



STATE **PCS CA** CONSOLIDATION MAHARASHTRA



**SEPTEMBER
2025**



C-171/2,
Block-A,
Sector-15,
Noida



641, Mukherjee Nagar,
Opp. Signature
View Apartment,
New Delhi



21,
Pusa Road,
Karol Bagh
New Delhi



Tashkent Marg,
Civil Lines,
Prayagraj,
Uttar Pradesh



Tonk Road,
Vasundhara Colony,
Jaipur,
Rajasthan



Burlington Arcade Mall,
Burlington Chauraha,
Vidhan Sabha Marg,
Lucknow



12, Main AB Road,
Bhawar Kuan,
Indore,
Madhya Pradesh

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Kunbi Status for Marathas in Marathwada

Why in News?

The Maharashtra government has issued a Government Resolution (GR) enabling **Marathas in Marathwada to secure Kunbi caste certificates**, thereby qualifying for reservation benefits under the **Other Backward Classes (OBC)** category.

- 💡 The move draws on historical references in the **Hyderabad Gazette** that documented Marathas as Kunbis during the **Nizam's rule**.

The Hyderabad Gazette

- 💡 Before Independence, **Marathwada was part of the Hyderabad State** under the Nizam.
 - ✦ Official gazetteers from the period recorded demographic and caste details, including peasants, artisans, and occupational groups.
- 💡 The **Hyderabad Gazette of 1918** and even earlier records from **1884** identified sections of the Maratha community as Kunbis, an agrarian caste.
- 💡 The Nizam's administration **extended educational and job reservations to these groups**, recording them officially as Kunbis.
- 💡 These documents have become central to today's demand for OBC status, with activists notably Manoj Jarange Patil urging that Kunbi references be used to establish Maratha genealogies.

Government Resolution (GR)

- 💡 **About:** The GR provides a **structured framework** for verification, requiring applicants to demonstrate their Kunbi lineage with historical evidence. This will help **Marathas establish their Kunbi credentials** and access benefits under the OBC quota.
- 💡 **Committee Structure:** A three-member committee at the village level, comprising the gram revenue officer, gram panchayat secretary, and assistant agriculture officer, will review all applications.
- 💡 **Documentation:** Applicants who do not possess land ownership documents must submit affidavits proving their or their ancestors' residence in the

area before **13 October 1967**. Affidavits or testimonies from relatives, clan members, or other villagers with Kunbi certificates will also be considered.

- 💡 **Issuance of Caste Certificates:** Based on these investigations, authorities will issue one of **three types of caste certificates**: Kunbi, Kunbi-Maratha, or Maratha-Kunbi.

- ✦ However, blanket Kunbi status for all Marathas or expanding the definition to include "**sage soyre**" (**blood relations**) is unlikely to be accepted.

Committee Action and Expanded Evidence

- 💡 To strengthen implementation, the government had earlier set up the **Justice Sandeep Shinde Committee (Sept 2023)** to trace Kunbi records in Marathwada.
 - ✦ The panel has so far identified over 7,000 previously untraced entries, and its mandate has been extended till December 2025 to study additional gazetteers from Satara, Bombay, and Aundh.
- 💡 Additionally, amendments made in July 2024 to the **Maharashtra Caste Certificate Act, 2000**, have broadened the range of acceptable documents, easing access for landless farmers and agricultural laborers who often lack formal land records.

Maratha Community

- 💡 The Marathas, historically a **warrior-agrarian caste**, make up nearly **one-third of Maharashtra's population**.
- 💡 While they have long dominated state politics with 12 of 20 chief ministers since 1960 hailing from the community, many Marathas, **especially in rural areas**, have faced economic decline due to **agrarian distress** and shrinking opportunities.
- 💡 The present push for OBC inclusion stems from the Supreme Court's 2021 ruling, which struck down the state's **Socially and Educationally Backward Class (SEBC) Act, 2018**, that had granted Marathas a separate quota.

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- ✦ The Court held that the law breached the **50% reservation ceiling** and lacked sufficient grounds to establish Marathas as a "backward class."
- ✦ Following this, sections of the community have sought recognition as Kunbis, already part of the OBC list, using historical records as evidence.
- ✦ **Marathas from 11 Vidarbha districts** and some from North Maharashtra and Konkan are already registered as Kunbis to avail the OBC quota.

International Business and Finance Centre (IBFC)

Why in News?

The **Maharashtra cabinet** has approved the **land acquisition** and expenditure provision for the **International Business and Finance Centre (IBFC)** in New Nagpur, with the goal of establishing the city as a **key commercial and financial hub**.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The IBFC will be developed on approximately 692.06 hectares of land in Godhani and Ladgaon villages, Hingna taluka, under the jurisdiction of the **Nagpur Metropolitan Region Development Authority (NMRDA)**.
- 💡 **Cost:** The total project cost is **estimated at ₹6,500 crore**, including ₹3,000 crore for land acquisition and ₹3,500 crore for developing the business district and infrastructure.
 - ✦ Financing for the project will be sourced through a loan from **HUDCO**, backed by a government guarantee, and the project is also **exempted from stamp duty** to facilitate development.
 - ✦ The **National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC)** is appointed as the project management consultant.
- 💡 **Features:**
 - ✦ The IBFC **aims to create a world-class commercial hub** focused on attracting knowledge-driven industries, startups, major corporate houses, and service sectors.

- ✦ Infrastructure plans include integrated smart utilities, **"plug-and-play" facilities**, green and inclusive urban planning, and a **single-window clearance system** for businesses.

Impact:

- ✦ The project is expected to **generate over 5 lakh jobs**, making it one of Maharashtra's most employment-intensive urban initiatives.
- ✦ It is envisioned to **reduce congestion in existing city areas**, retain local talent, and establish Nagpur as a prominent economic center at both the national and international level.
- ✦ The IBFC forms the **core of the broader "New Nagpur" urban development vision**, which includes upgraded city logistics such as a new outer ring road and dedicated transport terminals.

Maharashtra's Startup Policy 2025

Why in News?

The Maharashtra government has launched the **Startup, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Policy 2025**, aiming to foster a robust **entrepreneurial ecosystem**.

- 💡 The policy's goal is to **nurture 1.3 lakh entrepreneurs** and recognize up to **50,000 startups** within the next five years.

PLAN TO NURTURE UP TO 50,000 COS

29,147

Startups in Maha recognised by department for promotion of industry & internal trade as of May 31

18% of recognised India's startups in state, the highest



WHAT GOVT AIMS AT

- Establish a network of micro-incubators in creating a hub-&-spoke model for comprehensive incubation services
- To support incubation centres across state with funding of up to ₹5 crore per centre
- To give sandbox support in partnership with regulatory agencies and private entities to allow startups to test new tech and business models

- Give support to startups looking to expand business globally through exchange programmes & networking
- Foster grassroots innovation with 'student innovation challenge' and 'startup yatra'
- Set up dedicated women entrepreneurship wing to cater to the unique needs of women-led startups and enterprises

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Key Features of Maharashtra's Startup Policy 2025

💡 Innovation City Development:

- ✦ A **300-acre Innovation City** will be established to provide a collaborative space for startups, corporations, investors, and academia.
- ✦ The city will act as a **hub for cutting-edge research**, fostering innovation through collective efforts from industry experts, researchers, and startups.

💡 CM Maha Fund:

- ✦ The state government will launch the **CM Maha Fund** with an allocated corpus of **Rs 500 crore over five years**, aimed at supporting grassroots entrepreneurship.
- ✦ A target of creating **25,000 successful entrepreneurs/innovators** has been set, with loans ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh being offered in collaboration with financial institutions.

💡 Venture Funds:

- ✦ The government will establish a **venture fund** dedicated to **supporting deep-tech startups** and **women-led businesses** that focus on innovative and scalable solutions.
- ✦ This **sector-agnostic fund** aims to empower startups that create high-impact innovations and foster sustainable employment.

💡 Loan Assistance:

- ✦ A partnership with **financial institutions** will be established to support startups with loans against confirmed work **orders from reliable clients** such as government bodies and large corporations.
- ✦ This initiative is designed to **resolve cash flow issues** and help startups scale their operations while enhancing their credibility in the market.

💡 Incubation Support:

- ✦ The policy also focuses on strengthening **incubation centers** across the state, offering funding assistance of up to **Rs 5 crore per center**.

- ✦ A dedicated **capacity-building program** will be launched to enhance the capabilities of these centers, fostering a strong regional entrepreneurial ecosystem.

CPRI's Regional Testing Laboratory (RTL) at Nashik

Why in News?

The **Central Power Research Institute (CPRI)**, under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, inaugurated its advanced Regional Testing Laboratory (RTL) at **Nashik**.

- 💡 **Shri Manohar Lal Khattar**, Honorable Minister of Power & Housing and Urban Affairs, officially **inaugurated the facility** and dedicated it to the nation.

Key Points

- 💡 **Purpose:** The facility aims to **serve industries in western India** by providing cutting-edge testing services for electrical and power equipment, such as Transformers, Energy Meters, **Smart Meters**, and Transformer Oil.
- ✦ It will **reduce turnaround time** for testing and certification, improving the **quality assurance ecosystem** and speeding up procurement cycles for utilities.
- 💡 **Significance:** The establishment of RTL Nashik enhances India's ability to **support the power sector's** technological advancement.
- ✦ The lab will not only meet industry needs but will also **contribute to R&D in power** sector equipment testing, advancing India's power infrastructure.

Central Power Research Institute (CPRI)

- 💡 The Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) was established in **1960** by the Government of India and became an **autonomous society** under the **Ministry of Power in 1978**.
- 💡 The **headquarters** of CPRI is located in **Bengaluru**, with additional centers situated across the country.

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- ✦ These include the Switchgear Testing & Development Center in **Bhopal**, the UHV Research Laboratory (UHVRL) in **Hyderabad**, the Thermal Research Center in **Nagpur**, and Regional Testing Laboratories in **Noida**, **Kolkata**, **Guwahati**, and **Nashik**.

💡 The institute serves as a **National Testing and Certification Authority** to ensure the availability of quality equipment for Indian Power Systems.

Maharashtra Advocate General Resigns

Why in News?

Maharashtra's **Advocate General** **Birendra Saraf**, who was appointed as AG in December 2022, has resigned, citing personal reasons.

💡 He will continue in office until January 2026, giving the government time to appoint his successor.

Key Points

- 💡 **Constitutional Provision:** The office of the Advocate General for the States is established under **Article 165** of the Indian Constitution.
 - ✦ The Advocate General is the **highest law officer** in a state, corresponding to the **Attorney General of India** at the national level.
- 💡 **Appointing Authority:** The Advocate General is appointed by the **Governor** of the state.
- 💡 **Eligibility:**
 - ✦ The appointee must be qualified to be appointed as a judge of a **High Court**.
 - ✦ He must be a **citizen of India** and must have:
 - ✍ Held a **judicial office** for at least ten years, or
 - ✍ Been an **advocate** in a High Court for at least ten years.
- 💡 **Term of Office:**
 - ✦ The Constitution does not specify a fixed term for the Advocate General.
 - ✦ The office is held **during the pleasure of the Governor**, meaning the Governor can remove the Advocate General at any time.

Resignation:

- ✦ The Advocate General may **resign** at any time by submitting his resignation to the Governor.
- ✦ Conventionally, he resigns when the **Council of Ministers** resigns or is replaced, as he is appointed on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

Remuneration:

- ✦ The **remuneration** of the Advocate General is not fixed by the Constitution.
- ✦ The **Governor** determines his remuneration.

💡 **Duties and Functions:** As the **chief law officer** of the state government, the duties of the Advocate General include:

- ✦ **Providing Legal Advice:** To advise the state government on legal matters referred to him by the **Governor**.
- ✦ **Additional Duties:** To perform any other **legal duties** assigned to him by the **Governor**.
- ✦ **Discharge of Constitutional and Legal Functions:** To discharge functions conferred on him by the Constitution or any other law.
- ✦ **Representation in Courts:** The Advocate General is entitled to **appear before any court** within the state in the performance of his official duties.

💡 **Legislative Rights:** He has the **right to speak** and participate in the proceedings of both **Houses of the State Legislature** or any committee, provided he is named as a member.

- ✦ However, he does not have the **right to vote**.

💡 **Privileges and Immunities:** He enjoys the **privileges and immunities** available to a member of the state legislature.

Maharashtra Leads in River Pollution

Why in News?

The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** has identified a significant issue with polluted river stretches in India, particularly in Maharashtra, which continues to have the **highest number of affected rivers**.

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- Despite a marginal reduction in polluted river stretches nationwide, Mumbai's rivers remain some of the most severely polluted, primarily due to **untreated sewage**, industrial effluents, and solid waste dumping.

Key Findings

- Maharashtra's Status:** The state has **54 polluted river stretches**, the highest in the country. The most polluted stretches are concentrated in the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR)**, including rivers like the **Mithi, Dahisar, Poisar, Oshiwara**, and **Ulhas**.
- Mithi River's Plight:** Despite multiple rejuvenation efforts, **Mithi** continues to be one of Mumbai's most polluted rivers. It carries excessive pollution from untreated sewage and industrial waste, leading to a **Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)** above safe limits.
- Pollution Levels:** The CPCB classifies rivers based on BOD levels. In Mumbai, many rivers **exceed 20 mg/L**, far surpassing the safe limit of 3 mg/L. The CPCB's priority categories, from Priority I (most polluted) to Priority V (least polluted), highlight the **critical need for intervention**, with several stretches in Maharashtra falling under higher priority levels.
- National Trends:** Across India, the number of polluted river stretches **decreased from 311 to 296**. However, Maharashtra's contribution remains significant, with 54 out of 296 stretches. Other states, including Delhi, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh, also have severely polluted stretches, particularly in the **Yamuna**, Sabarmati, and Chambal rivers.
- Action Plans and Measures:**
 - ✦ **NGT's Intervention:** The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** had intervened in 2018, taking suo motu cognizance of the CPCB's findings. The NGT ordered states to **prepare action plans** for river rejuvenation, resulting in the formation of committees in Maharashtra and other affected states.
 - ✦ **CPCB Directives:** The CPCB has urged states to enhance sewage treatment, floodplain protection, and **river catchment management**, emphasizing the urgent need for expanding

sewage plants and tightening **industrial effluent monitoring**.

- ✦ **National Water Quality Monitoring Programme:** The CPCB monitors 2,155 locations across 645 rivers, with the program aiming to improve water quality and track the effectiveness of pollution control measures.

Central Pollution Control Board

- The CPCB is a **statutory organisation** that was established in September 1974 under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**.
 - ✦ Further, CPCB was entrusted with the powers and functions under the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.
 - ✦ It is the **apex body** for environmental protection and pollution control in India. It functions under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** and coordinates with the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and other agencies.
- The CPCB has various divisions that deal with different aspects of pollution control, such as **air quality management**, water quality management, hazardous waste management, environmental assessment, laboratory services, information technology, public participation, etc.

Thalassaemia

Why in News?

Thalassaemia patients in **Maharashtra** are struggling due to a **shortage of life-saving iron chelation drugs** and the **unpleasant taste** of the available medicines.

- These drugs, like **deferasirox**, are crucial to remove **excess iron** from frequent **blood transfusions**, which can otherwise damage the **heart, liver, and endocrine glands**.

Key Points

- About:** **Thalassemia** is a **genetic blood disorder** that lowers the body's ability to produce normal **hemoglobin**, resulting in fewer healthy **red blood cells** and **anemia**.

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💡 **Symptoms:** Symptoms vary from **growth delays, delayed puberty, and bone abnormalities** in mild cases to **poor appetite, jaundice, dark urine, and facial bone deformities** in severe cases.

💡 **Types:**

✦ **Alpha Thalassemia:** A person inherits **four genes** (two from each parent) that produce **alphaglobin protein chains**. **Alpha thalassemia** occurs when one or more of these genes are defective.

✦ **Beta Thalassemia:** A person inherits **two beta-globin genes** (one from each parent). **Beta thalassemia** develops if one or both genes are defective.

💡 **Burden:** India, often called the **Thalassemia capital of the world**, has an estimated **100,000–150,000 children** living with the disease, while approximately **42 million Indians** carry the **Beta-Thalassemia trait**.

💡 **Treatment:** Treatment involves **regular blood transfusions** to maintain healthy **red blood cell**

levels, combined with **iron chelation therapy** to prevent iron overload.

✦ In severe cases, a **bone marrow or stem cell transplant** can provide a potential cure.

💡 **Initiatives for Eradication:**

✦ Under the **National Health Mission (NHM)**, States and UTs receive support for **thalassemia screening, treatment, and infrastructure development**.

📌 The government advises **integrating thalassemia testing into the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) program** for early carrier detection and genetic counseling to reduce disease burden.

✦ The **National Program for Prevention and Control of Hemoglobinopathies (NPPCH)** promotes awareness and provides **counseling and testing services** for affected individuals.

✦ The **Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana (TBSY)** offers **financial assistance for bone marrow transplants** through Coal India Ltd.'s CSR in 17 empanelled hospitals nationwide.



World Thalassemia Day



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Definition

Thalassemia (thal-uh-SEE-me-uh) is an inherited blood disorder. It affects your body's ability to produce normal hemoglobin. If you have thalassemia, your body produces fewer healthy hemoglobin proteins, and your bone marrow produces fewer healthy red blood cells.

Statistics Around Thalassemia

Thalassemia affects approximately **4.4** out of every **10,000** live births throughout the world.

Types

- ✦ **Alpha Thalassemia:** Four genes are inherited, two from each parent, that make alpha globin protein chains. When one or more genes are defective, alpha thalassemia is developed.
- ✦ **Beta Thalassemia:** Two beta-globin genes, one from each parent are inherited. Your anemia symptoms and how severe your condition is depends on how many genes are defective and which part of the beta globin protein chain contains the defect.

Symptoms of Thalassemia

Asymptomatic

- (no symptoms)

Mild to Moderate Symptoms

- Growth problems
- Delayed puberty
- Bone abnormalities, such as osteoporosis
- An enlarged spleen

Severe Symptoms

- Poor appetite.
- Pale or yellowish skin (jaundice).
- Urine that's dark or tea-colored.
- Irregular bone structure in your face.

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Asia's First Woman Train Driver

Why in News?

Surekha Yadav, Asia's first woman train driver, will retire from her remarkable 36-year career with **Central Railway (CR)** on 30th September 2025.

- Throughout her career, she broke **barriers in a male-dominated field**, inspiring generations of women to pursue careers in railways.



Key Points

- Surekha Yadav began her career as an **assistant driver in 1989** and rose through the ranks, becoming the first female train driver in Asia.
- She piloted various trains, including the prestigious **Vande Bharat Express**.
- She was also the **first woman to navigate the Deccan Queen** on the steep Bhor Ghat stretch, one of **India's most treacherous rail routes**.
- Her journey from a small town in Satara to becoming a trailblazer in Indian Railways **reflects determination, resilience**, and the changing perception of women's roles in transportation.



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Summary

Key Points

Details

Summary

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