built in the 17th century by Shivaji,**
- Ajinkyatara Fort played a **crucial role in numerous battles.**

- Its sturdy walls, fortified gates, and strategically placed cannons **repelled several Mughal attacks,** solidifying its status as a symbol of Maratha resistance.
- The fort changed hands multiple times throughout its history, witnessing the power struggles between the Marathas, Mughals, and British.

## Shiv-Srushti project

- The **Shiv-Srushti project in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar** (formerly Aurangabad) is an ambitious initiative aimed at **creating a cultural and spiritual complex dedicated to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj,** the revered Maratha king.

### The project encompasses:

1. **A grand temple:**
  - Dedicated to **Lord Shiva,** it will be a **replica of the iconic Somnath temple in Gujarat.**
2. **A museum:**
  - Housing **artifacts and exhibits** showcasing the life and **achievements of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Maratha history.**
3. **Cultural center:**
  - Hosting **performing arts, exhibitions,** and educational programs promoting Maratha culture and heritage.
4. **Theme park:**
  - Featuring **rides and attractions** showcasing Maratha history and values.
5. **Open-air theater:**
  - For hosting cultural events and performances.

## Western Railway's 'Coolie No 1' initiative

- In a unique initiative, the **Western Railway (WR)** has launched an initiative - '**Coolie No 1**'
- It is aimed towards **mutual benefit of Licensed Sahayaks and passengers.**
- The initiative has been **started at Mumbai-headquartered WR's Mumbai Division.**
- **Licensed Sahayaks (licensed porters)** play an **integral part in the railway system in India** and **add an important value in the overall train travel experience** of long-distance passengers.

## Justice Shinde Committee submits report on Maratha reservation issue

- In a significant development vis-a-vis the Maratha vs OBC reservation issue, a committee was formed to define the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for issuing Kunbi-Maratha and Maratha-Kunbi certificates based on old records
- Justice Sandeep Shinde (Retd) headed the committee and has now submitted the report to the MH govt.

### Note:

- Kunbis are a sub-caste of Marathas and are covered under Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

## Maharashtra to establish onion storage banks

- The Maharashtra government has announced that it will establish onion storage banks across the State and use nuclear technology for irradiation to extend the freshness and shelf life of the bulb crop.
- This step was initiated to ensure that onion farmers don't suffer loss due to price fluctuation and have well-equipped storage.
- Nuclear technology involves using controlled doses of ionizing radiation to make onions safe to eat by killing harmful microorganisms and extending their shelf life.

## Defence Ministry signs deal for 6 next-gen OPVs for Coast Guard

- The Defence Ministry signed a ₹1,614.89 crore contract with Mazagon Dockyard Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.
- It is for procurement of six next-generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- Out of the six vessels being procured, four would replace the existing aging OPVs and the other two would augment the ICG fleet.

## 9 overseas firms under ED's scanner in ₹6k cr bitcoin ponzi scam

- The Enforcement Directorate is investigating nine overseas firms, including those in Hong Kong and Estonia.
- These firms were allegedly used to divert funds from a bitcoin-based ponzi scheme operated by Variable Tech.

- The scheme collected 80,000 bitcoins and diverted funds worth INR 6,606 crore (\$915 million) through the nine firms to purchase properties abroad.
- The investigation has resulted in the provisional attachment of properties worth INR 69 crore.

## New Covid-19 sub-variant JN.1 detected in Sindhudurg

- A 41-year-old man in Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra, has tested positive for the new COVID-19 sub-variant JN.1
- Recently, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has designated JN.1 as a 'variant of interest' due to its rapidly increasing spread.
- However, the global public health risk is considered 'low.'

## Awareness can pave the way for the Ratnagiri nuclear energy project

- Dr. Mashelkar stated that in the present scenario, nuclear energy is essential for the nation, and more power plants need to be built.
- There have been no instances of harm caused by these plants anywhere in the country.
- Thus, if the government raises awareness among the citizens, nuclear energy projects such as the one in Ratnagiri can take hold.

## 'Banganga Beautification Project'

- The Banganga Beautification Project is a transformative initiative aimed at revitalizing the historic Banganga tank and its surrounding precinct in Mumbai
- Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) in collaboration with GSB Trust, a management organization of the tank is all set to give a makeover to the centuries-old Banganga tank, located in Walkeshwar, Malabar Hill area.
- The project seeks to enhance the area's beauty, accessibility, and cultural vibrancy while preserving its rich heritage.
- It will also help to attract tourists and facilitate religious rituals.

## US footwear opens a warehouse in Palava

- American footwear giant Sketchers has opened a national distribution centre in

Mumbai as part of its expansion in the Indian market.

- The 6,00,000 sq ft facility at the Lodha Industrial and Logistics Park in Kalyan has been designed to streamline supply chain operations and can ship up to 60,000 units per day.

### Maharashtra to alter minimum age to enter school to 3 yrs from 2024

- Admission norms in Maharashtra will be updated to align with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020
- NEP mandates that children should be six years old when entering Class I
- In view of this, MH will alter the minimum age to enter school to 3 yrs.
- This updated policy is expected to be implemented for the 2024-25 academic year.

### Person in News: Prabhakar Mande

- Prabhakar Mande, a veteran scholar in folklore, folk culture and literature, dies in Ahmednagar
- Mande hails from Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar
- He was conferred the Padma Shri in March 2023 for his enormous contribution.
- Mande had presented more than 25 research papers on different national and international platforms.

### KIT hosts Smart India Hackathon

- The Kolhapur Institute of Technology (KIT) hosted the Smart India Hackathon with the help of AICTE Delhi, the defense ministry, the environment ministry, and the Ayush ministry.
- A team of students from the Indore Institute of Science and Technology grabbed the first prize.
- The engineering students of the Indore-based college developed a 'robust human target detection and acquisition' model.
- Odisha-based Gandhi Institute of Engineering and Technology bagged the second prize for 'deep learning for terrain recognition' model.

### MH signs MoU for skill development

- An MoU was signed between the Maharashtra State Skill Development

Society, the Commissionerate of Skills, Employment, Entrepreneurship and the National Skill Development Corporation

- It aims to support Maharashtra International, an international employment facility centre.

### Silver crown belonging to Tulja Bhavani temple goes missing

- A silver crown that has been in the Bhavani temple since before 2011 has been suspected to be missing from Tulja Bhavani temple's treasury.
- This silver crown was in possession of Mahant Chilojibua.
- Additionally, other valuable antiquities such as silver jewelry, silver Trishul, and accessories made up of pearl and gold have also gone missing from the temple treasury.

### New Vande Bharat to soon operate on Mumbai-Jalna route

- A new Vande Bharat train is likely to operate between Mumbai to Jalna
- This proposed train will be the fourth one from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT)

#### About:

- The Vande Bharat Express is a medium-distance train service operated by Indian Railways,
- It was launched in 2019
- It is capable of reaching speeds up to 160 km/h, significantly faster than most Indian trains.

### Central Railway to procure 500 more fog devices

- The Central Railway is procuring 500 additional fog safety devices to assist loco pilots during poor signal visibility due to bad weather conditions.
- Aim is to mitigate accident risks.
- At present, the Central Railway has 497 devices, which have been given to different rail divisions under its jurisdiction.

### MUHS thesis on tribal health in 4 Vid dists ready

- Nagpur regional centre of Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS) has

compiled a thesis under the ambitious BLOSSOM project.

- It covered 18 villages having 85% tribal population in four districts for screening and surveillance of these diseases.
- BLOSSOM was launched in September 2022
- It stands for Breast cancer, Liver disease, Osteoporosis, Sickle cell, sexually transmitted diseases, Oral cancer, Malnutrition.

### Good Governance Day

- Good governance is observed annually on December 25.
- The day aims to let the citizens, the students, who are the future of the country know about the government's responsibilities and duties that it needs to fulfill.
- The day is also celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

### Key Points:

- December 25th marks the birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- He was born in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, in 1924
- His life was a testament to dedication, resilience, and political acumen.
- He served as Prime Minister three times
- Vajpayee initiated significant economic reforms, ushering in an era of liberalization and globalization.
- India conducted nuclear tests in 1998, establishing itself as a nuclear power under Vajpayee's leadership.
- He is known for his contributions to state integration.
- During his Prime Ministership (1998-2004), Vajpayee's government oversaw the creation of three new states - Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, and Jharkhand.

### Himroo

- Himroo is a luxurious brocade fabric woven with silk and gold or silver threads widely associated with Aurangabad in Maharashtra
- The origins of Himroo remain debated, with theories attributing its introduction to Persia or Europe during the Mughal era.
- Himroo employs a complex weft-based pick-and-pick technique, where silk warp threads are interlaced with silk

wefts containing gold or silver zari threads.

- This creates a reversible fabric with shimmering metallic patterns and motifs woven seamlessly into both sides

### School edu dept to bring in new act to regulate kindergartens

- The state's school education department is gearing up to bring in a new act to regulate pre-primary education, to be aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- It will be implemented from the next academic year
- It aims to improve the quality of education and control arbitrary fees.
- The regulation emphasizes accreditation, curriculum standards, and minimum facilities, with the goal of ensuring equality in kindergarten education.

### Devendra Fadnavis conferred honorary doctorate by Japanese university

- Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was bestowed with an honorary doctorate by Japan's Koyasan University.
- It was given in acknowledgment of his endeavors in establishing fundamental civic infrastructure, executing initiatives like the Jalyukta Shivar Yojana, and his role in advancing the industrial development of the state.

### Umed - Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods

- Umed, also known as the Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MSRLM), is a state-level initiative launched in 2011 by the Government of Maharashtra
- Aim is to eradicate rural poverty and improve the livelihoods of rural communities.

### Objectives:

- Reduce poverty by enabling poor households to access better income-generating opportunities.
- Empower rural communities through capacity building and social mobilization.
- Promote self-reliance and sustainable development in rural areas.
- Create vibrant rural economies through entrepreneurship and skill development.

### Key Components:

- **Self-Help Groups (SHGs):** Formation and support of women-led SHGs for promoting micro-enterprises, savings, and collective action.
- **Skill Development and Training:** Providing vocational training and skill development programs in various sectors like agriculture, textiles, and handicrafts.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Facilitating access to credit and financial services for SHGs and individuals through partnerships with banks and microfinance institutions.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Improving rural infrastructure by constructing roads, markets, and other essential facilities.
- **Natural Resource Management:** Promoting sustainable practices for managing land, water, and forest resources.

### NGT Issues notice to Maharashtra over presence of Arsenic and fluoride groundwater

- The National Green Tribunal has issued notices to 24 states, including Maharashtra, and four Union Territories in a matter regarding the presence of arsenic and fluoride in groundwater.
- The presence of these metals or chemicals are "very serious" and requires "urgent preventive and protective steps".
- **Effects of Arsenic:** Long-term exposure to arsenic can lead to a multitude of health problems, including:
  - Skin lesions and hyperkeratosis (thickening of the skin)
  - Cancer of the skin, bladder, lung, and other organs
  - Cardiovascular diseases
  - Diabetes
  - Developmental problems in children
  - Neurological disorders
- **Safe Level:** According to the WHO, the safe limit for arsenic in drinking water is 10 micrograms per liter (µg/L).
- **Effects of Fluoride:** While fluoride in appropriate amounts helps prevent dental cavities, excessive exposure can cause:
  - Dental fluorosis (discoloration and weakening of teeth)
  - Skeletal fluorosis (stiffness and pain in bones and joints)
  - Gastrointestinal problems
  - Neurological damage

- **Safe Level:** The WHO recommends a fluoride level of 1.5 mg/L, with adjustments based on climate and age of the population.

#### About:

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a specialized body in India established to handle expeditious disposal of cases related to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- It was set up under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010, to address environmental disputes and provide speedy access to justice in such matters.
- NGT is a Quasi-judicial body
- It aims to deliver speedy resolutions to environmental disputes, reducing delays often associated with traditional courts.

### GN1 Corona

- **Gen1 infection**, which is spreading rapidly in many states in India, has been reported to be spreading in many states like Goa, Tamil nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, Kerala and Maharashtra as well.
- **GN1 Corona** is a relatively new strain of the coronavirus family, first identified in China in 2023.
- Compared to existing variants, it demonstrates some differences in characteristics and potential risks.

### Pioneer of bone marrow transplant starts onco OPD

- **Dr Suresh Advani**, a Pune doctor who pioneered bone marrow transplant in the country, has started an oncology OPD at Talegaon, where he conducted his first oncosurgery in 1982
- The Onco Life Cancer Centre also has a chemotherapy ward.
- The centre will conduct an OPD every second Saturday.

### Selu's Bhure is NU's first sprinter to clinch 100m bronze in zonal meet

- **Adarsh Bure** became the first Nagpur University sprinter to clinch bronze medal in 100 m race of North- East West Zone inter-university athletics meet at Bhubaneswar

### Temporary stay on Adani Green's soil testing for Patgaon project

- The Kolhapur Forest division's deputy conservator of forest (DCF) has temporarily stayed the permission to Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) for soil testing in forest areas of Patgaon dam backwaters in Budarghad tehsil of district for a proposed pumped hydropower project
- The project is to come up at Patgaon and at Anjiwade village in Kudal tehsil of Sindhudurg district

### CIDCO plans ₹14,321 cr infra projects in NAINA in 2024

- City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) has announced plans for infrastructure projects worth ₹14,321 crore in the NAINA region, Maharashtra.
- The projects will include a road network, stormwater management, water supply, sewer, and electrical works
- The tendering process for the projects to be implemented immediately will be done in January 2024

### No Registration or Renewal for Real Estate Agents from 1st January

- From January 1st, 2024, a significant change will impact the Indian real estate sector as there will be no new registrations or renewals for real estate agents without a valid MahaRERA Real Estate Agent Certificate of Competency.
- Maharashtra Real Estate Regulation Authority has made it mandatory for real estate agents to obtain training and certification for registering or renewing their permits
- It aims to enhance professionalism, transparency, and consumer protection in the industry.

### IndiGo announces first ever direct flights from Mumbai to Ayodhya

- IndiGo, has announced to launch the first-ever direct flights between Mumbai and Ayodhya, the spiritual city in Uttar Pradesh
- Ayodhya is known for its association with Lord Rama.
- These daily flights will commence on January 15, 2024, bringing a convenient and faster option for pilgrims and travelers

connecting the financial capital with the holy city.

### Madrassas in Maha will now get ₹10 lakh for modernization

- The Maharashtra government has announced a tenfold increase in the annual grant for modernization of madrassas in the state.
- Previously, madrassas received only ₹2 lakh per year, but under the new Zakir Hussain Madarsa Modernization Scheme, each madrasa will now receive ₹10 lakh annually.
- It aims to improve the teaching infrastructure, learning environment, including classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and computer labs and overall quality of education in madrassas across Maharashtra.

### Discharge of water from Koyna dam initiated again

- Koyna Dam, a crucial water source in Maharashtra, has resumed water discharge to cater to the increasing demand from the Sangli district.
- The discharge of 1,050 cusecs of water from Koyna dam has been initiated into Krishna river to cater to the irrigation demand of Sangli district.
- It was in view of recent lack of rainfall and depleting water levels in rivers like Krishna.

### Mumbai, Pune among top cities propelling growth of India's real estate sector in 2024

- In its latest analysis, housing.com has identified Mumbai, Pune, and Hyderabad as pivotal players propelling the anticipated growth of India's residential real estate sector in 2024.
- The data, focusing on online homebuyer activity, underscores these cities as dynamic hubs set to shape the sector's narrative in the coming months.

### Wagh nakh will be brought to state

- The state cultural affairs minister said that the Wagh Nakh claimed to have been used by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to kill Adilshahi general Afzal Khan will be brought back to Maharashtra.

**About:**

- It is a **tiger claw dagger** used by Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
- It is set to **return to Maharashtra from the Victoria and Albert Museum** in London.

**Pune, Nashik get 10.3% recovery rate for sugarcane**

- The **state sugar commissioner's office** has fixed the **base sugar recovery rate** for all five revenue divisions in Maharashtra.
- The **recovery rate for Pune and Nashik** divisions will be **10.25%**, while it will be **9.50%** for the remaining three divisions.
- The mills from **Pune and Nashik** divisions will have to pay **Rs 3,150 per tonne** to the farmers, while the mills from the three other divisions have to pay **Rs 2,920 per tonne**

**Note:**

- A higher recovery rate translates to **more sugar extracted from the same amount of sugarcane**, leading to higher payments for farmers.

**Waste-to-energy plants coming up in Mumbai**

- **Mumbai** is grappling with a **waste management crisis, generating over 6,000 metric tons of solid waste daily, 70% of which is organic.**
- To **address this issue** and promote greener practices, the **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)** is **setting up mini waste-to-energy plants** in five major civic-run hospitals.

**Key Points:**

- **Five Hospitals:** KEM Hospital, Sion Hospital, Rajawadi Hospital, TB Hospital (Sewri), and Nair Hospital (Mumbai Central) will house these plants.
- **Bio-methanation Technology:** Each plant will employ bio-methanation technology, which converts organic waste like food scraps and garden trimmings into biogas.
- **Waste Capacity:** Each plant will process around 2 metric tons of organic waste daily.

**India's sugar sector upbeat as MH reports increase in cane yield, sugar production**

- India's sugar production for the crushing year **2023-24** is expected to witness a **positive trend** following a boost in yield from two key sugarcane producing states – **Maharashtra and Karnataka.**

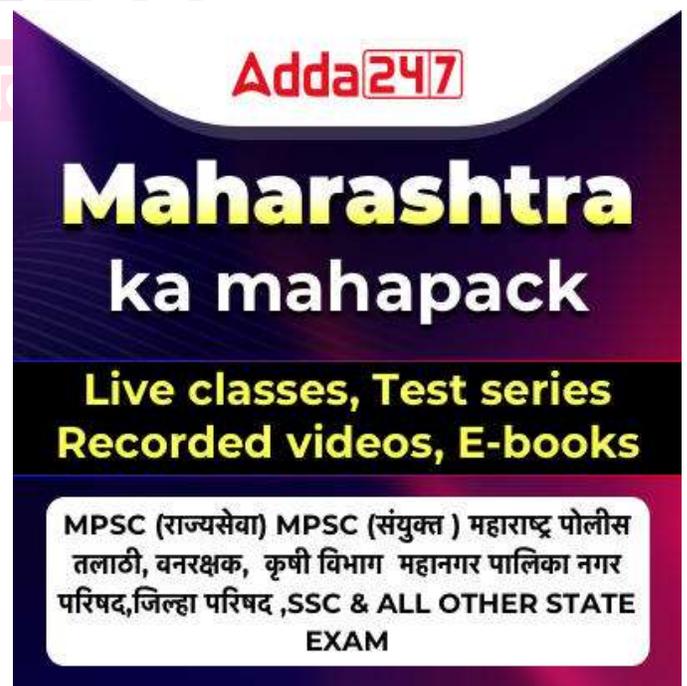
- Millers in both the states have **reported increased per-hectare yield** which has led them to **revise their production figures by 10 to 15 per cent.**
- At the **national level**, the **sugar production** is expected to reach **305 lakh tonnes (lt)** as against the **291.50 lt** at the start of the season

**BKC has poor AQI at 292, Kandivali best at 77**

- **Mumbai's air quality** continues to be a mixed bag, with some areas **grappling with unhealthy levels of pollution** while others enjoy relatively cleaner air.
- **Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC)**, the city's financial hub, is struggling with a **poor Air Quality Index (AQI) of 292**, while **Kandivali**, a western suburb, is **breathing easy with an AQI of 77**, which falls under the **'moderate' category.**

**The high AQI in BKC is likely due to:**

- **Traffic congestion:** BKC is a major commercial center with heavy traffic flow, leading to increased emissions from vehicles.
- **Construction activity:** Ongoing construction projects can generate dust and particulate matter, further impacting air quality.
- **Limited green cover:** Compared to other areas, BKC has less green space, which helps absorb pollutants and improve air quality.



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