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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

30 March 2024

Maharashtra State Specific News

<p>Pune's Water Crisis</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Pune, facing a deepening water crisis, witnesses a concerning situation as its four main dams approach critically low levels. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Khadakwasla reservoir: Currently holds 1.07 TMC, which is 54.39% of its total storage.● Panshet reservoir: At 48.10% capacity with 5.12 TMC.● Temghar reservoir: Dwindles at 9.11% capacity, holding only 0.34 TMC.● Warasgaon dam: Fairing slightly better at 53.40% capacity, with 6.85 TMC of water. <p>Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Borewells in Pune have dried up due to the diminishing groundwater levels.● Residents face a severe water shortage, resorting to water tankers for daily needs.● Manjri area residents bear the brunt with exorbitant charges from tanker owners, exacerbating their difficulties.
<p>Sinhagad Fort to Implement Plastic Ban</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Junnar forest department has decided to ban plastic at Sinhagad Fort, following the successful implementation at Shivneri Fort.● This decision, effective from June 5, aims to preserve the sanctity of the fort and protect the environment. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sinhagad is an ancient hill fortress located at around 49 km southwest of the city of Pune, India.● Previously known as Kondhana, the fort had been the site of many battles, most notably the Battle of Sinhagad in 1670.● It is located in the Pune district in Maharashtra.



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<p>Sambhajinagar District to Have 45 Model Polling Stations</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sambhajinagar district is set to have 45 model polling stations for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Among these, 18 polling stations will be exclusively managed by female staff, while 18 will be run by youth staff. The remaining nine stations will be operated by staff with Disabilities (PwD).● District collector Dilip Swami highlighted that model polling stations will offer additional amenities to enhance the voting experience beyond the basic facilities available at regular polling stations.● Aurangabad central and Aurangabad west will each host five model polling stations, with five more in Kannad, Gangapur, Vaijapur, Sillod, Paithan, and Phulambri. Additionally, three stations will be set up in the Aurangabad east assembly segment.
<p>Two SUK researchers get patent for energy device</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Two researchers, Dr. Sagar Delekar and Swapnajit Mulik, from Shivaji University Kolhapur (SUK) were granted a patent by the government on Thursday for their energy storage device utilizing nano-composites. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The device aims to enhance the capacity of supercapacitors through cathodes made from nanocomposite-based materials.● Materials such as nickel cobaltite, cobalt oxide, and porous carbon have been utilized for these supercapacitor devices.● The nano-composite is expected to enhance device efficiency, potentially revolutionizing the energy sector.● Dr. Delekar highlighted the device's cost-effectiveness and its potential in energy conservation, offering solutions to societal energy challenges.



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Focus on National Education Policy (NEP) in 2024-25

Context:

- Pune's steering committee, led by Nitin Karmalkar, plans **changes to the National Education Policy (NEP) in 2024-25**, focusing on Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) courses.
- They aim to emphasize **ancient knowledge like mathematics, science, medicine, philosophy, arts, languages, and more.**

Key points:

- The **steering committee for NEP 2020** implementation in Maharashtra observed that some higher educational institutes were teaching "**religion, jingoism, and blind hero-worship**" **under the IKS course subjects.**
- Changes are planned to address this issue, with a focus on improving the quality of IKS courses.
- A sub-committee has been formed to **outline dos and don'ts for the IKS curriculum, ensuring it aligns with the goals of NEP 2020.**
- Nitin Karmalkar emphasized that **IKS should focus on imparting ancient knowledge of Indian civilization, such as mathematics, science, medicine, astronomy, architecture, philosophy, arts, languages, literature, and culture.**
- A new circular issued by the state's higher education department allows students to choose a maximum of three subjects in the first year of their undergraduate program and decide on their major and minor subjects in the following year.

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