

WBCS GAZETTE



APTI PLUS

Academy for Civil Services Pvt. Ltd.
CREATING CIVIL SERVANTS FOR THE NATION

APRIL

2026



A
Monthly
Digest for
GK & State
News

TOPICS COVERED

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



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Maintaining Legacy Of Success in WBCS 2023

Gr. A & B

35+

Selections in WBCS 2023
Group A & B

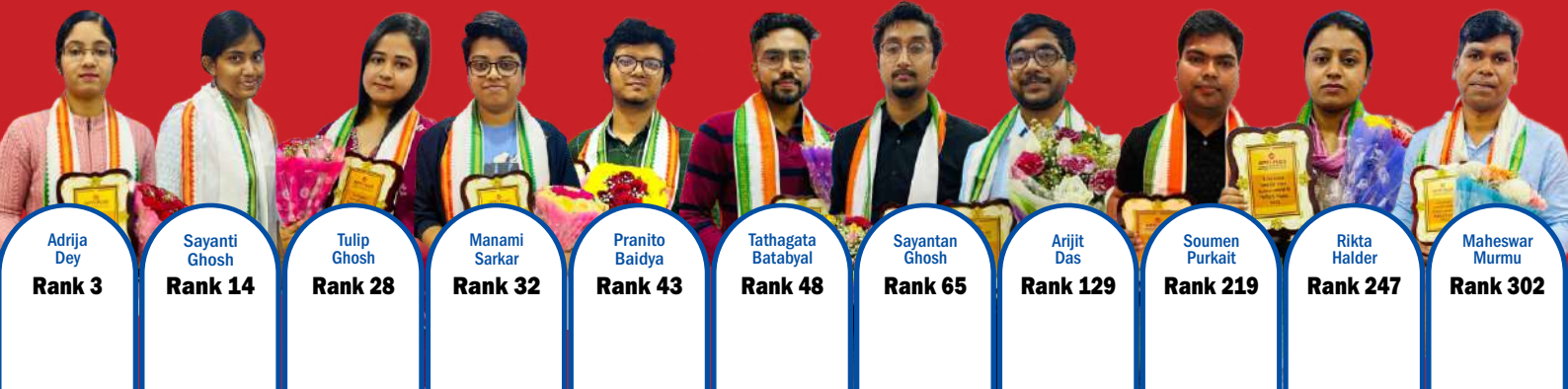
SREEJA
NAMASHARMA



Rank 1

TATHAGATA DAS Rank 9	PARTHA PRATIM MAITI Rank 10	AKASH KUMAR GHOSH Rank 11	ARKAJIT GANGULY Rank 16	PRADIPTA BAG Rank 17	CHANDREYEE HAIT Rank 22	SOUJANYA PURKAIT Rank 27
TULIP GHOSH Rank 28	PRATIK GHOSH Rank 33	CHANDAN BANERJEE Rank 36	PRABIR HALDER Rank 40	TISTA DHARA Rank 45	TATHAGATA BATABYAL Rank 48	SHYAMSUNDAR HAZRA Rank 50
AYAN SAHA Rank 57	TUHIN MAJUMDAR Rank 61	SAYANTAN GHOSH Rank 65	ANNAPURBA DATTA Rank 76	SK MD SADIQUE ANWAR Rank 90	OBAIDUR RAHAMAN Rank 109	ARIJIT DAS Rank 129
SHISHIR MONDAL Rank 197	SUBHAJIT MAJI Rank 211	SOU MEN PURKAIT Rank 219	YUDHISTIR NAMAN DAS Rank 232	SUDIPTA GUHA Rank 242	RIKTA HALDER Rank 247	MAHESWAR MURMU Rank 302

& many more...



Adrija Dey
Rank 3

Sayanti Ghosh
Rank 14

Tulip Ghosh
Rank 28

Manami Sarkar
Rank 32

Pranito Baidya
Rank 43

Tathagata Batabyal
Rank 48

Sayantana Ghosh
Rank 65

Arijit Das
Rank 129

Soumen Purkait
Rank 219

Rikta Halder
Rank 247

Maheswar Murmu
Rank 302

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

R.N. Ravi sworn in as Governor of West Bengal

Context

- Rabindra Narayan Ravi was sworn in as the **22nd Governor of West Bengal** on **March 12, 2026**, replacing C. V. Ananda Bose who resigned on March 5, 2026. The oath ceremony took place at **Lok Bhavan, Kolkata**.

Details

- Oath administered by **Calcutta High Court Chief Justice Sujoy Paul**.
- R.N. Ravi previously served as **Governor of Tamil Nadu**.
- He stated that **West Bengal is the spiritual, intellectual and cultural capital of India**.

Form 6

Context

- Abhishek Banerjee claimed: Over **30,000 Form 6** applications were submitted in **one day**.
- He alleged that large-scale **illegal voter additions and deletions** are taking place in West Bengal during the voter list revision process. He accused the Election Commission of India of enabling **demographic change** in the state.

Details

- Form 6 is the official application form used by the Election Commission of India (ECI) for enrolling new voters or for existing voters to update their address when shifting

constituencies. It is a crucial document for registering to vote for the first time, requiring proofs of age and residence and can be submitted on the Voters' Service Portal.

Details:

- New Voter Registration:** First-time voters aged 18 or older use Form 6 to register.
- Shifting Residence:** Voters moving to a new constituency (within the same state or to a different state) use this form to update their address.
- Form 7** → Deletion of name
- Form 8** → Correction in voter details
- Form 8A** → Change of constituency within same Assembly

Tajpur Deep Sea Port

Context

- The **Tajpur Deep Sea Port** project in Purba Medinipur has emerged as a **key infrastructure and economic issue**.

Key Features

- Greenfield Deep-Sea Port.**
- Located on **Bay of Bengal coast**.
- Developed under **PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model**.
- Additional **1000 acres land** for industrial ecosystem.

Economic Significance

1. Reduce Dependence on Other Ports

- Will reduce reliance on Paradip Port (Odisha).
- Helps **retain trade within West Bengal**.

2. Industrial Corridor Development

- Proposed belt: **Dankuni - Tajpur - Raghunathpur**.
- Forms an industrial spine:
 - Dankuni → Logistics hub
 - Raghunathpur → Manufacturing
 - Tajpur → Export gateway

3. Boost to Exports & MSMEs

- Enhances export capacity of nearby districts.
- Encourages MSMEs to enter global markets.

4. Strategic & Geopolitical Importance

- Reduces dependence on Chattogram Port (Bangladesh).
- Strengthens India's position in Bay of Bengal trade network.

5. Connectivity Boost

- Linked to proposed Surat-Dankuni Freight Corridor (Budget 2026).
- Strengthens East-West industrial connectivity.

Challenges

- Past legal disputes.
- Delay due to corporate and regulatory issues.
- Execution & funding risks.

Important Points for Exam

- Location → Purba Medinipur (WB coast)
- Type → Greenfield Deep Sea Port
- Model → PPP
- Initial bidder → Adani Ports & SEZ
- Investment → ~₹25,000 crore
- Linked corridor → Dankuni-Tajpur-Raghunathpur
- Connected project → Surat-Dankuni Freight Corridor

Transgender Amendment Bill 2026 & Transgender Day Of Visibility

Context

- On March 31, observed as Transgender Day of Visibility, members of the transgender community in Kolkata protested against the proposed Transgender Amendment Bill 2026. They argued that the bill may remove the right to self-identified gender.

Transgender Day of Visibility

- Observed on March 31 every year.
- Celebrates achievements of transgender people.
- Raises awareness about discrimination faced by transgender persons.
- Observed worldwide.

Transgender Amendment Bill 2026 - Key Changes

Current System

At present:

- A transgender person can apply to the District Magistrate for a Transgender Certificate.
- This certificate allows change of gender in official documents.
- It also gives access to government welfare schemes.

Proposed Changes

The amendment proposes:

- Formation of a Screening Committee / Medical Board.

- The committee will verify gender identity before certification.

- The District Magistrate will issue the certificate only after committee approval.

The transgender community argues that this violates the right to self-identification.

Important Supreme Court Case

National Legal Services Authority vs Union of India Judgement (2014):

- Recognised Transgender as Third Gender.
- Recognised Right to Self-Identification of Gender.
- Declared transgender persons as socially and educationally backward.
- Directed government to provide reservation and welfare measures.

Government Scheme

Garima Greh

- Shelter homes for transgender persons.
- Provides shelter, food, medical care and skill training.
- Implemented by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026

- The **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026** was introduced by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** to amend the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019**.
- The proposed amendments have created debate because many activists believe the Bill goes against the Supreme Court's landmark judgment in **National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India (2014)**, which recognised the right of transgender persons to self-identify their gender.

Key Changes Proposed in the Amendment Bill, 2026

1. Removal of Self-Identification

- The Bill removes Section 4(2) of the 2019 Act, which allowed transgender persons to identify their gender through self-declaration.
- Under the new Bill, gender identity will require medical certification.
- This is the most controversial provision of the Bill.

2. Narrower Definition of Transgender Person

The Bill narrows the definition of transgender persons. It mainly includes:

- Socio-cultural identities like hijra, kinner, aravani and jogta.
- Persons with specific biological or medical variations.

It excludes:

- Gender-fluid persons.
- Persons with self-perceived gender identity without medical proof.

3. Medical Certification Requirement

The Bill introduces a Medical Board system:

- A Medical Board headed by the Chief Medical Officer will examine the person.
- The Board will recommend identity certification.
- The District Magistrate will issue the identity certificate based on the recommendation.

Earlier, the identity certificate was issued through an administrative process without medical examination.

4. Name Change Provision

- The Bill allows transgender persons to change their first name in birth certificates and identity documents. However, this is allowed only if the person meets the new legal definition of a transgender person.

5. New Criminal Category for Forced Identity

The Bill introduces punishment for forcing someone to become transgender through:

- Hormonal therapy.
- Surgery.
- Emasculation.
- Coercion or allurement.

6. Increased Punishments

The Bill increases punishments for crimes against transgender persons:

Crime	Punishment
Kidnapping adult to force transgender identity	10 years to life imprisonment
Kidnapping child	Life imprisonment + fine
Forced begging/bonded labour (adult)	5-10 years
Forced begging/bonded labour (child)	10-14 years

Concerns Regarding the Bill

1. Against NALSA Judgment

- The NALSA judgment recognised the right to self-identification as a fundamental right.

Removing self-identification contradicts this judgment.

2. Clinical Gatekeeping

- The Bill requires approval from doctors and medical boards, which treats gender identity as a medical condition rather than personal identity.

3. Exclusion of Gender-Fluid Persons

- The new definition excludes gender-fluid and self-identified transgender persons.

4. Problems for Existing Transgender ID Holders

- More than 30,000 transgender identity cards have already been issued under the 2019 Act. It is unclear whether these persons will need to re-apply under the new law.

5. Possible Misuse of Forced Identity Law

- Some activists fear that families or communities supporting transgender persons may be wrongly accused under forced identity provisions.

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 – Key Provisions

The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 was enacted after the NALSA judgment.

Important Provisions

- Legal recognition of transgender persons.
- Right to self-identified gender.
- No medical examination required for identity certificate.
- Prohibits discrimination in:
 - Education.
 - Employment.
 - Healthcare.
 - Public services.

- Establishes the **National Council for Transgender Persons**.

- Punishment for abuse and forced labour.

Census Data

According to Census 2011:

- Transgender population in India ≈ 4.88 lakh.
- Highest population in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Steps Needed for Empowerment of Transgender Persons

1. Restore self-identification principle.
2. Provide healthcare services including gender reassignment surgery in government hospitals.
3. Include transgender healthcare in **Ayushman Bharat**.
4. Provide job reservations and livelihood opportunities.
5. Skill development and education support.
6. Awareness campaigns to reduce social stigma.
7. Mental health support and counselling services.

Conclusion

- The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 raises important issues regarding the balance between administrative regulation and the fundamental right to self-identification recognised by the Supreme Court. Future policy should focus on legal recognition, social inclusion, healthcare access and livelihood opportunities for transgender persons.

Sundarbans Erosion Study using Machine Learning (2026)

Context

- A new research study published in **npj Climate Action (March 2026)** analysed shoreline changes in the **Sundarbans** using machine learning models and satellite data from **1988–2023**.

Details

- The study was conducted by researchers from **Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur** to

understand coastal erosion and land accretion patterns in the Sundarbans delta.

- The research is important because the Sundarbans is one of the **most climate-vulnerable coastal regions in the world**, facing sea level rise, cyclones, erosion and land loss.

About Sundarbans

- World's largest mangrove forest.
- Located in **Ganga–Brahmaputra–Meghna delta**.

- Spread across **India and Bangladesh**.
- UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Very vulnerable to:
 - Sea level rise.
 - Cyclones.
 - Coastal erosion.
 - Sediment reduction.

Important Facts:

- Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve has **97 forested islands**.
- Area ≈ **2150 km²**.
- Coastline ≈ **2200 km**.

Land Loss in Sundarbans

Major Findings

- About **100 km²** land lost in last 30 years.
- **Southern islands** → erosion.
- **Western & northern areas** → accretion (land gain).
- Accretion is **not enough to compensate erosion**.

Net land loss is happening.

Machine Learning Used in Study

Researchers used:

- Random Forest model.
- Gradient Boosting model.
- Satellite imagery.
- 21,918 shoreline transects.

Purpose:

- Predict shoreline change.
- Identify erosion causes.
- Improve coastal prediction models.

Causes of Coastal Erosion

Regional Factors (Most Important)

1. Distance from sea.
2. Distance from sediment source.
3. Wave energy.
4. Tidal currents.
5. Sediment supply.

Local Factors (Less Important)

1. Beach slope.

2. Channel width.
3. Sediment grain size.

Regional factors control erosion more than local factors.

Linear vs Non-Linear Coastal Change

Very important concept from the study.

Process	Type
Erosion	Linear
Accretion	Non-linear

Meaning:

- Erosion happens gradually over time.
- Accretion happens irregularly and unpredictably.

Policy Suggestion:

- Use linear models for erosion prediction.
- Use machine learning models for accretion prediction.

This is one of the most important conclusions of the study.

Reasons for Sundarbans Erosion

1. Sea level rise.
2. Cyclones.
3. Reduced sediment from rivers.
4. Wave refraction.
5. Tidal currents.
6. Land subsidence.
7. Mangrove destruction.
8. Coastal development.

Suggested Solutions

- Mangrove plantation.
- Maintain tidal channels.
- Restrict construction in erosion zones.
- Managed retreat from vulnerable islands.
- Beach nourishment.
- Ecosystem-based coastal protection.
- Community-based adaptation.
- Improve sediment flow.

Important Policies Related to Sundarbans

Policy	Purpose
National Action Plan on Climate Change	Climate policy
State Action Plan on Climate Change	State climate action
Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)	Coastal protection

Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)	Coastal management
National Coastal Mission	Coastal climate adaptation

Conclusion

- Machine learning based shoreline studies show that the Sundarbans delta is experiencing net land loss due to sea level rise, cyclones and sediment reduction, highlighting the need for ecosystem-based coastal management and climate adaptation policies.

WEST BENGAL RELATED STATIC GK

Waterfalls in West Bengal

Waterfall	District	Location/Region
Changey Waterfall	Kalimpong	Near Lava, North Bengal
Ghagra Waterfall	Darjeeling	Darjeeling hills
Chunnu Waterfall	Jalpaiguri	Dooars region
Paglajhora Waterfall	Darjeeling	Near Kurseong
Turga Waterfall	Purulia	Ajodhya Hills
Rainbow Waterfall	Darjeeling	North Bengal hills

Largest & Important Waterfalls near West Bengal

Waterfall	State	Notes
Khandadhar Falls	Odisha	Highest waterfall near West Bengal
Hundru Falls	Jharkhand	One of the highest waterfalls in Eastern India
Dassam Falls	Jharkhand	On Kanchi River near Ranchi
Jonha Falls (Gautamdihara)	Jharkhand	Famous tourist waterfall
Tata Jharia Falls	Jharkhand	Scenic waterfall in forest region

One-Liner Facts

- Most waterfalls of West Bengal are located in **Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri and Purulia districts**.
- Waterfalls are most active during **Monsoon season**.
- Turga Waterfall** is located in **Ajodhya Hills (Purulia)**.
- Changey Waterfall** is considered one of the **largest waterfalls in West Bengal**.
- Highest waterfall near Kolkata → **Khandadhar Falls (Odisha)**.

Historical Monuments of West Bengal

Monument	Location (District)	Built By / Period	Key Features / Importance
Rasmancha	Bankura (Bishnupur)	Malla King Vir Hambir (c. 1600 CE)	Unique pyramidal brick temple; terracotta work; used for Ras festival
Cooch Behar Palace	Cooch Behar	Maharaja Nripendra	Modelled on Buckingham Palace;

(Victor Jubilee Palace)		Narayan (19th C)	classical Western architecture
Radhabinode Temple	Birbhum	Medieval period	Navaratna (9 towers); terracotta carvings; linked to poet Jaydev
Clive's House	Kolkata (Dum Dum)	British period	Associated with Robert Clive; oldest building; ASI protected
Jor Bangla Temple	Bankura	Malla period	Bengal hut-style (char-chala); terracotta architecture
Pandua Minar	Hooghly	1340 AD (Shah Sufiuddin)	Victory tower; medieval Islamic architecture
Lukochuri Gate	Malda	Mughal period (Shah Jahan era)	Mughal gateway near Gaur fort complex
Hazarduari Palace	Murshidabad	19th C (Duncan Macleod)	"1000 doors"; Nawabi architecture; museum
Baro Shona Masjid (Baraduari)	Malda	Sultanate period	"12 doors" (actually 11); largest monument in Gaur
Ichai Ghosh Temple	Paschim Bardhaman	Early medieval (7th C, attributed)	Linked to Ichai Ghosh; mentioned in <i>Dharmamangal</i>

Bengali Women Freedom Fighters

Name	Born-Died	Movement / Organisation	Important Contribution
Bina Das	1911-1986	Chhatri Sangha, Congress	Attempted assassination of Bengal Governor Stanley Jackson; imprisoned 9 years
Kamala Das Gupta	1907-2000	Jugantar Party, Congress	Helped revolutionaries by storing and transporting bombs
Labanya Prabha Ghosh	1897-2003	Lok Sevak Sangha	First woman MLA from Purulia; led protests against British
Kalpna Datta	1913-1995	Indian Republican Army (Chittagong)	Member of Surya Sen group; Chittagong uprising
Suhasini Ganguly	1909-1965	Communist Movement	Imprisoned in Hijli Detention Camp; helped Quit India activists
Sarojini Naidu	1879-1949	Congress	Women's rights leader; Civil Disobedience & freedom movement
Matangini Hazra	1870-1942	Civil Disobedience, Quit India	Shot dead while leading protest at Tamluk
Sucheta Kripalani	1908-1974	Quit India Movement	First woman Chief Minister of India (Uttar Pradesh)
Suniti Choudhury	1917-1988	Revolutionary movement	Assassinated British magistrate Stevens with Santi Ghose

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Book Name	Author	Key Highlights
Tides of Time: Bharat's History through Murals in Parliament	Sudha Murty	124 Parliament murals; India's history from Indus Valley to freedom struggle; art + history + democracy.
Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman	Not specified	Coffee table book on Vajpayee's leadership, Pokhran tests, Delhi Metro, democratic legacy.
History That India Ignored (2nd Edition)	Prem Prakash	Highlights INA, unsung heroes, revolutions, Vellore Mutiny, Battle of Imphal; challenges mainstream history.

Bengali Authors & Their Works

Author	Famous Work	Year	Key Points
Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain	Sultana's Dream	1905	Feminist utopian science fiction
Manik Bandyopadhyay	Padma Nadir Majhi	1936	Rural life & river economy
Manik Bandyopadhyay	Putul Nacher Itikatha	1936	Psychological realism
Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay	Srikanta	1917	Semi-autobiographical novel
Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay	Devdas	1917	Tragic love story
Rabindranath Tagore	Chokher Bali	1903	Social realism
Rabindranath Tagore	Gitanjali	1910	Nobel Prize (1913)
Jhumpa Lahiri	Interpreter of Maladies	1999	Pulitzer Prize winner
Sukumar Ray	Abol Tabol	1923	Nonsense rhymes
Ashapura Devi	Pratham Pratisruti	1964	Women empowerment theme
Rassundari Devi	Amar Jiban	1876	First autobiography by Indian woman
Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay	Pather Panchali	1929	Basis of Satyajit Ray film
Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay	Aranyak	1939	Forest life depiction
Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay	Chander Pahar	1937	Adventure novel
Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay	Anandamath	1882	Contains "Vande Mataram"
Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay	Devi Chaudhurani	1884	Nationalism theme
Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay	Durgeshnandini	1865	First Bengali novel
Michael Madhusudan Dutt	Meghnad Badh Kavya	1861	Epic based on Ramayana
Kazi Nazrul Islam	Agnibeena	1922	Rebel poet
Jibanananda Das	Banalata Sen	1942	Modern Bengali poetry
Satyajit Ray	Feluda Series	–	Famous detective stories
Sharadindu Bandyopadhyay	Byomkesh Bakshi Series	–	Detective fiction

APPOINTMENTS

Appointment	Details
Brand Ambassador, Census 2027	Sudarshan Pattnaik , internationally acclaimed sand artist from Odisha , appointed to promote participation in India's first digital census ; Padma Shri awardee 2014 ;

	Guinness World Record holder for largest sandcastle.
Ambassador to China	Vikram Doraiswami , 1992-batch IFS officer , appointed as India's ambassador to China to strengthen bilateral ties post-Galwan; former High Commissioner to UK ; multilingual and experienced diplomat .
Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting	Chanchal Kumar , 1992-batch IAS officer (Bihar cadre), appointed to oversee media, broadcasting and government communication ; holds B.Tech, M.Tech (IIT Kanpur) and Ph.D. in Economics (Patna University) .
Director General, DGCA	Vir Vikram Yadav appointed as DGCA chief to address aviation safety, regulatory challenges and operational disruptions ; replaced Faiz Ahmed Kidwai ; focus on strengthening aviation frameworks and staff .

AWARDS IN NEWS

Awardee / Recipient	Award	Organization / Event	Category / Achievement	Key Details
Sheetal Devi	Para Archer of the Year	World Archery	Para Archery	First female armless archer to win gold at World Para Archery Championships; also won silver (team) and bronze (mixed team); Paris Paralympics bronze; 2022 Asian Para Games silver; 2023 Asian Championships silver.
Nandamuri Balakrishna	Lifetime Achievement Award	International Film Festival of Delhi (IFFD)	Cinema	Celebrates 50-year contribution to Telugu cinema; honored at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi; also Padma Bhushan 2025.
Kalpana Soren	Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award	BRICS CCI WE Summit	Women Empowerment	Recognized for promoting women-led development, grassroots empowerment in Jharkhand; award presented in New Delhi.
Karnataka Grameena Bank	National Award for Outstanding Performance in SHG Bank Linkage	Union Ministry of Rural Development	Rural Banking / Financial Inclusion	Recognized for supporting SHGs and rural women; extended ₹2,835 crore credit to 80,904 SHGs; award presented at Hyderabad.
Rituparna Sengupta	Women Empowerment Award	GloWomenCiC (House of Commons, UK)	Art & Culture	Recognized for contribution to art and culture; presented on International Women's Day; ceremony at UK House of Commons.
Kaveh Madani	Stockholm Water Prize	Stockholm Water Week / King of Sweden	Water Science & Policy	Youngest laureate (44); recognized for "water bankruptcy" concept; linking

				water science with policy, diplomacy and sustainability; first UN official to win.
William Dalrymple	Mark Lynton History Prize	Nieman Foundation & Columbia University	Historical Writing	For book <i>The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World</i> ; USD 10,000 prize; highlights India's role in ancient global exchanges.
Dr. Partha Sarathi Mahanta	Best Director Award	New York Short Animation Festival (NYSAF)	Animation / Film	Directed <i>CHYIMI</i> , an Indian animated short; award highlights global recognition for Indian animation; Mahanta also serves as Assam IGP.
Vairamuthu	Jnanpith Award	Bharatiya Jnanpith	Literature / Tamil Poetry & Lyrics	Recognized for decades-long contributions to Tamil literature, poetry and thousands of film lyrics; India's highest literary honour; includes citation, cash prize and bronze statue of Saraswati.
<i>One Battle After Another</i> (Film)	Best Picture	Oscars	Film / Best Picture	Directed by Paul Thomas Anderson; produced by Adam Somner, Sara Murphy and Anderson; won six Oscars including Best Picture at 98th Academy Awards; political thriller exploring historical and personal themes.
Michael B. Jordan	Best Actor	Oscars	Film / Acting	For dual role in <i>Sinners</i> by Ryan Coogler; first Academy Award; historically significant as part of small group of Black actors winning Best Actor.
<i>Homebound</i> (Film)	Best International Feature Film (Shortlisted)	Oscars	Film / International Feature	Directed by Neeraj Ghaywan; only Indian film shortlisted at 98th Academy Awards; explores social and emotional storytelling; cast includes Ishaan Khatter, Janhvi Kapoor, Vishal Jethwa.
Amol Palekar	META Lifetime Achievement Award	Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META)	Theatre & Cinema	Honored for decades-long contribution to Indian theatre and cinema; introduced performances in unconventional venues; iconic "boy-next-door" actor in 1970s Hindi cinema;

				META jury includes Amal Allana, Anuradha Kapur, Rajit Kapur, Satish Alekar, Ila Arun.
Mangaluru International Airport	ASQ Best Arrivals Award	Airports Council International (ACI)	Airport / Passenger Experience	Won for excellence in arrivals experience based on real-time passenger feedback; second consecutive year; highlights immigration, baggage handling, cleanliness, comfort; managed by Adani Airport Holdings Ltd.
India (Multiple Innovators)	Zero Prize	School of Policy and Governance (SPG)	Environmental Innovation	India's first results-based environmental award; Rs 5 crore corpus, Rs 1 crore each for air, water and land pollution reduction; performance-based, independently verified; encourages measurable environmental outcomes aligned with national missions (NCAP, Clean Ganga, Swachh Bharat 2.0).

98th Academy Awards

The **98th Academy Awards**, held at the **Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles**, celebrated the **best films of 2025**, hosted by **Conan O'Brien**. The night was dominated by **One Battle After Another**, which won **six awards** including **Best Picture** and **Best Director**. **Michael B. Jordan** won **Best Actor** for his dual role in **Sinners**, which also secured **four Oscars**, while **Jessie Buckley** won **Best Actress** for **Hamnet**. **Sean Penn** won **Best Supporting Actor** for **One Battle After Another** and **Amy Madigan** won **Best Supporting Actress** for **Weapons**. **Ryan Coogler** won **Best Original Screenplay** for **Sinners** and **Paul Thomas Anderson** won **Best Adapted Screenplay** for **One Battle After Another**. Other major winners included **KPop Demon Hunters** (**Best Animated Feature**), **Sentimental Value** (**Best International Feature**), **Mr. Nobody Against Putin** (**Best Documentary Feature**), **Avatar: Fire and Ash** (**Best Visual Effects**), **F1** (**Best Sound**) and **Sinners** (**Best Original Score**). The ceremony marked several milestones, including **Autumn Durald Arkapaw** becoming the **first woman** to win **Best Cinematography** and the introduction of a new award for **Best Casting**. With **Sinners** receiving **16 nominations**, the event highlighted **diverse talent, technical excellence** and **global cinema recognition**.

All about Oscars

- The **Oscars**, officially known as the **Academy Awards**, are among the most **prestigious awards** in the **global film industry**. These awards honour **outstanding achievements in filmmaking**, including **acting, directing, writing and technical contributions** to cinema. The awards are presented every year by the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS)** in the **United States**.
- The **Oscars ceremony** is watched by **millions of viewers worldwide** and is considered one of the most important events in the **entertainment industry**.

What Are the Oscars?

- The **Oscars** are **annual awards** that recognize **excellence in motion pictures**. The awards are given in multiple categories such as **Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Director** and various **technical categories**.
- **Winners** receive a **gold-plated trophy** officially called the **Academy Award of Merit**, commonly known as the **Oscar statuette**. The awards celebrate the **best films and performances** released in the **previous year**.

History of the Oscars

- The **Academy Awards** were first introduced in **1929** to honor achievements in the **growing film industry**. The first ceremony took place on **May 16, 1929**, at the **Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel** in **Los Angeles**, where only **12 awards** were presented. Over time, the ceremony grew in **popularity** and became a **major global entertainment event**.

Important Milestones

- **1927**: The **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences** was established.
- **1929**: The first **Academy Awards ceremony** was held.
- **1930**: The event was broadcast on **radio**.
- **1953**: The ceremony was **televised** for the first time.

Today, the **Oscars** are one of the most **watched award ceremonies worldwide**.

Oscar Statuette

- The **Oscar statuette** is one of the most **recognizable trophies** in the world. The design shows a **knight holding a sword** standing on a **film reel**. This **golden statue** symbolizes **excellence and achievement in filmmaking**.

Categories in the Oscars

The **Oscars** include several **award categories** that recognize different aspects of **filmmaking**. Some of the **major categories** are:

- **Best Picture**
- **Best Director**
- **Best Actor in a Leading Role**
- **Best Actress in a Leading Role**
- **Best Supporting Actor**
- **Best Supporting Actress**
- **Best Original Screenplay**
- **Best Cinematography**
- **Best Film Editing**

In total, **awards** are presented in **more than 20 categories** each year.

How Oscar Winners Are Selected

The **winners** are chosen by **members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences**, which includes **thousands of professionals** from the **film industry** such as **actors, directors, producers and writers**.

The process includes two main steps:

- **Nomination Voting**: Academy members vote to select **nominees** in each category.
- **Final Voting**: Members vote again to determine the **winners**.

Significance of the Oscars

The **Oscars** hold **immense importance** in the **film industry** because:

- They recognize the **highest achievements in filmmaking**.
- Winning an **Oscar** can significantly boost a **film's popularity and box office performance**.
- The awards help promote **global cinema and creative storytelling**.

Because of their **prestige**, the **Oscars** are often considered the **highest honor** in the **film industry**.

BCCI Naman Awards 2026

- The BCCI Naman Awards 2026 celebrated India's cricket stars in New Delhi. Shubman Gill won the Polly Umrigar Award, Smriti Mandhana earned the women's honour, while Rahul Dravid, Roger Binny and Mithali Raj received Lifetime Achievement Awards.
- The BCCI Naman Awards 2026 recognized outstanding performances in international cricket, domestic tournaments and lifetime contributions to the game. Shubman Gill received the Polly Umrigar Award for Best International Cricketer (Men), while Smriti Mandhana won the award for the women's category. Legendary figures like Roger Binny, Rahul Dravid and Mithali Raj were honored with Lifetime Achievement Awards.
- The BCCI Naman Awards are one of the most prestigious recognitions in Indian cricket, presented annually by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to honor exceptional achievements and long-term contributions. The ceremony acknowledges players, administrators, umpires and emerging talents from international and domestic cricket.

Sahitya Akademi Award 2025

- The Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 winners were announced for 24 Indian languages. The awards include poetry, novels, essays, memoirs and short stories. Each winner will receive ₹1 lakh, a shawl and a copper plaque at the ceremony in New Delhi on 31 March 2026.
- The Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 was officially announced on 16 March 2026, recognizing outstanding literary works across 24 Indian languages. This prestigious literary honour is presented annually by the Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, celebrating excellence in literature. This year's awards include:
 - Poetry – 8 books
 - Novels – 4 books
 - Short story collections – 6 books
 - Essays – 2 books
 - Literary criticism – 1 book
 - Autobiography – 1 book
 - Memoirs – 2 books

Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 Selection Process

- The selection process began in January 2025, with the Sahitya Akademi inviting nominations for literary works in its recognized languages. Distinguished jury members evaluated the submitted works. Their recommendations were reviewed and

approved by the competent authority of Sahitya Akademi.

- This transparent selection system ensures that awards honor works based on merit, originality and contribution to Indian literature.

Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 Winners List – Genre Wise

Poetry:

- Shrestha Kabita (Bengali) – Prasun Bandyopadhyay
- Bhattkhadaki (Gujarati) – Yogesh Vaidya
- Padapurana (Odia) – Girijakumar Baliyar Singh
- Animesha (Telugu) – Nandini Sidha Reddy
- Safar Jaari Hai (Urdu) – Pritpal Singh Betab
- Prasthanacatustaye Brahmaghosah (Sanskrit) – Sadhu Bhadreshdas

Novels:

- Karhi Khelar Sadhu (Assamese) – Devabrat Das
- Dwngnwi Lama Mwnse Gathwn (Bodo) – Sahaisuli Brahma
- Crimson Spring (English) – Navtej Sarna
- Maayaamanushyar (Malayalam) – N. Prabhakaran

Short Story Collections:

- Dada Seerisu Tande (Kannada) – Amaresh Nugadoni
- Safety Kit (Punjabi) – Jinder

- Bharkhama (Rajasthani) – Jitender Kumar Soni
- Waghoo (Sindhi) – Bhagwan Atlani

Essays:

- Konkani Kavyem: Rupani Ani Rupakam (Konkani) – Henry Mendonca
- Nepali Paramparik Sanskriti Ra Sabhyata Ko Dukuti (Nepali) – Prakash Bhattarai

Literary Criticism:

- ThamizSirukathaiyinThadangal (Tamil) – Sa. Tamilselvan

Autobiography:

- Kalyanilya Resha (Marathi) – Raju Baviskar

Memoirs:

- Jeete Jee Allahabad (Hindi) – Mamta Kalia
- Dhatri Paat San Gaam (Maithili) – Mahendra

Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 Winners – Language Wise

Language	Title & Genre	Author
Assamese	KarhiKhelar Sadhu (Novel)	Devabrat Das
Bengali	Shrestha Kabita (Poetry)	Prasun Bandyopadhyay
Bodo	Dwngnwi Lama MwnseGathwn (Novel)	Sahaisuli Brahma
Dogri	Thakur Satsayie (Poetry, Couplets)	Khajur Singh Thakur
English	Crimson Spring (Novel)	Navtej Sarna
Gujarati	Bhattkhadaki (Poetry)	Yogesh Vaidya
Hindi	Jeete Jee Allahabad (Memoir)	Mamta Kalia
Kannada	Dada Seerisu Tande (Short Stories)	Amaresh Nugadoni
Kashmiri	Najdavanek'y Pot Aalav (Poetry)	Ali Shaida
Konkani	Konkani Kavyem: Rupani Ani Rupakam (Essays)	Henry Mendonca
Maithili	Dhatri Paat San Gaam (Memoir)	Mahendra
Malayalam	Maayaamanushyar (Novel)	N. Prabhakaran
Manipuri	KanglamdribaEephut (Short Stories)	Haobam Nalini
Marathi	Kalyanilya Resha (Autobiography)	Raju Baviskar
Nepali	Nepali Paramparik Sanskriti Ra Sabhyata Ko Dukuti (Essays)	Prakash Bhattarai
Odia	Padapurana (Poetry)	GirjakumarBaliyar Singh
Punjabi	Safety Kit (Stories)	Jinder
Rajasthani	Bharkhama (Stories)	Jitender Kumar Soni
Sanskrit	PrasthanacatustayeBrahmaghosah (Poetry)	Sadhu Bhadreshdas
Santali	Mid Birna ChenneSaonInag Sagai (Short Stories)	Sumitra Soren
Sindhi	Waghoo (Stories)	Bhagwan Atlani
Tamil	ThamizSirukathaiyinThadangal (Literary Criticism)	Sa. Tamilselvan
Telugu	Animesha (Poetry)	Nandini Sidha Reddy
Urdu	Safar Jaari Hai (Poetry)	Pritpal Singh Betab

Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 Ceremony

The official ceremony will take place on **31 March 2026** in **New Delhi**. Each winner will receive:

- ₹1,00,000 cash prize
- Ceremonial shawl
- Engraved copper plaque

About Sahitya Akademi

- The Sahitya Akademi is India's national academy, established in 1954, dedicated to promoting literature in multiple Indian languages. It supports literary creativity, translation, publishing and cultural exchange.
- The Sahitya Akademi Award is one of the most prestigious literary honours in India, recognizing outstanding books in 24 officially recognized languages.

SPORTS

Inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 Concludes: Karnataka Emerges Victorious

- The first edition of the Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) 2026 concluded on April 4th, with Karnataka dominating the medal tally by winning 23 gold, 8 silver and 7 bronze medals, showcasing a balanced performance across swimming, athletics and wrestling. Odisha secured second place with 21 golds, Jharkhand third with 16, while host Chhattisgarh finished ninth.

India Surpasses Kenya and Russia in Track & Field Doping Cases

- India has emerged as the country with the highest number of track and field athlete doping suspensions, with 148 athletes banned, surpassing Kenya and Russia, according to the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) April 2026 data. Prominent athletes such as Dutee Chand, Parvej Khan and Dhanalakshmi Sekar are among those suspended for doping, tampering, or evading tests. The report highlights the scale of the problem, with WADA 2024 data showing India's 3.6% positivity rate and over 7,100 samples tested, prompting reforms in training systems, monitoring and awareness by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

Olympics Transgender Ban 2028: IOC Rules, SRY Gene Test Explained

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that transgender women and DSD

athletes will no longer be eligible to compete in female categories at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, introducing a one-time SRY gene screening to ensure fairness. The SRY gene, found on the Y chromosome, indicates male biological development, giving potential performance advantages in strength and endurance sports. The decision follows debates from Paris 2024 Olympics and aims to safeguard competitive fairness, though critics argue it limits inclusivity.

India Wins Two Bronze Medals at Asia Cup Archery Stage 1

- At the Asia Cup World Ranking Tournament Stage 1, India secured two bronze medals in team events while also reaching multiple finals. The women's recurve team defeated Malaysia 5-1 and the men's compound team recovered from a semifinal loss to beat Bhutan 234-232. Individual athletes in the compound category, including Abhishek Jawkar and Uday Kamboj, progressed to finals with assured medals, while the top-seeded men's recurve and women's compound teams now target gold against Kazakhstan in upcoming finals.

India's First Indoor Athletics Championships Kickoff at Kalinga Stadium

- India hosted its inaugural National Indoor Athletics Championships 2026 at Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Indoor Stadium, featuring over 278 athletes competing in 11 track and field events for men, women and U-20 categories. The 200m banked synthetic

track offers a **controlled environment** with no impact from **weather**, highlighting events like **60m sprints, 60m hurdles and pole vault**. Serving as preparation for the **2028 World Indoor Athletics Championships**, the event aims to strengthen **India's international sports presence**, showcase talent from states like **Odisha, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh** and boost **sports infrastructure and tourism**.

India Open 2026

- **Anahat Singh Wins** – Anahat Singh won her second consecutive **JSW India Open** title, defeating **Hana Moataz 3-1** on **March 22, 2026**. Her **dominant performance, tactical skill and mental toughness** highlight India's growing presence in **squash** and her potential for **world top 10 rankings**.

Khelo India Tribal Games 2026

- Held from **March 25–April 3** in **Raipur, Jagdalpur and Surguja**, the games featured **6,000+ participants**. It promotes **tribal sports, culture and youth talent**, including **archery, athletics, mallakhamb, kabaddi** and preserves **indigenous traditions** while boosting **national recognition** of tribal athletes.

LeBron James NBA Record

- **LeBron James** played his **1,612th NBA game** for the **Lakers**, surpassing **Robert Parish**. At **41**, he demonstrated **longevity, consistency and elite performance**, setting a new benchmark in **basketball history** over **23 seasons**.

FIFA World Cup 2026 & WADA

- **WADA** postponed the decision on a **ban of government officials**, including **Donald Trump**, until after **FIFA World Cup 2026**. This ensures **tournament participation**, highlights **sports governance challenges** and addresses **US-WADA funding disputes**.

World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028

- **India** will host the **World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028** in **Odisha** at **Kalinga Stadium**, marking a **historic first**. The event will boost **sports infrastructure, athletics development and global recognition** of India in **track and field**.

National Para Athletics Championship 2026

- Held at **Kalinga Stadium**, **1,460 para-athletes** from **28 states** participated in **145 events**. The championship is a **selection platform** for **Asian Para Games 2026**, showcasing **India's para-sports talent** and promoting **inclusivity**.

India at World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026

- **India** dominated with **208 medals (75 gold)** at **New Delhi**, showing **depth of para-athlete talent, global competitiveness** and consistent **excellence in track and field events**.

India Women's Hockey World Cup 2026

- **India's women's hockey team** qualified early for the **World Cup 2026** after a **4-1 win over Wales** in **Hyderabad** qualifiers. Key performers like **Navneet Kaur** scored a **hat-trick**, reflecting **strong attack, defense and international readiness**.

Shailesh Kumar Gold Medal 2026

- **Shailesh Kumar** won men's **T63 high jump gold** at the **World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026** in **New Delhi** with **1.84m**, recovering from **injury and targeting Asian Para Games 2026**.

ICC Women's ODI Rankings 2026

- **Smriti Mandhana** retains **No.1** in **ODI batting rankings**, demonstrating **consistency and stroke play**. **Harmanpreet Kaur** stays **8th**, while **Jemimah Rodrigues** drops to **12th** after

India's 0-3 loss to Australia. New Zealand players excel: Amelia Kerr climbs to 11th (bowlers) and 5th (all-rounders); Brooke Halliday rises to 11th with 157 runs; Maddy Green joint 22nd.

Women's T20I Rankings

- Hasini Perera jumps 15 places to 28th, Imesha Dulani rises 17 places, Kavisha Dilhari moves up 3 spots (bowling) & 2 spots (all-rounder), Afy Fletcher climbs 4 spots (bowling).

World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026, New Delhi

- Held March 11-13, featuring 257 athletes from 8 countries. India fields 219 athletes, including stars Mariyappan Thangavelu, Sumit Antil, Praveen Kumar. Event offers 74 international classification slots for fair competition. India dominated 2025 edition, winning 134 medals (45G, 40S, 49B).

T20 World Cup 2026

- India beats New Zealand at Ahmedabad to become first team to defend T20 World Cup title and win three times (2007, 2024, 2026). BCCI announces ₹131 crore reward. Sanju Samson: Player of the Tournament (321 runs); Jasprit Bumrah: Player of the Match (4/15). India sets highest T20 WC final score (255/5).

F1 Australian Grand Prix 2026

- George Russell (Mercedes) wins, Kimi Antonelli 2nd, Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) 3rd. Race featured multiple lead changes, strategic pit-stops and new F1 2026 technical regulations with 50:50 ICE & electric power. Max Verstappen recovers to 6th; Arvid Lindblad impresses debut with 8th.

All England Open 2026

- Lakshya Sen runner-up in men's singles, losing to Lin Chun-Yi (Taiwan) 15-21, 20-22. Marks 5th consecutive loss to Lin; India still awaits a new All England champion since Padukone (1980) and Gopichand (2001).

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date & Occasion	Theme / Significance
National Safety Day 2026 (March 4):	National Safety Day is observed to promote workplace safety, occupational health and accident prevention in India. The 2026 theme, "Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety," encourages active participation, awareness and empowerment across industries.
International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness 2026 (March 5):	This day raises global awareness on arms control, nuclear disarmament and security under UN Resolution A/RES/77/51. It emphasizes educating youth and the public to prevent conflict, reduce weapons proliferation and promote peace.
CISF Raising Day 2026 (March 10):	CISF Raising Day commemorates the establishment of the Central Industrial Security Force in 1969 and honors its personnel for protecting India's critical infrastructure. The observance highlights the force's evolution, discipline and national security contributions.
Pi Day 2026 (March 14):	Pi Day celebrates the mathematical constant π (3.14) and its significance in mathematics, science and engineering. First observed in 1988, it includes educational activities, recitations and pie-themed events to make learning fun and engaging.

National Vaccination Day – 16 March 2026	Observed to promote vaccination and public health, marking the launch of the Pulse Polio Programme in 1995. India achieved polio-free status in 2014. Key vaccines include Polio, Rotavirus, Measles-Rubella, Pneumococcal, Td and COVID-19 vaccines like COVAXIN and COVISHIELD.
World Social Work Day – 17 March 2026	Recognizes social workers' role in promoting social justice and inclusion. The 2026 theme Co-Building Hope and Harmony highlights collective responsibility (Harambee) to unite divided societies.
Ordnance Factory Day – 18 March 2026	Celebrates India's defense manufacturing heritage, beginning with Cossipore factory in 1802. India has 41 factories producing arms, ammunition, tanks and military equipment. Celebrations include parades, exhibitions and awards.
International Day of Happiness – 20 March 2026	Promotes well-being and sustainable growth. Happiness is seen as a global development goal. The 2026 focus is on well-being in the digital age, guided by the World Happiness Report. Bhutan's Gross National Happiness inspired global adoption.
World Poetry Day – 21 March 2026	Honors poets and poetry as a cultural and creative medium. Established by UNESCO in 1999, the day promotes reading, writing, linguistic diversity and cultural exchange.
International Nowruz Day – 21 March 2026	Marks the Persian New Year and spring, symbolizing renewal and harmony. Celebrated with Haft Sin, spring cleaning and cultural events. Recognized by UNESCO (2009) and UN (2010).
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – 21 March 2026	Observed to promote equality and fight racism, commemorating the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre in South Africa where 69 peaceful protesters were killed opposing apartheid. Established by the United Nations, the day emphasizes global action against racial discrimination. Key frameworks include the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD, 1965) and the Durban Declaration (2001), promoting legal reforms, equality and awareness.
World Water Day – 22 March 2026	Raises awareness on freshwater, water conservation and sustainable access to safe drinking water. The 2026 theme is Water and Gender, highlighting women's role in water management and the impact of water scarcity on education and livelihoods. It emphasizes inclusive solutions, policy participation and resilient water systems in the face of climate change, aligned with SDG 6.
Shaheed Diwas – 23 March 2026	Honours Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev, executed in 1931 for their role in India's freedom struggle. Observed to remember their courage, patriotism and sacrifice. The day inspires reflection on justice, bravery and youth activism, with commemorations including two-minute silences, floral tributes and educational events.
World Meteorological Day – 23 March 2026	Celebrates weather, climate science and the work of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The 2026 theme Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow emphasizes the use of accurate weather data for disaster preparedness, climate monitoring and sustainable planning.
World TB Day – 24 March 2026	Raises awareness about tuberculosis and urges global action to eliminate the disease. The 2026 theme Yes! We Can End TB: Led by Countries, Powered by People stresses leadership, community participation, early detection, prevention and innovation. TB remains a major global health challenge, with 10.7 million cases and 1.23 million deaths reported in 2024. BCG vaccination,

Earth Hour 2026 – 28 March	hygiene and timely treatment are key preventive measures. Observed 8:30–9:30 pm globally, Earth Hour marks 20 years of WWF's (World Wide Fund for Nature) climate movement. Started in Sydney in 2007 as a "lights-off" event, it now spans 190+ countries promoting climate action, biodiversity and sustainable living. In India, WWF leads since 2009 with 58 cities participating through clean-ups, nature walks, wetland conservation and awareness programs. The campaign links lifestyle choices to health, addressing obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular issues, mental health and sleep disruption from artificial light.
Utkal Divas 2026 – 1 April	Marks Odisha's formation in 1936 as India's first linguistic state, uniting Odia-speaking regions. Led by Madhusudan Das and Gopabandhu Das to protect Odia language and culture. Historically, Odisha was Kalinga, later fragmented under Mughals, Marathas and British. The formation followed decades of struggle and the creation of Utkal Sammilani (1903). Utkal Divas celebrates linguistic pride, cultural unity and Odisha's development with Odissi dance, music, parades, speeches, school and college events honoring leaders and heritage.

STATIC GK

UN/International Decades and Years

Period / Year	Name / Theme
2010–2020	UN Decade for Fight Against Desertification
2011–2020	UN Decade on Biodiversity
2011–2020	UN Decade of Action for Road Safety
2013–2022	UNESCO International Decade for Rapprochement of Cultures
2014–2024	UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All
2015–2024	International Decade for People of African Descent
2016–2025	United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition
2018–2028	International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development"
2019–2028	United Nations Decade of Family Farming
2019–2028	Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace
2020–2030	International Decade of Healthy Ageing
2020–2030	Decade of Action for Achieving 2030 Sustainable Development Goals
2021–2030	International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
2021–2030	United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
2022–2032	International Decade of Indigenous Languages
2016	International Year of Pulses
2019	International Year of Indigenous Languages
2020	International Year of Plant Health
2020	Year of Tourism and Rural Development (by UNWTO)
2021	UN International Year of Fruits and Vegetables
2021	International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour

2021	International Year of Peace and Trust
2021	International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development
2021	SCO Year of Culture
2022	International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
2023	International Year of Millets
2024	International Year of the Family
2024	International Year of Camelids
2024-2033	International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development
2025	International Year of Cooperatives
2026	International Year of the Woman Farmer

Important Revolutions in India

Name of the Revolution	Field of the Revolution	Father of the Revolution	Period of the Revolution
Green Revolution	Agriculture	M.S. Swaminathan	1966-1967
White Revolution / Operation Flood	Milk / Dairy products	Dr. Varghese Kurien	1970-1996
Blue Revolution	Fish and Aqua	Dr. Arun Krishnan & Dr. Harilal Chaudhari	1973-2002
Golden Revolution	Fruits, Honey, Horticulture	Nirpakh Tutaj	1991-2003
Silver Revolution	Eggs	Indira Gandhi	2000s
Yellow Revolution	Oil Seeds	Sam Pitroda	1986-1990
Pink Revolution	Pharmaceuticals, Prawns, Onion	Durgesh Patel	1970s
Brown Revolution	Leather, Coco	Hiralal Chaudri	-
Red Revolution	Meat, Tomato	Vishal Tewari	1980s
Golden Fibre Revolution	Jute	-	1990s
Evergreen Revolution	Overall Production of Agriculture	M.S. Swaminathan	2017-2022
Black Revolution	Petroleum	-	-
Silver Fiber Revolution	Cotton	-	2000s
Round Revolution	Potato	-	1965-2005
Protein Revolution	Agriculture (Higher Production)	-	2014-2020
Grey Revolution	Fertilizers	-	1960s-1970s

Riverside cities in India, state-wise

State	City	River	State	City	River
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Krishna	Maharashtra	Karad	Krishna, Koyna
Andhra Pradesh	Rajahmundry	Godavari	Maharashtra	Golegaon	Godavari
Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	Krishna	Odisha	Sambalpur	Mahanadi

Andhra Pradesh	Nellore	Pennar	Odisha	Rourkela	Brahmani
Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool	Tungabhadra	Odisha	Rairangpur	Khadkhai
Assam	Dibrugarh	Brahmaputra	Odisha	Banki	Mahanadi
Bihar	Munger	Ganges	Odisha	Cuttack	Mahanadi
Bihar	Jamalpur	Ganges	Odisha	Brahmapur	Rushikulya
Bihar	Purnia	Koshi	Odisha	Chhatrapur	Rushikulya
Bihar	Bhagalpur	Ganges	Punjab	Ferozpur	Sutlej
Bihar	Patna	Ganges	Rajasthan	Kota	Chambal
Bihar	Gaya	Falgu	Sikkim	Rangpo	Teesta
Bihar	Hajipur	Ganges	Tamil Nadu	Madurai	Vaigai
Delhi	New Delhi	Yamuna	Tamil Nadu	Thiruchirapalli	Kaveri
Gujarat	Bharuch	Narmada	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Cooum, Adyar
Gujarat	Navsari	Purna	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	Noyyal
Gujarat	Surat	Tapi	Tamil Nadu	Erode	Kaveri
Gujarat	Vadodara	Vishwamitri	Tamil Nadu	Tirunelveli	Thamirabarani
Gujarat	Deesa	Banas	Tamil Nadu	Kanchipuram	Vegavathi, Palar
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Sabarmati	Tamil Nadu	Thanjavur	Vennaaru, Vadavaaru
Gujarat	Modasa	Mazum	Telangana	Nizamabad	Godavari
Gujarat	Rajkot	Aji	Telangana	Hyderabad	Musi
Gujarat	Patan	Saraswati	Telangana	Karimnagar	Maner
Gujarat	Morbi	Machchu	Telangana	Ramagundam	Godavari
Gujarat	Himmatnagar	Hathmati	Uttar Pradesh	Fatehgarh	Ganges
Gujarat	Valsad	Auranga	Uttar Pradesh	Kannauj	Ganges
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu	Tawi	Uttar Pradesh	Gorakhpur	Rapti
Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar	Jhelum	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Gomti
Karnataka	Mangalore	Netravati, Gurupura	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur Cantonment	Ganges
Karnataka	Shimoga	Tunga River	Uttar Pradesh	Shuklaganj	Ganges
Karnataka	Bhadravathi	Bhadra	Uttar Pradesh	Chakeri	Ganges
Karnataka	Hospet	Tungabhadra	Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi	Ganges
Karnataka	Karwar	Kali	Uttar Pradesh	Mathura	Yamuna
Karnataka	Bagalkot	Ghataprabha	Uttar Pradesh	Mirzapur	Ganges
Karnataka	Honnavar	Sharavathi	Uttar Pradesh	Auraiya	Yamuna
Karnataka	Bangalore	Vrishabhavathi	Uttar Pradesh	Etawah	Yamuna
Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	Narmada	Uttar Pradesh	Farrukhabad	Ganges
Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior	Chambal	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	Yamuna
Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain	Shipra	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad	Ganga
Madhya Pradesh	Ashta	Parwati	Uttar Pradesh	Ayodhya	Sarayu
Maharashtra	Pune	Mula, Mutha	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur	Ganges
Maharashtra	Gangakhed	Godavari	Uttar Pradesh	Jaunpur	Gomti
Maharashtra	Karjat	Ulhas	Uttar Pradesh	Budaun	Sot
Maharashtra	Nashik	Godavari	Uttarakhand	Haridwar	Ganges

Maharashtra	Mahad	Savitri	Uttarakhand	Badrinath	Alaknanda
Maharashtra	Nanded	Godavari	West Bengal	Baranagar	Ganges
Maharashtra	Kolhapur	Panchaganga	West Bengal	Kolkata	Hooghly
Maharashtra	Malegaon	Girna River	West Bengal	Murshidabad	Hooghly
Maharashtra	Sangli	Krishna			

CURRENT AFFAIRS GK

- Energy Statistics India 2026:** The National Statistics Office's Energy Statistics India 2026 highlights India's total primary energy supply at 9,32,816 KTOE and renewable energy potential of 47,04,043 MW, mainly solar concentrated in six states. Coal remains dominant, per-capita consumption is rising and T&D losses reduced to 17%, while credit flow to the sector increased sixfold. Challenges include geographic concentration, heavy coal dependence and growing energy demand, necessitating decentralization, smart grids and energy diversification.
- Exercise Dweep Shakti:** Dweep Shakti is a tri-service military exercise in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands testing rapid deployment, amphibious assaults and maritime dominance using next-gen drones and electronic warfare. It demonstrates India's readiness to defend island territories and reinforces multi-domain interoperability across Army, Navy and Air Force.
- Solid Waste Management Rules 2026:** The SWM Rules 2026 replace the 2016 framework to achieve zero waste to landfill with mandatory four-stream segregation, on-site processing for large generators, digital monitoring and promotion of refuse-derived fuel. These rules emphasize circular economy, polluter-pays principle and stricter management of landfills and legacy waste.
- Global Action Plan for Steppe Eagle:** Adopted at CMS COP15, the Steppe Eagle Global Action Plan (2026–2035) aims to halt population decline through six strategic goals covering energy infrastructure, trade control, poisoning prevention, habitat restoration, research and stakeholder engagement. In India, key sites include the Thar Desert, Jorbeer and Desert National Park.
- Bab el-Mandab Strait:** The Bab el-Mandab Strait, or Gate of Tears, is a strategic maritime chokepoint between Yemen and the Horn of Africa, vital for 10–12% of global oil and gas shipments. Missile threats from Houthi rebels heighten its vulnerability and blockage would force ships around the Cape of Good Hope, adding up to 20 days to the journey.
- Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO):** SKO is a highly refined, low-sulphur kerosene distributed under the PDS to provide affordable, clean-burning fuel for rural households. Its high smoke point and safety features distinguish it from regular kerosene, supporting domestic cooking, lighting and certain industrial applications.
- Agray - Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft:** Agray is the fourth of eight indigenously built ASW shallow water craft delivered to the Indian Navy by GRSE, Kolkata. It uses waterjet propulsion, the largest Indian warship to do so and is equipped with lightweight torpedoes, indigenous rocket launchers and advanced shallow water SONAR. Its induction

strengthens India's anti-submarine, mine-warfare and coastal surveillance capabilities.

- **20 Cities Towards Zero Waste Initiative:** Varkala has been included in the UN's inaugural 20 Cities Towards Zero Waste initiative led by UN-Habitat and UNEP. The initiative recognizes cities adopting innovative approaches to reduce waste, promote circular economy and build sustainable urban systems. It encourages knowledge exchange and inspires other cities to accelerate zero-waste transitions.
- **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS):** At COP15 of CMS, forty new species were added to the protected list, strengthening global conservation efforts. CMS, also known as the Bonn Convention, was signed in 1979 and provides a platform for the conservation of migratory species and their habitats. Parties implement conservation measures through legally binding treaties or agreements and MoUs.
- **PM E-Drive Scheme:** The PM E-Drive Scheme aims to accelerate electric vehicle adoption, offering subsidies for e-2W, e-3W, e-ambulances and e-trucks, extended till 2026-28. Launched in October 2024, it also promotes charging infrastructure, e-buses and state-level incentives. The scheme is monitored by the PISC to ensure effective rollout and progress.
- **Kariba Dam:** Kariba Dam is a concrete arch dam across the Zambezi River on the Zambia-Zimbabwe border, completed in 1959, creating Lake Kariba, the world's largest human-made lake by volume. It provides hydroelectric power to both countries and supports regional energy needs. A 500 MW floating solar plant is being planned to enhance renewable energy generation.
- **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT):** NCLAT is a quasi-judicial body

established under the Companies Act, 2013 to hear appeals against NCLT decisions. It regulates its own procedure, has civil court powers and ensures timely corporate dispute resolution. NCLAT handles appeals related to insolvency, competition, financial reporting and gives advisory opinions on referred legal issues.

- **Shyamji Krishna Varma:** Shyamji Krishna Varma (1857-?) was an Indian freedom fighter, lawyer and journalist from Gujarat, who founded the Indian Home Rule Society. He established India House in London and published *The Indian Sociologist* to promote nationalist ideas. His work inspired Indian students and nationalists abroad to support the freedom struggle.
- **Balirajgarh Site:** Balirajgarh, in Madhubani, Bihar, is an archaeological site of national importance believed to be the ancient capital of King Bali. Excavations revealed antiquities from five cultural periods: Northern Black Soil, Sunga, Kushan, Gupta and Pala. ASI regulates its protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- **Waste Foundry Sand:** Waste foundry sand (WFS) is a by-product of ferrous and nonferrous metal casting, classified as clay-bonded or chemically bonded sand. It poses environmental challenges due to large-scale generation, but can be reused in road construction to promote sustainability. The IIF and CSIR-CRRI are collaborating to develop solutions for its effective utilisation.
- **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA):** The CCPA, established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, protects and enforces consumer rights and prevents unfair trade practices. It is headed by a Chief Commissioner and has commissioners handling goods and services complaints. The authority can initiate class-action suits, recall

products, impose penalties and ensure consumer welfare.

- **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA):**The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)**, headquartered in Chennai, was established under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002** and formally set up in 2003. It advises the government on biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and equitable benefit-sharing. NBA comprises a Chairperson, 10 ex-officio members and 5 non-official members and functions with **State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs)** and **Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)** at local levels. Recently, NBA launched a short-term internship programme for graduate and postgraduate students.
- **Helium: Helium (He)** is an inert gas, the second lightest element, discovered in 1868. It has a very low boiling point (-268.9°C) and cannot be solidified at normal pressure. Major reserves are in the USA, Algeria and Russia, with India's **Rajmahal Volcanic Basin** holding significant helium. It is used in pressurizing fuel tanks and cooling rocket systems. India's semiconductor and PCB industries may face supply disruptions after Iran's attack on Qatar's Ras Laffan LNG hub.
- **Assam Rifles:** The **Assam Rifles**, under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, is India's oldest paramilitary force, originating in 1835 as the Cachar Levy. It played roles in colonial frontier expeditions, combat in wars such as 1962 Sino-India War and peacekeeping (IPKF in Sri Lanka). Headquartered in Shillong, it conducts counterinsurgency operations in northeastern India. Its motto is "*Service, Security, Friendship.*"
- **Beaver: Beavers** (*genus Castor*) are semi-aquatic rodents native to North America, Europe and Asia. Known as "ecosystem engineers," they build dams from mud, stones and branches, which help in flood control and carbon storage. They have continuously
- growing orange incisors and live 10–12 years. A recent study highlighted their role in reducing CO₂ release from riverbeds.
- **Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) Initiative:** The **DEH Initiative**, launched in 2019 by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, promotes district-level products for domestic and international markets to boost regional development. **State and District Export Promotion Committees** identify export potential in 734 districts and prepare **District Export Action Plans (DEAPs)** to address bottlenecks and support local manufacturers.
- **RoDTEP Scheme:** The **RoDTEP (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products) Scheme**, effective from January 2021, reimburses embedded taxes and duties on exports that are otherwise non-creditable, replacing the MEIS scheme. It covers all sectors, prioritizes labor-intensive industries and is applicable to SEZs, EOUs and e-commerce exports, but excludes re-exports. Benefits are provided as transferable duty credit/e-scrip.
- **Tonga: Tonga** is a Polynesian archipelago of 169 islands in the South Pacific, with capital **Nuku'alofa**. Its western islands are volcanic, while the eastern islands are coral-based. Recently, Tonga experienced a magnitude 7.6 earthquake. It is a member of the Commonwealth Clean Ocean Alliance and Marine Protected Areas Action Groups.
- **Great Salt Lake:** The **Great Salt Lake** in northern Utah, USA, is the largest saltwater lake in the Western Hemisphere with no outlet. Fed by the Bear, Weber and Jordan rivers, it experiences high salinity due to evaporation. Recent studies show freshwater saturating rocks up to 13,000 feet deep. The lake hosts several bird species like American avocet, Wilson's phalarope and California gull.

- **Sperm Whale:** The **sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*)** is the largest toothed whale, notable for its square head containing spermaceti oil, which aids echolocation. Distributed across all deep oceans, they feed primarily on squid and can live up to 60 years. Social animals, they communicate using codas and are classified as Vulnerable (IUCN) and on CITES Appendix I.
- **GlobE Network:** The **GlobE Network** (Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities) is a global platform of 135 countries and 250 authorities established under the Riyadh Initiative (G20 Saudi Arabia) and operates under UNCAC. India, through CBI and ED, participates in it. The network facilitates direct agency-level cooperation to investigate, prosecute and recover proceeds of corruption, supported by UNODC.
- **Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP):** The **MSE-CDP**, a central sector scheme under the Ministry of MSME, enhances productivity and competitiveness of Micro and Small Enterprises using a cluster-based approach. It supports **Common Facility Centers (CFCs)**, infrastructure development, skill-building, market access and adoption of green technologies to ensure sustainable growth and collaborative capacity building among MSEs.
- **Aghanashini River:** The **Aghanashini River**, originating from Gadihalli (Sirsi) in the Western Ghats, Karnataka, flows 117 km into the Arabian Sea. One of the few free-flowing rivers in the world, it has a 1,449 sq.km catchment, supports diverse flora and fauna and its estuary is a **Ramsar Site**. UNESCO has advised compliance with World Heritage norms for the proposed Aghanashini-Vedavathi river linking project.
- **Panama Canal:** The **Panama Canal**, a 40-mile man-made waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, uses a lock system to raise and lower vessels due to differing ocean elevations. Completed in 1914 by the US, it was fully transferred to Panama in 1999. Recently, increased LNG traffic due to the Iran war has pushed it to operate at full capacity, highlighting its strategic importance in global maritime trade.
- **Titanium:** **Titanium (Ti, atomic number 22)** is the fourth most abundant metal in the Earth's crust, highly corrosion-resistant, lightweight and strong. Extracted via the **Kroll process**, it occurs mainly in ilmenite and rutile ores. Used in aerospace, ships, prosthetics and as an alloying element, titanium is also studied in lunar rocks for planetary science research.
- **GARBH-INI Initiative:** The **GARBH-INI Initiative** is India's largest pregnancy cohort study, enrolling 12,000 women to develop AI-driven solutions for preterm birth. Led by the **Department of Biotechnology** through THSTI, it aims to understand adverse pregnancy outcomes, including fetal growth restriction and provide predictive tools to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity.
- **Smog-Eating Photocatalytic Coating:** The Delhi government and IIT Madras are studying road coatings that neutralize harmful gases like nitrogen dioxide and volatile hydrocarbons. The coating uses titanium dioxide and photocatalytic activity to reduce air pollution and clean the environment.
- **Kolleru Lake:** Environmentalists report a decline in the ecological health of Kolleru Lake over 50 years. Located in Andhra Pradesh and fed by Krishna and Godavari rivers, it serves as a flood-balancing reservoir, a wildlife sanctuary and a Ramsar wetland, supporting over 20 million migratory birds and sustaining local livelihoods.

- **Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary:** Assam is creating a new Reserved Forest near Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary in Sonitpur district. Part of the Laokhowa-Burachapori ecosystem, it hosts Bengal florican, one-horned rhinoceros, tigers, wild buffalo and wetland birds, with diverse grasslands and forests.
- **Subarnarekha River:** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has instructed action against illegal sand mining in the Subarnarekha River. Originating near Nagri village, Ranchi in Jharkhand, it flows through Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal for 395 km. Its main tributaries are the Kanchi, Karkari and Kharkai rivers.
- **Diego Garcia:** Iran recently fired ballistic missiles toward the U.S.-U.K. military base on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. Diego Garcia, a coral atoll in the Chagos Archipelago, is part of the British Indian Ocean Territory and leased to the U.S. since 1966 as a strategic air and naval base. Its original inhabitants were forcibly removed and a 2019 UN General Assembly vote called for its return to Mauritius.
- **Caspian Sea:** Israeli strikes targeted Iranian naval vessels in the Caspian Sea. The Caspian, the world's largest landlocked water body, is bordered by Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran. It is an endorheic basin with freshwater in the north and saltier water in the south. Major rivers such as the Volga, Ural and Terek drain into it and its coastlines are rich in oil and gas reserves. Key cities include Baku and Nowshahr and important islands are Chechen, Tyuleny, Morskoy, Kulaly, Zhiloy and Ogurchin.
- **Prosopis Juliflora:** The Madras High Court issued 34 directions for eradicating Prosopis juliflora, an invasive shrub native to South America, from Tamil Nadu. Introduced by the British in the 1920s, it is highly adaptive, grows in arid and semi-arid soils, absorbs large quantities of water, reduces oxygen, increases carbon dioxide, poisons groundwater and leads to land erosion, outcompeting native flora.
- **Lipulekh Pass:** Cross-border trade between India and China via Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand is set to resume in June. Located near the trijunction of India, Nepal and China at 5,334 meters, it links Uttarakhand to Tibet and serves as a historic trade route. Opened in 1992 for trade, it is also a key corridor for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, facilitating religious pilgrimage and supporting local Bhotia communities.
- **Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary:** The National Board for Wildlife approved Assam's proposal to rationalize Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary boundaries. Established in 1998, the sanctuary spans Rajamayong and Pobitora Reserve Forests in Assam's Brahmaputra floodplains. Known for the highest density of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros in India, it also hosts leopards, wild buffalo, barking deer and wild boar. Its vegetation is dominated by alluvial grasslands, with invasive water hyacinth affecting waterfowl.
- **Adipose Tissue:** Body fat is an active metabolic organ. White fat stores energy and regulates hormones; brown fat generates heat; beige fat has brown fat-like properties.
- **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve:** Located at Eastern & Western Ghats junction, Tamil Nadu. Hilly terrain, subtropical climate, rivers like Bhavani & Moyar. Fauna: tiger, elephant, panther, Nilgiri langur. Illegal resorts sealed.
- **Methane:** Potent greenhouse gas; 15 of 25 top emission sites (2025) from oil & gas in Turkmenistan. 2.5× pre-industrial levels, 86× more heat-trapping than CO₂ over 20 years. Major sources: agriculture, energy, waste.

- **Coconut:** India is the world's largest producer (30.37% of global output). Grown mainly in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Goa, West Bengal. Requires 1000–3000 mm rainfall, 27°C temp, sandy/loamy soils. Oil comes from the flesh.
- **Autonomous District Councils (ADC):** Formed under 6th Schedule in tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram. Manage land, forests, village courts, local markets, schools, dispensaries. Members: 30 (26 elected, 4 nominated).
- **Stockholm Water Prize 2026:** Awarded to Kaveh Madani for outstanding contributions to water conservation.
- **Cotton Corporation of India (CCI):** Ensures fair MSP for cotton farmers; works under Ministry of Textiles. Major states: Gujarat, Telangana, Maharashtra.
- **Ethyl Chloroformate:** Colorless, toxic, flammable chemical; used in pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals and specialty chemical production. Formula: C_2H_5OCOCI . India investigating anti-dumping imports from China.
- **Prambanan Temple:** India and Indonesia have partnered to restore the Prambanan Temple complex in Yogyakarta, southern Java. It is the largest Hindu temple complex in Indonesia, built in the 9th century by the Sanjaya dynasty and dedicated to the Hindu Trimurti of Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma. The complex consists of 240 temples, with the central Shiva temple being the tallest at 47 meters. Its architecture reflects both indigenous Javanese traditions and South Indian Pallava influences. UNESCO designated it as a World Heritage Site in 1991.
- **Exercise Sea Dragon 2026:** The Indian Navy is participating in Exercise Sea Dragon 2026, a United States Navy-led multinational anti-submarine warfare drill in Guam. The exercise aims to strengthen maritime security, improve ASW capabilities and enhance interoperability among allied nations, including the US, India, Australia, Japan and New Zealand. It involves the deployment of long-range maritime patrol aircraft and graded exercises to test mission coordination.
- **Kalinjar Fort:** The hill region around Kalinjar Fort in Banda district, Uttar Pradesh, has been declared a National Geo-Heritage Site by the Geological Survey of India. The fort, over 1500 years old, was established during the Gupta period and later became a capital of the Chandela dynasty. It was captured by Akbar in 1569 AD and gifted to Birbal. The fort contains mosques, temples, palaces, stepwells and the notable Neelkanth Temple.
- **Hutchinson-Gilford Progeria Syndrome (HGPS):** HGPS is a rare genetic disorder caused by LMNA gene mutation, leading to premature aging in children. Key features include hair loss, prominent eyes, wrinkled skin and thin nose. Death occurs early, usually from atherosclerosis-related heart attacks or strokes.
- **Butis bargabhimae:** Butis bargabhimae is a new estuarine fish discovered in the Rupnarayan River, West Bengal. It belongs to the butid family and is distinguished by interorbital scales and pectoral fin bands.
- **Petroglyphs:** Petroglyphs are rock engravings made by removing part of the rock surface. Found worldwide except Antarctica, they represent early art, communication, territorial markers and maps. In India, Edakkal Caves, Kerala, is a key site.
- **Force Majeure:** Force majeure refers to extraordinary events beyond control that prevent contractual performance, such as wars, natural disasters, or epidemics. In India, it is governed by Section 56 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872.

- **Foot and Mouth Disease:** FMD is a viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals like cattle, buffalo, sheep and goats. Symptoms include fever and blisters and vaccination is the main preventive measure.
- **Nagoya Protocol:** The Nagoya Protocol under the CBD ensures fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. India ratified it in 2012.
- The **Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Project** is a 120 MW run-of-river hydropower project located on the Kopili River basin in Assam, spanning West Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao districts. The project is developed by Assam Power Generation Corporation Limited (APGCL) and funded by the Asian Development Bank.
- The **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** is a statutory body under the Ministry of Women & Child Development that oversees the adoption of orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children in India. It acts as the Central Authority for inter-country adoptions in accordance with the Hague Convention, monitors adoption agencies and coordinates with State Adoption Resource Agencies and Child Welfare Committees.
- The **Great Indian Bustard** is a large terrestrial bird endemic to India, primarily inhabiting dry grasslands and scrublands, with the largest population in Rajasthan's Thar Desert. It is critically endangered, listed in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and in CITES Appendix 1. It has a lifespan of 12–15 years, weighs up to 15 kg and feeds on grass seeds, insects, small rodents and reptiles. Its captive breeding is ongoing under Project GIB.
- **Dimethyl Ether (DME)** is a synthetic diesel alternative with a high cetane number, colorless under normal conditions and burns cleaner with low NO_x, SO_x and soot emissions. It is used as fuel, in chemical industries and as an aerosol propellant. Its chemical formula is CH₃OCH₃.
- **Acrylonitrile:** An organic compound found on Titan can self-assemble into cell-like structures. It is used to produce acrylic fibers, resins and synthetic rubber and is toxic and highly flammable.
- **Amblyceps vavayvay:** A new catfish discovered in northern Western Ghats (Goa, Maharashtra), inhabiting shallow hill streams with sand and stones, distinguished by its unique fins and lateral line.
- **Gajapati Empire:** Medieval Hindu dynasty of Odisha (1434–1541 CE), founded by Kapilendra Deva, with capital at Cuttack/Konark. Patrons of art and literature, exemplified by Konark Sun Temple; declined due to Vijayanagara and Golconda conflicts.
- **Kharg Island – Coral island, Iran,** northern Persian Gulf, 30 km from mainland; freshwater in porous limestone; major oil-loading terminal, handles 90% of Iran's oil exports, storage 28 million barrels, strategic near Strait of Hormuz; US airstrikes raised oil supply concerns.
- **Joha Rice – Indigenous aromatic rice, Assam,** GI-tagged 2017; exported to UK & Italy; varieties: Kola, Keteki, Bokul, Kunkuni Joha; rich in omega-3 & omega-6, antioxidants.
- **Deepor Beel – Freshwater lake, Guwahati, Assam,** former Brahmaputra channel, Ramsar site, Important Bird Area; supports 50 fish species, livelihoods of ~1,200 households; habitats for spot-billed pelican, lesser adjutant stork, Baer's pochard.
- **Van Allen Probe A:** Launched by NASA (2012) to study Earth's radiation belts with twin Van Allen Probe B. Mission lasted 2012–2019,

studying **charged particles** that shield Earth from **cosmic and solar radiation**.

- **Cobalt (Co, 27):** Ferromagnetic metal, major reserves in **DRC, Russia, Canada**; in India found in **Jharkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan**. Used in **electronics, batteries, magnets, superalloys, aerospace**.
- **Spotted Hyena (Crocuta crocuta):** Largest hyena, nocturnal, **matriarchal clans**, females with **pseudo-penis**, found in **savannas and grasslands**, IUCN: **Least Concern**.
- **Kurumba Painting:** Originates from **Kurumba tribe (TN, Kerala, Karnataka)**, **3,000+ years old**, uses **natural pigments**, depicts **nature, mythology, rituals and daily life**.
- **Beas River:** Flows through **Himachal Pradesh and Punjab**, originates from **Rohtang Pass**, length **470 km**, meets **Sutlej**. **Tributaries:** Bain, Banganga, Luni, Uhal. **Pong Dam** constructed on it.
- **IAEA:** **International Atomic Energy Agency**, founded **1957**, HQ **Vienna**, **180 member states**, ensures **peaceful nuclear use, safety, security, verification**, part of **UN system**.
- **Peptides:** Chains of **2–50 amino acids**, shorter and simpler than **proteins**, act as **hormones, anti-inflammatory, muscle-building, pro-aging support**.
- **White Phosphorus:** A **white-yellow waxy solid** that **ignites spontaneously above 30°C**. Used in **military as incendiary weapons**, for **illumination and smokescreens** and in **industry** to produce **phosphates and fertilizers**. Exposure can cause **severe burns, respiratory harm and environmental damage**.
- **Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV):** A **respiratory virus** in the **Pneumoviridae** family, causes **cold-like symptoms**, spreads via **droplets, contact and contaminated surfaces** and can lead to **bronchitis or pneumonia** in high-risk groups. No **vaccine or specific antiviral** exists; treatment is **symptomatic care**.
- **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB):** India's **nodal drug law enforcement agency**, under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, established in **1985** under the **NDPS Act**. It coordinates **drug law enforcement, intelligence collection**, liaises with **international agencies** and dismantled networks like **Team Kalki**.
- **BharatNet Project:** A **Government of India initiative** to provide **broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats**. It uses **optical fibre, radio and satellite technologies** and integrates **5G for digital public infrastructure**, enabling **e-governance, e-health and e-education**. Executed by **Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL)**.