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BENGAL RELATED NEWS

Kurmi Samai

Context

 The Adivasi Kurmi Samaj announced fresh protests in Purulia, West Bengal, renewing their demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Key Points for Prelims

- Community & Region:
 - Kurmi community resides mainly in the Chota Nagpur Plateau region – West Bengal (Purulia, Bankura, Jhargram), Jharkhand and Odisha.
 - Traditionally listed as OBC in West Bengal.
- Demand:
 - Inclusion in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category.
 - Leaders argue ST status is vital for cultural identity preservation and constitutional safeguards (reservation in education, jobs, political representation).

The Revocation of West Bengal Incentive Schemes and Obligations in the Nature of Grants and Incentives Bill, 2025

Context

 Several major industrial houses have approached the Calcutta High Court challenging the West Bengal government's move to revoke all industry incentives granted since 1993.

Key Points

The 2025 Revocation:

- The Revocation of West Bengal Incentive Schemes and Obligations in the Nature of Grants and Incentives Bill. 2025.
- Retrospective withdrawal of benefits under industrial policies since 1993.

- Includes subsidies on land, tax refunds, electricity, interest repayment and other state-supported incentives.
- Government justification: Funds to be diverted to socio-economically disadvantaged and marginalized groups.
- Industry response: Act termed "ultra vires and unconstitutional"; companies claimed it impacted profitability.

Historical Pattern:

- Since 2011, 6,600+ companies left West Bengal; many relocated to UP, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi.
- Examples: **Britannia** closure in Kolkata (2024), **Tata** exit from Singur, jute mills collapsing.

Economic Impact:

- State's share in India's industrial output declined from 10% (1960s) → 3.5%.
- Youth migration for work: Delhi, Kerala, Maharashtra.
- State once called "Manchester of the East" now exports labour instead of goods.

West Bengal will lose ₹20,000 Crore due to GST Rate Cuts

Context

 West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee stated that the recent GST rate cuts would cost the State exchequer ₹20,000 crore.

Key Points

GST Changes:

 India adopted a simplified two-tier GST system (5% and 18%) from September 22, 2025.

State's Revenue Loss:

- Estimated ₹20,000 crore loss for West Bengal.
- Strains funding for State welfare schemes like Lakshmir Bhandar and Krishak Bandhu.





 Union government has not released ₹1.92 lakh crore of central allocations for various schemes.

West Bengal maps two Wolf Corridors near Durgapur

Context

- West Bengal has achieved a significant milestone in wildlife conservation by mapping two wolf corridors near the industrial town of Durgapur, a first-of-its-kind initiative in India.
- This contributes to the **Indian Grey Wolf Conservation Project** in West Burdwan.

30 URBAN WOLVES IN 4 PACKS



Key Highlights:

Corridors:

- <u>Intra-District:</u> Connects Madhaiganj-Kantaberia forests to Garh Jungle in West Burdwan.
- Inter-District: Links forests in Ukhra and Durgapur ranges (West Burdwan) to East Burdwan ranges (Panagarh, Durgapur, Guskara).
- Area Covered: ~20 km combined, crucial for wolf movement and breeding.

Population & Ecology:

- ~30 wolves recorded in four packs; earlier studies (2024) noted 15-24 wolves near Durgapur.
- Corridors host key breeding and rendezvous sites, supporting the species' lifecycle.

Diet:

- Primarily livestock (goats, sheep); also scavenges cow, buffalo, rodents, birds.
- Scat analysis helps understand ecological role.

Conflict Mitigation:

 Fladry deterrent flags installed in conflictprone zones to reduce human-wolf encounters.

Indian Grey Wolf (Canis lupus pallipes):

- Apex predator of scrublands, grasslands, semiarid agro-ecosystems.
- Lives in **small packs**, mostly **nocturnal** and less vocal than other wolf subspecies.

Conservation Status:

- IUCN: **Endangered** (2,000–3,000 in India)
- CITES: Appendix I
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I

Heavy Rain in Kolkata: Cloudburst-Like Downpour

Context

 Kolkata experienced extremely heavy rainfall, the heaviest in 39 years, a few days before Durga Puja.

Key Points:

- <u>Rainfall:</u> Over 251 mm in 24 hours, 95% between 11:30 PM (Sept 22) and 8:30 AM (Sept 23).
- Cloudburst-Like Event: Between 3-4 AM, 98 mm fell in an hour, marginally below the IMD's cloudburst definition of ≥100 mm/hour.
- Meteorology: Dense clouds of 5-7 km height with high moisture, influenced by a lowpressure zone over coastal West Bengal and northwest Bay of Bengal.
- <u>Historical Significance:</u> Sixth-highest singleday rainfall in 137 years; highest since 1986.
- Impact: Severe waterlogging, disruption to daily life and likely dampening of Durga Puja celebrations.

Cloudbursts and Monsoon Trends in India (2025)

A cloudburst is an extreme, localized weather event marked by sudden, intense rainfall, usually ≥100 mm in an hour, over a small area (≤20-30 sq km), often causing flash floods, landslides and river surges. Mini cloudbursts involve 5 cm or more rainfall per hour.

Recent Events:

 Himachal Pradesh (Kullu, Aug 31, 2025): Heavy rainfall; multiple mini cloudbursts reported.





 Kolkata (Sept 22-23, 2025): 98 mm in 1 hour; highest in 39 years.

India Meteorological Department Insights:

- No rising trend in full cloudbursts, but mini cloudbursts increasing.
- Cloudbursts **cannot be precisely forecasted**; satellite data only gives short-term alerts.
- September monsoon expected **above normal** (+9%).
- June--Aug rainfall: North India +26%, Central +8.6%, South +9.3%, East/Northeast -17%.

Causes:

- Rapid uplift of moist air & orographic lifting
- Local low-pressure zones
- Air saturation & atmospheric instability
- Global warming, increasing moisture content

Characteristics:

- Intensity: ≥100 mm/hr (cloudburst), ≥5 cm/hr (mini cloudburst)
- <u>Localised</u>: ≤20–30 sq km
- Short duration: Minutes to an hour
- <u>Hilly regions prone</u>: Himalayas, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir
- Can trigger flash floods, landslides, dam breaches

Historical Examples:

 2010 Leh, 2013 Kedarnath, 2014 Jammu & Kashmir, 2021 Uttarakhand, 2022 Amarnath Yatra

Policy Implications:

 Need for enhanced forecasting, early warnings and disaster preparedness.

Child Marriage in India: SRS Report 2023 Highlights – West Bengal tops at 6.3%

Context

 Even after many laws and schemes, child marriage continues to be a serious issue in India. Recent data shows that West Bengal has the highest percentage of child marriages in the country.

Key Findings (Sample Registration System (SRS) Report 2023, released Sept 2025)

- West Bengal: 6.3% girls married before 18 years (highest in India)
- India Average: 2.1%
- Rural Areas:WB 5.8% (India 2.5%)

- Urban Areas: WB 7.6% (India 1.2%)
- Marriage at 18-20 years: WB tops with 44.9%
- <u>Slight decline:</u> 6.5% (May 2025) → 6.3% (Sept 2025)

State Comparison

- **Second highest:** Jharkhand (4.6%)
- Lowest: Kerala (0.1%), Himachal Pradesh (0.4%), Haryana (0.6%)

Government Measures

- Kanyashree Prakalpa (2013): Gives money to girls to continue studies and avoid early marriage.
- Impact: 93 lakh+ girls benefited till 2025.
- <u>Budget:</u> ₹593.51 crore (2024–25); 38% increase in gender-specific schemes (2025–26).

Why Child Marriage Persists?

- Poverty and financial pressure on families
- Social customs and patriarchy
- Lack of awareness and education

Extra Insight

 <u>Lancet Study (2024):</u> West Bengal, Bihar, UP and Maharashtra together account for more than half of India's child marriage cases.

Reviving MGNREGS in West Bengal Context

- The Calcutta High Court ordered resumption of MGNREGS in West Bengal from August 1, 2025, calling it a lifeline that "cannot be kept in cold storage for eternity."
- However, the Union Government has appealed to the Supreme Court, creating legal uncertainty.

Importance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

- Enacted in 2005, guarantees 100 days of wage employment to rural households.
- Vital support for women, Dalits, Adivasis, landless workers during agricultural lean seasons.
- In 2020-21, WB received ₹10,000 crore, but funds were halted in March 2022 citing irregularities.





Fallout of Suspension

- Rural workforce lost ₹4,000-6,000 crore wages in the first year (LibTech India).
- Institutional damage: erosion of trust, administrative paralysis.
- Mass deletions: 83 lakh workers removed (2022–23), nearly 15% of national deletions.

Current Challenges

Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS):

- Out of 2.56 crore workers, 43 lakh not ABPS compliant.
- 2.3 lakh active workers remain ineligible.
- Need temporary allowance for account-based payments.

Worker Deletions:

- Huge backlog in reinstating deleted workers.
- Requires expanded login access at block/district levels.

Attendance via Mobile App:

- Real-time geo-tagged photo system impractical after 3 years of inactivity.
- Paper-based attendance suggested temporarily.

Human Resource Gaps:

- Supervisors underpaid, many left the system.
- Need financial incentives, refresher training.

Actionable Steps

- <u>Shelf of Works</u>: Prepare village-level projects in advance.
- Grievance Redressal & Social Audits: Ensure transparency.
- <u>Consultative Process</u>: Engage civil society for accountability.
- Revamp State Employment Guarantee Council: For dialogue and course correction.

Legal Position

- HC allowed "special conditions" for resumption.
- SC appeal pending, but revival depends on trust-building and capacity, not legal orders alone.

Significance

 MGNREGS is not just an employment scheme but a social safety net. Restoring it in West Bengal is crucial to uphold the right to work and protect rural livelihoods.

Bengal's 'Fiery Daughters' remembered: Tribute to Pritilata Waddedar

Context

 On September 24, 2025, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee paid homage to Pritilata Waddedar on her death anniversary, calling Bengal the "backbone of India's independence movement." She also recalled other women revolutionaries of Bengal such as Matangini Hazra, Kalpana Dutta, Bina Das and Suniti Chowdhury.

About Pritilata Waddedar

- Born: 1911, Chittagong (now Bangladesh).
- <u>Revolutionary Role</u>: Member of Surya Sen's Chittagong armoury raid group.
- Notable Act: Led an attack on the European Club, Chittagong (1932), which had a "Dogs and Indians Not Allowed" sign.
- Martyrdom: Consumed cyanide on September
 24, 1932 to avoid arrest, becoming a symbol of courage and sacrifice.

Other Women Revolutionaries of Bengal

- Matangini Hazra: Martyred during Quit India Movement (1942).
- Kalpana Dutta: Took part in Chittagong Uprising with Surya Sen.
- <u>Bina Das</u>: Attempted assassination of Bengal Governor Stanley Jackson (1932).
- <u>Suniti Chowdhury</u>: Participated in the assassination of British officials in Comilla (1931).







WEST BENGAL RELATED STATIC GK

The Haldi is a tributary of Hooghly River flowing through Purba Medinipur district.

Keleghai River originates at Baminigram, near Dudhkundi of Jhargram district.

The nineteenth-century Hazarduari Palace, designed by Colonel Duncan McLeod in Neoclassical Italianate style with Doric influences and built by Nawab Humayun Jah (1824–1838), is a Monument of National Importance administered by the Archaeological Survey of India since 1985.

King Shashanka of Gaud Kingdom is credited with creating the original Bengali calendar (Bangabda) in the 7th century CE, with the epoch starting in 594 CE.

The Char Bangla Temple at Baranagar, Azimganj, built in the 18th century under Rani Bhabani of Natore, is a stunning example of Bengal temple architecture.

Karnasuvarna, located in present-day Berhampore, Murshidabad, was the ancient capital of the Gauda Kingdom.

West Bengal's debt-to-GSDP ratio has risen to 33.7%, among the highest in India, with borrowed funds increasingly used for routine expenses like salaries and subsidies instead of long-term asset creation, says the CAG.

Manmatha Nath Roy Chowdhury (1883–1939), Raja of Santosh, was a Bengali aristocrat, writer, politician, and football administrator, after whom the Santosh Trophy, India's annual interstate football tournament, is named.

In Cooch Behar, rivers generally flow northwest to southeast, with major rivers including the Teesta, Jaldhaka, Torsha, Kaljani, Raidak, Gadadhar, and Ghargharia.

Great One-Horned Rhinoceros population in West Bengal is 392.

Ballabhpur Wildlife Sanctuary, popularly known as Deer Park, near Bolpur Santiniketan in Birbhum, was established in 1977 and is renowned for successful deer conservation, hosting spotted deer (cheethals), blackbuck, jackals, and foxes.

A pluviometer is a device that measures liquid precipitation, commonly known as a rain gauge.

West Bengal is amongst the top three states in terms of number of female-held bank accounts and amount deposited in such accounts.

Bangla Matri Prakalpa: Under this scheme, pregnant woman is provided cash assistance of Rs. 5,000/- in 3 instalments for the first child of the family: Rs. 1,000/- on early registration, Rs. 2,000/- for at least one ANC in 6 months and Rs. 2,000/- after the first cycle of immunization in 14 weeks.

Economy of West Bengal

Population:

2011: 91,347,736

2025 (est.): 100,042,000

GDP (2025-26 est.):

Nominal: ₹20.3 lakh crore (US\$240 billion), 6th in India

GDP (PPP): ₹92.3 lakh crore (US\$1.1 trillion)

Growth: 12% nominal, 6.8% real





Per capita: ₹204,781 (US\$2,400), 21st in India

GDP by Sector (2024-25):

Agriculture: 17.77%Industry: 26.93%Services: 55.30%

Inflation (CPI): 3.63% (June 2025)

Poverty: 8.60% below poverty line (2022-23), 15th in India

Gini Coefficient: 0.25 (2023-24)

Human Development Index: 0.661 (2023)

Unemployment: 3.4% (2021-22)

Major Industries: Coal, steel, manufacturing, leather, IT, food processing,

textiles, cement, jute, jewellery, marine

Exports (2024-25): ₹1,07,259 crore (US\$13 billion)

Key Export Goods: IT, metro rolling stock, warships, gold products, tea, iron & steel, marine products, rice, textiles, agricultural products, coal,

petrochemicals, leather products, jute, heavy machinery

FDI Stock: ₹13,945.50 crore (US\$1.6 billion, Oct 2019 - Dec 2024)

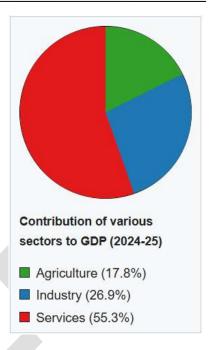
Public Finances (2025-26 est.):

Government Debt: 37.98% of GSDP

• Budget Deficit: ₹-73,177 crore (-3.6% of GSDP)

Revenue: ₹2.66 lakh crore (US\$31 billion)

• Expenditure: ₹3.13 lakh crore (US\$37 billion)





APPOINTMENTS

India's New Ambassador to South Korea

• Gourangalal Das has been appointed India's next ambassador to South Korea.

Chairperson of the Governing Board of the National Stock Exchange

 Srinivas Injeti has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Governing Board of the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

Director of CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research

 Dr. Geetha Vani Rayasam has officially taken charge as the Director of CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR)

Secretary of the Ministry of Mines

Piyush Goyal has officially assumed charge as the Secretary of the Ministry of Mines.

Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

• Diplomat Dr. Deepak Mittal has been selected as next Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE)







AWARDS IN NEWS

'Living Bridge' Honour

- Keir Starmer has been awarded.
- Keir Starmer has been awarded the 'Living Bridge' honour for his key role in strengthening India-UK relations and facilitating the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

71st National Film Awards Ceremony

 President Murmu honouredwinners at the 71st National Film Awards Ceremony.

Dadasaheb Phalke Award: Mohanlal for lifetime contribution to Indian cinema

Best Feature Film: 12th Fail (Dir: Vidhu Vinod Chopra)

Best Hindi Film: *Kathal - A Jackfruit Mystery* (Lead: Sanya Malhotra)

Best Actor (Leading Role): Shah Rukh Khan (*Jawan*), Vikrant Massey (*12th Fail*) – tie

Best Actress: Rani Mukerji (Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway)

Key Highlights:

- Honoured both veteran legends and new-age talents
- Recognition of socially relevant films
- Encouragement for experimental and unconventional cinema

Regional Film Winners:

- Best Telugu: Bhagavanth Kesari
- Best Tamil: Parking
- Best Malayalam: Ullozhukku
- Best Marathi: ShyamchiAai
- Best Kannada: Kandeelu
- Best Punjabi: Godday Godday Chaa
- Best Assamese: Rongatapu 1982
- Best Bengali: Deep Fridge
- Best Gujarati: Vash
- Best Odia: Pushkara

Technical Awards:

- Best Action Direction Nandu-Prudhvi (HanuMan),
- Best Music Direction GV Prakash Kumar (Vaathi),

 Best Choreography – Vaibhavi Merchant (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani), among others

Non-Feature & Short Films:

- Best Documentary: God Vulture and Human
- Best Short Film: Giddh The Scavenger
- Best Non-Fiction Film: Flowering Man
- Best Debut Film (Non-Feature): The Spirit Dreams of Cheraw

India's entry for Best International Feature Film. Oscars 2026

- Neeraj Ghaywan's film Homebound has been officially selected as India's entry for the Best International Feature Film category at the Oscars 2026.
- Produced by Karan Johar and Poonawalla, with Martin Scorsese Executive Producer mentoring the script and post-production, it stars Ishaan Khatter, Janhvi Kapoor, and Vishal Jethwa. Homebound premiered at Cannes 2025. It was second runner-up at the Toronto International Film Festival People's Choice and won Best Film and Best Director at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne. India has previously had only three films nominated in this category -Mother India, Salaam Bombay! and Lagaan and no Indian film has won yet.

Emmy Awards

- The 77th Primetime Emmy Awards on September 14, 2025, at Los Angeles' Peacock Theater celebrated the best of 2024–2025 television, honoring standout shows, performances, and creators.
- Notable winners included "Severance" for Drama, "The Studio" for Comedy, and "Adolescence" for Limited Series, with actors like Britt Lower, Seth Rogen, Cristin Milioti, and Jean Smart receiving top acting awards. Shows like "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" and "SNL50: The Anniversary Special"





were recognized in the variety category, while "The Traitors" triumphed in reality competition.

Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan and Wetland City Awards 2025

- The Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan and Wetland City Awards 2025, held on September 9, celebrated India's top environmentally proactive cities.
- Indore, Jabalpur, Agra, and Udaipur topped the rankings, showcasing excellence in air quality management, green initiatives. sustainable and transport, wetland conservation. Under NCAP. 130 cities mobilized ₹1.55 lakh crore for pollution control, circular economy projects, and urban greening, while Indore and Udaipur earned global recognition for wetland protection.

P V Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Economics

- The award was instituted by the PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Foundation (PVNMF) to recognise outstanding contributions in economics.
- Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, the chief architect of India's 1991 economic liberalisation, was posthumously honoured with the P V Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Economics for his historic role in shaping India's economic transformation. The award was conferred by Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former deputy chairman of the erstwhile Planning Commission.

National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2025

- NECA 2025, instituted by the Ministry of Power and implemented by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), has introduced a new "Content Creators & Influencers" category to leverage digital platforms for spreading awareness on energy conservation and sustainable living.
- Launched in line with Mission LiFE and Azadi
 ka Amrit Mahotsav. this initiative

acknowledges the role of influencers in shaping public habits and encourages the creation of short, engaging videos on themes like energy-efficient appliances, responsible festival celebrations, and green buildings.Instituted in 1991, NECA remains a prestigious platform for recognizing excellence in energy efficiency, now modernized to include the power of digital media.

MANAK 2025

- Muzaffarpur district of Bihar has secured the top rank in the Inspire Award - MANAK 2025.
- The Inspire Award MANAK scheme, run by Department of Science and Technology in collaboration with the National Innovation Foundation, encourages students of classes 6 to 10 to submit original, socially relevant ideas and supports them in developing prototypes.

82nd Venice Film Festival 2025

- Indian filmmaker Anuparna Roy wins Best Director Award at Venice Film Festival 2025.
- Anuparna Roy won the Best Director award in the Orizzonti section at the 82nd Venice Film Festival 2025 for her evocative film Songs of Forgotten Trees.

V.K. Gokak Award

- Anand V. Patil, was honoured with the Prof.
 V.K. Gokak Award
- Anand V. Patil was acclaimed for his remarkable contributions to children's literature (Bal Sahitya). Named after the eminent literary figure Prof. Vinayaka Krishna Gokak, the award recognises significant contributions to Kannada and Indian literature.

Ramon Magsaysay Award

- Educate Girls (Foundation to Educate Girls Globally) made history by becoming the first Indian organisation to win the Ramon Magsaysay Award.
- It was awarded for its transformative work in bringing out-of-school girls into classrooms





across India's remotest regions. Founded in 2007 by Safeena Husain, the NGO has enabled the enrolment of over 2 million girls, expanded operations to 30,000+ villages, pioneered the world's first Development Impact Bond (2015), and launched Pragati, an open-schooling programme now supporting 31,500+ young women. Established in 1957 and often called the "Asian Nobel Prize," the Ramon Magsaysay Award celebrates integrity, service, and leadership, with past Indian recipients like Arvind Kejriwal, Ravish Kumar, Bezwada Wilson, and Sonam Wangchuk. The award is conferred annually on November 7 in Manila, honouring the legacy of former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay, remembered for people-centric governance and anti-corruption reforms.

SCOPE Eminence Awards 2022-23

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the SCOPE Eminence Awards 2022–23 in New Delhi.
- Honoring the outstanding performance of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in governance, innovation, and sustainability. Instituted by the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), the awards highlight the vital role CPSEs have played in India's development since Independence.

BOOKS & AUTHORS [CURRENT]

Book	Author and Details	
Why the Constitution	Former CJI DY Chandrachud's debut book "Why the Constitution Matters"	
Matters	highlights how constitutional values shape everyday life in India.	
Demography,	Historian Ravi K. Mishra's new book examines the complexities of India's	
Representation,	ongoing delimitation debates, focusing on constituency boundaries,	
Delimitation: The North-	regional identity, representation, and the north-south population divide.	
South Divide in India		
Dapaan: Tales from	Ipsita Chakravarty's book Dapaan illuminates everyday Kashmiri life amid	
Kashmir's Conflict	decades of conflict, state surveillance, and silent resistance, giving voice to	
	stories often absent from official histories.	
Rocket Dreams: Musk,	Christian Davenport's book delves into private space exploration, revealing	
Bezos, and the Inside	a modern space race driven by ego, ambition, and billionaire rivalries rather	
Story of the New,	than NASA's traditional spirit of discovery.	
Trillion-Dollar Space Race		
Different But No Less	Anupam Kher's fourth book, Different But No Less, follows his earlier	
	motivational works—The Best Thing About You Is You, Lessons Life Taught Me	
	Unknowingly, and Your Best Day Is Today—offering readers another message	
	of hope, resilience, and personal growth.	
Mother Mary Come To	Arundhati Roy, best known for her Booker Prize-winning novel <i>The God of</i>	
Me	Small Things, returns in 2025 with the memoir Mother Mary Comes to Me,	
	offering a candid and poetic account of her lifelong relationship with her	
	mother, Mary Roy , a pioneering educator and women's rights advocate.	
The Chola Tigers:	Amish Tripathy's latest book, The Chola Tigers: Avengers of Somnath,	
Avengers of Somnath	continues his journey of reimagining India's history through compelling	
	fiction.	
M.S. Swaminathan: The	Written by Priyambada Jayakumar it is a heartfelt tribute to the agricultural	







visionary who made India self-sufficient in food during the Green Revolution.

BOOKS & AUTHORS [STATIC GK]

Book Name	Author	
Chronicles of Change Champions	Smriti Zubin Irani	
Shuttling to the top: The story of PV Sindhu	V.Krishnaswamy	
Lockdown Liaisons	Shobhaa De	
Naoroji Pioneer of Indian Nationalism	Dinyar Patel	
Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver	Urjit Patel	
Getting Competitive: A Practitioner's Guide for India	R C Bargava	
A Song of India	Ruskin Bond	
Bapu- the Unforgettable	Manish Sisodia	
40 Years with Abdul Kalam: Untold Stories	Dr A. Sivathanu Pillai	
Runway to Skilled India	Dr Darlie O Koshy	
1857- The Sword of Mastann	Vineet Bajpai	
Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis	Anindya Dutta	
The Light of Asia	Jairam Ramesh	
OPERATION KHUKRI	Major Gen. Rajpal Punia & Ms. Damini Punia	
The Battle of Rezang La	Kulpreet Yadav	
Democracy, Politics and Governance	Dr. A Surya Prakash	

SPORTS

World Championship Gold

- Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone won world championship gold in the women's 400m in Tokyo.
- She clocked 47.78 seconds, the fastest in 40 years, marking her successful shift from 400m hurdles, where she is a two-time Olympic and one-time world champion.

2025 World Speed Skating Championships

- Anandkumar Velkumar, a 22-year-old Indian skater, won India's first-ever world championship gold in speed skating at the 2025 World Speed Skating Championships in China.
- He clinched gold in the 42km marathon, gold in the 1000m event with a record 1:24.92, and

bronze in the 500m sprint, totaling two golds and one bronze.

Smriti Mandhana breaks Virat Kohli's record

- Smriti Mandhana made history on 20
 September 2025 by scoring the fastest ODI
 century by an Indian—50 balls—against
 Australia at Arun Jaitley Stadium, New Delhi,
 surpassing Virat Kohli's 52-ball record from
 2013.
- Mandhana scored 125 off 65 balls with 17 boundaries and 5 sixes. This century is the second-fastest in women's ODI history after Meg Lanning's 45-ball ton. Mandhana had previously held the record for India's fastest women's ODI hundred with 70 balls vs Ireland.





Asian Cadet Cup India-2025

- Uttarakhand hosted the Asian Cadet Cup India-2025 in Haldwani.
- This was India's first-ever international fencing event, featuring over 250 athletes, including 150 Indians and participants from Tajikistan, Syria, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Indonesia. Fencing is gaining popularity among Indian youth, inspired by athletes like Arjuna Awardee Bhayani Devi.

First Indian bowler to reach 100 T20I wickets

- Arshdeep Singh became the first Indian bowler to reach 100 T20I wickets.
- He reached it during India's final group game against Oman in the 2025 Asia Cup, dismissing Vinayak Shukla in just 64 matches.

First Woman FIDE Master from Bihar

- Marium Fatima from Muzaffarpur, Bihar, became the first Woman FIDE Master (WFM) from the state.
- The WFM title, awarded by FIDE, recognizes international-standard play and requires a FIDE rating of typically 2100+.

2025 FIDE Grand Swiss (Open and Women's sections)

- Anish Giri and Vaishali Rameshbabu won the 2025 FIDE Grand Swiss (Open and Women's sections) in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- Anish Giri won the Open section of the 2025 FIDE Grand Swiss with 8/11, remaining undefeated and defeating GM Hans Niemann. Vaishali Rameshbabu claimed her second consecutive Women's Grand Swiss title with 8/11, finishing ahead of GM Kateryna Lagno, who secured the second Women's Candidates spot.

Davis Cup World Group

- India defeated Switzerland 3-1 in the 2025
 Davis Cup World Group I tie in Biel.
- India secured its first European away win since 1993 and qualifying for the 2026 Davis Cup Qualifiers, with Sumit Nagal sealing the tie by

beating Henry Bernet 6–1, 6–3. The Davis Cup is the premier international team event in men's tennis. It is organised by the International Tennis Federation and contested annually between teams from over 150 competing countries, making it the world's largest annual team sporting competition.

Gold at World Boxing 2025

- Jaismine Lamboria won gold in the 57kg women's category at the 2025 World Boxing Championships in Liverpool.
- She defeated Poland's Julia Szeremeta 4-1, marking her first world title after an early exit at the 2024 Paris Olympics. India's women boxers secured three medals overall: Lamboria (gold), Nupur Sheoran (silver, 80+kg), and Pooja Rani (bronze, middleweight), with no medals in the men's category.

Youngest Grandmaster who defeated World Champion

- Abhimanyu Mishra, the 16-year-old American chess prodigy and youngest Grandmaster in history, defeated reigning World Champion D Gukesh at the FIDE Grand Swiss 2025.
- He became the youngest ever to beat a reigning world champion in classical chess.
 Born in New Jersey to Indian-origin parents, Mishra began chess at under three, achieved GM at 12, and now holds a live rating of 2637.2, entering the world top 100.

2025 Archery World Championships

- India won its first-ever men's compound team gold at the 2025 Archery World Championships in Gwangju.
- India defeated France 235-233, with Rishabh Yadav, Aman Saini, and Prathamesh Fuge delivering a flawless final end. India also claimed mixed team silver (Yadav & Jyothi Surekha Vennam).

International Table Tennis Federation-Asian Table Tennis Union (ITTF-ATTU) Asian Table Tennis Team Championships





- India will host the 28th International Table Tennis Federation-Asian Table Tennis Union (ITTF-ATTU) Asian Table Tennis Team Championships in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from October 11 to 15, 2025.
- The tournament will feature top men's and women's teams from across Asia and serve as a qualifier for the 2026 ITTF World Team Championships, with the top 13 teams in each category earning spots. This marks the first time Odisha will host an Asian-level table tennis championship.

Asia Cup 2025

- India defeated South Korea 4-1 in the Asia Cup 2025 final at the Rajgir Sports Complex, Bihar.
- India won fourth title. The victory also secured India direct qualification for the 2026 Fédération Internationale de Hockey (FIH) Men's Hockey World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Anti-Doping Reference Material

- India has successfully developed Methandienone Long-Term Metabolite (LTM).
- LTM is a rare anti-doping reference material, through a collaboration between the National

Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Guwahati and the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL), New Delhi. This achievement strengthens drug detection in sports, supports global World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) laboratories, and positions India among the few nations capable of synthesizing such specialized materials.

2026 Badminton World Championships.

- India will host the 2026 Badminton World Championships.
- This will be marking the tournament's return to India after 17 years and reaffirming the country's global standing in badminton and sports infrastructure.

Gold at the 2025 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships

- Mirabai Chanu made a spectacular comeback by winning gold at the 2025 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Ahmedabad.
- Competing in the women's 48kg category, she broke all records with an 84kg snatch, 109kg clean and jerk, and a total lift of 193kg. This victory also earns her direct qualification for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Event & Details
September	The International Day of Sign Languages 2025 is observed on September 23 with the
23	theme "Sign Language Unites Us", emphasizing inclusion, accessibility, and the unifying
	power of sign languages. Recognized by the United Nations, this day celebrates linguistic
	and cultural diversity while promoting the rights of the deaf and hard-of-hearing
	community.
September	World Rhino Day 2025 is observed on 22 September to raise awareness about rhino
22	conservation, anti-poaching efforts, and India's initiatives through Project Rhino and
	Kaziranga National Park. Established in 2011, the day highlights the plight of the five
	rhino species—the Greater One-Horned, Black, White, Javan, and Sumatran rhinos—
	threatened by poaching, habitat loss, and human-wildlife conflict.
September	The International Day of Peace 2025 is observed globally on 21 September with the
21	theme "Act Now for a Peaceful World", promoting unity, non-violence, and global
	cooperation. Established by the United Nations in 1981 and fixed to 21 September in
	2011, the day emphasizes that peace is more than the absence of war—it requires active





International Red Panda Day 2025, observed on Saturday, September 20 (the third Saturday of September), celebrates and raises awareness for the endangered Himalayar red panda, with fewer than 10,000 left in the wild. Launched in 2010 by the Red Panda Network, the day has grown into a global campaign involving zoos, schools, and communities to spotlight conservation needs. Native to the Eastern Himalayas, red pandas are small, nocturnal, and solitary creatures with bushy, striped tails and coppery fur feeding mainly on bamboo. Threatened by deforestation, poaching, the exotic pet trade and low reproduction rates, they require urgent protection. World Bamboo Day 2025, observed on 18 September, celebrates bamboo's role in sustainability, livelihoods, and innovation, with the theme "Next Generation Bamboo Solution, Innovation, and Design." First marked in 2009 by the World Bamboo Organization during the 8th World Bamboo Congress in Bangkok, the day highlights bamboo's ecological, cultural, and economic importance. September World Ozone Day 2025, observed on September 16, highlights global efforts to protect and restore the ozone layer under the Montreal Protocol, with the theme "From Science to Global Action." Established by the UN in 1994 to mark the 1987 signing of the
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Montreal Protocol, the day celebrates science-driven policy and international cooperation
in safeguarding Earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation.
The International Day of Democracy 2025, observed on 15 September, emphasizes
September democratic values, human rights, and citizen participation, with the theme "Achieving
Gender Equality, Action by Action." Established by the UN in 2007, the day underscores
the need for transparent, inclusive, and accountable governance while highlighting the
role of women, youth, and marginalized communities in political life.
8 International Literacy Day 2025 is observed on 8 September with the theme "Promoting
September Literacy in the Digital Era." Established by UNESCO in 1967, the day highlights literacy as
a fundamental right and a tool for empowerment, equality, and sustainable development.
Teacher's Day 2025 is celebrated on 5 September to honor educators and the birth
September anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, India's second President and a distinguished
philosopher. This year's theme, "Inspiring the Next Generation of Learners," highlights
teachers' role in nurturing curiosity, creativity, and character.
1-7 National Nutrition Week 2025, observed from 1-7 September, promotes healthy eating
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29 August	National Sports Day 2025 is celebrated on 29 August to honour Major Dhyan Chand, the
	legendary "Hockey Wizard." The 2025 theme, "Sport to Promote Peaceful and Inclusive
	Societies," highlights how sports unite people across regions, religions, and identities.
27 August	World Lake Day 2025 is observed on 27 August to highlight the importance of protecting
	lakes, the heart of Earth's freshwater ecosystems.
23 August	National Space Day 2025 is celebrated on 23 August to honor India's space
	achievements, from the launch of Aryabhatta to the upcoming Gaganyaan mission . The
	day marks Chandrayaan-3's historic soft landing near the Moon's South Pole in 2023,
	making India the first country to land there. The 2025 theme, "Aryabhattato Gaganyaan:
	Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities," celebrates India's journey from early
	astronomical knowledge to cutting-edge space technology.

STATIC GK

The first recipient of Dada Saheb Phalke award was actress <u>Devika Rani</u> who was honored at the 17th National Film Awards.

Bats are the <u>only mammals</u> capable of true flight.

The human eye can distinguish about 10 million colors.

The **Planck length** is considered the smallest meaningful unit of space.

The half-life of Uranium-238 is about 4.5 billion years.

Time slows down near a massive object due to gravitational time dilation, as predicted by **Einstein's general relativity.**

Nitrous oxide (N_2O) is a potent greenhouse gas with a global warming potential nearly 300 times that of carbon dioxide (CO_2) over a 100-year period.

The first motion picture was created in 1888 by Louis Le Prince.

CGI (Computer-Generated Imagery) uses 3D modelling and rendering to create visual effects in films.

The first feature-length film to use synchronized sound was *The Jazz Singer* in 1927.

All India Radio (AIR) began regular broadcasting in 1936.

Playback singing, first introduced in *DhoopChhaon* (1935), revolutionized Indian film music.

The Battle of Talikota (1565) led to the downfall of the Vijayanagara Empire in South India.

The League of Nations, established after World War I, failed to prevent the outbreak of World War II due to lack of enforcement power.

Sher Shah Suri introduced the *Rupiya*, which became the precursor to modern Indian currency.

EXIM Bank of India, established in 1982, provides financial assistance to promote India's international trade.

RBI's first Governor was **Sir Osborne Smith**, serving from 1935 to 1937.

RBI launched the first digital currency pilot (e₹-Rupee) in 2022.

The **Gini coefficient** measures income inequality within a country, where 0 represents perfect equality and 1 represents extreme inequality.

The National Population Register (NPR) is a database of all usual residents of India.

Abhinav Bindra became India's first individual Olympic gold medalist in shooting at Beijing 2008.





The **Pro Kabaddi League** started in 2014, revitalizing interest in kabaddi across India.

The **Kigali Amendment (2016)** to the Montreal Protocol aims to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), potent greenhouse gases.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a multilateral fund established before the 1992 Rio Earth Summit that provides grants and blended finance for global environmental projects.

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) is a global movement to protect and revive ecosystems worldwide, driven by the UN General Assembly and led by UNEP and the FAO.



CURRENT AFFAIRS GK

Mitra Andhra Mana is Pradesh's first WhatsAppbased governance platform, providing 738 citizen services across 36 departments digitally, ensuring transparency, ease of access, and inclusivity, and serving as a replicable model for nationwide digital governance.

Isobutanolis a next-generation biofuel in India made from sugarcane, grains, or plant waste, which mixes well with diesel, burns cleaner, saves energy, supports farmers, and helps India move towards cleaner transport and Net-Zero 2070 goals.

Super Typhoons are Category 5 tropical cyclones with winds over 240 km/h, forming over warm oceans with low wind shear, spinning due to the Coriolis effect, and named by World Meteorological Organization or local agencies for public alerts.

Bagram Air Base in Parwan, Afghanistan, is a key strategic hub controlling major transport routes, historically used by the Soviets and US/NATO for military and intelligence operations, and remains vital for regional influence post-US withdrawal.

Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) are parties registered with the Election Commission of India but not recognised as state or parties due national to insufficient electoral performance; inactive or noncompliant RUPPs risk delisting improve transparency, accountability, and electoral integrity.

India successfully test-fired the Agni-Prime, a nuclear-capable intermediate-range missile, from a rail-based mobile launcher, marking a first and enhancing strategic mobility and stealth.

Mahendragiri Hills in Odisha's
Gajapati district, part of the
Eastern Ghats and a
Biodiversity Heritage Site since

2022, is ecologically fragile, home to rich flora and fauna.

Antifa is a loosely connected, decentralised "anti-fascist" movement opposing fascism, white supremacy, and far-right extremism, originating from 1930s Europe.

<u>Exercise Cold Start</u> is India's largest tri-service drone and counter-drone drill, to be held in Madhya Pradesh in October 2025.

Aflatoxins are toxic, heatstable fungal metabolites (mainly B1, B2, G1, G2, M1) contaminating crops groundnuts and maize, posing serious health risks including liver cancer. immune suppression, and growth issues. and strictly are regulated in international trade to ensure food safety.

India has been re-elected to the Universal Postal Union's Council of Administration (CA) and Postal Operations Council (POC) during the 28th UPU





Congress in Dubai, strengthening its role in shaping global postal policies and modernizing international mail services.

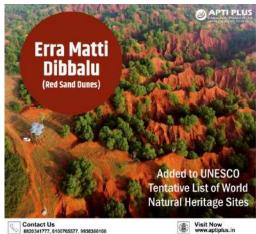
Majorana particles are special particles that are their own antiparticles and carry electric charge. Found as quasiparticles in superconductors, they are promising quantum for computers their because unique properties make information more stable and resistant to errors.

Mira variable stars are pulsating red giant stars whose brightness changes regularly over 100–1,000 days; their predictable luminosity makes them "standard candles" for measuring cosmic distances and refining the Hubble constant.

<u>Typhoon</u> <u>Ragasa</u> (Super Typhoon Nando in the Philippines) is the strongest tropical cyclone of 2025 so far, hitting northern Luzon, Taiwan's Hualien County, and currently affecting South China, Hong Kong, and Macau.

Mini Cloudbursts are sudden, intense rainfall events of ≥5 cm per hour over a small area (~20–30 sq km), less severe than standard cloudbursts (≥10 cm/hr).

LEARNING THROUGH INFOGRAPHICS















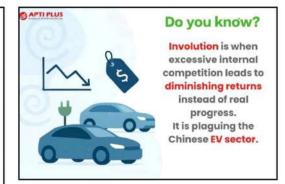
The Supreme Court of India has reaffirmed the Bonnard Standard

The Bonnard Principle (1891, Bonnard v. Perryman)



It directs courts to exercise utmost caution in granting interim injunctions in defamation cases.

Such restraint is vital as early curbs on free speech carry high risk. An injunction is justified only if it is clear the defendant's defense will fail at trial, ensuring protection of both public interest and free expression.



India's first bamboo-based ethanol plant inaugurated in eastern Assam's Golaghat district

APTI PLUS

- India signed a <u>15-year ISA contract for polymetallic sulphides</u> at Carlsberg Ridge (3,00,000 sq km, Indian Ocean).
- <u>Carlsberg Ridge</u>: boundary between Indian & Arabian plates, Rodrigues → Owen fracture zone.
- <u>Targets:</u> manganese, cobalt, nickel, copper essential for batteries, renewables, electronics.
- <u>Significance</u>: first global licence in this region; India's third ISA contract, second for sulphides; exclusive rights for survey, mapping, environmental assessment.
- Previous Contracts: 2002 polymetallic nodules (75,000 sq km, expires 2027); 2016 – polymetallic sulphides (expires 2031). India holds largest ISA-allocated area.
- Formation: Polymetallic sulphides form near hydrothermal vents, rich in base & critical metals.
- <u>Economic Edge</u>: reduces import dependence (India imports 95% critical minerals), supports net-zero 2070, creates subsea tech & processing jobs.



What is amoebic encephalitis and how does it spread?

Amoebic encephalitis is a rare but deadly infection of the brain caused by free-living amoebae found in warm freshwater like lakes, ponds, and rivers. The amoeba enters the body through the nose, usually while swimming, diving, or bathing and then reaches the brain. It does not spread from person to person, and swallowing contaminated water does not cause infection.

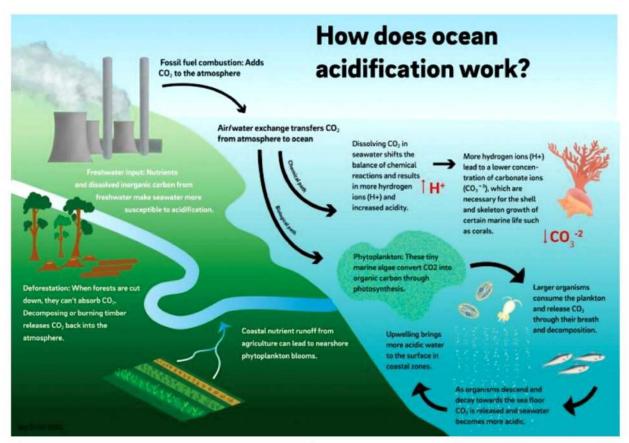
What are the commpn types of amoebic encephalitis?

- Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM) caused by Naegleria fowleri, also known as the "brain-eating amoeba." This is more common and highly fatal.
- Granulomatous Amoebic Encephalitis (GAE) less common but still dangerous, can mimic other brain infections.

Table: Forest and Tree Cover of India			
		in km²	
Class	Area	Percentage of GA	
Forest Cover	7,15,342.61	21.76	
Tree Cover	1,12,014.34	3.41	
Total Forest and Tree Cover	8,27,356.95	25.17	
Scrub	43,622.64	1.33	
Non Forest	24,16,489.29	73.50	
Geographical Area of the country	32,87,468.88	100.00	







Important World Organisations and Their Headquarters

In today's interconnected world, various international organizations play a vital role in addressing global challenges, promoting cooperation among nations, and improving the quality of life for people worldwide. These organizations, with their headquarters located in different parts of the globe, serve as platforms for countries to come together, exchange ideas, and work towards common goals.

World Organisation	Headquarter
United Nations Organisation (UNO)	New York
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Nairobi (Kenya)
United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)	Geneva
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	New York
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	New York
United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)	Paris
World Health Organisation	Geneva
International Monetary Fund	Washington
Commonwealth	London
Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)	Vienna
World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	Gland (Switzerland)
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Geneva
International Olympic Committee (IOC)	Lusane
League of Arab States	Cario (Egypt)
Amnesty International	London
Asian Development Bank	Manila (Philippines
Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)	Jakarta
North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)	Brussels
African Union (AU)	Addis-Abada
South Asian Association for Regional Corporation	Kathmandu
International Police (INTERPOL)	Lyons (France)
World Trade Organisation	Geneva
Women Aid International	London
World Bank	Washington
Universal Postal Union	Berne (Switzerland)
BENELUX Economic Union	Brussels
General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)	Geneva
United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)	New York, USA
UN Women	New York, USA







MIDDLE EAST







