

# WBCS GAZETTE



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**JUNE**

**2025**



## A Monthly Digest for GK & State News

### TOPICS COVERED

- Appointments
- Awards
- Books & Authors [Current]
- Books & Authors [Static GK]
- Sports
- Important Days
- Bengal Related GK
- Static GK
- Current Affairs GK
- Paper-II - Tradition & Culture Of Bengal

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**RANK 19****UNMESH MITRA**  
**RANK 25****RAM KRISHNA SEN**  
**RANK 32****SANTU BANKURA**  
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**SYLLABUS: CURRENT EVENTS OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE: TO BE READ FROM THE IAS GAZETTE: COVERS – POLITY, GOVERNMENT SCHEMES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMY, SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, SECURITY, GEOGRAPHY, SOCIETY, ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY**

## APPOINTMENTS

### Chief of DRDO

- **Dr. Samir V Kamat**, Chairman of **DRDO**, has been granted a **second one-year extension** till **May 31, 2026**, under **Fundamental Rule 56(d)**, citing **public interest**. His leadership is considered crucial for advancing **indigenous defence technologies**. The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** approved this extension, underlining the strategic importance of his ongoing contributions to national defence.

### Director of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

- **Ram Mohan M K** has been appointed as the new **Director of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)**.
- The **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)**, a statutory body under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, was established on **24 August 1972** through the **MPEDA Act, 1972**, replacing the earlier **Marine Products Export Promotion Council (1961)**. Headquartered in **Kochi**, MPEDA is tasked with **promoting and regulating the export of marine products from India**. It operates regional, sub-regional and trade offices in **New Delhi, Tokyo and New York** to strengthen global outreach.
- MPEDA offers services such as **registration of export infrastructure, trade data dissemination, international marketing of Indian seafood and implementation of modernisation measures--including cold chain infrastructure, quality labs and aquaculture development**. It also promotes **brackish water aquaculture and deep-sea fishing** through joint ventures and equity participation,

ensuring India's seafood exports remain sustainable, high-quality and globally competitive.

### Chairman of UPSC

- **Ajay Kumar**, former **Defence Secretary** and a **1985-batch IAS officer** of the **Kerala cadre**, has been appointed as the new **Chairman of UPSC** on **May 14, 2025**, following the end of **Preeti Sudan's tenure**. He played a pivotal role in **defence reforms**, including the **CDS creation, Agniveer scheme and AtmaNirbhar Bharat in defence**. As part of **MeitY**, he contributed to **UPI, Aadhaar and GeM**.
- The **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** is a **constitutional body** established under **Part XIV of the Indian Constitution** to recruit officers for the **All India Services and Central Civil Services (Group A and B)**. Headquartered at **Dholpur House, New Delhi**, it operates independently and reports directly to the **President of India**. Though its advice is not binding, UPSC holds a high degree of **autonomy**, akin to the **judiciary** and the **Election Commission**.

### Executive Chairman of NALSA

- **Justice Surya Kant**, a senior judge of the **Supreme Court**, has been appointed as the new **Executive Chairman of NALSA** effective **May 14, 2025**, succeeding **Justice BR Gavai**. Appointed by the **President of India** under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**, his elevation follows the convention of nominating the **second senior-most SC judge**. Known for promoting **legal aid and access to justice**, Justice Kant previously served as **Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court**. **NALSA**, established in **1995** and



headquartered in **New Delhi**, works to ensure **free legal services** to the underprivileged, in line with **Article 39-A** of the Constitution. His appointment is seen as a key step towards enhancing **social justice** and strengthening **legal outreach**.

## 52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI)

- Justice **B.R. Gavai** was appointed as the **52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI)**. The CJI is the **highest-ranking judge** of the **Supreme Court** and head of the **Indian judiciary**, appointed by the **President** based on the recommendation of the outgoing CJI and consultations with other judges, as per **Article 124(2)** of the **Constitution**. The Chief Justice serves until the age of **65** or until removed through **impeachment** under **Article 124(4)**, which requires a **two-thirds majority** in both Houses of **Parliament** for proven **misbehavior** or **incapacity**. Traditionally, the most **senior judge** is appointed as CJI, although this convention has been broken twice in history. The Chief Justice **allocates cases**, forms **constitutional benches**, oversees **court administration** and appoints **court officials**. Additionally, the CJI acts as the de facto **Chancellor of the National Law School of**

**India University** and **Visitor of the National Law University, Delhi**.

## Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)

- Alok Joshi**, former **R&AW** chief, has been appointed as the new **Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)** amid rising tensions with **Pakistan** following the **Pahalgam terror attack**.
- The **National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)**, established in **1998**, functions under the **National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)** and works in coordination with the **Strategic Policy Group (SPG)** and **Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC)**. It advises the **National Security Council (NSC)** on issues related to **external threats**, **internal stability** and **emerging challenges**, offering **independent, long-term policy analysis**. NSAB played a crucial role in shaping India's **Nuclear Doctrine (2001)** and the **National Security Review (2007)**. Headed by a **Chairperson**, usually a senior former official, it includes members from **diplomacy**, **defence**, **academia**, **economics** and **science**. The board has **no fixed size**, allowing **flexibility** based on evolving needs, with members appointed for a **two-year term**.

## AWARDS

### National e-Governance Awards 2025

- Rohini Gram Panchayat**, a fully tribal village in **Dhule district, Maharashtra**, has won the **Gold Award** at the **National e-Governance Awards 2025**, gaining national recognition for its **digital governance initiatives**.
- The **National e-Governance Awards Scheme**, one of India's most **prestigious digital governance recognitions**, aims to **promote excellence in e-Governance implementation**. In 2025, **16 awards** were conferred--**10 Gold** and **6 Silver**--across **six categories**, including

**AI innovation**, **cyber security** and **grassroot service delivery**. Winners receive a **trophy**, **certificate** and **Rs 10 lakh (Gold)** or **Rs 5 lakh (Silver)** to support public welfare initiatives. The scheme is administered by the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions**. **Rohini Gram Panchayat in Maharashtra** won the **Gold Award** for outstanding digital governance at the grassroots level.

### Miss World 2025

- Opal Suchata Chuangsri** of **Thailand** has been crowned **Miss World 2025** in **Hyderabad**,

securing **Thailand's first-ever win** in the pageant's history. **Hasset Dereje Admassu of Ethiopia** was the runner-up.

- **Miss World** is the **oldest surviving international beauty pageant**, founded in **1951** in the **United Kingdom** by **Eric Morley**. After his death in 2000, his wife **Julia Morley** took over the leadership. Alongside **Miss Universe, Miss Earth and Miss International**, Miss World is part of the **Big Four beauty pageants**. In the 1980s, it introduced the "**Beauty With a Purpose**" theme, emphasizing intelligence and humanitarian work.

## National Florence Nightingale Awards 2025

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the **National Florence Nightingale Awards 2025** to **15 nursing professionals** on **May 30** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan** for their **outstanding service to public health**.
- Instituted in **1973** by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, the award recognizes excellence among **Registered Auxiliary Nurses & Midwives, Registered Nurses and Midwives and Registered Lady Visitors**, employed across **Central, State/UTs and Voluntary Organizations**. Each recipient receives a **Certificate of Merit**, a **cash award of ₹1,00,000** and a **medal**. In a significant move to strengthen nursing education and services, the Government of India has set up **157 nursing colleges** and enacted the **National Nursing and Midwifery Commission (NNMC) Act, 2023**, establishing the **National Nursing and Midwifery Commission** to regulate and enhance the quality of nursing and midwifery education across the country.

## International Booker Prize 2025

- **Banu Mushtaq** made history by becoming the first Kannada author to win the **International Booker Prize 2025** for her short story collection **Heart Lamp**, translated into English by **Deepa Bhashti**.

- A former journalist and now a lawyer, **Banu Mushtaq** is also known for her association with the **Bandaya Movement**, advocating literature as a tool for social change. **Heart Lamp** reflects Banu's own experiences and observations from Karnataka, addressing themes like **religious orthodoxy, patriarchy and women's agency**.
- The **International Booker Prize**, formerly the **Man Booker International Prize**, is a prestigious literary award based in the **United Kingdom**, introduced in **2004** to complement the Booker Prize. Initially awarded biennially (2005–2015) to a living author for their **entire body of work** available in English, it celebrated sustained contributions to global fiction. However, since **2016**, the format changed to an **annual prize** for a **single work of fiction or short stories** translated into English and published in the **UK or Ireland**. The **£50,000 prize** is equally shared between the **author and translator**, highlighting the vital role of translation in global literature.

## Jnanpith Award

- The 58th Jnanpith Award was conferred on **Gulzar and Rambhadracharya** by President Droupadi Murmu for their outstanding literary contributions.
- The **Jnanpith Award**, instituted in **1961**, is **India's highest literary honour**, presented annually by the **Bharatiya Jnanpith** for an author's **outstanding contribution to literature**. It is conferred only on **Indian writers** writing in **languages listed in the Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution or in **English**. **Posthumous awards are not given**.
- Initially awarded for an author's **most outstanding work** from **1965 to 1981**, the first recipient was **G. Sankara Kurup** in **1965** for **Odakkuzhal** (Malayalam). Since then, only works from the **preceding 20 years** are considered (excluding the award year). The **cash prize**, originally modest, was **raised to ₹1.5 lakh in 1981** and as of 2015, stands at **₹11 lakh**.

- The award includes a **citation**, a **bronze Saraswati idol** and a cash component. So far, **65 authors**, including **8 women**, have been honoured. **Ashapoorna Devi** was the **first woman** recipient in **1976** for her Bengali novel *Prothom Protishruti*.

## 2025 World Food Prize

- Mariangela Hungria**, a renowned **Brazilian microbiologist**, has been awarded the **2025 World Food Prize** for her **pioneering work in biological nitrogen fixation**--a sustainable method that enhances crop growth by naturally enriching soil nitrogen, thereby reducing dependency on chemical fertilizers. Her innovations have played a **transformative role in Brazil's agricultural productivity and sustainability**.
- The **World Food Prize**, often referred to as the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture", was **conceived by Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug** and established in **1986** with the support of **General Foods**. It recognizes individuals who have **improved the quality, quantity, or availability of food worldwide**, with contributions ranging from **soil science to policy and hunger alleviation**. Since **1987**, it has been awarded annually by the **World Food Prize Foundation**, headquartered in **Des Moines, Iowa**, where laureates are honored at the **Iowa State Capitol** with a **\$500,000 prize**, a diploma and a commemorative sculpture by **Saul Bass**. The Foundation also conducts programs like the **Borlaug Symposium**, **Iowa Hunger Summit** and **youth internships**. After

**Borlaug, M.S. Swaminathan** became the first laureate and later chaired the selection committee.

## Pulitzer Prizes 2025

- The **Pulitzer Prizes 2025**, among the most prestigious global awards in journalism and the arts, were announced by the **Pulitzer Prize Board** to honour excellence in impactful reporting and storytelling.
- The **New York Times** led with **four awards**, including **Breaking News Photography** for **Doug Mills'** iconic image of the **Trump assassination attempt**. Other key winners include **The Washington Post** for **Breaking News Reporting**, **Reuters** for its investigation "*Fentanyl Express*" and **The Wall Street Journal** for its deep dive into **Elon Musk**. The **New Yorker** won **three awards**--in **Commentary**, **Feature Photography** and **Audio Reporting**. The **Public Service** prize went to **Kavitha Surana** and team for exposing maternal deaths linked to abortion laws.
- The **Pulitzer Prizes**, established in **1917** through the will of newspaper publisher **Joseph Pulitzer**, are prestigious annual awards presented by **Columbia University**, New York, to recognize excellence in **journalism, literature, drama and music** in the United States. There are **23 award categories**, including **Public Service, Investigative Reporting, Fiction, Poetry** and **Audio Reporting**. Winners receive a **certificate and \$15,000**, except in the **Public Service** category, where a **gold medal** is awarded.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS [CURRENT]

Book	Author and Details
<b>India: 5000 Years of History on the Subcontinent</b>	Audrey Truschke: Highlights key empires, cultural shifts and contested narratives shaping the subcontinent's identity.
<b>Indira Gandhi and the Years that Transformed India</b>	TCA Srinivasa Raghavan. Published on May 23, 2025, the book explores the power struggle among the executive, legislature and judiciary during Indira Gandhi's Emergency rule (1975-1977).
<b>PMO Through the Ages</b>	Himanshu Roy

## BOOKS & AUTHORS [STATIC GK]

BOOK	AUTHOR
The Wonder That Was India	A. L. Basham
Whole Numbers and Half Truths	Rukmini S.
The Struggle for India's Soul	Shashi Tharoor
The Problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and Its Solution	B. R. Ambedkar
Gita Rahasya	Bal Gangadhar Tilak
Young India: An Interpretation and a History	Lala Lajpat Rai
Prison Diary	Jayaprakash Narayan
The Golden Threshold	Sarojini Naidu
The Home and the World	Rabindranath Tagore
Nationality and Empire	Bipin Chandra Pal
Pilgrimage to Freedom	K. M. Munshi

## SPORTS

### Global Ambassador for the Esports World Cup 2025 (EWC)

- Cristiano Ronaldo, Portuguese footballer and five-time Ballon d'Or winner, has been officially named the **Global Ambassador for the Esports World Cup 2025 (EWC)** by the Esports World Cup Foundation (EWCF)
- Esports World Cup (EWC)** is the world's largest annual esports event, held in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia** (July–August), organized by the **Esports World Cup Foundation**. Launched in **2024** as a successor to **Gamers8**, it features **25+ games** and a **\$70 million+ prize pool** (2025). Key features include the **Club Championship** (\$20 million) and introduction of **chess** (ambassador: **Magnus Carlsen**). Founded by **Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman** in 2023, EWC faces criticism as a **sports washing** tool amid Saudi Arabia's human rights concerns.

### Wimbledon

- Wimbledon 2025** has announced a **record prize pool of £53.5 million (~\$73 million)**, with **£3 million (~\$4 million)** each for men's and

women's singles champions--an **11.1% increase** from 2024.

- Wimbledon** is the **oldest and most prestigious** tennis tournament in the world, held annually since **1877** in **Wimbledon, London**, on **outdoor grass courts**. Organized by the **All England Club** with the **Lawn Tennis Association**, it is the **third Grand Slam** of the year, following the **Australian Open** and **French Open**. The **2025 edition (June 30 – July 13)** will be the first to use **only electronic line-calling**, ending the use of human line judges in its **147-year history**.

### ICC Hall of Fame

- MS Dhoni**, former India captain and the only skipper to win all three ICC white-ball trophies, was inducted into the **ICC Hall of Fame in 2025**, becoming the **11th Indian cricketer** to receive this honour.
- Dhoni led India to the **2007 T20 World Cup**, **2011 ODI World Cup** and **2013 Champions Trophy**. Over his 16-year career, he played **350 ODIs**, scoring **10,773 runs** and **90 Tests**, amassing **4,876 runs**, while excelling as a wicketkeeper. The 2025 Hall of Fame class



also included legends like **Matthew Hayden**, **Daniel Vettori**, **Hashim Amla**, **Graeme Smith**, **Sana Mir** and **Sarah Taylor**.

- The **ICC Cricket Hall of Fame**, launched in **2009**, honours cricket legends from the sport's long history. It started with **55 FICA inductees**, ranging from **W.G. Grace** to **Graham Gooch**. New members are added annually during the **ICC Awards**. As of **2025**, there are **122 inductees**--**85** from England, Australia and West Indies and **37** from other Test nations. Notably, in **2025**, **MS Dhoni**, **Graeme Smith** and **Daniel Vettori**-- all **2011 World Cup captains** -- were inducted. There are **15 women inductees**, with **Rachael Heyhoe Flint** being the first (**2010**) and **Sana Mir** and **Sarah Taylor** inducted in **2025**.

## Sonneborne-Berger tiebreak system

- Indian GM **Aravindh Chithambaram** clinched victory at the **6th Stepan Avagyan Memorial chess tournament** held in **Jermuk, Armenia**, scoring **6.5 points in 9 rounds**.
- He tied with **R. Praggnanandhaa**, but won on the **Sonneborne-Berger tiebreak system**, which evaluates the strength of opponents beaten. Aravindh remained **unbeaten** with **4 wins and 5 draws**, defeating **Aram Hakobyan** in the final round. This adds to his stellar **2025**, having also won the **Prague Chess Festival Masters** earlier. The tournament continues to grow as a significant fixture in the global chess calendar.
- The **Sonneborn-Berger score**, also known as the **Neustadtli score**, is a widely used chess tiebreak system, especially in **Round Robin tournaments**. It is calculated by adding the scores of defeated opponents and half the scores of drawn opponents, rewarding strong performances against higher-ranked players. Originally proposed by **Hermann Neustadtli** in **1882**, it differs from earlier variants by **Oscar Gelbfuhs** and the **non-Neustadtli** version supported by **Sonneborn and Berger**.

## Norway Chess

- **Magnus Carlsen** clinched his **seventh Norway Chess title** in **2025** after a dramatic final round in **Stavanger**, drawing against **Arjun Erigaisi** to edge out **Fabiano Caruana** and **D Gukesh**.
- **Norway Chess** is a prestigious annual closed chess tournament held typically between May and June in **Stavanger, Norway**. It began in **2013** with ten top players, including seven of the world's highest-rated grandmasters and was won by **Sergey Karjakin**, with **Magnus Carlsen** and **Hikaru Nakamura** sharing second place. In **2015**, **Norway Chess** joined the inaugural **Grand Chess Tour** but later withdrew to maintain its independent status as a premier event.

## 2025 Asian Athletics Championships

- India secured a strong **second place** at the **2025 Asian Athletics Championships** in **Gumi, South Korea**, with a total of **24 medals**--**8 gold**, **10 silver** and **6 bronze**.
- The **World Athletics Championships**--formerly the **IAAF World Championships in Athletics** until **2019**--are the premier biennial global competition for outdoor track and field athletics, organized by **World Athletics**. Established officially in **1983** in **Helsinki**, the championships arose after the **IOC** removed the men's **50 km walk** from the **1976 Olympics**, prompting the **IAAF** to hold separate world events starting in **1976**. Initially held every four years, the championships switched to a two-year cycle from **1991** onward.
- In **2024**, **World Athletics** announced the **World Athletics Ultimate Championship**, a new elite biennial event starting **2026** featuring only the top **16 athletes** per discipline.

## Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025

- **Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)** finally clinched their **maiden IPL title** in **2025**.

- They defeated **Punjab Kings** by **6 runs** in a thrilling final at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium.

## Princess of Asturias Award for Sports 2025

- Serena Williams, the legendary tennis icon, has been conferred the **Princess of Asturias Award for Sports 2025**
- The award celebrates Serena's dual legacy-- her **dominance on the court** with **23 Grand Slam singles titles** and 73 overall and her **voice for gender and racial equity** off the court.
- The **Princess of Asturias Awards** are prestigious **international honours** awarded annually by the **Princess of Asturias Foundation** in **Spain** to individuals and institutions for outstanding achievements in **sciences, humanities, public affairs** and more. Held in **October** at **Teatro Campoamor, Oviedo**, the ceremony is presided over by the **Princess of Asturias**. Winners receive a **Joan Miró sculpture**, a diploma, a foundation pin and a **€50,000 prize**. In **2004**, **UNESCO** recognized the awards as an "exceptional contribution to the cultural heritage of Humanity".

## Nottwil World Para Athletics Grand Prix

- India's **Mahendra Gurjar** set a **world record** in the **men's javelin F42** category at the **Nottwil World Para Athletics Grand Prix** in **Switzerland** with a throw of **61.17m**, surpassing the previous 2022 record of 59.19m.
- He also clinched **gold in long jump T42** with a **5.59m leap**, marking his first event in that category and earning him the **top Asia ranking**.

- **Nottwil World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025** was held in **Nottwil, Switzerland**, from **May 23-25**, with classifications from **May 20-22**. The event featured **254 para-athletes from 40 countries** competing in various track and field events.

## First Indian to Win Formula 2 Race

- **Kush Maini** made **Indian motorsport history** by winning the **Formula 2 Sprint Race** at the **Monaco Grand Prix**, becoming the **first Indian** to achieve this feat.
- The **Monaco Grand Prix**, held annually on the **Circuit de Monaco** since **1929**, is considered one of the most **prestigious Formula One races** in the world. Alongside the **Indianapolis 500** and the **24 Hours of Le Mans**, it forms the **Triple Crown of Motorsport**.

## Miao Lijie Named Ambassador for FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025

- **Chinese basketball legend Miao Lijie** has been appointed as the **ambassador** for the upcoming **FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025**, set to take place in **Shenzhen, China**, from **July 13 to 20, 2025**.
- **FIBA Women's Asia Cup** is a **biennial international basketball tournament** for **women's national teams** from **FIBA Asia** and, since 2017, **FIBA Oceania**. Originally known as the **Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) Championship** until 2001 and later the **FIBA Asia Women's Championship** until 2015, the tournament showcases the top women's basketball talent from across Asia and Oceania, serving as a key qualifier for global events like the **FIBA Women's World Cup** and the **Olympics**.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

Dates	Day/Event
<b>May</b>	
1 May	International Labour Day / May Day, Maharashtra Day, Gujarat Day
2 May	World Tuna Day
3 May	World Press Freedom Day
4 May	World Portuguese Language Day
6 May	International No Diet Day, World Asthma Day (First Tuesday)
7 May	World Athletics Day
8 May	World Red Cross Day, World Thalassaemia Day
9 May	Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti, Maharana Pratap Jayanti
10 May	World Lupus Day
11 May	National Technology Day, Mother's Day (Second Sunday)
12 May	International Nurses Day, Buddha Purnima (Buddha Jayanti)
15 May	International Day of Families
16 May	National Dengue Day, International Day of Light, National Endangered Species Day (Third Friday)
17 May	World Telecommunication Day, World Hypertension Day, Armed Forces Day (Third Saturday)
18 May	World AIDS Vaccine Day (HIV Vaccine Awareness Day), International Museum Day
20 May	International HR Day
21 May	National Anti-Terrorism Day, International Tea Day
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity
23 May	World Turtle Day
24 May	National Brother's Day
25 May	Africa Day
26 May	National Memorial Day (Last Monday of May)
30 May	International Day of Potato, Goa Statehood Day, Hindi Journalism Day
31 May	World No Tobacco Day (Anti-Tobacco Day)
<b>June</b>	
1 June	World Milk Day, Global Day of Parents
2 June	International Sex Workers' Day, Telangana Formation Day
3 June	World Bicycle Day
4 June	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
5 June	World Environment Day
7 June	World Food Safety Day
8 June	World Oceans Day, World Brain Tumour Day
12 June	World Day Against Child Labour
14 June	World Blood Donor Day
15 June	Father's Day, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

## BENGAL RELATED GK

### Geographical Overview

- **Area:** 88,752 km<sup>2</sup> (2.72% of India's total area); 14th largest state.
- **Districts:** 23 districts (as per RHS 2019).

### Population Profile

- **Total population:** Over 9.1 crores (Census 2011);
- **National share:** 7.54% of India's population.
- **SC population:** 2.1 crores (23.5%);
- **ST population:** 0.52 crores (5.8%).
- **Top 5 SC/ST Dominant Districts:** Account for 37.54% of SC and 53.33% of ST population.
- **Rural-Urban Split:** 68.13% rural, 31.87% urban.
- **Sex ratio:** 941 females/1000 males (above national average of 889).

### Demographic Distribution by District

- **Population ≥ 30 lakh:** 16 districts
- **Population 20–30 lakh:** 2 districts
- **Population 10–20 lakh:** 2 districts

### Age Composition

- **10–19 years:** 16%
- **20–59 years:** 60%
- **60+ years:** 10%

### Vital Statistics

- **Crude Birth Rate:** Declined from 18.8 (2005) to 14.9 (2019)
- **Crude Death Rate:** Declined from 6.4 (2005) to 5.3 (2019)

### Literacy & Education

- **Overall Literacy (2011):** 76.26%
  - **Male:** 81.69%
  - **Female:** 70.54%
- **Literacy (2001):** 68.64%
- **Gross Enrollment Rates (ESAG 2018):**
  - **Higher Education:** 17.7%
  - **Senior Secondary:** 51.54%
  - **Secondary:** 83.56%

- **Elementary:** 104.16%
- **Primary:** 103.68%

### Road Infrastructure

- **Total road length:** 3,22,067 km (6.44% of India's roads)
  - **National Highways:** 2,956 km (2.6% of national total)
  - **State Highways:** 3,262 km (1.86% of national total)

### Elderly Population in West Bengal

- **Population aged 60+:** 10% of total state population.
- **Life expectancy at age 60:**
  - **Males:** 17.9 years
  - **Females:** 19.2 years (SRS 2014–2018)

### Economic Dependency:

- **Urban Areas:**
  - 75% elderly females & 24% elderly males are fully dependent.
- **Rural Areas:**
  - 80% elderly females & 30% elderly males are fully dependent.

### Old Age Dependency Ratio (2011):

- **Overall:** 13.2
  - **Males:** 12.7
  - **Females:** 13.7
- **Rural:** 12.5
- **Urban:** 14.5

### Health Status:

- **Illness perception among elderly:** ~41%, higher than national average (31%)

### Maternal Health in West Bengal

- West Bengal has shown notable improvements under the **RMNCHA+** (Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health & Nutrition) program:



### Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR):

- Declined from **145 (2007–09)** to **98 (2016–18)** per 1,00,000 live births.

### Antenatal Care (ANC):

- 81.7%** of pregnant women received **4 ANC** checkups.
- Poor coverage districts:** Murshidabad, Paschim Bardhaman, Purba Medinipur, Purulia, Uttar Dinajpur (56.8%–70.1%)
- Good coverage districts:** Haora, Jalpaiguri, Maldah, North & South 24 Parganas (82.7%–89.9%)

### Institutional Deliveries:

- 98.6%** deliveries in institutions.
  - 80.1%** in public health facilities.

### C-Section Deliveries:

- 36.2%** of all births, higher than **WHO norm (10–15%)**
  - 79.8%** of these are conducted in **private facilities**

### Postnatal Care:

- 82.9%** women received first postpartum check-up **within 48 hours to 14 days**

### Anaemia Prevalence:

- Increased from **62.2% to 70.8%**
- Females of reproductive age** show **twice** the anaemia prevalence compared to males of similar age.

### Newborn, Infant & Child Health

- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):** Reduced from **38 (2005)** to **20 (2019)**--*lower than national average (30)*.
- Neonatal Mortality Rate (NNMR):** Reduced from **29.5** to **16** (per 1,000 live births).
- Stillbirth Rate:** Improved from **8.6** to **5** (2005–2018).
- Life Expectancy at Birth:** Rose from **69 (2006–10)** to **71.6 (2014–18)**--*higher than national avg (69.4)*.

### Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB):

- Low SRB (777–877):** Purba Medinipur, Kolkata, Purulia, etc.
- High SRB (1062–1155):** Uttar Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Dakshin Dinajpur, Haora.

### Child Health:

- Full Immunization (12–23 months):** Slight dip from **92.5% to 90.8%**.
- Exclusive Breastfeeding (<6 months):** Remains stable.
- Child Anaemia (6–59 months):** Rose from **54.2% to 69%**.

### Malnutrition:

- Stunting (Low burden):** 25.8%–28.9% (e.g., Purba Medinipur, Nadia).
- Stunting (High burden):** 37%–44.8% (e.g., Murshidabad, Birbhum).
- Wasting (High burden):** 25.5%–30.3% (e.g., Kolkata, Bankura).
- Wasting (Low burden):** 13.3%–16.8% (e.g., Murshidabad, Koch Bihar).

### Family Planning

- Total Fertility Rate (TFR):** Declined from **2.1 (2005)** to **1.5 (2018)**--*lower than national avg (2.2)*.
- Unmet Need (Total):** 7%, with 3% for spacing.
  - Highest:** Purulia (16.1%)
  - Lowest:** Kolkata (2.2%)
- Use of Modern Methods:** **60.7%** of married women.
  - Female Sterilization:** 29.4%
  - Male Sterilization:** 0.1%

### Communicable Diseases

- CMNND burden:** 22.59% of DALYs
- Major causes:** TB, diarrhoea, lower respiratory infections.
- TB Notification Rate:** **99%** vs national **163%**
- TB Treatment Success (NSP):** **80%**
- Leprosy Prevalence:** **0.58/10,000** (national avg: 0.61)
- Deaths (2019–20):** Malaria (6), JE (11), none from Dengue/Kala Azar.

### Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) & Injuries

- **Total disease burden:**
  - NCDs: 66.02% of DALYs
  - Injuries: 11.39%
- **Top contributors:** Ischaemic heart disease, stroke, COPD.
- **Lifestyle risks:**
  - Tobacco: 10.8% women, 48.1% men
  - Alcohol: 1.1% women, 18.1% men
- **Key risk factors:** High BP, fasting glucose, pollution, low birth weight.

### Health Care

- **Per Capita Income:** ₹1,01,138 (22nd rank nationally)
- **Govt. Health Expenditure:** ₹1,088 (national avg: ₹1,753)
- **Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE):** 69.8%(national avg: 48.8%)

### OOPE - Inpatient Care:

- **Private (Rural):** ₹46,992
- **Public (Rural):** ₹3,765
- **Private (Urban):** ₹42,264
- **Public (Urban):** ₹4,993

### OOPE - Childbirth:

- **Public:** ₹2,559 (rural), ₹3,109 (urban)
- **Private:** ₹21,005 (rural), ₹31,708 (urban)
- **Medicine cost:** ~55% (rural), ~47% (urban) of inpatient expenses

### Health Infrastructure

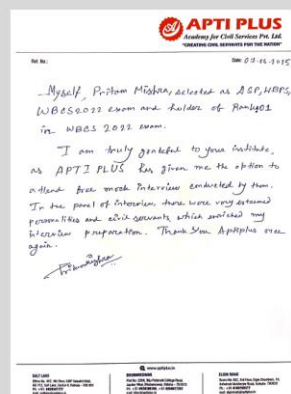
- **Shortfalls (as per RHS):**
  - SCs: 21.69%
  - PHCs: 58.04%
  - CHCs: 36.03%
- **Requirement vs Availability:**
  - SCs: 13,225 req. | 10,357 exist
  - PHCs: 2,176 req. | 913 exist
  - CHCs: 544 req. | 348 exist
- **Urban PHCs:** 456 in place vs 697 required (shortfall 34.58%)
- **Tribal Area Facilities:** Surplus across SCs, PHCs, CHCs

### Major Facilities:

- **District Hospitals:** 18
- **Sub-Divisional Hospitals:** 60
- **Govt. Medical Colleges:** 19
- **Functional FRUs:**
  - 100% DHs
  - 97% SDHs
  - 13.5% CHCs
- **Ayushman Bharat HWCs:** 5,260 operational (as of Dec 2021)
- **MMUs:** 11 districts (NRHM), 1 district (NUHM)
- **ASHA Coverage:**
  - NRHM: 86% (national: 96%)
  - NUHM: 81% (national: 85%)
- **Health Worker Ratio:** 12 per 10,000 population



**Pritam Mishra**  
**Rank 1**  
WBPS 2022



Myself, Pritam Mishra, selected as DSP, WBPS, WBPS 2022 exam and holder of Rank 1 in WBPS 2022 exam.

I am truly grateful to your institute, as **APTI PLUS** has given me the option to attend Free Mock Interview conducted by them. In the Panel of Interview, there were very esteemed personalities and Civil Servants, which enriched my interview preparation. Thank you **APTI PLUS** once again.

## 1.1 State Profile<sup>bb</sup>

Indicator	West Bengal 2011 <sup>1</sup>	India
Total Population (In Crore)	9.1	121.08
Rural (%)	68.1	68.85
Urban (%)	31.8	31.14
Scheduled Caste population (SC) (in crore)	2.1 (23.5%)	20.14 (16.63%)
Scheduled Tribe population (ST) (in crore)	0.52 (5.8%)	10.45 (8.63%)
Total Literacy Rate (%)	76.26	72.99
Male Literacy Rate (%)	81.69	80.89
Female Literacy Rate (%)	70.54	64.64
Number of Districts in the West Bengal <sup>2</sup>	23	
Number of districts per lakh population in West Bengal (Census 2011)	Population <sup>1</sup>	Districts <sup>1</sup> (Numbers)
	<10 Lakhs	0
	≥ 10 Lakhs - <20 Lakhs	2
	≥20 Lakhs - <30 lakhs	2
	>30 Lakhs	16

ST SC Dominant (Top 5) Districts of West Bengal <sup>1</sup>	
ST Dominant Districts (%)	SC Dominant Districts (%)
Darjeeling - 21.51%	Cooch Bihar - 50.17%
Jalpaiguri - 18.89%	Jalpaiguri - 37.65%
Purulia - 18.45%	Bankura - 32.665%
Dakshin Dinajpur - 16.42%	South Twenty Four Parganas - 30.18%
Paschim Medinipur - 14.88%	Nadia - 29.93%
Top 5 ST dominant district accounts for - 53.33%	Top 5 SC dominant district accounts for - 37.54%

## STATIC GK

The first five-year plan came into force in **April 1951** and was active till **March 1956**.

GST was implemented on **1st July 2017**.

The headquarters of SEBI is in **Mumbai**.

Einstein received the Nobel Prize for the **photoelectric effect** in **1921**.

The most saline lake in India is **Sambhar Lake** in **Rajasthan**.

The **Chit Funds Act** was enacted in **1982**.

**Operation Twist** refers to the RBI's simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under **Open Market Operations (OMO)** to influence interest rates and manage market liquidity.

**NABARD** was established in **1982** on the recommendation of the **Sivaraman Committee**.

**Inclusive development index** was published by the **World Economic Forum**.

**Red Data Book** contains the list of endangered species and is maintained by **IUCN**.

**Basel Convention** deals with transboundary movement of **hazardous waste**.

**Montreal Protocol (1987)** deals with substances that **deplete the ozone layer**.

The first nuclear reactor in India was **Apsara (1956)**.

India's first satellite navigation project is **GAGAN**.

**CRISPR** is a technology used for gene editing.

**Boson particles** have an integral spin (0, 1, 2...).

**Project Loon** was initiated by **Google** for balloon-powered internet.

**Manimekalai**, is a Tamil Buddhist epic composed by **Kulavāṇikaṇ** **Seethalai Sataṇar** probably somewhere between the 2nd century to the 6th century.

**UNESCO** is headquartered in **Paris, France**.

The **Bretton Woods Conference** led to the formation of **IMF and World Bank**.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded on **14 September 1960** in **Baghdad** by the first five members: **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela**.

The **TAPI pipeline** runs through **Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India**.

The **International Court of Justice** is located in **The Hague, Netherlands**.

**BRICS Bank** is officially called **New Development Bank**.

**Rammohun Roy** founded the **Atmiya Sabha** in **1814** in **Kolkata**.

India's first digital village is **Akodara** in **Gujarat**.

The **Khetri mines** in **Rajasthan** are famous for **copper**.

The earliest evidence of agriculture in the Indian subcontinent is found at **Mehrgarh**.

The **Indo-Greeks** were also the first to issue gold coins in **India**.

**Ashoka** used the title "**DevanampiyaPiyadassi**" in his inscriptions.

River **Teesta** originates as **ChhomboChhu** from a glacial lake **KhangchungChho** in **Sikkim**.

India's first **SEZ** was established in **Kandla, Gujarat**.

The basic unit of heredity is the **gene**, located on chromosomes.

India joined the **MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime)** in **2016**.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is **not signed** by **India**.

The **Kolkata Port** is India's only riverine port.

India's first female IAS officer was **Anna Rajam Malhotra**.

India's first full-length feature film was **Raja Harishchandra (1913)**, directed by **Dadasaheb Phalke**.

The first Indian talkie movie was **Alam Ara**, released on **March 14, 1931**. It was directed by **Ardeshir Irani** and produced by **Imperial Film Co**.

**Habib Tanvir** was known for blending **Chhattisgarhi folk theatre** with modern drama.

The pancreas acts both as an **endocrine and exocrine gland**.

The human body's largest organ is the **skin**.

**DNA** was first isolated by **Friedrich Miescher** in **1869**.

The **Louvre Museum** is located in **Paris** and houses the **Mona Lisa**.

The **Nobel Peace Prize** is awarded in **Oslo, Norway**.

**ASEAN** was founded in **1967** in **Bangkok, Thailand**.

The oldest **Upanishad** is the **Brihadaranyaka Upanishad**.

The **Pali Canon** is the sacred text of **Theravada Buddhism**.

**NCERT** was established in **1961** to assist and advise on educational matters.



The **National Anthem** was adopted on **24 January 1950**.

The motto of the Supreme Court of India is **Yato Dharma Tato Jaya**.

The first woman judge of the Supreme Court was **Justice Fathima Beevi**.

The **Great Trigonometrical Survey** helped measure the height of the Himalayas.

The first successful heart transplant in India was

performed by **Dr. P. Venugopal** in **1994**.

Bose-Einstein Condensate is the **fifth state of matter** observed at near absolute zero.

Kalamkari is a traditional hand-painting textile art from **Andhra Pradesh**.

The Tropic of Cancer passes through eight Indian states. These states are: Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh,

Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram

Tropic of Cancer passes the districts in West Bengal are **Purulia, Bankura, Bardhaman and Nadia**.

India's first bank was the **Bank of Hindustan (1770)**, now defunct.

Alessandro Volta invented the **first chemical battery in 1800**.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS GK

"Black Box" in aircraft is actually **bright orange** and includes the **Flight Data Recorder (FDR)** and **Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR)**, built to survive **extreme crash conditions** and aid in investigations.

Statins inhibit **HMG-CoA reductase** to lower **cholesterol** and also exhibit **anti-inflammatory, immune modulatory, antioxidative and antithrombotic** effects, making them useful beyond cardiovascular diseases.

**Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)** is the **percentage fee** deducted by the bank from digital payments made to merchants, shared among the issuing bank, acquiring bank,

**payment system operator** and **payment gateway**.

**CROPIC** (Collection of Real-time Observations & Photo of Crops) uses **AI** and **crowd sourcing** to enhance **efficiency** and **transparency** in the agricultural sector.

**Cathepsin B (Cat B)** is a **protein-degrading enzyme** identified as a key factor in **ovarian reserve decline** and inhibiting it helps **preserve egg cells** and prevent **premature fertility loss**.

**Volcán de Fuego** is a **stratovolcano** located in **Guatemala**, near **Antigua** and is part of the **Pacific Ring of Fire**.

**Padmanabhaswamy Temple** in **Thiruvananthapuram**, **Kerala**,

is dedicated to **Lord Vishnu** as **Ananta Padmanabha**, with historical mentions dating back to the **8th or 9th century CE**.

**Thitu Island**, also known as **Pag-asa Island**, is the **second largest natural island** in the **Spratly Islands**, under **Philippine control** since **1971**, with a **civilian settlement, military presence** and lies close to **China's Subi Reef**.

**Kalvarayan Hills**, part of the **Eastern Ghats** in **Tamil Nadu**, span **1095 sq. km** across districts like **Salem**, separating the **Kaveri** and **Palar** basins, with **Periya Kalrayans** (avg. height **4000 ft**) and **Chinna Kalrayans** (**2700 ft**), inhabited mainly by the **Malayali tribe**.

**Rare earth magnets**, made from alloys of **rare earth elements** like **neodymium** and **samarium-cobalt**, are known for their **high magnetic strength** and are used in advanced technologies despite being **brittle** and **corrosion-prone**.

**Agroterrorism** is the deliberate use of **plant or animal pathogens** by **non-state actors** to disrupt the **agriculture sector** or **food supply**, linking it to **biological** and **chemical warfare**.

**Kulsi River**, a **tributary of the Brahmaputra**, originates in **West Khasi Hills** of **Meghalaya**, enters **Assam** at **Ukiam** and flows about **76 km** to join the **Brahmaputra** at **Nagarbera**.

**Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Andhra Pradesh's Godavari delta** is India's **second largest mangrove forest**, home to species like the **fishing cat**, **Brahminy kite** and a **breeding ground** for **Olive Ridley Turtles**.

**ECOWAS**, founded in **1975** by the **Treaty of Lagos**, is a **West African regional bloc** aiming for **economic integration**, **free movement** and **regional stability**, now comprising **12 member states** after **Burkina Faso**, **Mali** and **Niger** withdrew in **2024**.

**Exposomics** studies the **total environmental exposures** (like **pollutants**, **diet**, **stress**,

**chemicals**) over a **lifetime**, integrating **external factors** with **biological responses** using tools like **mass spectrometry**, **biomarkers** and **AI modeling**.

**Thermophiles** are **heat-loving microorganisms** that thrive in **high-temperature environments** like **hot springs** and **thermal vents**, often producing **potent antibiotics** to outcompete other microbes.

**Nanozymes** are **nanomaterials** with **enzyme-like properties**, functioning as **catalysts** for **biochemical reactions** similar to natural enzymes.

**Dickson Fjord**, located in **eastern Greenland**, is part of the **Arctic's glacial fjord system**, characterized by **deep inlets**, **steep cliffs**, **U-shaped valleys** and **long, narrow reaches** inland.

**Raigad Fort**, the capital of **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Maratha Empire**, is a **hill fort** in **Raigad district, Maharashtra**, known as the '**Gibraltar of the East**', with strategic elevation and surrounded by **Kal** and **Gandhari river valleys**.

**Lysosomal Storage Disorders (LSDs)** are **inherited metabolic disorders** caused by **defective lysosomal enzymes**, leading to the accumulation of **complex molecules** like **lipids**, **carbohydrates**, or **proteins** inside cells.

**First-Person View (FPV) drones** are small **UAVs** that provide **real-time video feeds** to operators via **cameras**, enabling **precise manual control** for tasks like **surveillance**, **monitoring** and **search-and-rescue** within a **short operational range**.

The **WHO's MPOWER framework** outlines six key strategies to combat **tobacco use**: **Monitor** tobacco use, **Protect** from second-hand smoke, **Offer** cessation support, **Warn** about risks, **Enforce** ad bans and **Raise** tobacco taxes.

**Kalanamak rice**, also known as **Buddha rice**, is an **aromatic, non-basmati variety** from **eastern Uttar Pradesh** and **Nepal's Tarai region**, known for its **black husk**, **distinct fragrance** and **GI tag (2013)**, with cultivation dating back to **600 BC**.

**Biostimulants** are substances that **enhance plant growth** and **stress tolerance** by improving **nutrient uptake** and **resilience**, not by directly supplying nutrients and are regulated under the **Fertiliser Control Order (FCO)**, **1985** by the **Ministry of Agriculture**.

**Kilauea Volcano**, a **shield-type volcano** in **Hawaii**, stands at **4,190 feet**, features the **Halema'uma'u lava lake** and is one of the **world's most active volcanoes**, erupting **continuously since 1983** with

typically **nonexplosive** eruptions.

**Moringa**, or the “**tree of life**”, is a **nutrient-rich crop** (*Moringa oleifera*) native to **India**, known for thriving in **tropical climates**, with **leaves, seeds, bark and pods** used in **nutrition, medicine, cosmetics** and even **biofuel**.

**Kiru Hydropower Project** is a **624 MW run-of-river scheme** on the **Chenab River** in **Jammu & Kashmir**, featuring a **135m-high concrete gravity dam**.

**Liquid carbon** is hard to study because it forms only under **extreme conditions--high pressure** (10 million times Earth’s atmosphere) and **temperatures around 4,500°C--and no container** can survive such intense environments.

**Intercrystals** are novel materials formed by stacking and twisting **ultrathin layers of graphene and hexagonal boron nitride**, creating unique **moiré patterns** with distinct physical properties.

**Chagos Islands**, a UK overseas territory in the **central Indian Ocean**, are strategically important due to the **U.S. military base on Diego Garcia**, the **largest and southernmost island** of the archipelago.

**Clownfish**, or **anemonefish**, are brightly colored marine fish known for their **mutualistic symbiotic relationship** with **sea anemones**, offering protection and receiving shelter in return.

**Salmonella** is a group of bacteria that cause **salmonellosis**, a foodborne illness transmitted mainly through **contaminated food or water**, especially **raw meat, eggs and unwashed produce**.

**Index Card** is a **non-statutory statistical report** prepared by the **Election Commission of India** post-election, providing **constituency-level electoral data** for academic, research and policy analysis.

**Loan-to-Value (LTV) Ratio** is the percentage of a gold

asset's value a lender offers as a loan. Regulated by the **RBI**, it ensures lenders maintain a safety margin against gold price fluctuations.

**Loan-to-Value (LTV) Ratio** is the percentage of a gold asset's value a lender offers as a loan. Regulated by the **RBI**, it ensures lenders maintain a safety margin against gold price fluctuations.

**Greater Flamingo Sanctuary** in **Dhanushkodi** is a vital stop on the **Central Asian Flyway**, rich in **mangroves** and home to **128 bird species**.

**DIGIPIN** is a geo-coded, open-source digital addressing system that assigns a unique **10-character alphanumeric code** to every **4x4 meter** location in India. Developed by the **Department of Posts, IIT Hyderabad** and **ISRO's NRSC**, it enhances **precision in deliveries, emergency response and service access--even in rural or remote areas**.

## PAPER – II-TRADITION & CULTURE OF BENGAL

### Gerasim Lebedev – Pioneer of Bengali Theatre & Indology

- **Full Name:** Gerasim Stepanovich Lebedev (1749 – 1817), a Russian linguist, musician, writer and Indologist.
- **Birthplace:** Yaroslavl, Russia. Later moved to Saint Petersburg.
- **Languages Known:** English, French, German (self-taught); later learned **Hindi, Sanskrit, Bengali**.

### Arrival & Activities in India

- Arrived in **Madras in 1785** with a British military band; shifted to **Calcutta** due to cultural restrictions.
- Studied Indian languages under **Goloknath Das**, to whom he taught violin and Western music.
- Became the **first to use Indian tunes on Western instruments** in public performances (tickets ₹12).

### Contribution to Bengali Theatre

- Founded **India's first European-style proscenium theatre** in Calcutta in **1795** at Domtala (now Ezra Street).
- **First Modern Bengali plays** staged by him:
  - *The Disguise* (adapted from M. Jodrelle)
  - *Love is the Best Doctor* (*L'Amour Médecin* by Molière)
- Used **Bengali actors**; lyrics sourced from **Bharatchandra Ray**.
- Considered the **pioneer of modern Indian theatre**.
- Faced opposition from the British; his theatre was **burned by Englishmen**.

### Dinabandhu Mitra

- **Real Name:** Gandharva Narayan
- **Born:** 10 April 1829, Chowberia village, Gopalnagar P.S., North 24 Parganas, Bengal Presidency
- **Died:** 1 November 1873, Kolkata
- **Father:** Kalachand Mitra
- **Uncle:** Nilmani Mitra
- **Title:** *Rai Bahadur* (for services in the Lushai Expedition)

### Education and Career

- Early education: Village pathshala → Free school run by James Long
- Admitted to **Hindu College** in 1850 (didn't complete final exam)
- Joined **Postal Department** in 1855: served in Patna, Krishnanagar, Nadia, Dhaka, Odisha
- Became **Postmaster** and later **Inspector in Indian Railways** (1872)

### Linguistic & Literary Contributions

- **Compiled a Bengali dictionary**, translated parts of *Annadamangal* into Russian.
- Authored a **book on arithmetic** in Bengali.
- Published "**Grammar of the Pure and Mixed East Indian Dialects**" (London, 1801).
- Wrote "**Unbiased Observations on Brahmin Customs**" (1805).

### Later Life & Legacy

- **Expelled from India in 1797** by British authorities; financially ruined.
- Returned to Russia via London; established a **Devanagari-Bengali printing press** in St. Petersburg – **first in Europe**.
- Died in 1817 in his printing house; buried in Saint Petersburg.

### Legacy

- **First foreigner** to make significant contributions to **Indian theatre, linguistics and cultural studies**.
- Laid the foundation for **Indology** and cross-cultural artistic exchange.

### Literary Career

- Inspired by **Ishwar Chandra Gupta**
- Known for **realistic drama and social issues**
- Major works:
  - **Nil Darpan** (1860)
  - *Nabin Tapasvini* (1863)
  - *Biye Pagla Budo* (1866)
  - *Sadhabar Ekadashi* (1866)
  - *Lilavati* (1867)
  - *Jamai Barik* (1873)
  - *Kamale Kamini* (1873)
  - Novel: *Poda Mahehshvar*
  - Satirical story: *Jamalaye Jibanta Manush*

### Nil Darpan (1860)

- Focus: **Plight of indigo farmers** during the **Indigo Revolt (1858)**
- Based on real observations from Orissa and Bengal



- **Translated into English** by *Michael Madhusudan Dutt*, published by *Rev. James Long*
- Widely circulated in **Europe**, compared to *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- Caused a **legal case** against *Rev. Long* (fined Rs. 1000; paid by *Kaliprasanna Singha*)
- **Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar** once threw a shoe at the actor playing the cruel indigo planter--sign of emotional power of the play

## Binodini Dasi (1863–1941): Trailblazer of Bengali Theatre

- **Also Known As:** *Noti Binodini*
- **Born/Died:** 1863 – 12 February 1941, Calcutta, British India

**Profession:** Actress, Autobiographer, Theatre Entrepreneur

### Early Life & Entry into Theatre

- Born into a **poor family**, Binodini was drawn to music and theatre early on, mentored by **tawaif Ganga Bai** and later by **Girish Chandra Ghosh**.
- At just **12 years old**, she debuted on stage at Calcutta's **National Theatre** in 1874.
- Her career rose during the rise of **proscenium-style European-inspired theatre** in Bengal.

### Stage Career & Legacy

- Active for **12 years**, she portrayed **over 90 roles in 80+ plays**, ranging from mythological to historical characters like **Sita, Draupadi, Radha, Ayesha** and **Kapalkundala**.
- Famously played **six roles** in *Meghnad Badh* and earned praise from **Bankim Chandra** and **Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa**.
- Introduced **modern make-up techniques**, fusing **European and Indian styles**.
- Played a key role in founding **Star Theatre**, though later betrayed and sidelined by her collaborators.

### Autobiography & Social Commentary

- Authored *Amar Katha* (1913), **one of South Asia's first autobiographies by an actress**.

### Legacy

- Recognized as a **pioneer of realism in Bengali theatre**
- Inspired socio-political reform through literature
- College **Dinabandhu Mahavidyalay** (est. 1947) named after him.

- Her writing boldly revealed the **emotional, professional and social struggles** faced by women in theatre.
- She **challenged patriarchal society**, expressing deep longing for respect, love and family, which society denied her.

### Retirement & Reflections

- Retired abruptly at **age 23**, in 1886--the same year **Sri Ramakrishna passed away**.
- Her retirement is viewed as a **result of betrayal, disillusionment and social stigma**.
- Spent later life away from public attention, yet her **spiritual introspection deepened** in her writing.

### In Popular Culture

- Subject of multiple **films, plays and documentaries**, including:
  - *Nati Binodini* (1994 film),
  - NSD play *Nati Binodini* (1995, 2006),
  - *Abohomaan* (2010), *Kadambari* (2015),
  - *Aamaar Katha* documentary,
  - *Binodini: Ekti Natir Upakhyan* (biopic starring Rukmini Maitra)

### Significance

- Binodini Dasi remains a **symbol of defiance and dignity**. She transformed Indian theatre by not just her acting but also by **asserting the voice of a woman artist** in colonial India's patriarchal world. Her story is a powerful reminder of both the glory and the tragedy of female pioneers in performing arts.

## Sisir Kumar Bhaduri (1889–1959): Father of Modern Bengali Theatre

- **Born:** 2 October 1889, Midnapore, Bengal
- **Died:** 30 June 1959
- **Education:** Scottish Church College, Kolkata
- **Profession:** Actor, Director, Playwright, Theatre Reformer

### Pioneering Role in Indian Theatre

- Widely regarded as the **pioneer of modern Bengali theatre**, Bhaduri brought **realism and naturalism** to the Indian stage, following the era of **Girish Chandra Ghosh**.
- He broke away from **melodramatic and declamatory styles**, opting for **subtle expressions, natural dialogue delivery** and **psychological depth** in characters.

### Career Highlights

- Left his job as a professor at **Metropolitan College** (now Vidyasagar College) in 1921 to pursue theatre full-time.
- Founded several **repertory theatres** and was involved in **stage design, acting and directing**.
- Credited with **professionalizing Bengali theatre** and grooming a new generation of actors, including **Sombhu Mitra**.

### Notable Films (as Actor and Director)

- **Mohini (1921), Andhare Alo (1922), Seeta (1933)** – Played key roles while also directing.
- Directed and starred in **Chanakya (1939)**, portraying the titular role with finesse.
- His work in early Bengali cinema helped bridge **theatre and film** in Bengal.

### Recognition and Refusal

- Awarded the **Padma Bhushan in 1959**, but **declined the award**, asserting that it would falsely suggest government support for theatre in India.

### In Popular Culture

- Life portrayed in the 2013 play **Nihanga Samrat**, directed by Debesh Chattopadhyay, based on **Sunil Gangopadhyay's** novel.

### Legacy

- Sisir Bhaduri remains a **towering figure** in Indian theatre for pioneering a **realistic acting tradition**, nurturing a theatre of **intellect and emotion** and standing firm on **artistic integrity**. His influence laid the groundwork for institutions like **Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA)** and **Bohurupee**.

## Utpal Dutt (1929–1993): Icon of Revolutionary Bengali Theatre

### Early Life and Education

- **Born:** 29 March 1929, Barisal (now in Bangladesh)
- **Education:** St. Xavier's College, Kolkata – **English Literature Honours (1949)**
- Early interest in **English theatre**, performed Shakespeare's *Richard III* in 1947

### Theatre Career: Epic and Revolutionary

- Founded **Little Theatre Group (LTG)** in 1949
  - Initially staged **Shakespeare, Brecht, Ibsen**, later shifted to **political Bengali plays**
  - Developed a form of **"Epic Theatre"**, inspired by **Bertolt Brecht**
- Known for **Marxist ideology**, used theatre as a tool for **political awakening**
- Famous political plays:

- **Kallol (1965)** – based on **Royal Indian Navy Mutiny**
- **Louha Manob (1964)** – written in jail, **Stalinist trial theme**
- **Tiner Toloar, ManusherAdhikare, Maha-Bidroha, Laal Durgo, JanatarAphim**
- Transitioned into **street theatre (poster plays)** and **Jatra**, bringing drama to the masses
- Imprisoned in 1965 by the Congress government for his radical plays

### Film Career

- Over **100 films** in Bengali, Hindi and English
- Known for both **serious roles** and **comedy**
  - **Serious:** *Bhuvan Shome, Agantuk, Padma Nadir Majhi, Michael Madhusudan*
  - **Comic:** *Gol Maal, Rang Birangi, Naram Garam*

- National Film Award for Best Actor – *Bhuvan Shome* (1970)
- Three Filmfare Awards for Best Comedian

### Direction and Writing

- Directed films like *Megh* (1961), *Jhar* (1979), *Maa* (1983)
- Authored:
  - 22 full-length plays
  - 19 Jatra scripts
  - 15 street plays
- Critical works on Shakespeare, Brecht, Girish Ghosh and Stanislavsky

### Legacy

- Lifelong Marxist and Communist Party supporter

## Sombhu Mitra (1915–1997)

### Pioneer of Modern Bengali Theatre | Actor | Director | Playwright

- Sombhu Mitra was a legendary figure in Indian theatre, widely regarded as a **pioneer of modern Bengali group theatre**. Born on **22 August 1915** in Calcutta, he developed an early passion for drama during his school and college years and made his stage debut in 1939 at Rangmahal Theatre.
- He joined the **Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA)** in 1943, where he co-directed the landmark play *Nabanna* (1944), which broke conventional theatrical norms. In 1948, he founded the iconic theatre group **Bohurupee**, leading Bengal's group theatre movement with a strong focus on **Tagorean drama, realism and literary depth**.

### Notable Theatre Contributions:

- Adapted and directed **Tagore's plays**: *Rakta Karabi*, *Bisarjan*, *Char Adhyay*, *Raja*.
- Brought international classics to Bengali audiences:
  - Ibsen's *Putul Khela* (Doll's House)
  - *Dashachakra* (An Enemy of the People)
  - Sophocles' *Raja Oidipaus* (Oedipus Rex)
- Notable original plays: *Chand Baniker Pala*, *Ulukhagra*.

- Transformed **Bengali theatre into a people's movement**
- Posthumous tribute: **Utpal Dutt Natyotsav**, revival of *Kallol* in 2005
- His play *Aajker Shahjahan* adapted as **The Last Lear** (2007) – National Award winner

### Awards

- National Film Award for Best Actor (1970)
- Three Filmfare Awards for Comedy
- Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (1990)

### Quote

- "Revolutionary theatre is essentially people's theatre... it must be played before the masses."-- Utpal Dutt.

### Film Work:

- Acted in classics like *Dharti Ke Lal* (1946), *Jagte Raho* (1956).
- Co-directed *Jagte Raho*, which won the **Crystal Globe** at the **Karlovy Vary Film Festival**.
- Directed *Shubha Bibaha* (1959); received National Film Award for *Ek Din Ratre* (1956).

### Personal Life:

- He was married to the celebrated actress **Tripti Mitra** and father to **Shaoli Mitra**, herself a distinguished theatre personality.

### Awards and Honours:

- Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (1966)
- Padma Bhushan (1970)
- Ramon Magsaysay Award (1976)
- Desikottama by Visva Bharati (1989)
- Kalidas Samman (1982–83)
- Honorary D.Litt. from **Rabindra Bharati and Jadavpur University**

### Legacy:

- Sombhu Mitra elevated Bengali theatre with his **literary vision, discipline** and commitment to **socially relevant themes**, leaving behind a lasting cultural legacy.

## Tripti Mitra (1925–1989)

**Legend of Bengali Theatre | Actress | Director | Co-founder of Bohurupee**

- Tripti Mitra, born **Tripti Bhaduri** on 25 October 1925 in Dinajpur (British India), was a pioneering figure in Indian theatre, especially known for her work in **Bengali group theatre** and as co-founder of **Bohurupee** (1948) alongside her husband, **Sombhu Mitra**. She was a **formidable stage actress**, celebrated for her deep, expressive performances and a commanding presence that shaped the golden era of Bengali theatre.

### Early Life and Career

- Tripti began acting in her teens, debuting in **Bijon Bhattacharya's** play **Agun** (1943). She gained national attention with her performance in **Nabanna**, a play on the Bengal famine. She later acted in the IPTA-backed film **Dharti Ke Lal** (1946), marking her cinematic debut. She married Sombhu Mitra in 1945 and their daughter **Shaoli Mitra** would go on to become a noted theatre personality.

### Bohurupee and Theatre Legacy

- In 1948, she co-founded **Bohurupee**, which became a cornerstone of the **Bengali group theatre movement**. Her portrayal of **Nandini** in Tagore's *Rakta Karabi* remains iconic. She

also acted in Tagore's *Raja*, *Char Adhyay*, *Visarjan* and produced and directed *Daakghor* (*The Post Office*). Tripti Mitra was known for her **strong feminist portrayals**, intellectual depth and voice modulation.

### Film Contributions

Tripti acted in landmark films like:

- **Dharti Ke Lal** (1946)
- **Pathik** (1953)
- **Shubha Bibaha** (1959)
- **The Day Shall Dawn** (1959, Urdu)
- **Jukti Takko Aar Gappo** (1974) by Ritwik Ghatak

### Awards and Honours

- **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** (1962) for Theatre Acting
- **Padma Shri** (1971)
- **Kalidas Samman** (1989) from the Government of Madhya Pradesh

### Legacy

- Tripti Mitra was a **trailblazer for women in Indian theatre**, whose art combined emotional power with literary sophistication. Her life's work, alongside Sombhu Mitra, laid the foundations for modern Bengali theatre's intellectual and cultural resurgence.

## Badal Sircar: Pioneer of Modern Indian Theatre

- **Badal Sircar** (1925–2011), born **Sudhindra Sircar**, was a revolutionary **Indian playwright, theatre director** and creator of the "Third Theatre" movement. Known for breaking the norms of proscenium theatre, he made theatre **egalitarian, minimalist** and **people-centric**, focusing on **social, political and existential themes**.

### Key Contributions:

- His plays reflected the **angst, alienation and identity crisis** of **urban middle-class youth** in post-independence India.
- Created the **Third Theatre**, blending elements of **Jatra** and **street theatre**, performed in **open**

**spaces with minimal props** and promoting **actor-audience interaction**.

- Wrote over **50 plays**, including **Evam Indrajit** (1963), **Pagla Ghoda** (1967), **Bhoma**, **Michhil** and **Basi Khabar**.
- His group **Shatabdi** (est. 1967) staged landmark performances in parks, courtyards and villages--challenging **commercial theatre norms**.
- Prominent during the **Naxalite movement** in Bengal, his plays became **anti-establishment voices** of the time.



### Style & Themes:

- Moved from **satirical comedies** to deeply **existential and political drama**.
- Emphasized **expressionist acting, realism** and **interactive performance** over spectacle.
- His works often depicted **disillusionment with societal norms**, questioning of **state authority** and **urban existentialism**.

### Awards & Recognition:

- **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** (1968)
- **Padma Shri** (1972)

- **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship** (1997)
- Declined **Padma Bhushan** (2010)
- **Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship** (1971)

### Legacy:

- Inspired artists like **Girish Karnad, Satyadev Dubey** and **Amol Palekar**.
- Subject of documentaries and commemorated through **Badal Utsav**.
- Continues to be celebrated as a **trailblazer of experimental, political and people's theatre** in India.

## Rudraprasad Sengupta: Veteran Theatre Personality of Bengal

- **Rudraprasad Sengupta** (b. 31 January 1935) is a renowned **Bengali actor, director** and **cultural critic**, deeply associated with the evolution of **modern Bengali theatre**. He is best known for his long-term leadership in the **Kolkata-based theatre group Nandikar**.

### Academic & Professional Background:

- Studied **English Literature** at **Scottish Church College** and **University of Calcutta** (B.A. & M.A.).
- Worked as a **lecturer** in various colleges including **Sreegopal Banerjee College** and **Brahmananda Keshab Chandra College**.
- Was a **visiting lecturer** in **Drama** at **Rabindra Bharati University**.

### Theatre Career:

- Joined **Nandikar** in **1961**; began directing plays in the 1970s and took leadership of the group in the late 1970s.
- Notable plays: **Football**, **Feriwalarmrityu** and several innovative productions.
- Helped **nurture a generation** of theatre actors, including **Debshankar Halder** and **Parthapratim Deb**.
- His theatre blends **literary depth, aesthetic precision** and **social critique**.

### Film Appearances:

- Acted in Bengali and international films such as:
  - *GalpoHoleo Satti* (1966)
  - *Sagina Mahato*
  - *City of Joy* (1992)
  - *Little Buddha* (1993)
  - *Autograph* (2010)
  - *Purba Paschim Dakshin* (2019)

### Awards & Recognition:

- **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** (1980)
- **Sangeet Natak Akademi Tagore Ratna** (2012)
- **Banga Bibhushan** (2012) by the Government of West Bengal
- **Anukul Samman** (2013) by National Drama Festival, Allahabad

### Legacy:

- Rudraprasad Sengupta is celebrated for shaping post-independence Bengali theatre through **educational engagement, artistic excellence** and **institution-building**. His contributions continue to inspire actors, directors and theatre lovers across India.

## Soumitra Chatterjee: An Iconic Figure of Indian Cinema and Culture

- **Soumitra Chatterjee** (1935-2020) was a multifaceted Indian personality, celebrated as one of the greatest and most influential actors

in the history of Indian cinema. Beyond acting, he was a distinguished play-director, playwright, writer, thespian and poet.

## I. Early Life and Influences:

- Born in Mirjapur Street, Calcutta (now Kolkata) in 1935.
- Spent early childhood (first ten years) in Krishnanagar, West Bengal, a town with a thriving theatre culture.
- His grandfather presided over a theatre group and his lawyer father was an amateur actor, fostering his early interest in theatre.
- Graduated from City College, Kolkata, with honours in Bengali literature (University of Calcutta).
- Pursued M.A. in Bengali from the University of Calcutta.
- Learnt acting under notable Bengali theatre director Ahindra Choudhury.
- Profoundly influenced by Sisir Bhaduri, a doyen of Bengali theatre, whom he mentored under from 1956 until Bhaduri's death in 1959.

## II. Career Highlights:

### A. Collaboration with Satyajit Ray (1959-1990):

- His career began with a seminal collaboration with legendary director Satyajit Ray, working in fourteen films.
- **Debut:** *Apur Sansar* (The World of Apu, 1959), the third part of The Apu Trilogy, as adult Apu. Ray had initially noticed him for *Aparajito* (1956) but found him too old at 20 for the adolescent Apu role, offering him the adult role two years later.
- **Notable Films with Ray:**
  - *Abhijan* (1962)
  - *Charulata* (1964)
  - *Kapurush* (1965)
  - *Aranyer Din Ratri* (1969)
  - *Ashani Sanket* (1973)
  - *Sonar Kella* (1974) and *Joi Baba Felunath* (1978) - as the iconic detective **Feluda**. He was the first actor to portray Feluda and Ray based illustrations of Feluda on Chatterjee's appearance.
  - *Hirak Rajar Deshe* (1980)
  - *Ghare Baire* (1984)
  - *ShakhaProshakha* (1990)

◦ *Ganashatru* (1989)

- His collaboration with Ray is often compared to other legendary actor-director pairings in cinema history (e.g., Toshiro Mifune and Akira Kurosawa).

### B. Work with Other Noted Directors:

- **Mrinal Sen:** *Akash Kusum* (1965) - received critical acclaim for his role as an impostor.
- **Tapan Sinha:** *KshudhitaPashan* (1960), *Jhinder Bandi* (1961) - played a challenging villain role.
- **Asit Sen:** *Swaralipi* (1961)
- **Ajoy Kar:** *Parineeta* (1969)
- **Tarun Mazumdar:** *Ganadevata* (1978)
- Acted in over 210 films in his career.
- **Directorial Debut:** *Stree Ki Patra* (1986), based on Rabindranath Tagore's "Streer Patra."
- **Later Collaborations (1980s-1990s):** Worked with contemporary directors like Goutam Ghose, Aparna Sen, Anjan Das and Rituparno Ghosh.
- **Notable Role:** Khitish Singh (Khidda) in *Kony* (1986), a film about a slum girl aspiring to be a swimmer. He considered *Kony* one of his best films.
- His biopic, *Abhijaan*, was released posthumously in 2022.

### C. Theatre:

- Returned to theatre in 1978 with *Naam Jiban*.
- Acted, wrote and directed several plays, including *Rajkumar* (1982), *Phera* (1987), *Tiktiki* (1995, adaptation of *Sleuth*) and *Homapakhri* (2006).
- Famously played the title role in *Raja Lear* (based on Shakespeare's *King Lear*) from 2010, receiving widespread acclaim.
- Also published over 12 poetry books.

## III. Awards and Recognition:

Soumitra Chatterjee received numerous prestigious awards and honours throughout his career:

- **International Honours:**
  - **Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres** (France's highest award for artists,

1999) - first Indian film personality to receive it.

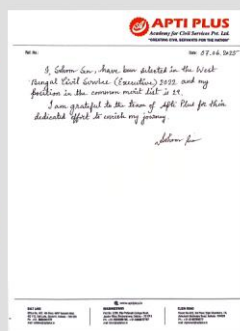
- **Commandeur de la Légion d'Honneur** (France's highest civilian award, 2017).
- Lifetime Award at the Naples Film Festival, Italy.
- **Indian Civilian Honours:**
  - Initially declined **Padma Shri** in the 1970s.
  - **Padma Bhushan** (2004) - accepted, changing his stance on awards.
- **National Film Awards:**
  - **Dadasaheb Phalke Award** (2012) - India's highest honour in cinema for lifetime achievement.
  - National Film Award for Best Actor for *Podokkhep* (2006).
  - Special Jury Awards for *Antardhan* (1991) and *Dekha* (2000) (initially declined for *Dekha*).
- **Other Significant Awards:**
  - **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** (1998) for his work in theatre.
  - **Sangeet Natak Akademi Tagore Ratna** (2012).
  - **Bengal Film Journalists' Association Awards (BFJA)** - Won Best Actor eight times (e.g., for *Teen Kanya*, *Abhijan*, *Kony*).
  - **Filmfare Awards East** - Best Male Actor (Critics) for *Rupkatha Noy* (2013) and *Mayurakshi* (2017).
  - **Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award - South** (1994).
  - **Kazi Sabyasachi Memorial Award** (Government of Bangladesh, 2016).

#### IV. Literary Works:

- **Books:**
  - *Charitrer Sandhane* (Search of Character; 2004)
  - *Pratidin Taba Gatha* (You Sing Everyday; 2009) - about Rabindranath Tagore.
  - *Agrapathikera* (Pioneers; 2010) - a memoir.
  - *\*Porichoy*: (Introduction; 2013)
  - *Manikdar Sange* (With Manik Da; 2014) - translated as "The Master and I: Soumitra on Satyajit," detailing his journey with Satyajit Ray.
- **Poetry Collections:**
  - *Śreshṭha Kabitā* (Best Poem; 1993)
  - *Madhyarater Sangket*: (Midnight Signal; 2012)
  - *Kabita Samagra*: (Poetry Collection; 2014)
  - *Shabdora Amar Bagane* (Words in My Garden)
- **Dramas (Plays):**
  - *Natak Samagra* 1, 2, 3 (Drama Collection)

#### V. Legacy:

- Soumitra Chatterjee's profound impact on Indian cinema and culture is undeniable. His versatility, intellectual depth and collaborations with cinematic giants like Satyajit Ray cemented his status as a legendary figure. His contributions as an actor, director, writer and poet have left an indelible mark on Bengali and Indian arts. He was named by IBN Live as one of "The men who changed the face of the Indian Cinema."



👏👏 I, Souhom Sen, have been selected in the WBCS (Executive) 2022 and my position in the common merit list is 19. I am grateful to the team of **APTI PLUS** for their dedicated effort to enrich my journey. 🙏🙏