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DECEMBER 2025

A Monthly Digest for GK & State News



TOPICS COVERED

- Bengal Related News
- West Bengal Related Static GK
- Appointments
- Awards
- Books & Authors
- Sports
- Important Days
- Static GK
- Current Affairs GK
- Learning Through Infographics



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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

Progeny Mapping

Context

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is emphasising **progeny mapping** as a key part of the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls in West Bengal.

Progeny Mapping Explained:

- Progeny mapping** links a voter in the 2025 electoral roll to blood relatives listed in the 2002 electoral roll.
- Self-mapping** applies when a voter's name appears in both the 2002 and 2025 rolls.
- Un-mapped voters** have no self or family linkage in the 2002 roll.

Verification Process:

- House-to-house surveys initiated by ECI observers.
- District Electoral Officers (DEOs) to conduct hearings and document verification.
- Final inclusion or deletion to be decided after due verification.

Significance:

- Prevents bogus entries and duplicate voters.
- Improves accuracy and credibility of electoral rolls.
- Strengthens free and fair elections.

Booth Level Officers (BLOS)

Context

- At least 14 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) have reportedly died within three weeks across India amid the ongoing **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls, highlighting concerns over work pressure and mental stress.

Booth Level Officer (BLO)

- A **Booth Level Officer (BLO)** is a government or semi-government official appointed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) as the

custodian of the electoral roll at the polling booth level.

- Primary role** is to act as a **link between voters and the election machinery**, ensuring an accurate and updated electoral roll.

Appointment and Background

- BLOs are usually drawn from local institutions such as schools, government offices and public sector organisations.
- Teachers, Anganwadi workers, Panchayat Secretaries, Village Level Workers, Electricity Bill Readers, etc., are commonly appointed as BLOs.
- BLOs are **not full-time electoral officials** and perform election duties in addition to their regular work.
- Section 13B of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 enabled the first appointment of BLOs in August 2006.

Administrative Coordination.

- BLOs work under the supervision of the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO).
- They are assisted by the Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO).
- They coordinate with **Booth Level Agents (BLAs)** appointed by political parties.

Roles and Duties of BLOs

Electoral Roll Management

- Verify voter details at the booth level.
- Distribute and collect forms for voter registration, correction and deletion.
- Conduct **door-to-door verification** to prevent duplicate or bogus entries.

Voter Facilitation

- Assist citizens in understanding the voter registration process.
- Provide information on polling stations and voting procedures.

- Support **vulnerable groups**, including the **elderly** and **differently-abled persons**, in accessing electoral services.

Postal Ballot and Home Voting Support

- Inform **senior citizens above 85 years** and **Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)** with benchmark certificates about **Home Voting** and **Postal Ballot** facilities.

Election-Day Responsibilities

- Ensure **smooth conduct** of elections at the booth level.
- Act as the **first point of contact** for voter-related queries.
- Report **irregularities or issues** to higher election authorities.

Promotion of ECI Digital Initiatives

- Promote the use of **ECI IT applications** for voter facilitation and roll accuracy.
- Popular voter-oriented apps include **Voter Helpline App**, **eVIGIL**, **Know Your Candidate** and **Saksham-ECI**.

Buxa Hills

Context

- Nearly 13 villages of Buxa Hills in West Bengal's Alipurduar district are battling against abysmally poor network connection.

Buxa Tiger Reserve

- **Location** – Buxa Tiger Reserve (BTR) is located in **Alipurduar district**, northern West Bengal, India.
- **Established** – Declared a **Tiger Reserve** in 1983; **National Park** status in 1997.
- **Governing body** – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.
- **Geographical significance** –
 - **Northern boundary** along **India-Bhutan international border**.
 - **Sinchula hill range** forms the northern edge.
 - **Eastern boundary** touches **Assam**.
 - **NH-31C** runs along the southern boundary.
 - Part of the **Terai eco-system** and **Indo-Malayan biogeographic region**.
- **Ecological connectivity** –

- Acts as an **international elephant migration corridor** between **India** and **Bhutan**.

- **Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary (Bhutan)** to the north and **Manas National Park** to the east.

- **Geology** –

- Linked to the **Buxa Formation** with **stromatolite-bearing dolomite limestone**.
- Declared a **National Geological Monument** for conservation and geotourism.

- **Forest types** –

- **Northern dry deciduous forest**.
- **Eastern Bhabar and Terai sal forest**.
- **East Himalayan moist mixed deciduous forest**.
- **Sub-Himalayan secondary wet mixed forest**.
- **Sub-montane semi-evergreen forest**.
- **Northern tropical evergreen forest**.
- **East Himalayan subtropical wet hill forest**.
- **Moist sal savannah, low alluvium and savannah woodland**.

- **Flora diversity** –

- Over **300–450 tree species**, **250 shrubs**, **400 herbs**.
- **150 orchid species**, **10 bamboo species**, **9 cane species**.
- Major trees include **Sal**, **Champa**, **Gamhar**, **Simul**, **Chikrasi**.

- **Fauna diversity** –

- **Mammals** – **Asian elephant**, **Bengal tiger**, **Indian leopard**, **clouded leopard**, **gaur**, **sambar**, **wild boar**, **dhole**.
- **Birds** – Over **280–390 species**, including **hornbills**, **black-necked crane**, **black stork**, **Eurasian teal**.

- **Endangered species** –

- **Bengal tiger**, **Asian elephant**, **Chinese pangolin**, **leopard cat**, **hispid hare**, **hog deer**, **Bengal florican**, **white-rumped vulture**, **great hornbill**.

- **Hydrology** –

- Major rivers include **Raidak** and **Jayanti**.
- **Narathali Lake** supports **migratory birds**.

- **Historical importance** – **Buxa Fort** –

- Located at **867 m altitude** within BTR.
- Originally built by **Bhutanese rulers** to control trade routes between **India, Bhutan and Tibet**.
- Captured by the **British in 1865** under the **Treaty of Sinchula**.
- Used as a **high-security prison** for **Indian freedom fighters**.
- Associated with **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** and **Anushilan Samiti** revolutionaries.
- **Tibetan refugee phase –**
 - Served as a **refugee camp** after the **1959 Tibetan uprising**.
 - Tibetan monks later relocated to **Bylakuppe and Mundgod (Karnataka)**.
- **Major threats –**
 - **Forest fires** caused by **NTFP collectors** and **grazing activities**.
 - **Flooding and river siltation** due to heavy bed-load from **Bhutan rivers**.
 - **Overgrazing by cattle**, leading to **habitat degradation**.
 - **Timber smuggling** and **sporadic militant intrusion** from **Assam**.
 - **Encroachment** through **unauthorized orange orchards** in forest hamlets.
- **Overall significance –**
 - BTR is a **biodiversity hotspot**, **trans-boundary conservation zone** and a site of **ecological, historical and cultural importance** in eastern India.

Reallocated Territorial Jurisdiction of Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) In West Bengal

Context

- The **Ministry of Finance** has **reallocated territorial jurisdiction** of **Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs)** in **West Bengal** and the **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.
- The change has been notified through a **Gazette notification dated 16 December 2025**.

Why this change was made?

- To **remove jurisdictional ambiguity** while filing cases.

- To **distribute workload evenly** among DRTs.
- To **reduce delays** in **debt recovery proceedings** for **banks and financial institutions**.

Legal basis

- Issued under **Section 3 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993**.
- Amends the earlier **2017 notification** on DRT jurisdiction.
- Applicable **from the date of publication** and **only to new cases**.

DRT under Serial No. 2

- Covers **all districts of West Bengal**, except:
 - **Kolkata City, Howrah, Hooghly, South 24 Parganas**.
 - **Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, Birbhum, Alipurduar, Kalimpong**.
- Also has jurisdiction over the **entire Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.

DRT under Serial No. 3

- Limited to **specific areas of Kolkata City**.
- Police station areas covered:
 - **Shyampukur, Jorabagan, Burtolla, Burrabazar, Posta, Jorasanko, Amherst Street**.
- Any **new police stations** created in **Kolkata City** or **South 24 Parganas** will be **automatically included**.

DRT under Serial No. 4

- Covers the following districts of **West Bengal**:
 - **Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar**.
 - **Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda**.
 - **Murshidabad, Birbhum, Alipurduar, Kalimpong**.

Overall significance

- Provides **clear guidance** on which DRT to approach.
- Helps in **faster disposal of debt recovery cases**.
- Improves **administrative efficiency** of the DRT system.

Clean Energy Transition In West Bengal

Context

- **West Bengal** is strengthening its clean energy transition by committing to a higher share of **renewable energy** in its power mix by 2030.

Details

- The State aims to meet **20% of its total energy demand** through **renewable sources** by 2030.
- Focus is on **scaling solar energy**, along with **biomass** and **hybrid renewable systems**.
- The government is exploring **integrated clean energy models** combining multiple renewable sources.
- Emphasis is on making renewable energy **accessible and affordable** for **agricultural, residential and commercial consumers**.
- According to the Minister for **Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy Sources**, electricity demand is projected to grow:
 - **5% annually** in the **utility sector**.
 - **19% annually** in the **captive power segment** over the next 2–3 decades.
- The **Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO)** is planned to increase from **30% to 50%** by 2030.
- Installed renewable capacity targets include:
 - **15 GW by 2026**.
 - **25 GW by 2032**.

Two New Marine Insect Species Along The Bay Of Bengal Coast

Context

- **Indian marine biodiversity** has received a boost with the discovery of **two new marine insect species** along the **Bay of Bengal coast** in **West Bengal**, highlighting the ecological importance of the region.

Details

- The discoveries were made by the **Estuarine Biology Regional Centre of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)**, Gopalpur.
- The new species belong to the **Nereididae family (polychaete worms)** and were found along the **Digha and Bankiput coasts** in **East Medinipur district**.
- The two species have been named:
 - **Namalycastissolenotognatha**.

- **Nereis dhritiae**.

- **Namalycastissolenotognatha**:

- Name derived from Greek words indicating **black-spotted, canal-rich teeth**.
- Found in **saline, sulphide-rich soils** with high organic matter.
- Associated with **deciduous forests** and **hard coastal soils**.

- **Nereis dhritiae**:

- Named in honour of **Dr. Dhritiae Banerjee**, first woman Director of **ZSI, Kolkata**.
- Found on **sandy beaches**, burrowing into **water-soaked wood** during high tides.
- Plays an important role in **coastal ecosystem functioning**.

- Both species are expected to act as **environmental bioindicators**, helping assess **pollution and ecological health** of coastal zones.

- The discovery underlines the need for **enhanced environmental research and conservation**, especially in **human-impacted coastal areas**.

Matua Community

Context

- The **Matua community**, a significant Bengali Hindu group largely concentrated in **North 24 Parganas, Nadia and South 24 Parganas districts** of **West Bengal**, has expressed concerns over the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls.

Details

- The **Matua Mahasangha** is a Hindu reform movement founded by **Harichand Thakur** around 1860 in present-day Bangladesh. It emphasizes **education, social upliftment and devotional chanting of God's name (harinama)**.
- Following the **partition of India in 1947**, many Matua followers migrated to West Bengal, settling in areas like **Thakurnagar**, which became the new headquarters of the Matua Mahasangha.

Illegal Sand Mining In West Bengal

Context

- Illegal sand mining in West Bengal, especially in **Birbhum, Malda, South Dinajpur and North Bengal**, has grown into a large-scale underground economy with **environmental, economic and political implications**.

Governance and Law Enforcement:

- STF and ED investigations revealed **illegal sand transport, fake e-challans and unaccounted cash flows**.
- Operators like G.D. Mining allegedly moved Rs 130 crore through illicit channels.
- Arrests occur, but **most offenders secure bail**, showing enforcement challenges.
- Government introduced measures:
 - **Online auctioning of quarries**
 - **Digitisation of permits and inter-state transport**
 - Generation of **27+ lakh e-challans** to curb illegal activity
- Despite policy reforms, illegal operations **continue via local verbal deals** and revenue-sharing arrangements.

Economic Aspects:

- **Inflated sand prices:** from Rs 900–1,100 per 100 CFT (pre-2011) to Rs 4,200–5,000 after 2013.
- Increased construction costs due to monopoly by big operators.
- Small traders are **squeezed between government regulations and large capital**.
- Illegal trade contributes to **underground political funding** and election leverage.

Environmental Impact:

- Mechanical pumps excavate **70–150 feet below riverbeds**, weakening embankments.
- Altered river flow increases **flooding, soil erosion and ecological imbalance**.
- Agricultural land near rivers is **converted into temporary sand depots**, reducing fertility.
- River ecosystems and biodiversity are **disturbed**, with cumulative damage over years.

Socio-Political Implications:

- Villagers employed as diggers, loaders, or guards earn **higher-than-farm wages**, creating dependency.

- Employment used as **electoral leverage**, influencing voting patterns.
- The trade operates with **political protection**, making it difficult to break entrenched systems.

Government Response:

- 2021 **sand quarry policy** aims to regularise extraction and increase revenue (projected Rs 1,100 crore over five years).
- Digitised permits, auctions and e-challans intended to reduce illegal sand lifting.
- On-ground implementation is **partially successful**, as illegal extraction continues in unmonitored areas.

Conclusion:

- Illegal sand mining in West Bengal exemplifies the **complex interplay of governance failure, environmental degradation, economic monopoly and political exploitation**.
- Policy and technological reforms alone are insufficient; **strict enforcement, community monitoring and political accountability** are essential for sustainable regulation.

Chamta Wetland In West Bengal

Context

- Chamta Wetland in West Bengal is a key site under the **ICAR–WorldFish Collaborative Programme (Window-3)**, focusing on sustainable aquaculture and wetland management.

Key Initiatives and Activities:

- **Field-level engagement** involved international and national experts, including Prof. Mohammad Muslem Uddin from the University of Chittagong.
- **Assessment of HDPE pen culture facility** for experimental rearing of *Mystuscavasius* and *Macrobrachium* species.
- Promotion of **eco-friendly wetland management** methods:
 - Natural macrophyte control through **herbivorous cattle grazing** as an alternative to mechanical or chemical removal.
- Emphasis on **scientific pond management**, including:

- Broodstock care
- Water quality management
- Enhanced larval rearing practices
- Strengthening hatchery operations and capacity-building for local fisher communities.

Significance:

- Encourages sustainable inland fisheries and nature-based solutions.
- Enhances livelihood opportunities for local fisherfolk while conserving wetland ecosystems.
- Supports scientific collaboration between India and Bangladesh for inland fisheries research.

Conclusion:

- The programme exemplifies integrated wetland management, combining biodiversity conservation, sustainable aquaculture and community engagement—a model relevant for ecological and rural development policies.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) In West Bengal

Context

- The Union Government resumed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in West Bengal after more than three years, following a Calcutta High Court directive (June 2025). The scheme is vital for providing 100 days of wage employment to rural households,

especially in underdeveloped districts like Bankura, Purulia, Jhargram and Paschim Medinipur (Jangalmahal region).

Key Points:

- **Special conditions imposed by the Union Government:**
 - Work costing more than Rs 20 lakh prohibited.
 - Mandatory 100% e-KYC for all workers.
 - Pre-estimation field visits required before starting any project.
 - Labour budget approval to be quarterly (FY26 submission within 30 days), instead of the usual annual approval.
- **State Government Response:**
 - Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee rejected the conditions, calling them restrictive and disrespectful, citing time constraints ahead of elections.
 - She emphasized that the state does not want “mercy” and criticized the imposed quarterly labour budget and training requirements.
- **Significance of MGNREGS in West Bengal:**
 - Provides livelihood security to poor and marginalised communities.
 - Disruption of the scheme led to large-scale rural-to-urban migration over the past few years.
 - Crucial for employment in backward regions like Jangalmahal.

Musk Deer

Context

- Musk deer are endangered species restricted to the Himalayan region in India, previously confirmed in Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim and Uttarakhand. Their last recorded sighting in West Bengal was in 1955 in Singhalila National Park.

Recent Development:

- First photographic evidence of musk deer in West Bengal was recorded on 17 December 2024 in Neora Valley National Park at an altitude of 3,112 m.
- Six consecutive images captured at night confirmed the presence of the genus *Moschus*.

Significance:

- Confirms the continued presence of musk deer in West Bengal after ~70 years.
- Indicates suitable habitat availability in Neora Valley National Park, part of the Kangchenjunga transboundary landscape.

- Highlights the need for **species-level identification, population assessment and long-term conservation strategies**.
- Emphasizes the importance of **strengthened protection measures and monitoring** for this highly threatened species.

Musk Deer

Musk deer, belonging to the genus **Moschus** and the only living members of the family **Moschidae**, are **small, solitary, herbivorous mammals** found primarily in the **forested and alpine regions** of the **Himalayas** and other parts of **Asia**. Despite their name, they are not **true deer**, as they lack **antlers** and **preorbital glands** and are more closely related to **bovids**. Musk deer have a **stocky build, long hind legs** and males possess **elongated upper canines** forming **tusks**, while only adult males have a specialized **musk gland** used to **attract mates**. They are **shy**, mostly **nocturnal or crepuscular** and maintain well-defined **territories**, often marked with **scent** from **caudal glands**. Their diet consists mainly of **leaves, flowers, grasses, mosses and lichens**. Musk deer have historically been **hunted** for their **musk**, which is highly valued in **perfumes and traditional medicine**, leading to significant **population decline**. Currently, their **global population** ranges between **400,000 and 800,000**, with higher densities in **China, Russia and Mongolia**. Threats to their survival include **habitat fragmentation, illegal hunting, deforestation and climate change**, although **conservation efforts and captive breeding programs** are helping populations recover. **Fossil records** show that musk deer have existed since the **late Oligocene**, with the genus **Moschus** surviving since the **Late Miocene**, making them the only **extant representatives** of a once widespread group.

International Tourist Destination

Context:

- West Bengal is emerging as a major **international tourist destination** in India.
- In **2024**, the state received **31 lakh foreign tourists**, up from 27 lakh in 2023, making it **second in the country** after Maharashtra.

Key Drivers of Tourism:

- Focus on **festival tourism, religious tourism, MICE tourism** and niche segments.
- Attractions include:
 - **Kolkata:** Heritage walks in College Street, Kumartuli, Park Street; Princep Ghat for evening leisure.
 - **Darjeeling:** Hills, tea gardens, sunrise points and toy train rides.
 - **Sundarbans:** Mangrove ecosystem, wildlife spotting, eco-tourism.
 - **Bengali Cuisine:** Traditional food and sweets like mishtidoi, rosogolla and sandesh.

Tourist Demographics:

- Major sources: **Europe (UK, Italy), USA, Russia**.
- Growth despite **limited direct international flights**, driven by **cultural and heritage appeal**.

Significance for Economy and Policy:

- Boosts **state revenue**, local employment and small businesses.
- Enhances **global visibility** and soft power through cultural promotion.
- Supports initiatives for **sustainable tourism and regional development**.

WEST BENGAL RELATED STATIC GK

- **Coal** – Principal mineral, mainly in Raniganj Coalfield, Bardhaman; used in thermal power and industries.
- **China Clay** – Found in Darjeeling hills; used in ceramics, sanitary ware, pottery, tiles and porcelain.
- **Fire Clay** – Alongside coal in Birbhum, Bankura, Purulia; used for refractory bricks, tiles and pottery.
- **Limestone** – Found in Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum; essential for cement and iron & steel industry.
- **Silica Sand** – Abundant in Medinipur; used in glass, foundry molds, ceramics and metallurgy.
- **Apatite & Rock Phosphate** – Found in Purulia; used for phosphatic fertilizer production.
- **Dolomite** – Purulia reserves; used in float glass, iron & steel flux, soil conditioning.
- **Quartz & Feldspar** – Found in Purulia pegmatites; quartz for glass, molds, electronics; feldspar for ceramics and glass.
- **Farakka Super Thermal Power Station**, located at Nabarun, Murshidabad, West Bengal is a coal-based power plant owned by NTPC and commissioned in 1986. It has a total capacity of 2,100 MW. Coal is sourced from Rajmahal open cast project, Jharkhand and imported via Farakka and Haldia ports through National Waterway 1. It is a key power supplier for West Bengal and nearby regions.
- **Mahasweta Devi** received the **Ramon Magsaysay Award** in 1997.
- **Surendranath Banerjee** formed the **Indian Association**, merged with **INC** in 1886.
- **Young Bengal movement** was started by **Vivian Derozio**.
- **Sahitya Akademi Award 2017** in Bengali went to **Afsar Ahmed**.
- **Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in **Uttar Dinajpur** district.
- **Ramakrishna Mission** was founded by **Swami Vivekananda** in 1897.
- **'Jugantar'** was started by **Sri Aurobindo Ghose**.
- **First Bengal Peasants Party & Workers Party** was organized in 1925 AD.
- **Bina Das** attempted to shoot the Governor of Bengal during her convocation at **University of Calcutta**.
- **Job Charnock** founded **Calcutta** at **Sutanuti, Kalikata and Govindapur**.
- **'Rabindra Puraskar'** award started in 1950.
- **Satinath Bhaduri** received **Rabindra Puraskar** for the novel **'Hate Bazar'**.
- **Chandannagar** was integrated into **West Bengal** in 1954.
- **First Speaker** of West Bengal Legislative Assembly was **Saila Kumar Mukherjee**.
- **Durgapur Steel Plant** was established with **USA** help in 1955.

- Smallest National Park in West Bengal is Singalila National Park.
- Buxa Wildlife Sanctuary declared as Tiger Reserve in 1983.
- Smallest Wildlife Sanctuary in West Bengal is Jore Pokhri Wildlife Sanctuary.
- 'Nil Darpan' was written by Dinabandhu Mitra.
- Largest district by population in West Bengal is North 24 Parganas.
- First Bengali film to win National Film Award for Best Feature Film is Pather Panchali.
- The first Bengali feature film was the silent movie Billwamangal, released in 1919.
- First Sultan of Bengal was Shamsuddin Ilyas Shah.
- Last British Governor of Bengal was Sir Frederick Burrows.
- First Bengali novel – Durgeshnandini.
- 'Meghnad Badh Kavya' was written by Michael Madhusudan Dutt.
- 'Anandamath' by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay published in 1882.
- Author of first Bengali novel 'Durgeshnandini' – Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.
- First Indian Librarian of National Library of India – Harinath De.
- National Library of India in Kolkata was set up by Lord Curzon.
- Indian Science Congress Association started in 1914.
- First ODI at Eden Gardens – 1987.
- Captain of Indian football team (1951 Asian Games Gold Medal) – Shailen Manna.
- Mihir Sen crossed English Channel in 1959.
- East Bengal was named East Pakistan in 1956.
- Longest railway platform in West Bengal – Kharagpur.
- Doctors' Day in India – 1st July, in memory of Bidhan Chandra Roy.
- IIT Kharagpur established in 1951.
- Bengal Partition (1905) declared by Lord Curzon.
- Victoria Memorial construction completed in 1921.
- Novel 'Parineeta' written by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay.
- Novel 'Devdas' written by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1917.
- Dutch ceded Chinsura to the British in 1825.

APPOINTMENTS

Position	Details of Appointment (1-2 lines)
Chief Secretary of Delhi	Rajeev Verma appointed as the Chief Secretary of Delhi.
Director General of National Cadet Corps	Lieutenant General Virendra Vats appointed as the 35th Director General of National Cadet Corps.
Chief Executive Member of Bodoland Territorial Council	Hagrama Mohilary appointed as the Chief Executive Member of Bodoland Territorial Council.
Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India	Sanjay Kumar Hansda appointed as Executive Director in the Department of Economic and Policy Research of Reserve Bank of India.
President of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Rajeev Juneja appointed as President of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
Chairperson of World Intellectual Property Organization Advisory Board of Judges	Justice Prathiba M. Singh appointed as Chairperson.
President of Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India	Nirmal Kumar Minda appointed as President of Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India.
President-Elect of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry	Anant Goenka appointed as President-Elect of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
Chief Justice of India	Justice Surya Kant appointed as the 53rd Chief Justice of India.
Chief Justice of Bombay High Court	Justice Shree Chandrashekhar appointed as Chief Justice of Bombay High Court.
Chief Justice of Patna High Court	Justice Pavankumar Bhimappa Bajanthri appointed as the 46th Chief Justice of Patna High Court.
Chief Justice of Manipur High Court	Justice M. Sundar appointed as Chief Justice of Manipur High Court.
Acting Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court	Justice Sujoy Paul appointed as Acting Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court.
Attorney General of India	Ranga Venkataramani appointed as Attorney General of India.
Chief Secretary of Manipur	Dr. Puneet Kumar Goel appointed as Chief Secretary of Manipur.
Governor of Maharashtra (Additional Charge)	Acharya Devvrat given additional charge as Governor of Maharashtra.
Governor of Haryana	Professor Ashim Kumar Ghosh appointed as Governor of Haryana.
Governor of Goa	Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju appointed as Governor of Goa.
Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh	Kavinder Gupta appointed as Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.
Secretary of Ministry of Mines	Piyush Goyal appointed as Secretary of Ministry of Mines.
Chief Executive Officer of Food Safety	Rajit Punhani appointed as Chief Executive Officer.

and Standards Authority of India	
Director General of Central Industrial Security Force	Praveer Ranjan appointed as Director General.
Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police	Praveen Kumar appointed as Director General.
Chief of Defence Staff and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs	General Anil Chauhan appointed Chief of Defence Staff and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs.
Vice Chief of Army Staff	Lieutenant General Pushpendra Singh appointed as Vice Chief of Army Staff.
Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance, Indian Air Force	Air Marshal Sanjiv Ghuratia appointed.
Air Officer-in-Charge Administration at Air Headquarters	Sreedhara Sivakumar appointed.
Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre	Dr. A. Rajarajan appointed Director.
Commissioner of Delhi Police	Shashi Bhushan Kumar Singh appointed as Commissioner of Delhi Police.
First Woman Director General of Railway Protection Force	Sonali Mishra appointed.
Controller General of Accounts	Tiruvalam Cudamani Aishwarya Kalyani appointed as the 29th Controller General of Accounts.
Chairperson of National Medical Commission	Vishwas Patel / Dr. Abhijat Sheth appointed as Chairperson.
Chairperson of United Nations Environment Programme Financial Initiative Principles for Sustainable Insurance	Amita Chaudhary appointed.
Executive Director at International Monetary Fund	Dr. Urjit Patel appointed.
India's Executive Director at Asian Development Bank	L. Satya Srinivas appointed.
President of United Nations Global Compact Network India	Vaishali Nigam Sinha appointed.
Mission Director of Atal Innovation Mission	Deepak Bagla appointed.
Chairman and Managing Director of National Thermal Power Corporation Limited	Gurdeep Singh appointed.
Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Overseas Bank	Ajay Kumar Srivastava appointed.
Part-Time Chairman, Yes Bank	Rama Subramaniam Gandhi appointed.
Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India (Monetary Policy Committee)	Indranil Bhattacharyya appointed ex-officio member.
Vice Presidential Election Officials	Sushil Kumar Lohani (Ministry of Panchayati Raj) and D. Anandan (Ministry of Finance) appointed.
Chief of Research and Analysis Wing	Parag Jain appointed as Chief of Research and Analysis Wing.

Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India	Kesavan Ramachandran appointed.
Executive Director of Securities and Exchange Board of India	Sunil Jayawant Kadam appointed.
Deputy Prime Minister of United Kingdom and Secretary of State for Justice	David Lammy appointed.
Prime Minister of Jamaica	Andrew Holness appointed.
Prime Minister of Thailand	AnutinCharnvirakul appointed.
Prime Minister of Lithuania	Inga Ruginienė appointed.
President of Argentina	Javier Milei appointed.
President of Seychelles	Dr. Patrick Herminie appointed.
President of Guyana	Mohamed Irfaan Ali appointed.
Prime Minister of Rwanda	Dr. Justin Nsengiyumva appointed.
President of Cameroon	Paul Biya continues in office.

AWARDS IN NEWS

India's Film *Homebound* Shortlisted for Academy Award

- The Indian feature film *Homebound*, directed by Neeraj Ghaywan, has been shortlisted for the Best International Feature Film category at the 98th Academy Awards (Oscars) 2026. *Homebound* is among 15 films selected worldwide from 86 submissions.

Prime Minister of India Receives Highest Award of Ethiopia

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred Ethiopia's highest civilian honour, the Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia, making him the first head of state or head of government to receive this distinction, in recognition of his contribution to India-Ethiopia partnership.

National Energy Conservation Award 2025

- Miyana Railway Station received the National Energy Conservation Award 2025 for excellence in energy efficiency and conservation efforts in infrastructure.

FIA European Rally Championship Title Won by MRF Tyres

- Indian tyre manufacturer MRF Tyres won the 2025 FIA European Rally Championship Title, marking a global motorsport achievement.

Technological Innovation Awards

- Scientists from National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, NETRA and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research received awards for technological innovations, highlighting achievements in research and development.

Global Bank of the Year 2025 Award

- Development Bank of Singapore Limited (DBS) was named Global Bank of the Year 2025 by The Banker magazine, a prestigious international banking award.

Union Home Minister's Efficiency Medal

- Central Reserve Police Force Officer Dinesh Khatak was awarded the Union Home Minister's Efficiency Medal for exemplary service in internal security duties.

Shilp Guru and National Handicrafts Awards

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the Shilp Guru and National Handicrafts Awards for 2023 and 2024, recognising master craftspersons for outstanding contribution to Indian handicrafts.

Golden Globe Horizon Award

- Indian actor Alia Bhatt was honoured with the Golden Globe Horizon Award at the Red Sea International Film Festival for her contribution to cinema.

Champions of the Earth Award 2025

- Supriya Sahu won the United Nations Environment Programme Champions of the Earth Award 2025 for leadership in climate action and environmental sustainability.

TIME Athlete of the Year 2025

- American basketball player A'ja Wilson was named TIME Athlete of the Year 2025 by TIME magazine.

TIME Entertainer of the Year 2025

- Actor Leonardo DiCaprio was named TIME Entertainer of the Year 2025 by TIME magazine for his contributions to entertainment.

TIME CEO of the Year 2025

- Indian-origin technology executive Neal Mohan was named TIME CEO of the Year 2025 by TIME magazine.

Global Humane Society Animal Welfare Award

- Anant Ambani became the youngest recipient of the Global Humane Society's Animal Welfare Award for leadership in animal welfare initiatives.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals India Awards

- Bollywood actor Raveena Tandon won the top annual award from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India for her contribution to animal rights.

FIFA Peace Prize Award

- Former United States President Donald Trump was awarded the first FIFA Peace Prize during the 2026 FIFA World Cup draw ceremony, an international recognition event.

United Nations Population Award Institutional Category

- The International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) was honoured by UNFPA India with the United Nations Population Award 2025 in the institutional category for contributions to population research.

Cooperative Bank Recognition

- RCMS Bank was honoured as the Best Profit-Making Cooperative Bank in recognition of its financial performance and community banking achievements.

International Emmy Awards 2025

- The International Emmy Awards 2025 winners were announced, with notable Indian entries and nominations highlighted, marking a key international media recognition.

Prestigious Literary Award

- Velamala Simmanna was selected for the LNF Literary Award 2025, recognising excellence in literature.

IIM Ranchi International Accreditation

- Indian Institute of Management Ranchi earned AMBA (Association of MBAs) accreditation and 4 Palmes in the Eduniversal 2025 global rankings, a significant educational achievement.

National Book Awards 2025

- Rabih Alameddine and Patricia Smith were crowned winners at the National Book Awards 2025, marking international literary recognition.

Miss Universe 2025

- Fátima Bosch of Mexico was crowned Miss Universe 2025, with India's Manika Vishwakarma finishing in the Top 12 at the global pageant.

Desert Palm Achievement Award

- Leonardo DiCaprio was announced to receive the Desert Palm Achievement Award, a distinguished film industry honour.

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

- Former United Nations High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet was awarded the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize, recognising her contribution to peace and humanitarian causes.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Book	Author and Details
The One: Cricket, My Life and More	Shikhar Dhawan's autobiography titled "The One: Cricket, My Life and More" was published by HarperCollins India.
Highway to Swades: rediscovering India's superpowers	Bhairavi Jani
The India Way	S. Jaishankar
A new idea of India-Individual rights in a civilizational state	Harsh Madhusudan and Rajeev Mantri
Indianomix-making sense of modern India	Vivek Dehejia and Rupa Subramanya.
India Unbound-from independence to the global information age	Gurcharan Das
The heat and dust project-the broke couple's guide to Bharat	Devapriya Roy
Land of the seven rivers-A brief history of India's geography	Sanjeev Sanyal
In Spite of the Gods	Edward Luce
Freedom at Midnight	Dominique Lapierre and Larry Collin

SPORTS

India Enters Squash World Cup Final

- India reached the **Squash World Cup final** for the first time after defeating **Egypt 3-0** in the semifinal. The **Squash World Cup** is an international team tournament conducted under the aegis of the **World Squash Federation**, the global governing body recognised by the **International Olympic Committee**. Squash is played in a **four-walled court** under the **point-a-rally scoring system**,

with games played up to **eleven points**. India's victory was secured by **Velavan Senthilkumar**, **Anahat Singh** and **Abhay Singh**, marking a landmark achievement in Indian squash.

India's Best Finish at World Shooting Cup Final

- India recorded its **highest medal tally** at the **World Shooting Cup Final**, winning **six medals** and finishing **second overall**. The **Shooting**

World Cup Final is the **season-ending elite competition** organised by the **International Shooting Sport Federation**, featuring only top-ranked shooters. Events are conducted across disciplines such as **ten-metre air pistol**, **twenty-five metre pistol** and **fifty metre rifle**. India's performance reflected improved international competitiveness in Olympic shooting events.

Inika Mazumder Wins National Kyokushin Karate Title

- **Inika Mazumder** won gold in **Kihon** and **Kumite** to become **National Champion** in **Kyokushin Full Contact Karate**. **Kyokushin karate** was founded in **1964** by **Masutatsu Oyama** and follows a **knockdown competition format** with full-contact rules. **Kihon** assesses fundamental techniques, while **Kumite** involves regulated full-contact bouts. The national championship is one of India's highest-level competitions in **Kyokushin karate**.

Manipur Wins 15th Manipur Polo International

- **India B (Manipur)** defeated **Colombia** to win the **15th Manipur Polo International Tournament** at **Mapal Kangjeibung**, **Imphal**. The tournament is organised by the **Manipur Horse Riding and Polo Association** and is a major event of the **Sangai Festival**. **Polo** originated in **Manipur** as **Sagol Kangjei** before evolving into the modern international sport. **Mapal Kangjeibung** is regarded as one of the **oldest polo grounds in the world**.

Ayush Mhatre Becomes Youngest to Score Centuries in All Formats

- **Ayush Mhatre** became the **youngest cricketer** to score centuries in **first-class**, **List A** and **Twenty20** cricket. These formats are officially classified under the laws and playing conditions framed by the **Marylebone Cricket Club** and regulated internationally by the **International Cricket Council**. He achieved the milestone at **18 years and 135 days**,

surpassing the earlier record of **Rohit Sharma**. The feat underlines the strength of India's domestic cricket structure.

Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha Qualifies for Australian Open Doubles

- **Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha** qualified for the **Australian Open men's doubles main draw** after winning the **Asia-Pacific Wildcard Playoff**. The **Australian Open**, first held in **1905**, is one of the **four Grand Slam tournaments** governed by the **International Tennis Federation**. Doubles matches are played using the **full doubles court**, including alleys. This marks **Poonacha's first appearance in a Grand Slam main draw**.

South Africa Register Record Test Win Over India

- **South Africa** defeated India by **408 runs** in a **Test match**, the largest defeat for India by runs. **Test cricket**, first played in **1877**, is governed by the **International Cricket Council** and consists of **two innings per side over five days**. India were dismissed for **140** while chasing **549**, resulting in a **two-nil series sweep** for South Africa. The result impacted standings in the ongoing **World Test Championship cycle**.

Javokhir Sindarov Becomes Youngest World Chess Cup Champion

- **Javokhir Sindarov** became the **youngest winner of the World Chess Cup**, defeating **Wei Yi** in tie-breaks. The **World Chess Cup** is organised by the **International Chess Federation** and follows a **knockout format**. Classical games are followed by **rapid and blitz tie-breaks** if required. The **2025 edition** was hosted in **Goa**, highlighting India's growing role in international chess events.

India to Host Silver Level International Athletics Meet

- India will host its first **Silver level Continental Tour athletics meet** in **Bhubaneswar**. The

Continental Tour is organised by **World Athletics**, the international governing body for athletics. **Silver level meets** are classified as **Category B competitions** for global ranking points. India will also conduct its **first national indoor athletics championships**, marking a structural expansion of domestic athletics.

India Retain Women's Kabaddi World Cup Title

- India won the **Women's Kabaddi World Cup** by defeating **Chinese Taipei** in the final. The **Kabaddi World Cup** is organised under the framework of the **International Kabaddi Federation**. Kabaddi is played on a **rectangular court** with rules governing raids, tackles and breath control. This victory marked India's **second consecutive Women's Kabaddi World Cup title**.

India Win Inaugural Blind Women's Twenty20 World Cup

- India won the **first Blind Women's Twenty20 Cricket World Cup**, defeating **Nepal** in the final. The tournament was conducted under rules framed by the **World Blind Cricket Council**. Blind cricket categorises players based on visual impairment and uses an **audible ball**. India completed the tournament with an **unbeaten record**, marking a historic milestone in inclusive sports.

Indian Women Secure Four Golds at World Boxing Cup Finals

- Indian women boxers won **four gold medals** at the **World Boxing Cup Finals**. The competition is organised under **World Boxing**, the international governing body for Olympic-style boxing. Bouts follow a **three-round format** with scoring based on **clean punches landed**. India had the **highest number of**

finalists, reflecting rising depth in women's boxing.

Zimbabwe and Namibia to Host Under-19 Cricket World Cup

- Zimbabwe and Namibia** will jointly host the **Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup**, organised by the **International Cricket Council**. The tournament features **sixteen teams** and follows a **group stage and Super Six format**. The event serves as a key platform for identifying future international cricketers. **Tanzania** will make its **first appearance** in an international cricket tournament.

World Beach Ultimate Championship 2025

- The **World Beach Ultimate Championship** concluded in **Portugal** with participation from **thirty-eight countries**. The event is organised by the **World Flying Disc Federation**, recognised by the **International Olympic Committee**. Matches are played on sand with **seven players per side** and follow the principle of **Spirit of the Game**. India registered competitive performances, including a win over **Germany**.

Gurpreet Singh Wins Silver at World Shooting Championships

- Gurpreet Singh** won silver in the **twenty-five metre centre fire pistol** event at the **World Shooting Championships**. The championships are organised by the **International Shooting Sport Federation** and represent the highest level of non-Olympic shooting competition. The event includes **precision and rapid-fire stages**. India finished **third overall** with **thirteen medals**, while **China** topped the medal table.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Event & Significance
17 November	National Epilepsy Day (India) – Raises awareness about epilepsy , its causes, treatment and social inclusion.
19 November	World Toilet Day – Highlights sanitation, hygiene and access to toilets under SDG-6 .
19 November	Indira Gandhi Birth Anniversary – Commemorates the former Prime Minister of India and her contribution to nation-building.
19 November	World COPD Day – Raises awareness on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and respiratory health.
19 November	International Men's Day – Focuses on men's health , gender equality and positive male role models.
20 November	Universal / World Children's Day – Promotes children's rights , welfare and the UN's commitment to child protection.
21 November	World Television Day – Recognizes television's role in information dissemination and public awareness.
21 November	World Philosophy Day (UNESCO) – Emphasizes critical thinking, dialogue and intellectual traditions.
24 November	Lachit Diwas (Assam) – Honors Lachit Borphukan , Ahom general who defeated Mughals at Battle of Saraighat (1671) .
24 November	Shaheedi Diwas of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji – Marks martyrdom of the 9th Sikh Guru for defending religious freedom.
25 November	International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women – Global campaign to end gender-based violence .
26 November	Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas) – Commemorates adoption of the Indian Constitution (1949) .
26 November	National Milk Day (India) – Birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien , Father of the White Revolution .
29 November	International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People – Observed by UN to support Palestinian rights .
1 December	World AIDS Day – Spreads awareness about HIV/AIDS , prevention and stigma reduction.
2 December	National Pollution Control Day (India) – Commemorates Bhopal Gas Tragedy (1984) ; focuses on pollution control.
2 December	International Day for Abolition of Slavery – Highlights fight against modern slavery, trafficking and forced labour.
3 December	International Day of Persons with Disabilities – Promotes inclusion, rights and accessibility for persons with disabilities.
5 December	World Soil Day – Emphasizes soil health , sustainable agriculture and food security.
5 December	International Volunteer Day – Recognizes contribution of volunteers to social and economic development.
6 December	Mahaparinirvan Diwas – Death anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar , architect of the Indian Constitution.

7 December	Armed Forces Flag Day (India) – Honors Indian Armed Forces and supports veterans and families.
7 December	International Civil Aviation Day – Highlights role of ICAO in safe and sustainable air transport.
8 December	Bodhi Day – Marks Buddha's enlightenment under the Bodhi tree.
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day – Promotes transparency and fight against corruption.
9 December	UN Day on Genocide Prevention – Commemorates victims and promotes genocide prevention .
10 December	Human Rights Day – Marks adoption of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) .
11 December	International Mountain Day – Focuses on mountain ecosystems , livelihoods and sustainability.
12 December	Universal Health Coverage Day – Advocates accessible, affordable healthcare for all.
14 December	National Energy Conservation Day (India) – Promotes energy efficiency and sustainable energy use.
16 December	Vijay Diwas – Celebrates India's victory in the 1971 Indo-Pak War and creation of Bangladesh.

STATIC GK

The Indian Rupee symbol (₹) was adopted in 2010.

ISRO was established in 1969.

Loktak Lake is the largest freshwater lake in Northeast India.

UNESCO Headquarters is located in Paris, France.

pH scale is logarithmic, meaning each unit change represents a tenfold change in acidity.

Sound intensity depends on the square of the amplitude, not on frequency.

Mercury is the only metal that is liquid at room temperature.

Graphite, though a non-metal, is a good conductor of electricity due to free electrons.

Pure water is a poor conductor of electricity in the absence of dissolved ions.

Aluminium appears less reactive because of a thin oxide layer on its surface.

Heat capacity depends on both the mass and nature of a substance.

Latent heat is absorbed or released without change in temperature.

Atmospheric pressure decreases with increase in altitude.

Sound travels fastest in solids and slowest in gases.

Echo formation requires a minimum reflector distance of about 17 metres.

Hydrated salts lose water on heating and may change color.

Carbon monoxide is more dangerous than carbon dioxide due to higher affinity for haemoglobin.

Solar eclipse occurs only on a new moon day.

Lunar eclipse occurs only on a full moon day.

Tides are mainly caused by the gravitational pull of the Moon.

Leap year has 366 days to adjust Earth's revolution period.

Time difference of 1 hour corresponds to 15° longitude.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was founded in 1861.

Specific heat of water is high, which is why coastal areas experience moderate climate.

Thermal expansion of solids is least compared to liquids and gases.

Convex mirrors always form virtual, erect and diminished images.

Concave lenses are used to correct myopia by diverging light rays.

Electrical resistivity of a material is independent of its dimensions.

Superconductivity is characterized by zero electrical resistance below a critical temperature.

Ribosomes are absent in mature mammalian red blood cells.

Lysosomes are called suicidal bags due to hydrolytic enzymes.

Meiosis reduces chromosome number by half to maintain species stability.

Crossing over occurs during prophase-I of meiosis.

Oxygenated blood is carried by pulmonary veins, unlike other veins.

Arteries generally carry oxygenated blood except pulmonary artery.

Bile aids digestion of fats but contains no digestive enzymes.

Aphelion occurs when Earth is farthest from the Sun.

Earth's rotation causes day and night, not revolution.

International Date Line deviates to avoid landmasses.

Isobars are lines joining points of equal atmospheric pressure.

Cyclones rotate counter-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere.

Anticyclones are associated with clear and dry weather.

Tsunamis are caused mainly by undersea earthquakes.

Continental drift theory was proposed by Alfred Wegener.

Pediaplain are formed in arid regions due to erosion.

Biomagnification increases concentration of toxins at higher trophic levels.

Primary productivity depends largely on sunlight and nutrients.

Decomposers recycle nutrients back into ecosystem.

Carbon sinks absorb more carbon than they release.

Afforestation helps reduce soil erosion and CO₂ levels.

Eutrophication results from nutrient enrichment of water bodies.

Adiabatic lapse rate describes temperature change of an air parcel without heat exchange with surroundings.

Thermal conductivity of diamond is higher than that of copper.

Electron affinity does not increase uniformly across a period due to orbital stability anomalies.

Geostrophic winds result from balance between pressure gradient force and Coriolis force.

Isostasy explains vertical equilibrium of Earth's crust floating on denser mantle.

Transform faults offset mid-oceanic ridges without creating or destroying crust.

Shadow zone of seismic waves provides evidence for Earth's liquid outer core.

Red shift in astronomy indicates recession of galaxies due to cosmic expansion.

Chandrasekhar limit (~1.4 solar masses) defines maximum mass of stable white dwarf.

Escape velocity is independent of mass of the escaping object.

Solar constant represents energy received per unit area at top of Earth's atmosphere.

Fermi level indicates highest occupied energy level at absolute zero.

Heavy water (D₂O) is used as moderator in nuclear reactors to slow neutrons.

Fast breeder reactors produce more fissile material than they consume.

Radioactive decay is unaffected by temperature, pressure, or chemical state.

Cosmic rays are primarily high-energy protons originating outside Earth.

Ionizing radiation can damage DNA directly or via free radical formation.

Biomagnification is more pronounced in long-lived, fat-soluble pollutants.

Ecological succession proceeds faster on bare rock than on existing soil.

Keystone species have disproportionately large impact on ecosystem stability.

Trophic efficiency rarely exceeds 10% in natural ecosystems.

Resilience measures an ecosystem's ability to recover after disturbance.

CURRENT AFFAIRS GK

GenomeIndia Project launched 10,000 whole genome sequences and operationalised **Functional Enabling Environment for Data and Indian Biological Data Centre** for global research access. Strengthens **precision medicine, tuberculosis drug resistance mapping** and **data-driven biotechnology research**.

India-Jordan bilateral trade reached **3.1 billion United States Dollars in 2024**; expansion includes **Digital Public Infrastructure sharing, fertiliser and phosphate cooperation** and **water resource memoranda of understanding**. Jordan expressed interest in **International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure** and **Global Biofuels Alliance**, enhancing India's **Global South leadership**.

India produces **approximately 80 percent of global Makhana**, mainly from **Bihar**, with **Darbhanga** as a

major hub. Government approved **476.03 crore rupees scheme from 2025 to 2031** via **National Makhana Board** for processing, branding, value addition and exports.

The **Armed Forces Medical Services** launched India's first **artificial intelligence-based Diabetic Retinopathy screening programme** using **MadhuNetrAI**, deployed in **seven locations**. Enables **community-level early detection, automated referral** and **real-time prevalence mapping**.

Indian Space Research Organisation RESPOND Basket 2025 invites academia to address **mission-aligned research problems**. Focus areas include **space technology, satellite systems** and **advanced research, strengthening Indian Space Research Organisation and academia collaboration**.

Param Vir Chakra instituted on **26 January 1950**, is India's highest wartime gallantry award; open to all ranks and can be awarded posthumously. Provides three thousand rupees honorarium plus three thousand rupees for each bar; twenty-one awardees so far, fourteen posthumously.

Tianjin Declaration at Shanghai Cooperation Organisation 2025 emphasises artificial intelligence governance, capacity building, security and transparency. Supports Shanghai Cooperation Organisation artificial intelligence roadmap and Regional Artificial Intelligence Centre in Dushanbe, aligned with United Nations General Assembly artificial intelligence resolution.

Tigris River originates in the **Taurus Mountains, Türkiye**, flows through **Iraq** and joins the **Euphrates** to form **Shatt al-Arab**, draining into the **Persian Gulf**. Key issues include **water scarcity, pollution and upstream dams**, crucial for agriculture and regional geopolitics.

Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission Bill, 2025 replaces the 2005 rural employment law, guaranteeing **125 days of wage employment** and focusing on **water, rural infrastructure, livelihoods and climate-resilient assets**. Includes **normative funding, biometric attendance, Aadhaar-linked payments and GPS/geotagging**.

India-Oman Bilateral Relations span **70 years** of diplomatic ties, combining **maritime security, defence access at Duqm, trade, joint ventures, fintech and energy transition cooperation**. Strategic depth supported by civilisational linkages, diaspora and CEPA prospects.

Australia's Social Media Ban for Children Under 16 prohibits social media access to minors on platforms like **Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and X**, making companies liable for enforcement. Aims to protect children from online harms, addictive algorithms and cyberbullying.

FSSAI Egg Safety Drive targets residues of **banned nitrofurans in eggs** to protect **public health and food safety compliance**. Nitrofurans are **synthetic antimicrobial agents** with **carcinogenic risk**, banned in **India, European Union and other countries**.

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations promotes **intercultural dialogue, religious harmony, youth and women in peace building**, with India reaffirming **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam ethos**. 2025 edition in **Riyadh** highlighted **global commitment to dialogue and multilateralism**.

Vijay Diwas 16 December commemorates **India's 1971 victory and creation of Bangladesh**, with **~93,000 Pakistani troops surrendered**. Demonstrates **joint military operations, air and naval superiority and rapid strategic decision-making**.

India-Asian Development Bank \$2.2 Billion Loan funds **skills, renewable energy, healthcare, urban transport and sustainable livelihoods projects**. Supports **PM Surya Ghar scheme, ITI modernisation, tertiary healthcare upgradation and Meghalaya ecotourism**.

HAMMER Precision-Guided Weapon is a **stand-off air-to-ground munition** converting **conventional bombs into high-accuracy strike systems**. Jointly manufactured by **India's Bharat Electronics Limited and Safran**, it offers **multiple guidance modes and off-axis launch flexibility**.

India's Trade Deficit fell to **\$6.6 billion in November 2025** due to **higher merchandise exports and lower imports, especially gold**. Trade deficit indicates **net external demand, currency pressure and impact on current account**.

Ethiopia Geography and Strategic Importance: Landlocked **Horn of Africa** nation, capital **Addis Ababa** hosts **African Union and UN Economic Commission for Africa**. Features **Ethiopian Highlands, Great Rift Valley, volcanic plateau**,

Blue Nile origin and Denakil Depression, crucial for geopolitics and natural resources.

Supreme Court in **Ranveer Allahbadia vs Union of India (2025)** emphasized **judicial restraint** in **free speech**, limiting courts to **constitutional review** under **Article 19(1)(a)–19(2)** and avoiding **policy-making**. Important for **freedom of expression**, **judicial review**.

Bondi Beach – Sydney beach, site of **terror** inked **attack**, highlights **urban security**, **public safety** and **tourism geography**. Relevant for **places in news / world geography**.

SHANTI Bill 2025: Atomic Energy Bill modernises India's **nuclear governance**, enables **private sector participation**, establishes an **independent nuclear safety authority**, reforms **liability and licensing** and targets **100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047**.

Cabinet approves raising **FDI cap in Indian insurance firms** from **74% to 100%** via **Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill 2025**, promoting **foreign investment**, **sectoral growth** and **regulatory alignment** under **LIC, IRDA and Insurance Acts**.

Siliserh Lake (Rajasthan) & Kopra Jalashay (Chhattisgarh): Newly designated **Ramsar wetlands (Sites 2581 & 2583)**, crucial for **biodiversity**, **migratory birds**, **water security** and **ecosystem services**, supporting **eco-tourism**, **conservation** and **local livelihoods**.

Boreendo is a **clay vessel-flute** from **Sindh** linked to **Indus Valley musical tradition**, producing **breathy tones**. Inscribed on **UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list**, it survives via a single **maestro** and **family artisans**.

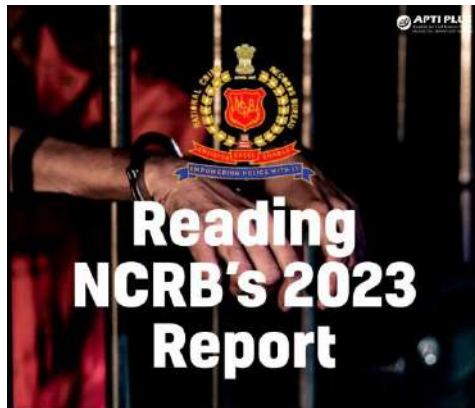
50 YEARS OF CITES: **CITES** regulates **international trade of endangered species**, effective **1 July 1975**, with **185 parties**. **CoP20 (2025, Samarkand)** added **77 species**, including **sharks, rays, Galápagos iguanas** and **India opposed guggul listing** citing **scientific gaps**.

Senna spectabilis: **Invasive alien species** in **Western Ghats**; **dense growth** reduces **biodiversity**, increases **fire risk**; **Tamil Nadu eradication drive** targets **complete removal** by **March 2026**.

Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary: **Telangana's oldest protected area**, **Deccan dry deciduous ecosystem**; hosts **tigers, leopards, gaurs**, **Medaram Jatara festival**, now promoting **eco-tourism and local livelihoods**.

Hindu Rate of Growth: Term coined by **Raj Krishna** for **India's 3.5–4% GDP growth (1950s–1980s)** under **Licence-Quota-Permit Raj**; reflects **structural stagnation**, not **religion**; contrast with **East Asian growth miracles**.

LEARNING THROUGH INFOGRAPHICS



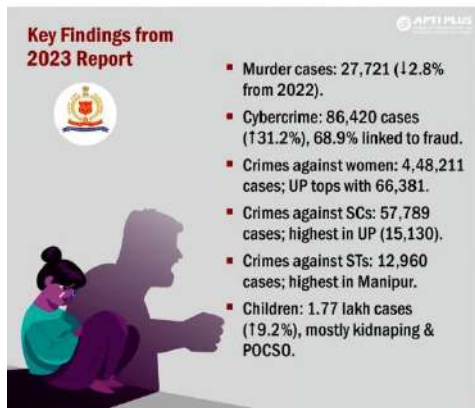
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Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Models in India

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Concept & Purpose

- Definition:** Collaboration between government and private entity for delivering public assets/services.
- Goal:** Mobilize private investment, improve efficiency, share risks.
- Need:** Bridge India's huge infrastructure funding gap and enhance service delivery.

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Core PPP Models (Part I)

- BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer):** Private builds, operates, transfers to govt after concession.
- DBFOT (Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer):** BOT variant with private financing.
- BOOT (Build-Own-Operate-Transfer):** Private owns & operates before transfer.
- BOO (Build-Own-Operate):** Private builds, owns, operates—no transfer.

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Core PPP Models (Part II)

- HAM (Hybrid Annuity Model):** Govt pays 40%, private 60%; returns via annuities.
- BOLT (Build-Own-Lease-Transfer):** Private leases asset to govt, then transfers.
- BLT (Build-Lease-Transfer):** Govt leases from private before final transfer.
- LDOT (Lease-Develop-Operate-Transfer):** Private upgrades existing facility, operates, transfers.
- O&M/Management Contract:** Govt retains ownership; private handles operation/maintenance.

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Takeaways

- Flexibility:** Models differ by ownership, risk, and revenue sharing.
- Relevance:** Used across roads, ports, airports, urban infra, health, education.
- Essence:** Choose model matching sectoral needs and public interest.
- Key focus:** Balanced risk, transparency, and accountability.

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Digital Arrest

A New-Age Cybercrime Menace

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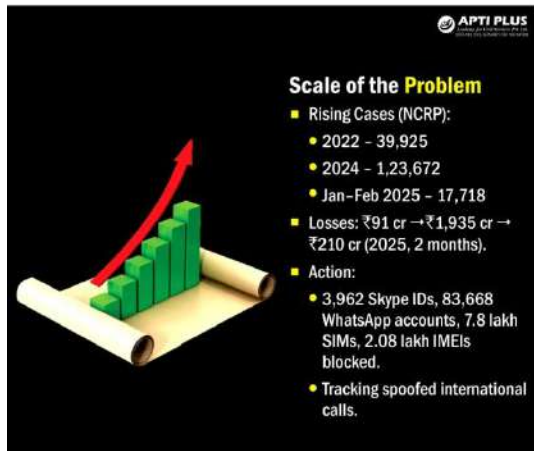
What is a Digital Arrest?

- A cyber scam using fake calls/video chats by impostors posing as officials (CBI, ED, Police).
- Victims are told they're under probe and shown forged court/agency documents.
- Asked to transfer money to a "safe" account while staying isolated at home.
- Creates psychological detention through fear and manipulation.

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Scale of the Problem

- Rising Cases (NCRP):**
 - 2022 - 39,925
 - 2024 - 1,23,672
 - Jan-Feb 2025 - 17,718
- Losses: ₹91 cr → ₹1,935 cr → ₹210 cr (2025, 2 months).**
- Action:**
 - 3,962 Skype IDs, 83,668 WhatsApp accounts, 7.8 lakh SIMs, 2.08 lakh IMEIs blocked.
 - Tracking spoofed international calls.

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Judicial Response

- Supreme Court (Oct 2025): Suo motu action; termed it a "grave assault on rule of law."
- Rajasthan HC: Called it "sophisticated cyberfraud."
- Delhi HC: Denied bail; flagged rising difficulty in tracking such crimes.
- Bombay HC: Criticised police delay; directed better cybercrime training.

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Way Forward

- Boost digital literacy and public awareness.
- Strengthen Cyber Helpline 1930 & NCRP portal.
- Ensure inter-agency coordination (MHA, CERT-In, State Police).
- Use AI tools to trace spoofed numbers and fake accounts.
- Restore public trust through swift detection and prosecution.

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What is Cloud Seeding?

- A weather modification technique to enhance rainfall.
- Involves dispersing chemicals like silver iodide, potassium iodide, sodium chloride, or dry ice into clouds.
- Purpose: Stimulate condensation and droplet formation to trigger precipitation.





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Applications

- Enhance rainfall in drought-prone areas.
- Increase snowfall for water reservoirs.
- Disperse fog near airports.
- Reduce hail or suppress storms (used in China, UAE, USA, India trials in Maharashtra, Karnataka).

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