

## Maharashtra Weekly Current Affairs 04 to 10 December 2023

### 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 **"deterring 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.

#### 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:

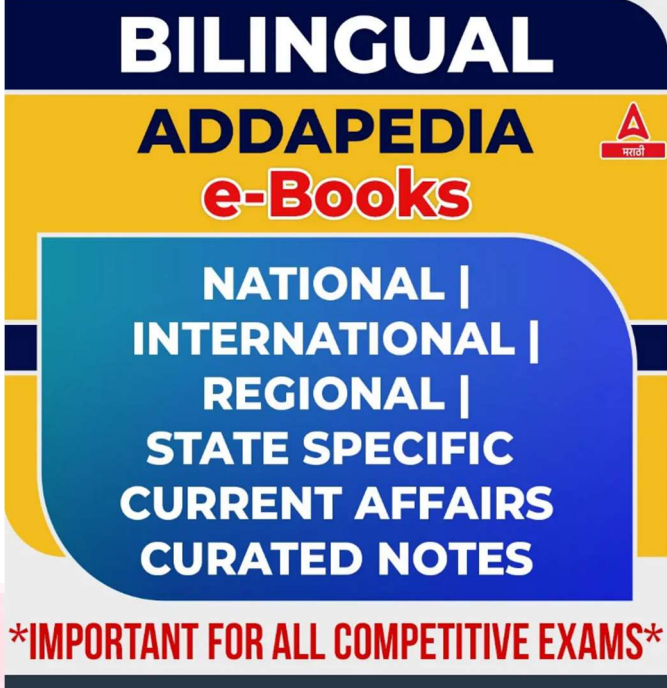
#### As per report of NCRB,

- 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.
- **Kolkata's Durga Puja was the last one added** two years ago.
- The inclusion has been made under the provisions of the 2003 **Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.**
- The international cultural body described the 'Garba' as a ritualistic and devotional dance performed in India.



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