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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

BENGAL RELATED NEWS

Mahakal Temple

Context

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced the construction of the Mahakal temple at Siliguri in Darjeeling district.



Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga

- Location:** Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh -- on the banks of River Shipra.
- Deity:** Lord Shiva as Mahakaleshwar; one of the twelve Jyotirlingas.
- Special Feature:** Only south-facing (Dakshinamurti) Jyotirlinga in India.
- Type:** Swayambhu Lingam – self-manifested, not man-made.
- Other Jyotirlinga in Madhya Pradesh:** Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga.
- Associated Goddess:** Mahakali (as part of 18 Maha Shakti Peethas); Upper lip of Sati is believed to have fallen here.

- Cultural Connection:** Mentioned in Kalidasa's Meghadūta; reference to music and dance rituals (Nada-Aradhana).
- Historical Events:**
 - Destroyed by Iltutmish (1234–35 CE) during his invasion.
 - Rebuilt by Maratha Diwan Ramchandra Baba Sukthankar.
 - Later attacked by Jalaluddin Khilji and Alauddin Khilji.

West Bengal: Second-Lowest Conviction Rate for Crimes against Women

Context:

- Crimes against women remain a serious concern across India and **West Bengal** has emerged as a state with one of the **worst conviction records** despite consistently high case numbers.
- A recent data analysis by *The Hindu*, based on National Crime Records Bureau data (2017–2023), exposes glaring gaps in justice delivery for women in the state.

Details

- Conviction Rate (2017–2023):** Average 5%; fell to 3.7% in 2023--35th out of 36 states/UTs.
- High Caseload:** Over 30,000 cases of crimes against women reported annually since 2018-- among top four states in India.
- Acquittals (2023):** 19,005 cases-- up from 7,996 in 2022; highest among all states.
- Pending Cases:**
 - 2023: 3.68 lakh pending cases.
 - 2017: 2.34 lakh pending cases → 56% rise over six years.
- Crime Categories (2018–2023):**
 - 1st in acid attack and attempted acid attack cases for five of six years.

- 3rd in cruelty by husband or relatives cases.
- **Recent Incident:** Outrage after alleged gang-rape in Durgapur; CM Mamata Banerjee claimed "zero tolerance," later said comments were "distorted."
- **Overall Picture:**
 - Sharp contrast between high case volume and very low conviction rate.
 - Rising acquittals and judicial pendency indicate systemic inefficiency in justice delivery for women in West Bengal.

West Bengal Drug Control Directorate Tightens Cough Syrup Regulations to Ensure Child Safety

Context:

- Following reports of child deaths linked to contaminated cough syrups in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the West Bengal Drug Control Directorate has intensified its surveillance on cough syrup marketing companies to ensure public safety and drug quality.

Details:

- **Reason for Action:**
 - Triggered by the ban of 'Coldrif' cough syrup after child deaths in other states.

- Described as a precautionary measure to prevent loss of life.
- **New Guidelines Issued:**
 - Companies cannot sell or distribute drugs manufactured by others in their own name without a written agreement with the manufacturer (Section 84D).
 - Marketing companies are made equally responsible for drug quality and regulatory compliance along with manufacturers (Section 84E).
- **Submission Requirement:**
 - All cough syrup marketing companies sourcing from outside West Bengal must submit copies of their manufacturing agreements to the state Drug Control Directorate within 15 days.
 - Documents to be emailed to telddcwb@gmail.com for review.
- **Monitoring & Compliance:**
 - Companies instructed to regularly follow the 'Drug Alert' portal for safety updates and regulatory warnings.
- **Objective:**
 - To prevent sale of substandard or unauthorised cough syrups and enhance consumer safety across the state.

Directorate of Drugs Control, West Bengal

The Directorate of Drugs Control, West Bengal ensures public health by regulating the manufacture, sale and quality of allopathic, homeopathic medicines, cosmetics and blood banks. It conducts raids, sampling, inspections and forwards samples for testing, granting licenses only after statutory compliance. Retailers, wholesalers and pharmacists are monitored and unethical practices are curbed via digitized records. Its core functions include drug quality, safety, efficacy, price monitoring, enforcement of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act 1940 and prevention of substandard or counterfeit drugs across the state.

West Bengal Leads in Acid Attacks and Domestic Cruelty

Context

- Despite a slight decline in overall crimes against women, West Bengal continues to lead the country in acid attacks, according to Crime in India 2023 (published Sept 29, 2025). The state also records high numbers under cruelty by husband/relatives (Sec 498A IPC).

Key Highlights:

- **Acid Attacks (Sec 326A IPC, 2023):**
 - 57 cases in West Bengal → 27.5% of all acid attacks in India.
 - Victims/Survivors: 60 in WB; 220 nationwide.
 - Uttar Pradesh: 31 cases, 31 victims -- second highest.

- Trend: WB has consistently recorded the highest number of acid attacks since 2018.
- **Regulatory Measures:**
 - Supreme Court Guidelines (W.P. 129/2006, Laxmi Minor vs. Union of India):
 - Over-the-counter sale of acid is **prohibited** without maintaining a **log/register** with buyer details and quantity.
 - Activists demand stricter checks on **unlicensed acid sales**, especially in West Bengal.
- **Crimes Against Women (2023):**
 - 34,691 cases registered → marginal drop from 34,738 in 2022.
 - Crime rate per lakh population: 71.3.
 - Population of women (2023): 4.86 crore.
- **Cruelty by Husband/Relatives (Sec 498A IPC):**
 - Cases: 19,698 → second highest after Uttar Pradesh (19,889).
 - Victims: 20,462 → highest in the country.
- **Other Observations:**
 - Acid attack survivors and rehabilitation highlighted during **community events** (e.g., Durga Puja 2025 in Kolkata).
 - Emphasis on **compensation and rehabilitation** for victims.

Overall Picture:

- West Bengal shows a **paradox of slight dip in general crimes but persistent and high-risk crimes like acid attacks and domestic cruelty**, highlighting the need for **stringent enforcement, preventive measures and victim rehabilitation**.

Intensive Rhino and Elephant Rescue Operations in Jaldapara Following North Bengal Floods

- **Context:**
Following devastating floods on October 5, 2025, in Alipurduar district, West Bengal, forest officials are conducting an intensive rescue operation for rhinos and other wildlife affected by the disaster, particularly in Patlakhawa forest.

Key Points:

- **Flood Impact:**
 - Torsha River floods swept several rhinos out of **Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary**.
 - **10 rhinos believed stranded**, a record for the sanctuary.

Patlakhawa Forest

- Patlakhawa Forest, located near Jaldapara National Park in Cooch Behar, West Bengal, is a protected area developed as the state's **third habitat for one-horned rhinoceros** to reduce pressure on populations in Jaldapara and Gorumara. Historically a **game reserve of the Koch dynasty**, it has diverse habitats, including **grasslands and swamp forests**, supporting rich biodiversity and various bird species. Patlakhawa also has potential to boost **ecotourism**, complementing nearby attractions like Rasik Bill. Rasikbil, also called Rasik Beel, is a small lake in Cooch Behar district, West Bengal, located about 7.5 km from Kamakhyaaguri town. It is a rich **bird habitat**, attracting species such as cormorants, storks, ibis, spoonbills, kingfishers and ducks like lesser whistling duck, Eurasian teal and ferruginous duck.

Jaldapara National Park

- Jaldapara National Park is located in Alipurduar district, West Bengal, at the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas along the Torsa River, covering **216.51 km²** of grasslands and riverine forests. Established as a wildlife sanctuary in **1941** and upgraded to a national park in **2014**, it was primarily created for the conservation of the **Indian one-horned rhinoceros**, now holding the largest rhino population in the state after Kaziranga. The park features **savannah grasslands with tall elephant grasses** and hosts diverse fauna, including **Indian elephants, leopards, sambar, chital, hog deer, wild boar and gaur**.

Great One-horned Rhinoceros population in West Bengal

- The **Great One-horned Rhinoceros population in West Bengal** has risen to **392 from 229**, according to the March 2025 census conducted across Jaldapara National Park,

Gorumara National Park, Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary and parts of Jalpaiguri Reserve Forests, covering 396 km². Jaldapara, the state's largest rhino habitat, hosts an estimated **331 rhinos**, making it the second-largest Indian rhino habitat after Kaziranga.

Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*)

- The **Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*)**, native to the Indo-Gangetic Plain, is the second-largest rhino species, with males weighing 2–2.2 tonnes and females 1.6

tonnes. It has **thick grey-brown skin**, a single horn up to 57.2 cm and wart-like bumps on its legs and shoulders. A primarily **solitary grazer**, it feeds on grass, twigs, leaves, fruits and aquatic plants and females give birth to a single calf after a **15.7-month gestation**. Listed as **Vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List, its global population has grown to **4,075 individuals** due to conservation efforts, though **poaching and habitat fragmentation** remain persistent threats.

Mamata Banerjee Urges Urgent Review of Dam Safety, Dredging and Seismic Risks in North Bengal

Context:

- In the wake of recent floods and landslides in Darjeeling and Kalimpong, CM Mamata Banerjee emphasised Bengal's **environmental vulnerabilities** and called for urgent measures to **review dam operations, dredging practices and seismic risks** in the hill districts.

Key Points:

- **Flood & Landslide Impact:**
 - Over 70,000 people affected in north Bengal.
 - 32 deaths, 1 tourist still missing.
 - Tea industry lost ₹50+ crore, 30+ gardens damaged;
 - 6 rhinos drowned, several elephants swept away in Jaldapara.
- **Dam & Dredging Concerns:**
 - Criticised Centre for negligence in maintaining dams across eastern India (Maithon, DVC, Farakka, Panchet, Kolkata Port, Haldia Port).
 - No dredging for 20 years → reduces river capacity → increases flood risk.
 - Referred to **Meghnad Saha's report** opposing Farakka Barrage; stressed letting rivers flow naturally.
- **Hydropower & Seismic Risks:**
 - Concern over Sikkim's 14 hydropower projects; risk of disaster similar to Uttarakhand floods.
 - Called for **geological assessment** by Geological Survey of India for Darjeeling and Kalimpong.

- **Bhutan Water Release:**

- Excess water released into Dooars region causes floods and deposits **dolomite**, damaging agriculture.
- Proposed selling the mineral to fund irrigation projects under disaster management.

Meghnad Saha's report on Farakka Barrage

In 1949, physicist and MP Meghnad Saha opposed the construction of the Farakka Barrage, arguing that its **ecological costs outweighed the benefits**. Published in *Science and Culture*, his report warned that the barrage would **disrupt the Ganga's natural flow**, degrade ecosystems, accelerate **siltation in the delta** and disturb the river's natural balance. He also noted that the project would provide **limited long-term benefits for Kolkata Port**, the primary objective.

Root Causes of Flooding in North Bengal:

- **Unnatural siltation of rivers** is a major contributor.
- **Major rivers affected:** Teesta, Torsha, Raidak, Kaljani, Leesh, Gheesh.
- **Causes of siltation:**
 - **Deforestation** in hills
 - **Civil construction** and urban expansion
 - **Soil erosion** from hills due to increased human activity

- Result: **Debris washed downstream**, raising riverbeds at foothills and reducing water retention → **overflow into agricultural lands**.

Impact on Agriculture & Forests:

- **Annual loss:** >2.5 lakh hectares of agricultural land inundated.
- **Forest areas affected:** Buxa Tiger Reserve's riverbeds rising **~25 cm per year**, depositing debris and making land sterile.

River Changes:

- **Teesta River:** Width increased over **100% in 30 years**; some sections >5 km wide, but dry and sand-choked.
- **Satellite data:** >25% of NB foothills threatened by sand deposition.

Other Vulnerabilities in North Bengal

Environmental Vulnerabilities:

- **Deforestation, unregulated sand/stone mining, hill-cutting** destabilising rivers and slopes.
- Rivers mined extensively: **500+ quarries** in Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, Alipurduar; Mahananda River loses **~6.84 million m³ riverbed material** annually.
- **Riverbeds widened & weakened**, banks prone to collapse; flash floods destroy infrastructure (e.g., Dudhiya Bridge).
- **Raidak basin:** 27% catchment flood-prone due to deforestation, unplanned embankments, wetland destruction.
- Teesta, Jaldhaka, Torsha, Kaljani rivers repeatedly changing course; 2023 Teesta disaster: **glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF)** destroyed Teesta-III dam, killed 40+ people.

Urbanisation & Infrastructure:

- Rapid expansion in **Siliguri & Darjeeling:** farmland & forest loss, landslide-prone construction.
- Siliguri built-up area doubled (2001–2015); natural vegetation declined by 23%.
- **Darjeeling & Kalimpong:** eco-environmental quality declined from "moderate" → "degraded"; 70–80% land in Darjeeling Municipality allotted for residential use.
- Infrastructure projects like **Sivok-Rangpo Railway** cut through flood-prone, unstable areas.

Climate Change & Disaster Risk:

- North Bengal entering "**climate crisis**" stage.
- Glacial lake expansion in Bhutan & Sikkim, heavy rainfall intensifying flood risks.
- Studies predict **23% rise in extreme precipitation** in Teesta basin by mid-21st century.
- Annual cycle of floods & landslides likely due to fragile slopes, active fault lines and unregulated development.

Political & Governance Issues:

- Region treated as peripheral; disasters often **politicised & used for optics**.
- Unregulated mining, deforestation, hill-cutting ignored.
- Need for **climate-resilient infrastructure, disaster management, river basin planning, reforestation and participatory governance**.

Takeaway:

- North Bengal's floods are **not isolated natural events** but **symptoms of decades-long ecological neglect, policy failure and extractive development**, requiring urgent, long-term interventions beyond relief efforts.

Illegal Dolomite Mining & Its Impact on Dooars Tea

- **Location:** Dooars region, West Bengal, bordering Bhutan.
- **Issue:** Rampant **illegal dolomite mining** in **upstream Bhutan** rivers affecting downstream tea gardens.
- **Reserves:** Bhutan holds **~13,500 million tonnes** of dolomite; mining is highly lucrative.

Impact on Tea Gardens:

- Affects **50+ tea gardens** in Birpara, Banarhat, Kalchini.
- Dolomite-laden debris flows into rivers (**Leesh, Gheesh, Torsha, Raidak**) during monsoon, **flooding tea lands**.
- Contaminated water alters **soil pH** and **increases salinity**, severely **retarding growth of tea bushes**.
- Some gardens report **~50% drop in monsoon production** compared to annual average.
- Large-scale open-pit mining reduces rivers' **water retention capacity**, worsening floods.

Attempts at Resolution:

- Indo-Bhutan joint initiatives & Border District Coordination meetings discussed the issue multiple times.
- Despite diplomatic efforts, illegal mining continues unabated.

Key Takeaway:

- Illegal dolomite mining in Bhutan has **direct ecological and economic repercussions** for Dooars tea gardens: reduced productivity, soil degradation and increased flooding--demonstrating **cross-border environmental vulnerability**.

Dolomite

- **Dolomite** is a **carbonate mineral** composed of calcium magnesium carbonate ($\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$) that crystallizes in the trigonal-rhombohedral system, forming white, gray, pink, or tan crystals. It is relatively **brittle, poorly soluble in cold dilute HCl** and commonly twinned. Dolomite forms naturally in **sedimentary basins, saline lakes and sabkhas**, often mediated by microbial activity and has played a key role in **karst formation and aquifers**.
- **Dolomite in India** is abundantly found in **Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Karnataka**, with Madhya Pradesh holding the largest share (27%). Major deposits occur in Chhattisgarh's **Bastar, Bilaspur, Durg, Raigarh** districts and Odisha's **Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Koraput**. The **iron and steel industry** is the chief consumer (~90%), using dolomite as a **blast furnace flux**. Other applications include **agriculture** (soil pH correction and fertilizer filler), **construction** (cement strength enhancement), **glass and ceramics, paints and plastics** (as filler) and production of **soaps, detergents and magnesium salts**.
- **Dolomite in West Bengal** is primarily found in **Purulia** and the **Buxa-Jayanti region of Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri districts**. Purulia has significant reserves, while the Buxa area was historically mined but is now largely protected as part of the **Buxa Tiger Reserve**. Key uses include **iron and steel flux, float glass production, soil conditioning, magnesium source and construction material** for concrete and aggregates.

Rivers in News due to North Bengal Floods

Kaljani River

- **Kaljani River** is a **tributary of the Torsha River**, originating in **Bhutan** at the Himalayan foothills (26°50'24"N 89°26'28"E) and flowing south through Bhutan and **West Bengal** before merging with Torsha, which eventually joins the **Brahmaputra–Padma system** leading to the Bay of Bengal. Major tributaries include **Dima** and **Nonai**. The river and its tributaries are prominent attractions in the **Dooars** region. Notable towns and areas along its banks include **Phuentsholing, Jaigaon, Hamiltanganj, Nimti, Dakshin Barajhor Forest, Alipurduar and Chilakhana**.

Jaldhaka River

- **Jaldhaka River** (also called **Dichu, Mansai, or Singhimari**) is a **trans-boundary tributary of the Brahmaputra**, flowing through **India,**

Bhutan and Bangladesh over 233 km. It originates from **Bitang Lake, Kupup, Sikkim**, near Jelep La pass below the Dongkya Range. The river flows through **Pakyong (Sikkim), Samtse (Bhutan), Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar (West Bengal)** before entering **Bangladesh** at Mogolhat, where it is known as **Dharla River**, eventually joining the Brahmaputra at Bagua Anantpur.

- Major **tributaries** include **Murti, Jholung Khola, NaksalKhola, Sutunga, Jarda** (right bank) and **Diana, Rehti-Duduya, Mujnai** (left bank). The **upper course** supports ginger, medicinal herbs, oranges and pomegranate; the **middle course** is dominated by tea and maize; the **lower course** grows rice, jute, tobacco, bananas, bamboo and mat sticks.

Teesta River

- **Teesta River** is a **414 km long trans-boundary river** originating from the **Teesta Khangtse**

Glacier in the eastern Himalayas of Sikkim. It flows south through **Sikkim and West Bengal** in India before entering **Bangladesh**, where it joins the **Jamuna River** and eventually drains into the **Bay of Bengal**. The river drains a basin of **12,540 km²**, with **305 km** in India and **109 km** in Bangladesh. Key Indian districts along its course include **Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong, Kalimpong, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar**, while in Bangladesh it flows through **Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Kurigram and Gaibandha**.

- The Teesta is fed by tributaries like **Rangeet, Rangpo, Ranikhola, Relli and Kanaka rivers** and supports varied ecosystems from **alpine vegetation** in Sikkim to **tropical deciduous forests** in the plains. It is a lifeline for agriculture, supporting crops like **rice, tea, maize, ginger and fruits** along its basin.
- The river has shaped deep **ravines and gorges** and during the **monsoon**, it causes frequent floods and landslides. Historically, major floods have altered its course, notably after 1787. The **Teesta basin** hosts multiple **hydroelectric projects** (Teesta III Dam, Teesta-V, Teesta Low Dams, Rangit III, Gati and Dikchu projects) and barrages (**Gajoldoba in India, Barakhata in Bangladesh**).
- **Challenges** include long-standing **India-Bangladesh water-sharing disputes**, seismic risks (Zone-V) and climate-induced hazards like glacial lake outburst floods. The river's course preserves vital **climatic and tectonic records**, making it both ecologically and strategically significant.

Torsa River

- **Torsa River** (Known as **Machu** in Tibet and **Amo Chhu** in Bhutan) is a **358 km trans-boundary river** flowing through **China (Tibet), Bhutan, India and Bangladesh** before joining the **Brahmaputra River** and draining into the **Bay of Bengal**.
- It originates in the **Chumbi Valley, Tibet**, flows through **Bhutan (Amo Chu)**, enters **West Bengal, India (Torsa)** and finally reaches **Bangladesh**, where it merges with the **Jamuna**. Key tributaries include the **Kaljani River** and a

tributary called **Buri Torsa** joins the **Jaldhaka River**.

- Major towns along its banks are **Phuntsholing (Bhutan), Jaigaon, Hasimara and Cooch Behar (India)**. The river passes near **Jaldapara National Park** and meets the **Ghargharia River** in Tufanganj subdivision before flowing into Bangladesh.
- Hydroelectric development includes the **Amo Chu Hydro Power Project** by NTPC Limited. Like the **Teesta and Jaldhaka rivers**, the Torsa causes **frequent floods during monsoons** (June–September), affecting Bangladesh and parts of North Bengal.
- It plays a vital role in regional **ecology, agriculture and hydropower**, while also presenting challenges related to **flood management and cross-border water sharing**.

Raidāk River

- **Raidāk River** is a **trans-boundary tributary of the Brahmaputra**, flowing through **Bhutan, India and Bangladesh**. It originates in the **Himalayas** (upper reaches known as **Thimphu Chhu**) and flows southeast through valleys and steep gorges in Bhutan, joined by tributaries like **Ta Chhu** and **Ha Chhu**. The river enters the **plains of West Bengal**, passing through **Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar districts**, before merging with the Brahmaputra in **Kurigram District, Bangladesh**, where it is sometimes called **Dudhkumar River**.
- The river is **370 km long**, extending to nearly **610 km with tributaries in Bhutan**. It supports major **hydroelectric projects**:
 - **Chukha Hydel Project (336 MW)**: Built with Indian assistance, diverting water through tunnels to generate electricity; India receives surplus power at concessional rates.
 - **Tala Hydroelectric Project**: Run-of-the-river type with a 92-metre gravity dam, delivering six 170 MW Pelton turbine-generators.
- The Raidāk is crucial for **hydropower, irrigation and regional ecology**, linking mountainous Bhutan to the fertile plains of North Bengal and Bangladesh.

Khadya Sathi Scheme

Context:

- On **World Food Day**, Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** highlighted West Bengal's efforts to ensure **food security**.
- Over **seven to nine crore people** receive **free or highly subsidized ration** every month under the Khadya Sathi Scheme.
- The program covers nearly **ninety percent of the state's population**, promoting **equitable access to food**.

Objective:

- Ensure **food security** for all, especially **economically vulnerable groups** such as families living below the poverty line, families in the economically weaker section, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe communities, tea garden workers and residents of cyclone-affected regions.
- Slogan: **"Food for all"**.

Benefits:

- Subsidized grains:** Rice and wheat at **two rupees per kilogram**.
- Home delivery** through ration dealers.
- Nutrition and food availability** guaranteed for millions.

Eligibility:

- Resident of **West Bengal**.
- Holder of a **valid ration card**: Antyodaya Anna Card, Priority Household Ration Card, or Rajya Khadya Suraksha Yojana Card.
- Must **not be a government employee**.
- Belong to **economically weaker or below-poverty-line households**.

Ration Allocation by Category:

- Antyodaya Anna Card families:** Rice 15 kilograms per month, Wheat 19 to 20 kilograms per month
- Priority Household families:** Rice 2 kilograms per card per month.
- Additional allocations under government support: Rice 2 kilograms, Wheat 3 kilograms per person per month (up to December 2020).

Decline in School Enrolment of Scheduled Caste Students in West Bengal

Context

- Over the last decade, enrolment of students from **Scheduled Caste communities** in West Bengal's government schools has been steadily declining.
- This decline is alarming because education is crucial for **human capability, secure employment and social mobility**.

Trends by Level of Education:

- Primary level:** The main decline occurred here, especially among **girls**. Between 2011-12 and 2015-16, enrolment fell by **20-21 percent**. From 2015-16 to 2020-21, primary enrolment declined further by about **3 percent**.
- Upper primary and secondary levels:** Mixed trends. Upper primary saw a sharper decline among **girls**, while at secondary level boys' enrolment decreased slightly, girls' enrolment increased marginally.
- Higher secondary level:** Enrolment increased, particularly for girls (**24 percent**) between 2015-16 and 2020-21.

Shift from Government to Private Schools:

- There is a significant **transition from government schools to private and other types of schools**.
- Government school enrolment dropped by **around 8 percent**, while private and other school enrolments rose by **14-28 percent** and **56-58 percent**, respectively.
- The **high cost of private education** and tuition burdens families, especially economically vulnerable Scheduled Caste households.

Causes of Decline:

- Closure of government schools** in rural or remote areas.
- Financial strain of sending children to private schools.
- Limited access to quality education within government schools.

Implications:

- Reduced enrolment at **primary levels** may have long-term effects on **educational attainment and social mobility** for Scheduled Caste communities.

- Risk of **entrenching social inequality** if the children of historically disadvantaged groups are left behind.

Conclusion:

- Declining participation of Scheduled Caste students in government schools reflects systemic challenges in **education access, quality and affordability**.
- Without intervention, this trend could undermine West Bengal's **goal of an inclusive and just society**, affecting national aspirations of equitable development.

Migrant Workers from West Bengal Face Discrimination and Challenges

Context

- A recent study by the Sabar Institute highlights the difficulties faced by migrant workers from West Bengal. The study surveyed over 7,500 households in Panskura, Purba Medinipur district.

Key Findings:

- About **63 percent** of respondents migrated for better employment opportunities.
- Around **60 percent** of migrants were students before migrating, indicating that migration contributes to **high dropout rates** in education. Over half had completed only up to Class 10 or Class 12.
- **Discrimination:** Nearly **16 percent** faced discrimination in housing and **14 percent** faced harassment over language.
- **Use of remittances:** Migrants primarily use their earnings for **food (25 percent)** and **healthcare (18 percent)**, showing that migration sustains basic needs rather than discretionary spending.

Broader Context:

- There are approximately **22.40 lakh migrant workers** from West Bengal in other Indian states.
- Recent reports indicate that some migrant workers have been **detained or harassed** on suspicion of being foreign nationals, particularly Bangladeshi, highlighting **issues of safety and identity**.

Government Response:

- The West Bengal government launched the **Shramashree Scheme**, providing **₹5,000 per month** to returning migrant workers. About **24,000 migrants** have returned under this scheme.

Implications:

- Migration is often driven by **economic distress**, but it disrupts education and exposes workers to **social and legal vulnerabilities**.
- There is an urgent need for **systematic data collection, protective policies and support mechanisms** to address the challenges faced by migrant workers from West Bengal.
- This study underscores that migration in West Bengal is not just an economic issue but also a **social and educational concern** that demands coordinated action.

Shramashree Scheme for Migrant Workers

- The **Shramashree Scheme** is a comprehensive initiative launched by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to support **returning migrant workers (Parijaye Shramik)** from West Bengal who faced hardships or exploitation while working in other states. It provides financial, social and educational support to ensure smooth reintegration into their communities.

Key Features:

- **Coverage:** Around **22 lakh migrant workers** registered with Bengal's migrant portal.
- **Financial Assistance:**
 - One-time **₹5,000 grant** for travel expenses.
 - **₹5,000 monthly allowance** for up to one year or until employment is secured.
- **Additional Support:**
 - **Food Security:** Free Khadya Sathi ration cards.
 - **Healthcare:** Free Swasthya Sathi health insurance.
 - **Education:** Children of migrants enrolled in state schools.
 - **Accommodation:** Community kitchens and temporary housing for those without homes.

- **Skill Development:** Training under **Utkarsha Bangla** and job cards through **Karmashree** scheme.
- **Objectives:**
 - Ensure social security and dignified reintegration for returning migrants.
 - Prevent exploitation and distress migration.
 - Provide access to government benefits, skills training and employment opportunities.
 - Empower families with economic stability and education.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Must be a Bengali migrant worker from West Bengal who recently returned from work in other states or abroad.
 - Registered under the West Bengal Migrant Worker Welfare Scheme.

- Family income within limits defined by the scheme.
- **Registration & Monitoring:**
 - Registration via the **Shramashree** portal; each worker receives a **Shramashree** card.
 - Monitored by the Chief Secretary and Labour Department officials.
- **Additional Measures:**
 - A **Migrant Workers' Welfare Board** for assistance.
 - **Amader Para Amader Samadhan** camps provide guidance and support.

The scheme ensures financial, educational, healthcare and skill development support to returning migrant workers, helping them reintegrate safely and sustainably into West Bengal.

WEST BENGAL RELATED STATIC GK

- **Tulaipanji Rice:** Tulaipanji Rice is an indigenous aromatic non-Basmati rice cultivar from West Bengal, primarily grown in the Raiganj subdivision of Uttar Dinajpur and parts of Dakshin Dinajpur and was showcased at the 2012 London Olympics food festival for its distinctive aroma and quality. Traditionally cultivated without fertilizers in mid- to high-land fields, the rice develops enhanced aroma due to low soil fertility and moisture stress and it is naturally resistant to pests and diseases, making it highly valued by both farmers and chefs.
- **Binni:** Originating from the red soil of Purulia and Bankura, Binni is a short-grained rice with a distinct earthy aroma and a slightly chewy, nutty and sticky texture. Known for its high mineral content, Binni rice is a type of sticky rice (also called glutinous rice) cultivated in the hilly regions of Bangladesh, particularly the Chittagong area. The rice comes in various colors, including white, red and black. Naturally sticky after cooking due to a high

content of amylopectin starch and low amylose starch, Binni is traditionally grown using shifting cultivation in the hilly areas of Bangladesh.

- **Norman Gilbert Pritchard** was the first Bengali and British-Indian athlete to participate in the 1900 Summer Olympics held in Paris, France. He is regarded as India's first Olympic medalist, winning two silver medals in athletics.
- **Shitalpat** is a traditional cool-feeling mat made from murta plants (*Schumannianthus dichotomus*). It is widely used in Bangladesh and West Bengal, especially in Cooch Behar's Sagareswar, Ghugumari and Pashnadanga areas. The Traditional Art of Shital Pati Weaving of Sylhet is inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- **Raibenshe** is a traditional martial folk dance of Bengal, performed exclusively by men.

Originating as a **warrior dance** of the **Bagdi community**, who once served as bodyguards to landlords in medieval Bengal, it showcases **vigorous, acrobatic movements** using a **long bamboo staff (raibansh)**. Performers mimic actions like **drawing a bow, throwing a spear and wielding a sword**, symbolizing martial valor. The dance is accompanied by **dhols (drums)** and **kanshis (cymbals)** and dancers wear a **brass anklet (nupur)** on the right ankle. Once widespread across Bengal, Raibanshe is now mainly performed in the **Birbhum, Bardhaman and Murshidabad** districts of **West Bengal**.

- **Jhargram Raj Palace** is the ancestral residence of the **Malla Deb royal family**. Built in **1931** during the reign of **Raja Narasingha Malla Deb Bahadur**, the palace is a striking example of **Indo-Saracenic architecture**.
- **Bankura Horse** is a traditional **terracotta horse** from **Panchmura, Bankura**. Originally used in **village rituals**, it is now a symbol of **Indian folk art** and the **logo of All India Handicrafts**. Crafted in separate parts, **sun-dried and kiln-fired** in red or black, these horses are offered to **Dharmathakur** in the **Rarh region** and are recognized under the **Geographical Indication of West Bengal (2018)**.
- **Ajodhya Hills** is a small plateau with hilly surroundings in **Bagmundi, Purulia district**

forming the **easternmost part of the Chhotanagpur Plateau** and an extension of the **Eastern Ghats**. The highest peak is **Chamtuburu (720 m)**, with other notable peaks including **Gorgaburu, Chandni Pahar, Mayur Pahar and Pakhi Pahar**. The region features **undulating lateritic terrain**, dry deciduous forests and major rivers like **Kangsabati, Subarnarekha and Kumari**, supporting rich **ecology and biodiversity**.

- **Kulik Bird Sanctuary**, also called **Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary**, is located near **Raiganj in Uttar Dinajpur district**, on the banks of the **Kulik River**. It is a significant habitat for migratory and resident **bird species** and is one of the largest bird sanctuaries in **northern India**.
- **Kulik River** is a **trans-boundary river** flowing through **West Bengal and Bihar in India** and the **Rangpur Division of Bangladesh**. It originates from the **Himalayas** and joins the **Ganges** at **Godagiri, Nawabganj, Bangladesh**, spanning a length of **360 km** with a basin area of **20,600 km²**. In **West Bengal**, it passes through **Uttar Dinajpur district**, supporting the **Kulik Bird Sanctuary**, though the river has faced **shrinkage due to waste dumping and land encroachment**, prompting **revival efforts** by the state government.

APPOINTMENTS

IMF's First Deputy Managing Director

- International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board approved the appointment of **Dan Katz** as its **First Deputy Managing Director**.

Brand ambassador of Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025

- **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla**, the first Indian on the **International Space Station** has been appointed **brand ambassador of Viksit**

Bharat Buildathon 2025, India's largest school hackathon, engaging over **one crore students** from **1.5 lakh schools** to **design and build solutions** for real-world challenges.

First Arab UNESCO Chief

- **Egypt's Khaled El-Enany** has secured **Executive Board approval** to lead **UNESCO** and is set to become its **first Arab Director-General**.

Attorney General of India

- Senior Advocate R Venkataramani has been reappointed as Attorney General of India for two more years. The AGI, a constitutional post under Article 76, is the chief legal advisor to the Government of India and represents the state in the Supreme Court and High Courts,

appointed by the President on the Union Cabinet's advice.

37th BCCI President

- Mithun Manhas, former Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir cricketer, has been elected unopposed as the 37th President of the BCCI.

AWARDS IN NEWS

Kenton R. Miller Award

- Sonali Ghosh, Director of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, became the first Indian to receive the Kenton R. Miller Award for innovation in sustainable protected area management.
- The award was conferred by the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), IUCN, in Abu Dhabi on October 10, 2025. She was recognized for her community-driven conservation model integrating traditional ecological knowledge, scientific expertise and local participation, significantly benefiting Kaziranga and Manas in Assam.
- The Kenton R. Miller Award is a biennial award (established in 2006) presented by the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) to honor innovators in sustainable management of national parks and protected areas. Named after Dr. Kenton R. Miller, it recognizes significant contributions in planning, management, finance, governance, monitoring and communication. Winners receive a \$5,000 grant, international recognition and a citation acknowledging their impact.

70th Filmfare Awards 2025

- Recently, the awards were announced.
- At the 70th Filmfare Awards 2025, held at EKA Arena, Ahmedabad, Kiran Rao's *Laapataa Ladies* dominated, winning 13 trophies, including Best Film and Best Director. Abhishek Bachchan and Kartik Aaryan shared Best Actor (Male) for *I Want To Talk* and Chandu Champion, while Alia Bhatt won Best

Actress for *Jigra*. Technical excellence was led by *Kill* (Action, Editing, Cinematography) and Zeenat Aman and Shyam Benegal received the Lifetime Achievement Award. The event was hosted by Shah Rukh Khan, Karan Johar and Maniesh Paul, featuring performances by Shah Rukh Khan, Kriti Sanon and Kajol.

Israeli Presidential Medal of Honor

- Israel will award former US President Donald Trump the Israeli Presidential Medal of Honor for his role in brokering the Gaza ceasefire and aiding Israeli hostage releases.
- Presented by President Isaac Herzog, the medal recognizes Trump's behind-the-scenes diplomacy, leveraging ties with Israel and Gulf nations. The ceasefire enabled the first group of hostages' release and includes phased releases, humanitarian access and de-escalation measures. Established in 2012, the medal honours exceptional contributions to Israel or humanity, with past recipients like Barack Obama and global leaders.

Nobel Prize 2025 winners

- The Nobel Prize 2025 winners were announced from October 6 to 13, honouring exceptional contributions to humanity across six categories.
- **Medicine:** Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi, for breakthroughs in peripheral immune tolerance, advancing treatments for autoimmune disorders and organ transplants.
- **Physics:** John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret and John M. Martinis, for demonstrating quantum

effects in macroscopic systems, aiding quantum computing and advanced technologies.

- **Chemistry:** Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson and Omar M. Yaghi, for discovering **metal-organic frameworks (MOFs)** that trap gases, store chemicals and collect water.
- **Literature:** László Krasznahorkai, for visionary works blending **absurdism, reflection and poetic storytelling** within Central European literary traditions.
- **Peace:** Maria Corina Machado, for her peaceful advocacy of **democracy and human rights** in Venezuela.
- **Economic Sciences:** Joel Mokyr (half) for explaining conditions for growth through **technological progress** and Philippe Aghion & Peter Howitt (half) for the **theory of creative destruction**, showing how innovation replaces old ideas to drive sustained economic growth.
- Founded per **Alfred Nobel's will in 1895**, the Nobel prizes recognize work that benefits society. Economic Sciences was added in 1968 by the Swedish central bank in Nobel's memory.
- Nobel Prize winners receive a combination of **cash, medals, diplomas and global recognition**, though there is no official pension. Each laureate is awarded a **gold medal** (24-carat gold-plated silver) and a personalized **Nobel diploma**, alongside prize money--around **SEK 11 million** (~₹10 crore or USD 1.2 million in 2024), shared if there are multiple recipients. While the Nobel Foundation does not provide a lifetime allowance, winners often gain **research grants, honorary positions, fellowships and advisory roles**. Other privileges include **global recognition, invitations to Nobel events, access to funding and influence in policymaking**. Ceremonies are held annually on **December 10**--Stockholm hosts most prizes, while the Peace Prize is awarded in Oslo.

My Bharat – NSS Awards 2022-23

- On **October 6, 2025**, President **Droupadi Murmu** presented the **My Bharat – NSS**

Awards 2022-23 at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**, honouring students, programme officers and institutions for exceptional contributions to **community service and nation-building**.

- Launched in **1969**, the **National Service Scheme (NSS)** encourages youth participation in voluntary service under the motto "**Not Me, But You**", with each unit engaging in **120 hours of regular activities and a 7-day special camp** over a two-year cycle. The **My Bharat – NSS Awards**, instituted in **1993-94**, recognize outstanding volunteers, officers, units and universities based on **impact, consistency, innovation and commitment**. Award eligibility requires volunteers to be **under 25 years of age** (28 for SC/ST). Among confirmed awardees for 2022-23 is **Sagar Roy** from DAV College, Chandigarh, who received the **National NSS Award** for exemplary service.

International Social Security Association (ISSA) Award 2025

- India was honoured with the **ISSA Award 2025** for **Outstanding Achievement in Social Security** at the **World Social Security Forum** in Kuala Lumpur.
- Over the past decade, India expanded its social security coverage from **19% in 2015 to 64.3% in 2025**, benefiting over **940 million citizens**, a feat recognised by the **ILO**. Key drivers include **digital infrastructure** like the **e-Shram portal**, connecting 310 million unorganised sector workers to welfare schemes and the **National Career Service**, linking skilled youth to employment while preserving social benefits. Institutions like **EPFO** and **ESIC** have played pivotal roles in providing **pension, healthcare and insurance**. India's strategy integrates **policy reforms, digital innovation, financial inclusion, skilling and social protection**, establishing a holistic model for social security expansion.

National Geoscience Awards

- President **Droupadi Murmu** presented the **National Geoscience Awards 2024**.
- Instituted in **1966** by the **Ministry of Mines**, the awards celebrate innovation and

outstanding contributions in India's geoscience ecosystem. **Prof. Shyam Sundar Rai** received the **Lifetime Achievement Award** for pioneering work in **Solid Earth and Exploration Geophysics**, while **Shri Susobhan Neogi** was

honoured with the **National Young Geoscientist Award** for research on the **tectonic evolution of thrust belts** aiding mineral exploration.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Book Name	Author and Details
Mahatma Gandhi and the Environment	T. N. Khoshoo.
Wings of Fire	Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
The Luminous Sparks	Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
Waiting for a Visa	B.R. Ambedkar
The Autobiography of an Unknown Indian	Nirad C. Chaudhuri
The Palace of Illusions	Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni – A retelling of the Mahabharata from the perspective of Draupadi.
The Dramatic Decade: The Days of Indira Gandhi	Pranab Mukherjee
Changing India	Manmohan Singh
My Unforgettable Memories	Mamata Banerjee
Citizen and Society	Former Indian Vice President M. Hamid Ansari
India Unmade	Yashwant Sinha
Navjivan	Mahatma Gandhi
To Kill a Mockingbird	Harper Lee – A novel addressing racial injustice, with themes applicable to Indian society.

SPORTS

Ahmedabad Recommended to Host CWG Games

- The Commonwealth Sport Executive Board has recommended Ahmedabad as the proposed host city for the **2030 Commonwealth Games**.
- Ahmedabad was chosen over Abuja, Nigeria, marking India's potential second time hosting CWG and first outside New Delhi, aligning with sports diplomacy, Olympic ambitions and national development goals. India last hosted the Commonwealth Games in **2010 in New Delhi** and is now vying to host the **Centenary edition in 2030**.

11th Asian Aquatics Championships

- India hosted the **11th Asian Aquatics Championships** for the first time.
- With over **1,100 athletes from 29 countries**, the event featured **65 competitions** across **Swimming, Artistic Swimming, Diving and Water Polo** and served as a qualifier for the **2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan**. **China** led the medal tally with **54 medals**, while **India achieved its best-ever performance**, finishing **11th with 13 medals** (4 Silver, 9 Bronze). **Srihari Nataraj** won **7 medals** and **Bhavya Sachdeva** became India's first female medalist in the event. The men's team set a **National Record in the 4x200m Freestyle Relay**. Strong performances in diving and other disciplines

highlighted India's growing aquatic potential and organizational capabilities.

- The **BWF World Junior Championships 2025** returned to India after **17 years**, being held in **Guwahati, Assam**.
- This is the second time India is hosting the event, the first being in **Pune in 2008**, highlighting India's growing stature as a **global badminton hub**.
- A new **best-of-three relay scoring system** (sets up to 45 points) has been introduced to make matches faster and more dynamic. Historically, India has won **11 individual medals**, with its best performance in **2008**, securing **three medals including a gold**. Hosting the event again places India alongside **China, Indonesia and Malaysia** as the only Asian countries to have hosted the championship twice.

2025 World Weightlifting Championships

- **Mirabai Chanu** clinched the **silver medal** in the **women's 48 kg category** at the **2025 World Weightlifting Championships** held in **Førde, Norway** on **October 2, 2025**.
- The **World Weightlifting Championships** is a premier international weightlifting competition organized annually by the **International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)**, except during **Summer Olympic years**. While the IWF was formally established in **1905**, World Championship events date back earlier, with the first recognized championship held in **1891**, won by **Edward Lawrence Levy of England**. Currently, athletes compete in **16 weight categories**, split equally between men and women.

2025 World Para Athletics Championships

- India achieved a remarkable **one-two finish** in the **Men's Javelin Throw F44** at the **2025 World Para Athletics Championships**.
- **Sandip Sanjay Sargar** won gold and **Sandeep Chaudhary** claimed silver, reinforcing India's strength in field events on the global stage.

- **Sargar** threw a **personal best of 62.82 m**. **Chaudhary** secured silver with a season-best **62.67 m**.
- The **World Para Athletics Championships**, formerly known as the **IPC Athletics World Championships** until 2017, are a **biennial Paralympic athletics event** organized by **World Para Athletics**, a subcommittee of the **International Paralympic Committee (IPC)**. The championships feature **athletics events for athletes with physical disabilities**, with the inaugural edition held in **Berlin, Germany, in 1994**. Serving as a **Paralympic counterpart to the World Athletics Championships** for able-bodied athletes, the event switched from a **quadrennial to a biennial schedule in 2011**.

ICC T20I Batter Rankings

- **Abhishek Sharma** Breaks Record in ICC T20I Batter Rankings.
- Indian left-handed opener **Abhishek Sharma** has reached a **career-high rating** in the **ICC Men's T20I batter rankings**, following his exceptional performance in the **Asia Cup**. In the latest rankings update, Sharma achieved **931 points**, surpassing **Dawid Malan's 2020 record of 919 points** and claimed the **top spot globally**.

Asia Cup

- The **Asia Cup**, established in **1984**, is Asia's premier cricket tournament.
- From **1984 to 2025**, India has won **9 times** (1984, 1988, 1990-91, 1995, 2010, 2016, 2018, 2023, 2025), Sri Lanka **6 times** and Pakistan **twice**. The **2025 edition** in T20I format saw **India defeat Pakistan**, led by **Suryakumar Yadav**, with **Tilak Varma** as Man of the Match and **Abhishek Sharma** as Player of the Tournament.

World Para Archery Championships

- India's **Sheetal Devi** clinched her **first World Para Archery gold**.
- She won it in the **Women's Compound Open category** at the **2025 World Para Archery**

Championships in Gwangju, South Korea, defeating Türkiye's Oznur Cure 146-143.

2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup

- During the **2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup**, the ICC and UNICEF launched the 'Promise to Children' campaign, a digital initiative promoting children's rights and equal opportunities.
- The campaign focuses on **quality education, healthcare and nutrition, safe water and sanitation, protection from violence and opportunities to play and grow**. Key supporters include **Ayushmann Khurrana** (UNICEF National Ambassador), **Smriti Mandhana** (India's women's team Vice-Captain), ICC Chairman **Jay Shah** and UNICEF India's **Cynthia McCaffrey**.

Asia Cup T20

- The **Asia Cup T20** has been played in T20 format since **2016**.
- Virat Kohli (India)** leads the **most runs in Asia Cup T20** with **429 runs in 9 innings**, including a top score of ***122 vs Afghanistan (2022)**

2026 FIFA World Cup

- FIFA unveiled the official mascots for the **2026 World Cup** on **September 25, 2025**, introducing **Clutch, Maple and Zayu** to represent the **United States, Canada and Mexico**, the tournament's three co-hosts.
- This marks the **first time multiple mascots** have been introduced for a senior men's World Cup, reflecting the expanded **48-team, 104-match format**.
- Clutch the Bald Eagle (USA)**: Midfielder symbolizing **courage, curiosity and inclusivity**.
- Maple the Moose (Canada)**: Goalkeeper representing **Canada's cultural mosaic and strength**.
- Zayu the Jaguar (Mexico)**: Striker embodying **Mexico's heritage, creativity and passion**.
- FIFA President **Gianni Infantino**. Tournament will run from **June 11 to July 19, 2026**, opening at **Estadio Azteca, Mexico City** and concluding at **MetLife Stadium, New Jersey**, featuring **48 teams** and a **first-ever halftime show during the final**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Event & Details
16th October: World Food Day	World Food Day 2025 , observed on 16th October , highlights the importance of food security, sustainable agriculture and global efforts toward Zero Hunger . The theme for 2025, " Sustainable Food Systems for a Healthy Planet ," emphasizes eco-friendly and inclusive food systems that nourish people while protecting the environment. Established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1981, World Food Day marks the founding of FAO in 1945 and is celebrated in over 150 countries . The day raises awareness about hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity , celebrates food producers .
October 15: Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's 94th Birth Anniversary	India celebrates Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's 94th birth anniversary on October 15, 2025 , honoring the legacy of the ' Missile Man of India ' and ' People's President '. Observed as World Students' Day in India, the day inspires young minds.
14 October: World Standards Day 2025	World Standards Day 2025 , honors the contributions of experts and organizations who develop international standards that ensure safety, interoperability and efficiency across countries. Standards that impact

	electronics, healthcare, manufacturing, environment and telecommunications. The 2025 theme, "A Shared Vision for a Better World,"
13 October: International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025, highlights the importance of preventing and minimizing the impacts of natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions..
10 October: World Mental Health Day 2025	World Mental Health Day 2025 , focuses on raising awareness about mental wellbeing, reducing stigma and promoting access to psychological support, especially during crises and emergencies. The 2025 theme, "Access to Services - Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies," highlights the urgent need for mental health care.
10 October: National Post Day	Established in 1982 by the Government of India the day is celebrated as part of National Postal Week (October 9-15), the day marks over 150 years of India Post's service.
7 October: World Cotton Day	World Cotton Day , highlights the economic and social importance of cotton, particularly for least-developed countries. First celebrated in 2019 and now officially recognized by the United Nations, the day promotes inclusive trade policies, sustainable cotton production and equitable participation of developing nations in the global cotton value chain
6 October: World Habitat Day	World Habitat Day 2025 focuses on urban crisis response, addressing challenges like climate change, conflict and inequality under the theme "Urban Crisis Response." Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985, the day advocates for adequate shelter, sustainable urban development and inclusive city planning.
4 October: World Animal Day 2025	2025 marks 100 years of advocating animal rights and welfare. Celebrated under the theme "Save Animals, Save the Planet!", it highlights the vital connection between animal protection and environmental sustainability. First initiated in 1925 by Heinrich Zimmermann in Berlin and later aligned with the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the day has grown into a global movement supported by governments, civil society and individuals.
1st October: International Day of Older Persons	The International Day of Older Persons, was established by the UN General Assembly in 1990 (resolution 45/106) to recognize the rights, dignity and contributions of older persons. The 2025 theme--"Older Persons Driving Local and Global Action: Our Aspirations, Our Well-Being and Our Rights"--highlights their role as active drivers of social, economic and cultural progress.

STATIC GK

The Model Code of Conduct (MCC), issued by the **Election Commission under Article 324**, ensures free and fair elections from the announcement of polls till their completion. **Originating in 1960 and**

consolidated in 1991, it regulates political parties, candidates and the ruling party on campaigns, meetings, processions and polling conduct. **Though non-statutory**, it is strictly

enforced, with ongoing development allowed but new projects deferred.

Stupas are **Buddhist reliquary monuments** built to house relics of the Buddha or his

followers. Originating before the 5th century BCE, they evolved from simple earthen mounds to elaborate structures like **Sanchi, Bharhut and Amaravati**.

Harishchandra Bhatavdekar (Save Dada): First Indian to make motion pictures (1899).

First Indian talking film: Alam Ara (1931), directed by Ardeshir Irani; first recorded song in Indian cinema by W.M. Khan.

M.G. Ramachandran: First film star to become Chief Minister of an Indian state.

Antigens, also called immunogens, are foreign substances such as viruses, bacteria, toxins, allergens, or even self-produced autoantigens that trigger the immune response, potentially causing illness or allergic reactions. They activate white blood cells, particularly lymphocytes, which then produce **antibodies** to fight them.'

The **Temples of Bishnupur**, located in **Bishnupur, Bankura district**, are a remarkable group of temples built by the **Malla kings** between the **17th and 18th centuries**. Renowned for their **unique architectural style**, these temples blend traditional **Bengali design** with influences from other regions. Constructed primarily using **terracotta** and locally available

laterite stones, they exhibit a distinctive reddish hue and intricate detailing. The temples are famous for their elaborate **terracotta panels** depicting scenes from Hindu epics like the **Mahabharata** and **Ramayana**, reflecting the artistic and cultural achievements of the **Vaishnavite Malla dynasty**. Recognizing their value, the Temples of Bishnupur have been included in **UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage Sites (1997)** and are designated as **Monuments of National Importance by the ASI**.

mRNA vaccines are a type of vaccine that use a synthetic copy of **messenger RNA (mRNA)** to train the immune system against a specific disease. Unlike traditional vaccines, they do not introduce a weakened or inactivated pathogen. Instead, the mRNA instructs the body's cells to produce a harmless piece of the pathogen's **protein**, such as a viral spike protein. This triggers an **immune response**, prompting the body to produce **antibodies** and immune cells. If the actual pathogen is encountered later, the immune system can quickly recognize and neutralize it, providing **protection**. Importantly, the mRNA does **not enter the cell's nucleus** or alter DNA and is rapidly broken down by the body after fulfilling its purpose, making it **safe**.

The **Brahmo Samaj**, founded on **20 August 1828** in **Calcutta** by **Raja Ram Mohan Roy** and **Dwarkanath Tagore**, was a pioneering **monotheistic reformist movement** during the **Bengal Renaissance**. It sought to reform prevailing social customs, denounce **idolatry** and **caste discrimination** and promote **rational spirituality, education and social progress**.

India's each square meter receives **1.36 kWh of solar energy per day** and the country enjoys **over 3,200 hours of sunshine annually**, with at least **300 sunny days**.

Wind power is harnessed in deserts, coastal and ocean areas with strong, consistent winds, including **Mupandal in Tamil Nadu** (Asia's largest), **Yogmati in Karnataka** and **Lamba in Gujarat**.

A **semiconductor** is a material with electrical conductivity **between that of a conductor** (like copper) and an **insulator** (like glass), allowing it to **control the flow of electricity**. Its conductivity can change depending on conditions such as **temperature** or the addition of **impurities (doping)**. Common semiconductor materials include **silicon** (most widely used), **germanium** and **gallium arsenide**. Semiconductors are essential in modern electronics, used in **microchips, transistors, solar cells, LEDs**

and almost all electronic devices.

CURRENT AFFAIRS GK

Green crackers are fireworks that **do not contain harmful chemicals** such as **barium nitrate, lithium, arsenic, or lead**, which are common in conventional crackers and cause severe air and noise pollution. They are **approved and certified by CSIR-NEERI** and licensed by **PESO (Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation)**.

National Commission for Minorities is a statutory body established under **National Commission for Minorities Act 1992**, to monitor and evaluate the implementation of various constitutional and legal safeguards for minorities. The Central Government officially notifies religious communities as minorities. Currently, **six religious communities-- Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains--**are officially recognized.

The government's recent move to reduce the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** on tractors to **5%** aims to make **farm mechanisation** more affordable and strengthen the manufacturing base for exports.

Dongar cultivation is a traditional upland farming

system practiced by the Kondh tribes of Odisha, where millets, pulses and oilseeds are grown together on hill slopes.

The **Ministry of Finance** has approved **Maitri II**, a new research station in **East Antarctica**, expected to be operational by **January 2029**. The original **Maitri** station, operational since 1989, has exceeded its **design life of 10 years** and faces challenges such as **flawed waste management**. **Maitri II** will serve as India's **primary, year-round research hub**, while the older **Maitri** station will continue as a **summer camp**. The project is led by the **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)**, a **Goa-based institution** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.

In 2019, over **1,200 Islamic scholars** from **139 countries** gathered in **Makkah** under the **Muslim World League (MWL)** to endorse the **Makkah Charter**. The charter condemned **extremism**, promoted **religious and cultural diversity** and called for **legislation against hate and violence**. Hosted by **Saudi Arabia**, the conference aimed to promote **moderate Islamic thought**, strengthen its position as a **global leader** and

support **Vision 2030's goal of a tolerant nation**.

REDD+ is a **voluntary climate mitigation framework** developed under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**. It encourages **developing countries** to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions** from deforestation and forest degradation, enhance **carbon sequestration by forests** and promote **sustainable forest management**. The "+" in **REDD+** signifies **additional forest conservation activities** and the framework also provides **financial incentives** to support these efforts.

Huntington's Disease is a **rare autosomal dominant neurodegenerative disorder** caused by a **mutation in the HTT gene**, leading to **toxic protein accumulation** in neurons. Symptoms include **mental disorders, cognitive decline and motor dysfunction**, causing **severe disability and premature death**. Earlier treatments only **managed symptoms**, but **AMT-130 gene therapy** delivers a **viral vector** to **silence the mutant HTT gene**, slowing disease progression by **75% over 3 years** and stabilizing brain function--the

first therapy to modify disease course.

India inaugurated its first overseas private defence facility in Morocco, established by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) to produce the indigenously developed Wheeled Armoured

Platform (WhAP) 8×8 combat vehicle.

Microplastics are tiny plastic particles less than 5 mm in size that are a form of plastic pollution. They originate from the breakdown of larger plastic items and are also manufactured for products like cosmetics and clothing.

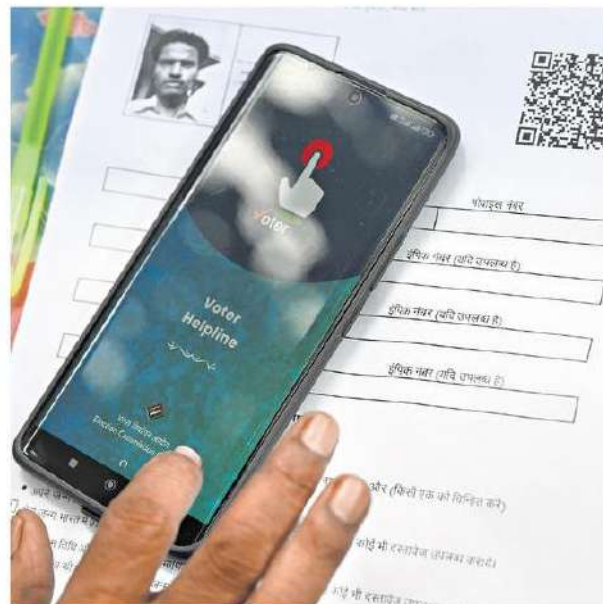
Trickle-down economics is an economic theory that suggests benefits given to the wealthy or businesses will eventually “trickle down” to the rest of society through investment, job creation and economic growth.

LEARNING THROUGH INFOGRAPHICS

Various forms with respect to electoral rolls as per RER

Form Number	Description
Form 6	Application to be submitted by new voters to be registered as an elector. As per section 19 of the RP Act, the qualifying dates for completion of 18 years of age, are 1st day of January, April, July and October of the year in which the electoral roll is prepared or revised.
Form 6A	Form for inclusion by an Overseas Elector. Non-Resident Indians who have shifted out of India, on account of education, employment or otherwise, can register as an elector in the constituency in which their address as per passport is located.
Form 7	Objection for proposed inclusion/deletion of name from existing roll. This form can be filed by a registered elector in a constituency in respect of any other registered elector or proposed inclusion in the roll or for deletion of applicant's own name.
Form 8	Form for shifting residence/correction of entries. This form can be filed by a registered elector for shifting of residence or correction of entries.
Form 5	Notice of publication of draft electoral roll by the ERO.
Form 9	List of applications for inclusion of names received in Form 6.
Form 10	List of applications for objection to inclusion of names received in Form 7.
Form 11	List of objections/applications for correction of entries received in Form 8.
Form 11A	List of applications for shifting of address within the constituency received in Form 8.
Form 11B	List of applications for shifting of address outside the constituency received in Form 8.

*Forms 9 to 11B are prepared and published by the ERO



Field work: A Booth-Level Officer checks documents during the special intensive revision of the electoral roll, Araria district, Bihar, on July 8. Shashi Shekhar Kashyap

Arctic Council Member States



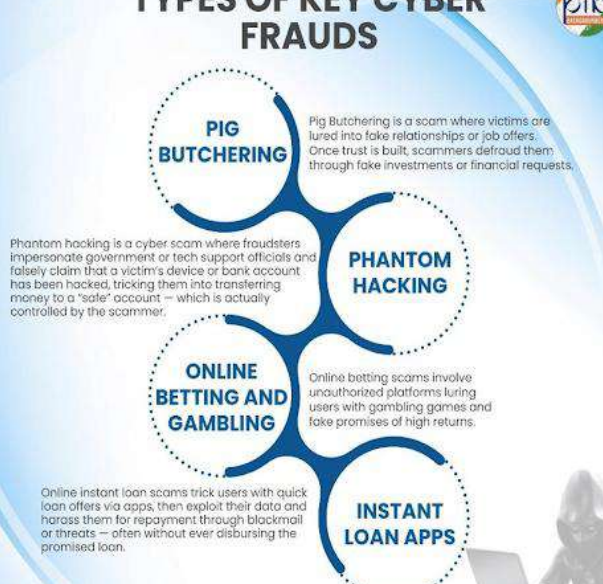
Canada	Finland
The Kingdom of Denmark	Iceland
Norway	Sweden
Russia	U.S.A

The first purely Arctic oriented meeting of the eight Arctic countries - Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Russia and the U.S. - took place in Rovaniemi, Finland in September 1989. The topic of the meeting was the fragile Arctic environment and a potential for joint effort in tackling the very delicate but urgent issue.

In 1996, the Arctic Council, with membership of all eight Arctic states and permanent participation of regional indigenous peoples associations, was established to promote cooperation, coordination and interaction in issues of sustainable development and environmental protection.

© Arctic Portal.org

TYPES OF KEY CYBER FRAUDS



- PIG BUTCHERING**
Pig Butchering is a scam where victims are lured into fake relationships or job offers. Once trust is built, scammers defraud them through fake investments or financial requests.
- PHANTOM HACKING**
Phantom hacking is a cyber scam where fraudsters impersonate government or tech support officials and falsely claim that a victim's device or bank account has been hacked, tricking them into transferring money to a "safe" account - which is actually controlled by the scammer.
- ONLINE BETTING AND GAMBLING**
Online betting scams involve unauthorized platforms luring users with gambling games and fake promises of high returns.
- INSTANT LOAN APPS**
Online instant loan scams trick users with quick loan offers via apps, then exploit their data and harass them for repayment through blackmail or threats - often without ever disbursing the promised loan.

Source: Enforcement Directorate

PASNI PORT BALUCHISTAN, PAKISTAN



PORT OF PASNI

Pakistan has proposed allowing the United States to build and operate a commercial deep-water port at Pasni, Baluchistan.

Contact Us
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www.aptiplus.in

Left Lane Branch: Office No. 427, 4th Floor, APTI 112, APTI University Road, 4th Block, Sector 5, Bafra Nagar, Kolkata, West Bengal 700029
Bhubaneswar Branch: Plot No. 2284, Biju Patnaik College Road, Jagannagar Village, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751013
Right Road Branch: Office No. 352, 3rd Floor, Edge Chambers, 1A, Anandpur Mahapeeth Road, Gurgaon, Gurgaon, Haryana 122002

About Port of Pasni

- Deep-water port in Gwadar district, Baluchistan.
- Equipped with fish harbour, cargo jetty.
- Proposed as a strategic mineral export terminal.

Location & Geostrategy

- On Arabian Sea, 70 miles east of Gwadar Port
- 100 miles from Iran-Pakistan border, ~300 km from Chabahar Port
- Forms a South Asia maritime triangle: Chabahar (India-Iran) - Gwadar (China-Pakistan) - Pasni (US-Pakistan)



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What is Sir Creek?

96 km tidal estuary in India-Pakistan border (Gujarat - Sindh).

Flows into the Arabian Sea.

Separates India's Gujarat from Pakistan's Sindh.

Boundary is defined by 1968 Tribunal Award.



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What's the Dispute?

- Historical context:** Pre-1947 British India division → Sindh with Pakistan, Gujarat with India.
- 1968 Tribunal:** Settled most of Rann of Kutch boundary, but Sir Creek left unresolved.
- India's stand:** Apply thalweg principle (boundary in mid-channel). Cites 1914 resolution + 1925 map + mid-channel pillars.
- Pakistan's stand:** Boundary on eastern bank of creek. Argues thalweg principle applies only to rivers, not estuaries.
- Complexity:** Creek course shifts → affects land-sea boundary & maritime zones.

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What is a stablecoin?

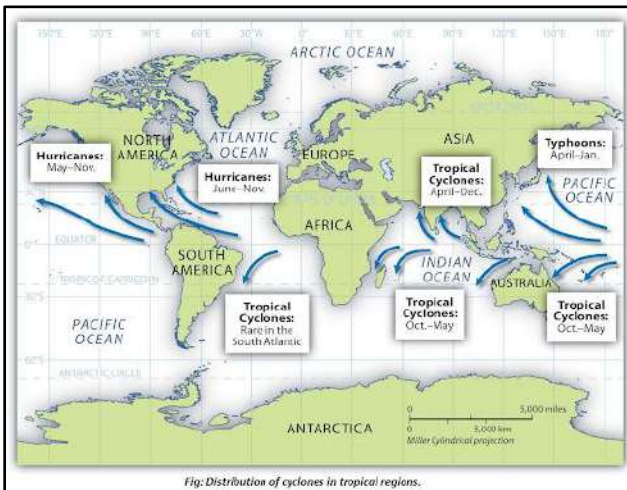
A stablecoin is a crypto asset that aims to maintain a stable value relative to a specified asset, or a pool of assets

- These assets could be a monetary unit of account such as the dollar or euro, a currency basket, a commodity such as gold, or unbacked crypto assets
- This stability can also be achieved only if a centralised institution is in charge of issuing (minting) and redeeming (burning) these crypto assets



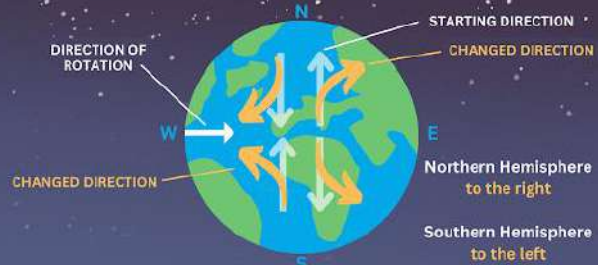
SOURCE: IMF

TYPES OF HYDROGEN



Coriolis Effect :

The Coriolis Effect is the curving of the path of objects or fluids due to the Earth's rotation.



Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan

Bagram Air Base is a major military airfield approximately 40 km north of Afghanistan's capital, Kabul. Originally built by the Soviet Union in the 1950s, it served as the primary hub for US and NATO operations in Afghanistan from 2001 until the withdrawal of US forces in August 2021.





GST Rate Cuts

To Make Healthcare and Nutrition Affordable

Sector / Product	Old GST Rate	New GST Rate
Drugs & Medicines	12%	5% / Nil GST
Bio-medical waste treatment services	12%	5%
Pharma Job Work (formulations, APIs, packaging, etc.)	12%	5%
Medical Devices & Equipment (anaesthetics, oxygen, diagnostic kits, bandages, thermometers, etc.)	12%	5%
Tobacco & related products	28%	40%
Spectacles, Contact Lenses, Spectacle Lenses	12%	5%
UHT Milk	5%	Nil (Exempted)
Paneer (branded/unbranded)	5%	Nil (Exempted)
Dry Fruits (almonds, hazelnuts, dates, figs, etc.)	12%	5%
Diabetic Foods	12%	5%
Prepared/Preserved Fish	12%	5%
Fruit pulp / fruit juice based drinks	12%	5%
Milk-based Beverages	12%	5%
Gyms / Fitness Centres	18%	5%

Source: Ministry of Finance

SHAMPOO TO HEALTH INSURANCE, ACs TO TVs

DAILY ESSENTIALS	FROM	TO
■ Hair oil, shampoo, toilet soap bar, toothpaste, toothbrush, shaving cream	18%	5%
■ Butter, ghee, cheese & dairy spreads	12%	5%
HEALTHCARE		
■ Individual health & life insurance	18%	Nil
■ Corrective spectacles	12%	5%
EDUCATION		
■ Maps, charts & globes	12%	Nil
■ Exercise books & notebooks	12%	Nil
AGRICULTURE		
■ Tractors	12%	5%
■ Drip irrigation system & sprinklers	12%	5%
AUTOMOBILES		
■ Petrol & petrol hybrid, LPG, CNG cars (not exceeding 1200 cc & 4000mm)	28%	18%
■ Motorcycles (350 cc & below)	28%	18%
ELECTRONIC APPLIANCES		
■ Air conditioners	28%	18%
■ TV (above 32", including LED & LCD TVs)	28%	18%