

# WBCS GAZETTE



**APTI PLUS**

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

JUNE

2026



## TOPICS COVERED

- West Bengal Related News
- West Bengal - History & Culture
- West Bengal Geography And Environment
- West Bengal Polity And Administration
- West Bengal Miscellaneous
- Science & Technology - GK
- Environment & Ecology – GK
- Indian History – One Liners
- Indian Geography – One Liners
- Indian Polity – One Liners
- Indian Economy – One Liners
- World GK
- Important Books
- Important Appointments
- Awards In News
- Sports Related News
- Important Days In News
- Important Personalities
- General Knowledge In News - National
- Practice MCQs



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# APTI PLUS

## Maintaining Legacy Of Success in WBCS 2023

Gr. A & B

35+

Selections in WBCS 2023  
Group A & B

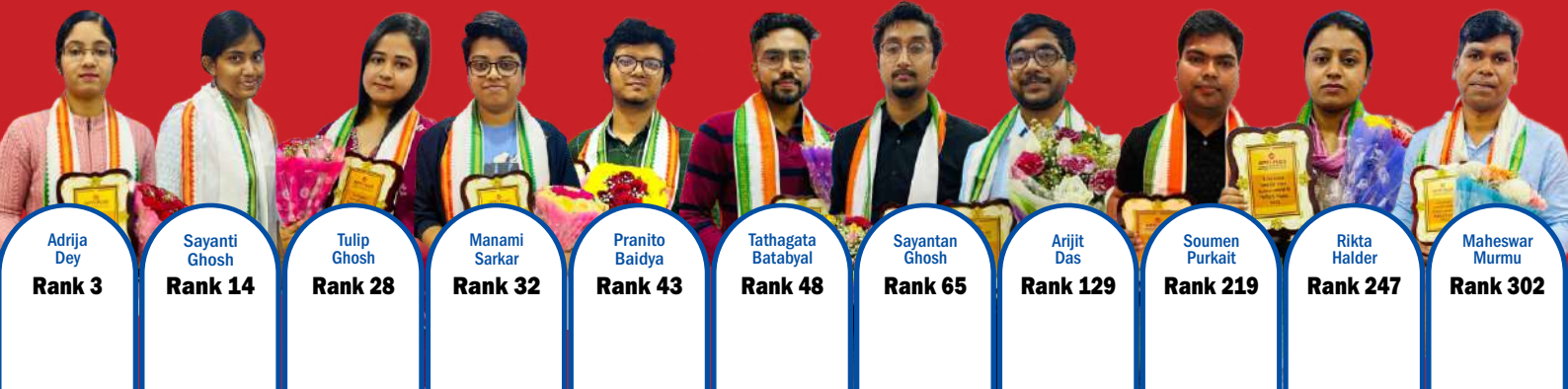
SREEJA  
NAMASHARMA



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
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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

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Rank 65

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Rank 129

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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

### Climate Projections for India's Coastal Region (2021-2040)

#### Why in News?

- A recent study titled "Indian Coastal Region: Climate Projections 2021-2040" by the Azim Premji University has projected significant changes in rainfall patterns, temperature and heat stress across India's 11,000-km coastline by 2040.
- The projections are based on CMIP6 (Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6), the latest global framework for climate forecasting.
- The study highlights that **climate change is no longer a distant threat but an immediate challenge** requiring adaptation and climate-resilient governance.

#### Major Findings of the Study:

##### Changes in Southwest Monsoon Rainfall (June-September)

- The study projects that the western coast of India will become significantly wetter by 2040. Coastal districts of Gujarat and Maharashtra are expected to receive substantially higher rainfall during the Southwest Monsoon season.
- Kachchh is projected to receive about **31% more rainfall** than its historical average, while Jamnagar and Devbhumi Dwarka may receive around **28% higher rainfall.**
- In contrast, coastal districts of Odisha and West Bengal, including the Sundarbans, are likely to experience a decline in Southwest Monsoon rainfall. This could affect **agriculture, freshwater availability and ecosystem stability** in these regions.

- The study also notes that coastal **Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh,** which traditionally depend more on the Northeast Monsoon, **may receive excess rainfall even during the Southwest Monsoon season.**

#### Rising Temperatures Along the Coast

- The report estimates that nearly **40 coastal districts** may witness an increase of more than **1°C** in average summer maximum temperature by 2040 compared to the 1960s baseline.
- The highest increase is projected in Ernakulam district of Kerala (**+1.3°C**), followed by Alappuzha (**+1.2°C**), Kozhikode (**+1.2°C**) and Kachchh (**+1.2°C**). On the eastern coast, Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu and Khordha in Odisha are expected to record temperature increases of about **1.1°C.**
- The western coast is expected to face the most severe warming impacts.

#### Growing Threat of Wet-Bulb Temperatures

- The study warns that coastal Kerala and Tamil Nadu may experience summer wet-bulb temperatures close to **31°C**, which is considered the threshold at which dangerous heat stress begins for humans.
- Wet-bulb temperature is a measure that combines both air temperature and humidity. Since high humidity slows the evaporation of sweat, the human body becomes less effective at cooling itself. As a result, even healthy individuals can experience severe heat stress when wet-bulb temperatures approach critical levels.

### Wet-Bulb Temperature (WBT):

Wet-bulb temperature is the lowest temperature air can reach through the evaporation of water. It combines **temperature and humidity**, making it a better indicator of **heat stress on the human body** than air temperature alone.

- At **100% humidity**, WBT equals the actual air (dry-bulb) temperature.
- At **lower humidity**, WBT is lower than air temperature due to evaporative cooling.
- Higher WBT reduces the body's ability to cool itself through sweating, increasing the risk of heat-related illnesses.

It is measured using a **wet-bulb thermometer (psychrometer)**.

### Increase in Northeast Monsoon Rainfall

- India receives rainfall from two monsoon systems: the **Southwest Monsoon (SWM)** and the **Northeast Monsoon (NEM)**. While about **75%** of India's annual rainfall comes from the Southwest Monsoon, the Northeast Monsoon contributes around **11%** and is particularly important for southern India.
- The study projects a significant increase in Northeast Monsoon rainfall over parts of western India by 2040. Gujarat is expected to witness major increases in districts such as Ahmedabad (**44%**), Devbhumi Dwarka (**39.3%**), Porbandar (**33.7%**) and Kachchh (**32.4%**). In Maharashtra, Mumbai City may receive around **32.7%** more rainfall during the Northeast Monsoon season.

### Significance for West Bengal

- The findings are **particularly important for West Bengal** because coastal districts, including the **Sundarbans, are projected to receive less Southwest Monsoon rainfall in the coming years.**

## **Dearness Allowance**

### Context

- A West Bengal employees' forum has stated that Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari has assured them that the state government will implement the Supreme Court's order on payment of dearness allowance (DA) dues.

### What is DA?

- **Dearness Allowance (DA)** is a cost-of-living adjustment paid to **government employees**

- Lower rainfall could increase agricultural uncertainty and water stress, while **rising salinity levels may further threaten the fragile mangrove ecosystem of the Sundarbans.**
- Combined with existing risks such as cyclones and sea-level rise, these changes could significantly increase climate vulnerability in the region.

### Need for Adaptation

- The study emphasizes that **climate policy must move beyond reactive responses and focus on proactive adaptation.**
- Strengthening **climate-resilient infrastructure**, improving **coastal governance**, **restoring mangroves**, promoting climate-smart agriculture and enhancing disaster preparedness will be essential for reducing future risks.
- The report also underlines that **climate change impacts are becoming increasingly local and immediate**, making district-level planning and resilience-building more important than ever.

**and pensioners** to offset the impact of inflation and rising prices.

- It is calculated as a **percentage of basic salary/pension** and is revised periodically based on the **All-India Consumer Price Index (AICPI)**.
- DA is **fully taxable** and varies according to an employee's basic pay.

### Recent DA Hike (2026)

- The Union Cabinet increased DA for Central Government employees and pensioners from **58% to 60%** of basic pay.
- Effective Date:** 1 January 2026.
- The increase aims to compensate for inflation and rising living costs.
- States such as **Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Odisha** have also announced DA hikes for their employees and pensioners.

### Types of DA

#### 1. Industrial Dearness Allowance (IDA)

- Applicable to **Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU)** employees.
- Revised **quarterly**.
- Based on changes in the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**.

#### 2. Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA)

- Applicable to **Central Government employees**.
- Revised **twice a year** (January and July).
- Determined by:
  - Base Index** (fixed for a specific period).
  - Consumer Price Index (CPI)**.
  - Government-fixed **variable DA** component linked to minimum wages.

### Calculation of DA

DA is revised **biannually** (January and July).

#### For Central Government Employees

$$DA\% = \frac{(Average\ AICPI\ of\ last\ 12\ months - 261.42)}{261.42} \times 100$$

#### For Public Sector Employees

$$DA\% = \frac{(Average\ AICPI\ of\ last\ 3\ months - 126.33)}{126.33} \times 100$$

**AICPI:** All-India Consumer Price Index.

### Tax Treatment of DA

- DA is **fully taxable** under the Income Tax Act.
- It must be shown separately in income tax returns.
- For employees provided with rent-free accommodation, DA may form part of salary for valuation purposes, subject to prescribed conditions.

### Role of Pay Commissions

- Pay Commissions periodically review government salaries and pensions.
- DA is an important factor in salary revision exercises.

### DA for Pensioners

- Pensioners receive **Dearness Relief (DR)**, which is linked to DA revisions.
- Any increase in DA is generally reflected in pension benefits.
- Re-employed pensioners are usually not entitled to DA/DR, subject to government rules and exceptions.
- Pensioners residing abroad remain eligible for DR if not re-employed.

### DA vs HRA

Basis	Dearness Allowance (DA)	House Rent Allowance (HRA)
Purpose	Compensates for inflation	Assists with housing expenses
Applicability	Government/public sector employees	Public and private sector employees
Tax Treatment	Fully taxable	Partial tax exemptions available
Calculation	Percentage of basic salary	Not directly linked to a fixed percentage of basic salary

### Key Takeaway

- Dearness Allowance is a crucial **inflation-indexed component of government** salaries and pensions, ensuring that employees' real incomes are protected against rising living costs.

## Free Bus Travel for Women in West Bengal

### Context

- The West Bengal government has launched a **free bus travel scheme for women** on all State government-run buses.

### Effective From:

- 1 June 2026**

### Coverage:

- Applicable to both **short-route and long-route** State-operated buses.

### Eligibility:

- Women passengers can avail free travel by showing a **valid photo identity card** until smart cards are issued.

### Objective:

- To make **public transport more affordable, accessible and inclusive** for women across the State.
- To enhance **women's mobility, safety and economic participation** by reducing commuting costs.

### Significance:

- Promotes **gender-responsive public transport**.
- Improves access to education, employment, healthcare and other services.
- Contributes to women's empowerment through greater mobility and financial savings.

### Prelims Pointer:

- West Bengal became one of the Indian states offering **free public bus transport for women**, following similar initiatives in states such as Delhi, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

## West Bengal Hawker Regulation & Eviction Drive

### Context

- The West Bengal government has initiated a drive to regulate and remove illegal encroachments by hawkers.
- The move has triggered protests by hawkers, including a recent **rail roko** agitation in North 24 Parganas **demanding rehabilitation before eviction**.

### Legal Framework

#### Central Law

#### **Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014**

#### **Objective**

- Protect the livelihood of street vendors.
- Regulate street vending in urban areas.
- Prevent arbitrary eviction and harassment.

### Supreme Court Linkage

- The Act emerged partly after directions from the **Supreme Court of India**, which recognized street vending as a legitimate source of

livelihood and called for a national legal framework.

#### **West Bengal Urban Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Rules, 2018.**

- Framed under the 2014 Act.
- Provide detailed guidelines on:
  - Identification and registration of vendors.
  - Allocation of vending spaces.
  - Creation of vending and no-vending zones.
  - Regulation of encroachments.

### Key Provisions

#### **1. Footpath Sharing Principle**

- At least **two-thirds of pavement width** must remain free for pedestrians.
- Hawkers may occupy **up to one-third** of the footpath.

#### **2. Ban on Road Encroachment**

- Vendors cannot occupy any part of the carriageway/road.

- Hawking is restricted to designated vending spaces.

### 3. Safety Measures

- Use of tarpaulin and other inflammable materials is prohibited.
- Intended to reduce fire hazards in congested market areas.

### 4. No Obstruction Rule

Vendors cannot:

- Block entrances/exits of houses or shops.
- Obstruct schools, colleges, hospitals, offices, or public utilities.
- Hinder pedestrian movement.

### 5. Vending and No-Vending Zones

Local authorities identify:

- **Vending Zones** (permitted areas)
- **No-Vending Zones** (e.g., bus stops, narrow lanes, critical public spaces)

### Town Vending Committee (TVC)

#### Composition & Functions

- Established in every urban local body.
- Responsible for:
  - Conducting surveys of vendors.
  - Issuing Certificates of Vending.
  - Identifying vending/no-vending zones.
  - Monitoring compliance.

### Representation of Vendors

- TVCs are designed to ensure the participation and representation of street vendors in decision-making.
- However, critics argue that the final Act reduced vendor influence compared to earlier draft proposals.

### Powers

- Suspend or cancel vendor registration for violations.
- Recommend relocation and rehabilitation measures.

### Rights of Street Vendors under the 2014 Act

#### 1. Protection from Arbitrary Eviction

No vendor can be evicted until:

- A survey is conducted.
- The vending certificate process is completed.

#### 2. Vendor Survey Requirement

- A survey of all vendors must be conducted by the TVC.
- Surveys are to be repeated every **five years**.
- No vendor can be evicted until the survey is completed and certificates are issued.

### 3. Certificate of Vending

- Vendors above **14 years of age** are eligible for a Certificate of Vending.
- The certificate:
  - Cannot be freely transferred.
  - Can be transferred to a family member in case of death or permanent disability.
- Violation of conditions may lead to cancellation of the certificate.

### 4. Allocation Through Lottery

- If all vendors cannot be accommodated in a vending zone, allocation is made through a **draw of lots**.
- Vendors not allotted space must be accommodated in adjoining vending zones.

### 5. Relocation

If an area is declared a no-vending zone:

- Vendors must be relocated.
- At least **30 days' notice** must be provided before relocation.

### 6. Livelihood Protection

- Recognizes street vending as a legitimate source of livelihood.
- Provides legal recognition through vending certificates.

### Penalties & Enforcement

#### Penalties

- Vendors operating without a Certificate of Vending or violating its conditions may face fines up to **₹2,000**.
- Vendors refusing relocation after notice may be fined up to **₹250 per day**.

#### Dispute Resolution Mechanism

- The Act provides for a dispute resolution body consisting of:
  - A Chairperson who has been a **Civil Judge/Judicial Magistrate**.
  - Two other members as prescribed by the government.

## Scale of Street Vending in India

### Key Data

- Around **10 million street vendors** operate in India.
- Street vending accounts for nearly **14% of urban informal non-agricultural employment**.
- Kolkata alone has **more than 1.5 lakh street vendors**.

### Current Issues

#### Government's Position

Ensure:

- Pedestrian rights.
- Traffic management.
- Public safety.
- Planned urban development.

#### Hawkers' Concerns

- Loss of livelihood.
- Inadequate rehabilitation measures.
- Fear of displacement from long-established vending locations.

#### Recent Protests

- Hawkers in North 24 Parganas staged a **rail roko** protest demanding:
  - Alternative vending spaces.
  - Rehabilitation packages before eviction.

## West Bengal Cabinet Expansion (1 June 2026)

### Context

- The BJP government in West Bengal carried out a major cabinet expansion on **1 June 2026**.
- Governor R. N. Ravi administered the oath at **Nabanna**.
- The expansion inducted **35 ministers**, taking the total strength of the Council of Ministers to **41**, including the Chief Minister.

### Composition of the Expanded Cabinet

Category	Number
Cabinet Ministers	13
Ministers of State (Independent Charge)	3
Ministers of State	19
Total New Ministers	35
Total Council Strength	41

## Governance Challenge

The issue reflects the broader challenge of balancing:

Urban Governance Goals	Livelihood Concerns
Pedestrian mobility	Employment security
Traffic management	Informal sector livelihoods
Public safety	Social protection
Planned urban spaces	Rehabilitation and inclusion

### Way Forward

- Strict implementation of the 2014 Act and 2018 Rules.
- Scientific demarcation of vending and no-vending zones.
- Participatory decision-making through Town Vending Committees.
- Timely surveys and issuance of vending certificates.
- Rehabilitation and relocation before eviction.
- Balancing the **Right to Livelihood (Article 21)** with the public's **Right to Free Movement and Safe Urban Spaces**.

### Cabinet Ministers (13)

- Swapan Dasgupta, Arjun Singh, Manoj Oraon, Jagannath Chattopadhyay, Tapash Roy, Dipak Burman, Shankar Ghosh, Kalyan Chakraborty, Arup Kumar Das, Ajay Kumar Poddar, Saradwat Mukhopadhyay, Dudh Kumar Mondol, Gouri Shankar Ghosh.

### Ministers of State (Independent Charge) (3)

- Malati Rava Roy, Indranil Khan, Rajesh Mahato.

### Ministers of State (19)

- Ashok Dinda, Umesh Roy, Koushik Chowdhury, Kalita Maji, Moumita Biswas Misra, Gargi Ghosh Das, Dipankar Jana, Purnima Chakraborty, Bishal Lama, Harikrishna Bera, Anandamoy Burman,

Shantanu Pramanik, Biraj Biswas, Amiya Kisku, Juyel Murmu, Bhaskar Bhattacharya, Dibakar Gharami, Sumana Sarkar, Noder Chand Bauri.

### Ministers Sworn in Earlier

Minister	Portfolio(s)
Suwendu Adhikari	Home, Hill Affairs, Health, Law, Finance
Dilip Ghosh	Rural Development, Panchayats, Animal Resources Development
Agnimitra Paul	Women & Child Development, Social Welfare
Nisith Pramanik	North Bengal Development, Sports & Youth Welfare
Ashok Kirtania	Food Department
Kshudiram Tudu	Backward Classes Welfare & Development, Tribal Development, Minority Affairs

### Significance of the Expansion

- First major cabinet expansion after BJP formed its **first-ever government in West Bengal**.
- Aimed at strengthening **regional representation**, particularly from **North Bengal**.
- Focused on **social balancing** through inclusion of SC, ST, OBC, women and tribal leaders.
- Included experienced political figures such as Swapan Dasgupta and Arjun Singh.
- Former Indian cricketer Ashok Dinda was inducted as a Minister of State.
- Intended to enhance administrative capacity and grassroots governance.

## **West Bengal to Implement National Health Mission (NHM)**

### Context

- West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari announced that the State will implement the **National Health Mission (NHM)**. The Union Government has sanctioned **₹2,103 crore** for the scheme, of which **₹527 crore** has already been released.
- The Chief Minister also stated that more than **1.36 crore families** in the State will be covered under **Ayushman Bharat**.

### National Health Mission (NHM)

#### About NHM

- The **National Health Mission (NHM)** was launched by the Government of India in **2013** by subsuming the **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)** and the **National Urban Health Mission (NUHM)**.
- Its objective is to provide **accessible, affordable, equitable and quality healthcare services**, especially to vulnerable sections of society.

#### Major Components

- National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)
- National Urban Health Mission (NUHM)

- Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A)
- Disease control programmes
- Health system strengthening initiatives

### Key Objectives of NHM

NHM seeks to:

- Reduce Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR).
- Improve access to primary healthcare services.
- Strengthen public health infrastructure.
- Promote universal access to reproductive and child healthcare.
- Control communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- Improve healthcare delivery in rural and urban areas.

### Ayushman Bharat:

- **Ayushman Bharat** is the flagship healthcare initiative of the Government of India aimed at achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

### Two Major Components

1. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)

- Provides health insurance coverage of up to **₹5 lakh per family per year** for secondary and tertiary healthcare hospitalization.

## 2. Ayushman Arogya Mandirs

(Formerly Health and Wellness Centres)

- Provide comprehensive primary healthcare services, including preventive, promotive and curative care.

## Annapurna Yojana

### Context

- The West Bengal government has begun the process of implementing **Annapurna Yojana**, a flagship **direct cash transfer scheme** promised during the 2026 Assembly elections.
- The scheme aims to provide **₹3,000 per month** to eligible women beneficiaries, effectively doubling the benefit provided under the earlier **Lakshmir Bhandar Scheme**.
- However, concerns over beneficiary verification and the massive financial burden on the State exchequer have made its implementation a significant governance challenge.

### What is Annapurna Yojana?

- Annapurna Yojana is a proposed direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme under which eligible women beneficiaries will receive **₹3,000 per month**.
- The scheme replaces the earlier **Lakshmir Bhandar**, under which beneficiaries received up to **₹1,500 per month**.
- To avail benefits under Annapurna Yojana, existing beneficiaries must apply afresh and undergo a verification process.

### Verification Process

The State government has announced a **90-day verification exercise** for all applicants.

### Key Numbers

Item	Figure
Existing beneficiaries under Lakshmir Bhandar	2.2 crore
Allegedly ineligible beneficiaries	30 lakhs
Estimated eligible beneficiaries	About 2 crores

### West Bengal Context

- According to the announcement, more than **1.36 crore families** in West Bengal are expected to be covered under the scheme, expanding access to quality healthcare.
- The mission remains a key instrument for achieving **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** and **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)**.

Beneficiaries are required to submit an **11-page application form** containing detailed information about themselves and their family members, including:

- Aadhaar details,
- PAN details,
- Bank account information,
- Land ownership records,
- Family particulars.

The government argues that verification is necessary to identify ineligible beneficiaries and ensure that benefits reach genuine recipients.

### Why is Verification Being Conducted?

According to Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, nearly **30 lakh beneficiaries** under the previous Lakshmir Bhandar scheme were allegedly ineligible because:

- They were not Indian citizens, or
- Their names had been permanently deleted from electoral rolls.

The verification process is therefore aimed at cleaning beneficiary databases and reducing leakages in welfare delivery.

### Fiscal Implications

- The biggest challenge before the State government is the enormous financial cost of the scheme.

Monthly benefit under Annapurna Yojana	₹3,000
Estimated monthly expenditure	₹6,000 crore
Estimated annual expenditure	₹72,000 crore

Even after excluding 30 lakh beneficiaries, the State may have to spend approximately **₹72,000 crore annually**.

### Impact on State Finances

West Bengal's interim Budget for 2026-27 is approximately **₹4.06 lakh crore**.

If Annapurna Yojana covers around 2 crore beneficiaries, the scheme alone could account for nearly **18% of the State Budget**.

This has raised concerns regarding:

- Fiscal sustainability,
- Welfare expenditure management,
- Long-term budgetary commitments,
- Availability of funds for infrastructure and development projects.

## **Bihar and West Bengal Emerging as Major Air Pollution Hotspots**

### Context

- A 25-year study (2000-2024) published in the journal **Atmospheric Environment** has identified **Bihar and West Bengal** as major particulate pollution hotspots in eastern India.
- The study warns that **biomass burning**, including agricultural residue burning, rural household fuel use and solid-waste burning, is increasingly driving air pollution across the eastern Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP), North-East India and even the Himalayas.

### Key Findings of the Study

#### **Rising Particulate Matter (PM) Pollution**

The study found that particulate matter (PM) pollution increased by **more than 20%** across the:

- Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP),
- Himalayan region,
- North-East India,

between **2000 and 2024**.

Pollution levels rose by **10-40% during 2010-2019** compared to the previous decade.

This financial burden is one reason behind the government's cautious approach and detailed verification process.

### Governance Dilemma: Universal vs Targeted Welfare

The Annapurna Yojana debate reflects a broader public policy question:

- **Universal Welfare**  
Benefits are provided to a broad population with minimal exclusion errors but at a higher fiscal cost.
- **Targeted Welfare**  
Benefits are restricted to eligible groups, reducing expenditure but increasing administrative complexity and the risk of excluding deserving beneficiaries.

The success of Annapurna Yojana will depend on balancing welfare delivery with fiscal prudence.

### Major Pollution Hotspots

Using satellite observations from NASA's Terra and Aqua satellites, researchers found the highest PM concentrations in:

- Bihar,
- Southern West Bengal,
- Bangladesh.

Over time, pollution hotspots expanded significantly.

### Expansion of Pollution Hotspots

- **2000-2009:** Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, northern West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Bangladesh.
- **2020-2024:** Entire West Bengal and Bihar, Bangladesh, large parts of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura.

Notably, Uttar Pradesh showed a decline in pollution levels during the later period.

### Biomass Burning: The Main Driver

The study identifies **biomass burning** as the dominant cause of increasing pollution in eastern India.

#### **Sources of Biomass Burning**

- Crop residue burning,
- Firewood and biomass fuel use in rural households,
- Slash-and-burn (jhum) cultivation,
- Open burning of municipal solid waste.

Researchers observed that pollution growth in eastern India is linked more to biomass burning than to industrial or vehicular emissions.

### Change in Pollution Composition

The study found significant changes in the composition of particulate matter.

#### **Increasing Components**

- Organic Carbon (OC)
- Sulphates

Both increased by nearly **50%** over the study period and are strongly associated with biomass burning.

### Regional Differences

#### Eastern Indo-Gangetic Plain

- Increasing carbonaceous aerosols from burning of crop residues, wood and organic matter.

#### Western Indo-Gangetic Plain

- Dust remains the dominant pollutant.
- Dust pollution has shown a declining trend.

### Impact on the Himalayas

- One of the major concerns highlighted by the study is the transport of pollutants from the Indo-Gangetic Plain to the Himalayas.

### Pollution Pathways

- Emissions from Punjab, Haryana and Delhi affect the western and central Himalayas.
- Emissions from Bihar and West Bengal influence the eastern Himalayas.

This increases aerosol loading in fragile mountain ecosystems and can affect glacier health, precipitation patterns and regional climate.

### Concerns for West Bengal

- The study identifies West Bengal as one of the fastest-growing pollution hotspots.

#### Major Concerns

- Expansion of pollution hotspots across the entire State.
- Increased biomass-burning-related pollution.
- Rising public health risks due to PM exposure.
- Growing influence on pollution levels in the eastern Himalayas.
- Threats to ecologically sensitive areas such as the Sundarbans.

### National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

#### About NCAP

- The **National Clean Air Programme** was launched in **2019** by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

#### Objective

- To reduce particulate pollution levels through coordinated action at national, state and city levels.

#### Findings Regarding NCAP

- The study reported mixed outcomes.

#### Positive Developments

- States such as Bihar, West Bengal and Assam witnessed some reduction in overall particulate matter levels after the launch of NCAP.

#### Remaining Challenges

- Biomass burning continued to increase significantly despite these improvements.
- Researchers therefore recommend expanding NCAP beyond urban areas.

### Recommendations of the Study

The study suggests that clean-air policies should:

- Address rural sources of pollution along with urban emissions.
- Reduce dependence on biomass fuels.
- Promote cleaner cooking energy.
- Control agricultural residue burning.
- Improve solid-waste management.

- Extend air-quality management to ecologically sensitive regions such as the Sundarbans and Himalayan areas.

### Key Terms

#### Particulate Matter (PM)

- **Particulate Matter (PM)** is a mixture of microscopic solid particles and liquid droplets suspended in the air, making it a major **air pollutant**. It is classified into **PM<sub>10</sub>** (dust, pollen), **PM<sub>2.5</sub>** (fine particles that penetrate deep into the lungs) and **ultrafine particles** (can enter the bloodstream). Major sources include **vehicle emissions, industrial activities, construction dust, biomass burning and atmospheric chemical reactions**. Due to their tiny size, PM particles pose serious **respiratory and cardiovascular health risks** and contribute to **haze and reduced visibility**.

## West Bengal Lifts Restrictions on Inter-State Movement of Agricultural Commodities

### Context

- The **West Bengal Government** has removed restrictions on the **inter-state movement** of agricultural and essential commodities such as **potatoes, onions, fruits, vegetables, oilseeds and food grains**. The restrictions had been imposed by the previous government to regulate supply and prices within the State.
- The decision is expected to benefit farmers, especially **potato growers**, by allowing them to sell their produce in wider markets and obtain better prices.

### Key Decision

The State government has lifted restrictions on the movement of:

- **Potatoes**
- **Onions**
- **Fruits**
- **Vegetables**
- **Oilseeds**
- **Food grains**
- Other **essential agricultural commodities**

### Aerosols

- **Aerosols** are tiny **solid particles or liquid droplets suspended in the atmosphere**, such as **dust, sea spray, volcanic ash, smoke and industrial pollutants**. They may be **natural or human-made** and can remain airborne for days or weeks due to their small size. Aerosols are classified as **primary aerosols** (directly emitted) and **secondary aerosols** (formed through atmospheric chemical reactions). They play a crucial role in **climate regulation** by **scattering or absorbing solar radiation** and by acting as **cloud condensation nuclei (CCN)**, which influence **cloud formation, rainfall patterns and the Earth's energy balance**.

### Biomass Burning

- Burning of organic material such as crop residues, wood, dung and agricultural waste, which releases particulate matter and greenhouse gases.

Farmers and traders can now transport these products freely to other states without the earlier restrictions.

### Why Were Restrictions Imposed Earlier?

State governments sometimes restrict the movement of agricultural commodities to:

- Prevent **shortages** within the State,
- Control **inflation** and price rise,
- Ensure local availability of **essential commodities**,
- Prevent **hoarding and black marketing**.

However, such restrictions can adversely affect farmers if market prices outside the State are higher.

### Significance of the Decision

#### **Benefits to Farmers**

The removal of restrictions is expected to:

- Expand **market access** for farmers,
- Improve **price realisation**,
- Reduce **post-harvest losses**,
- Increase **farm incomes**.

Potato growers are expected to benefit the most, as they had reportedly suffered significant losses due to restrictions on interstate trade.

### Promotion of Agricultural Marketing

The decision aligns with the broader objective of:

- Free movement of agricultural produce,
- Market integration,
- Competitive pricing,
- Efficient agricultural supply chains.

Greater market access can help farmers sell produce where demand and prices are higher.

### Impact on Consumers

While freer movement benefits producers, governments must also monitor:

- Local availability of essential commodities,
- Sudden price increases,
- Hoarding and speculative trading.

Balancing farmer welfare and consumer interests remains an important policy challenge.

### Related Constitutional and Economic Context

#### Freedom of Trade and Commerce

Part XIII of the Indian Constitution (Articles 301–307) provides for the freedom of trade, commerce and intercourse throughout the territory of India, subject to reasonable restrictions in the public interest.

#### Agricultural Market Reforms

Recent policy debates in India have focused on:

- Reducing barriers to agricultural trade,
- Strengthening national agricultural markets,
- Improving farmer access to buyers,
- Enhancing agricultural competitiveness.

The lifting of movement restrictions is consistent with these reform objectives.



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## WEST BENGAL – HISTORY & CULTURE

### Chronological History of Bengal

#### The Retreat of Alexander (Gangaridai Tradition)

- Greek writer Megasthenes referred to Bengal as **Gangaridai** in *Indica* (c. 300 BCE).
- After defeating Porus, Alexander the Great planned to advance further east.
- Greek accounts by Diodorus Siculus and Ptolemy described the Gangaridai as a powerful people inhabiting the **Ganga Delta region**.
- Diodorus mentioned a huge army of **20,000 cavalry, 200,000 infantry, 2,000 chariots and 4,000 war elephants**.
- The Gangaridai were reputed to possess the **largest number of war elephants in India**.
- Fear of confronting this massive force, along with troop fatigue and mutiny, is believed to have influenced Alexander's decision to retreat from India in 326 BCE.
- The episode highlights the **military strength and strategic importance of ancient Bengal** in classical accounts.

#### Prehistoric Bengal

- Evidence of **Stone Age settlements** dating back nearly 20,000 years has been found in Bengal.
- Early inhabitants included Austric and Austro-Asiatic tribes such as **Santhal, Shabara, Bhil, Kola and Pulinda**.

#### Riders of the Bay (Maritime Bengal)

- Bengal possessed a strong maritime tradition and naval power.
- Maintained trade relations with **Java, Sumatra, Siam (Thailand) and Sri Lanka**.
- According to the *Mahavamsa*, **Prince Vijaya Simha from Bengal conquered Sri Lanka in 544 BCE and established the Sinhala lineage**.

#### Maurya Rule in Bengal (324–185 BCE)

- Bengal became part of the empire of Chandragupta Maurya.

- Flourished economically under Mauryan administration.
- Growth of trade and strengthening of naval capabilities.

#### Gauda Empire and Shashanka (c. 590–626 CE)

- Shashanka is regarded as the first prominent independent ruler of Bengal.
- Capital: **Karna Suvarna** (near present-day Murshidabad).
- Promoted Bengal's architecture and administrative institutions.
- Associated with the development of the **Bengali calendar tradition**.
- Founded the powerful **Gauda Kingdom**.

#### Malla Dynasty

- Ruled **Mallabhum** (present-day Bankura region).
- Known for patronage of art, culture and temple architecture.
- Famous for the **Terracotta Temples of Bishnupur**.

#### Pala Empire (750–1200 CE)

- Considered the **Golden Age of Bengal**.
- Founded by Gopala through an elective process.
- Followed and patronized **Buddhism**.
- Encouraged philosophy, literature, sculpture and education.
- Development of the Bengali language gained momentum.
- Maintained a strong navy and elephant corps.
- Associated with renowned centres such as Somapura Mahavihara and Vikramashila Mahavihara.

#### Medieval Bengal – Sultanate Period

- Bengal came under successive Muslim dynasties including:
  - Khilji Dynasty

- Mamluk Sultanate
- Tughlaq Dynasty
- Ilyas Shahi Dynasty
- Suri Empire
- Saw the spread of Islam and emergence of Indo-Islamic architecture.
- Bengal evolved into an important provincial centre.

### Mughal Bengal

- Bengal became one of the richest **Subahs (provinces)** of the Mughal Empire.
- Important for revenue, agriculture, textiles and maritime trade.
- Flourished under Mughal administration.

### Nawab Period

- Murshid Quli Khan established autonomous Nawabi rule.
- Shifted the capital to **Murshidabad**.
- Bengal emerged as one of the wealthiest regions of Asia.

### Koch Dynasty

- Ruled **Cooch Behar** and parts of North Bengal.
- Played a major role in the political history of northern Bengal.
- Left behind the famous Cooch Behar Palace.

### Maratha Invasions (Bargi Raids)

## **Palatiya (Folk Theatre of North Bengal)**

- **Palatiya** is a traditional **folk theatre form of North Bengal**, especially associated with the **Rajbanshi (Rajbangshi)** community.
- It is performed primarily in the **Rajbanshi language**, though Bengali is increasingly used today.
- Unlike **Kushan, Bishohara, or Kichchabandi**, Palatiya presents the **drama directly through acting**, without narration by a lead singer (Mulee/Gidal) and assistant (Doyari).
- The name "**Palatiya**" literally means "**connected with a pala (dramatic story)**".

- Led by **Raghuji Bhonsle during the 18th century**.
- Repeated raids devastated parts of Bengal.
- The term **Bargi** remains embedded in Bengali folklore and literature.

### Battle of Plassey (1757)

- Fought between Siraj-ud-Daulah and the British East India Company.
- Betrayal by Mir Jafar led to British victory.
- Marked the beginning of British political dominance in India.

### British Bengal

- Kolkata emerged as the capital of British India until 1911.
- Bengal witnessed:
  - Bengal Famine
  - Partition of Bengal (1905)
  - Partition of India (1947)
  - Large-scale migrations
- Became the centre of colonial administration and modern education.

### One-Line Revision

- **Gangaridai → Silk Route Hub → Maritime Power → Maurya → Shashanka → Pala Golden Age → Sultanate → Mughal Bengal → Nawabs → Plassey → British Bengal → Bengal Renaissance → Freedom Movement**

- Traditionally patronized by **zamindars and local elites**, it is now organized by community committees.
- Themes include **mythological stories, religious teachings, social issues, love stories and village life**.
- Important centres of Palatiya are **Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, Alipurduar and parts of Assam**.
- The art form is currently **declining and faces the threat of extinction** due to diminishing audience interest and lack of patronage.

## Alkap Folk Dance

- Alkap is a popular folk dance-drama tradition of Bengal, mainly performed in Murshidabad, Malda and Birbhum districts of West Bengal and parts of Bangladesh.
- It is a unique blend of music, dance, singing, acting, satire and folk theatre.
- The performance reflects the social, economic and cultural life of rural Bengal, often using humour and satire to comment on social issues.
- An Alkap troupe usually consists of 10–12 performers, led by a Sarkar (Guru/Leader).
- The troupe includes Chhokras (young male dancers, often performing female roles),

## Purulia Chhau in Charida Village

- Charida Village (Purulia) is the principal centre of Chhau mask-making in West Bengal and is inhabited mainly by the Sutradhar artisan community.
- Purulia Chhau, a martial folk dance combining martial arts, tribal traditions, classical dance and acrobatics, was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (2010).
- Chhau masks have also received Geographical Indication (GI) Tag recognition.

## Jor-Bangla (Keshta Raya) Temple, Bishnupur

- Located at Jor Bangla Temple, one of the finest terracotta temples of Bengal.
- Built in 1655 CE by Raghunath Singha, the 51st ruler of the Malla Kingdom.
- Dedicated to Lord Krishna (Keshta Raya).
- Considered the largest surviving Jor-Bangla temple and among the most celebrated examples of Bengal temple architecture.
- Preserved by the Archaeological Survey of India.
- Included in the UNESCO Tentative List of World Heritage Sites since 1998.

Gayens (singers), Dohars (chorus singers) and musicians.

- The dance is believed to have evolved as a form of rural entertainment and social criticism.

### Major Components of an Alkap Performance

1. Asar Vandana – Invocation and prayer.
2. Chhora – Rhythmic verses and introductory recitations.
3. Kaap – Humorous and satirical dramatic segment.
4. Baithaki Gaan – Seated musical performance.
5. Khemta Pala – Dance-oriented concluding section.

- Masks are crafted using clay, paper, cloth, coal ash, natural colours, beads, varnish, feathers and adhesives.
- The tradition developed when King Madan Mohan Singh Deo of Bagmundi invited Sutradhar artisans to create ritual idols and masks.
- Charida is associated with renowned Chhau exponent Gambhir Singh Mura.
- The craft represents a unique blend of folk art, mythology, performance tradition and rural craftsmanship, making Charida a major cultural heritage hub of West Bengal.



### Architectural Features

- Exemplifies the Jor-Bangla (Twin-Hut) Style, a subtype of Bengal's Chala architecture.

- Constructed by joining **two do-chala (double-sloping roof) structures**:
  - Southern section – **Mandapa (porch/hall)**
  - Northern section – **Garbhagriha (sanctum)**
- A **Char-Chala Ratna (pinnacle)** rises above the junction of the two roofs.
- Built on a **stone platform** and faces **south**.
- Features **three arched entrances** supported by columns.
- Richly decorated with **terracotta panels** depicting:
  - Episodes from the **Ramayana**
  - **Mahabharata**
  - **Krishna Leela**
  - Social and cultural life of medieval Bengal.

## Jagjivanpur Archaeological Site (Malda)

- Located at **Jagjivanpur Archaeological Site**, about 41 km east of Malda town.
- One of the most important **Pala-period Buddhist archaeological sites** in West Bengal.
- Came into prominence after the discovery of a **copper-plate inscription** of Mahendrapala in 1987.
- The inscription provided the **first historical evidence** of Pala ruler Mahendrapala, previously unknown from other sources.
- Excavations began in **1992** and revealed the remains of the **Nandadirghika-Udranga Mahavihara**, a 9th-century Buddhist monastery.
- More than **100 terracotta seals and sealings**.
- Bronze image of **Marichi** and a seated **Buddha** image.
- Decorated bricks, beads, lamps, bangles and pottery.

### Mahendrapala Copper Plate

- Written in **Sanskrit** using **Siddhamatrika script**.
- Issued in **854 CE** during the **7th regnal year of Mahendrapala**.
- Records a land grant by general **Vajradeva** for the maintenance of the **Nandadirghika-Udranga Mahavihara**.
- Bears a royal seal with **Dharmachakra and deer motif**, symbolizing Buddhism.

### Historical Significance

- Confirms the existence of **Mahendrapala** as a ruler of the Pala dynasty.
- Demonstrates the flourishing of **Mahayana Buddhism** in Bengal during the 9th century.
- Provides valuable evidence of **Buddhist monastic architecture**, education, manuscript copying and religious patronage under the Palas.

### Major Discoveries

- Remains of a **brick-built Buddhist Vihara (monastery)**.
- **Monastic cells**, verandahs, courtyards, staircases and **brick stupas**.
- Large water reservoir known as **Nandadighi (Nandadirghika)**.
- Over **250 terracotta plaques** depicting:
  - Buddha and Buddhist themes
  - Shiva, Surya, Avalokiteshvara
  - Animals, birds, warriors, celestial beings

## History of Dooars

- Historically, the Dooars formed part of the **Kamata Kingdom** under the **Koch Dynasty** and functioned as an important trade corridor between **Assam** and **Bhutan**. Trade items included **silk, rice, dried fish and muga products** exported from Assam, while **woollen goods, rock salt, gold dust, musk, ponies and blankets** were imported from Bhutan.
- During the medieval period, the region witnessed interactions among the **Koch Kingdom, Ahoms** and **Bhutanese rulers**. Many Duars gradually came under Bhutanese control before British intervention.
- Following the **Duar War (1864–65)** between **British India** and **Bhutan**, the British annexed the Dooars under the **Treaty of Sinchula (1865)**. Bhutan lost nearly **one-fifth of its territory** and the Dooars became part of British India.

## WEST BENGAL GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

### List of Rivers in West Bengal

River Name	Origin	Major Tributaries	Major Cities/Towns
Ganges (Hooghly)	Gangotri Glacier, Uttarakhand	Damodar, Rupnarayan, Jalangi	Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly
Teesta	Tso Lamo, Sikkim	Rangeet, Riyang	Siliguri
Damodar	Chulha Pani Hill, Jharkhand	Barakar, Konar	Asansol, Durgapur
Ajay	Ajay Hills, Bihar	None	None
Mayurakshi	Trikut Hill, Jharkhand	None	Suri, Siuri
Subarnarekha	Piska/ Nagri, Near Ranchi, Jharkhand	Kharkai	Ghatsila, Balasore
Rupnarayan	Joining of Dwarkeswar&Shilabati	None	Tamluk

### Rasikbil (Rasik Beel)

- Rasikbil is a prominent freshwater lake and wetland located in the Cooch Behar District of West Bengal.
- Situated near Kamakhyaguri, it is one of North Bengal's important bird habitats and ecotourism destinations.
- The wetland attracts numerous resident and migratory birds, including ducks, cormorants, storks, ibis, spoonbills, kingfishers and lapwings.
- The site also features a deer park, crocodile rehabilitation centre, aviary, python house and tortoise rescue facilities.
- Owing to its rich biodiversity, Rasikbil is regarded as an important bird-watching and wetland conservation area in North Bengal.

### East Kolkata Wetlands (Ramsar Site & Ecological Asset of West Bengal)

- East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW) is a unique complex of natural and man-made wetlands located on the eastern fringe of Kolkata.
- Covers about 125 sq km and includes salt marshes, sewage-fed fisheries (bheris), agricultural fields, canals and settling ponds.
- Recognized as a Ramsar Site (Wetland of International Importance) in 2002.

- Known as the world's largest natural wastewater recycling ecosystem and the largest sewage-fed aquaculture system.

#### Ecological & Economic Significance

- Naturally treats about 60–80% of Kolkata's sewage through ecological processes.
- Supports nearly 50,000 people through fisheries, agriculture and allied activities.
- Supplies around one-third of Kolkata's fish demand.
- Serves as a natural flood buffer, carbon sink and pollution control system.

#### Threats

- Urban expansion in Salt Lake and Rajarhat.
- Illegal landfills, encroachment and real-estate development.

### Singalila National Park

- Located in Darjeeling district, along the Singalila Ridge in the Eastern Himalayas; established as a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1986 and upgraded to a National Park in 1992.
- Covers an area of 78.6 sq km, with an altitude ranging from 2,300–4,000 m above sea level; bordered by Sikkim in the north and Nepal in the west.
- Home to the two highest peaks of West Bengal—Sandakphu (3,630 m) and Phalut (3,600 m); traversed by the Rammam and Srikhola rivers.

- Falls within three major Himalayan ecosystems: **Eastern Himalayan Subalpine Conifer Forests**, **Eastern Himalayan Broadleaf Forests** and **Himalayan Subtropical Pine Forests**.
- Rich floral diversity includes **bamboo**, **oak**, **magnolia**, **rhododendron**, numerous **orchids**, **primulas**, **geraniums** and the **Himalayan cobra lily (Arisaema)**, for which Sandakphu is particularly known.
- Notable mammals include the **Red Panda** (flagship species), **Clouded Leopard**, **Leopard**, **Himalayan Black Bear**, **Leopard Cat**, **Pangolin**, **Serow**, **Takin**, **Yellow-throated Marten** and **Barking Deer**.
- The park is also a major site under **Project Red Panda**. Reptiles and amphibians include the endangered **Himalayan Newt**, found near **Jore Pokhri** and **Sukhiapokhri**.

## Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests in West Bengal

- **Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests** are primarily found in the **Terai and Duars regions of North Bengal**, especially in **Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar and Cooch Behar districts**. These forests receive **100–200 cm of annual rainfall** and are among the most economically important forest types in the state.
- The climate is **warm and humid**, with average temperatures ranging between **24°C and 27°C**. A short dry season occurs annually, during which many canopy trees shed their leaves for about **6–8 weeks** to reduce water loss. **Sal (Shorea robusta)** is the dominant and most characteristic tree species.
- In West Bengal, these forests extend from the **foothills of the Eastern Himalayas** into parts of the northern plains, forming a transitional zone between Himalayan and Gangetic ecosystems.
- The forests support a rich diversity of wildlife, including the **Royal Bengal Tiger**, **Asian Elephant**, **Leopard**, **Wild Boar**, **Gaur**, **Deer species** and numerous resident and migratory birds.

- Ecologically, these forests play a crucial role in **biodiversity conservation**, **soil protection**, **watershed management**, **carbon sequestration** and **microclimate regulation**.
- Major protected areas containing Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests include **Jaldapara National Park**, **Gorumara National Park**, **Buxa National Park** and several forest divisions across the **Terai–Duars landscape**.

## Doors (Duars) of West Bengal and Assam

- The **Doors (Duars)** are extensive alluvial floodplains situated between the outer Himalayan foothills and the Brahmaputra basin, stretching from the **Teesta River** in West Bengal to the **Dhansiri River** in Assam over a distance of nearly 350 km and an average width of about 30 km.
- The term "**Doors**" literally means "**doors**" or "**gateways**", referring to the **18 traditional passes (duars)** that connected the Indian plains with Bhutan. The region serves as the natural gateway to Bhutan and forms part of the Terai–Duar Savanna and Grasslands Ecoregion.

### Geographical Extent

- The Doors lie between the Himalayan foothills and the Brahmaputra Valley, encompassing the plains of **Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, Kalimpong and northern Cooch Behar districts of West Bengal**, along with parts of **Lower Assam**.
- The **Sankosh River** divides the region into **Western Doors (West Bengal)** and **Eastern Doors (Assam)**.

### Regional Divisions of the Doors

#### Western Doors (West Bengal)

- The Western Doors lie west of the Sankosh River and presently cover much of **Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, Kalimpong and parts of Cooch Behar district**.
- Historically, the region was organized as the **Western Doors District in 1865** and later merged with **Jalpaiguri District in 1869**.

- The area is renowned for its tea plantations, dense Sal forests, rich wildlife habitats and protected areas such as Jaldapara National Park, Gorumara National Park, Buxa National Park, Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary and Chilapata Forest.

#### Eastern Dooars (Assam)

- The Eastern Dooars extend between the **Sankosh River and the Manas River**. The principal Eastern Duars were **Bijni, Sidli, Chirang, Ripu and Guma**. At present, this region falls largely within **Kokrajhar, Chirang and Bongaigaon districts of Assam**.

#### Kamrup Dooars

- The KamrupDooars are situated between the **Manas River and the Bornadi River**. They comprised **Bijni, Chapakhamar, Chapaguri, Banska and Gurkola Duars**. These territories were annexed by the British East India Company in **1841** and now fall mainly within **Kamrup, Nalbari and Baksa districts of Assam**.

#### Darrang Dooars

- The DarrangDooars lie between the **Bornadi River and the Dhansiri River**. They included **Killing, Buriguma and Koriapar Duars** and were annexed by the British between **1841 and 1844**. Today, they are located within **Udalguri and Sonitpur districts of Assam**.

#### Climate and Drainage

- The Dooars experience a **humid subtropical climate** characterized by heavy monsoonal rainfall, warm summers, mild winters and high atmospheric humidity.
- Numerous Himalayan rivers traverse the region, including the **Teesta, Torsa, Jaldhaka, Raidak and Sankosh**, depositing fertile alluvium and supporting intensive agriculture.

#### Major Urban Centres

- Important urban centres of the Dooars region include **Siliguri, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Cooch Behar, Dhupguri, Malbazar, Falakata, Birpara, Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Goalpara and Barpeta**.

#### Vegetation

- The natural vegetation consists predominantly of **tropical moist deciduous and semi-evergreen forests**. Major species include **Sal (Shorea robusta), Simul, Sissoo, Khair, Teak and Bamboo**, while extensive riverine grasslands form an important component of the Terai-Duar ecosystem.

#### Wildlife

- The Dooars constitute one of eastern India's richest wildlife habitats. Major fauna include the **Royal Bengal Tiger, Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros, Asian Elephant, Leopard, Gaur, Wild Boar, Sambar and Barking Deer**, along with numerous reptile and bird species.

#### Importance of the Dooars

##### Economic Importance

- The Dooars are among India's most important tea-producing regions and support extensive agricultural activities due to their fertile alluvial soils.

##### Ecological Importance

- The region contains vast tropical moist deciduous forests dominated by Sal and acts as a crucial ecological corridor connecting the **Eastern Himalayas, Bhutan and the Brahmaputra Valley**.

##### Biodiversity Importance

- The Dooars form a major component of the **Terai-Duar Grassland Ecosystem**, one of South Asia's most significant biodiversity hotspots, supporting elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, gaurs, leopards and numerous endemic and migratory species.

## WEST BENGAL POLITY AND ADMINISTRATION

### Chandernagore (Chandannagar)

- Chandernagore (Chandannagar) was officially merged with the state of West Bengal on **October 2, 1954**, through the enactment of the **Chandernagore (Merger) Act, 1954**.
- Following a vote in 1949 and subsequent treaties with France, the former French colony was fully integrated into the Hooghly district as a subdivision.

### States Reorganisation Act, 1956

- The **States Reorganisation Act, 1956** impacted West Bengal primarily by expanding its territorial boundaries.
- Under the associated **Bihar and West Bengal (Transfer of Territories) Act, 1956**, the Bengali-speaking district of **Purulia** was transferred from Bihar to West Bengal.

### West Bengal Administrative Divisions

- For administrative convenience and effective governance, **West Bengal is divided into 5 administrative divisions**, which are further subdivided into **23 districts** and subsequently into subdivisions, Community Development (CD) blocks, municipalities and panchayats. Each division is headed by a **Divisional Commissioner**.
  1. **Presidency Division: Districts:** Kolkata, Howrah, Nadia, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas.
  2. **Medinipur Division: Districts:** Bankura, Jhargram, Paschim Medinipur, Purba Medinipur and Purulia.
  3. **Burdwan Division: Districts:** Birbhum, Hooghly, Paschim Bardhaman and Purba Bardhaman.
  4. **Malda Division: Districts:** Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad and Uttar Dinajpur.

5. **Jalpaiguri Division: Districts:** Alipurduar, Cooch Behar, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Kalimpong.

### Calcutta High Court:

- The **Calcutta High Court**, officially established on **1 July 1862**, is the **oldest High Court in India**. It was created under the **Indian High Courts Act, 1861**, replacing the **Supreme Court of Judicature at Fort William** and consolidating judicial administration in the region.
- **Establishment and Foundation:** The court was inaugurated at **Fort William, Kolkata**, with **Sir Barnes Peacock** serving as the first Chief Justice. Initially, its jurisdiction extended over **Bengal, Bihar and Odisha**, while in its modern form it covers West Bengal and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- **Notable Judicial Milestones:** **Justice Sumboo Nath Pandit** became the first Indian judge of the Calcutta High Court in 1863, **Justice P. B. Chakravarti** later became the first Indian permanent Chief Justice of the court.
- **Architecture of the High Court Building:** The main High Court building is located near the **Hooghly River on Esplanade Row West, Kolkata**. It is a prominent example of **Gothic Revival architecture**. Designed by British architect **Walter L. B. Granville**, the structure was inspired by the medieval **Cloth Hall of Ypres, Belgium**. Construction began in **1864** and was completed in **1872**.

### Tin Bigha Corridor (Teen Bigha Corridor)

- The **Tin Bigha Corridor** is a narrow strip of land located on the **West Bengal-Bangladesh border** in the **Cooch Behar region** of India. It is strategically important as it provides Bangladesh access to its enclave **Dahagram-Angarpota** from the mainland.

- The corridor is situated in **Patgram Upazila (Bangladesh side connection)** within the border region of **West Bengal, India** and connects Bangladesh mainland with the **Dahagram–Angarpota enclave**, the only remaining Bangladeshi enclave after the 2015 settlement of enclave issues.
- The corridor measures approximately **178 metres × 85 metres (584 ft × 279 ft)** and lies under Indian territory, but is leased to Bangladesh for controlled access.
- The Tin Bigha Corridor is rooted in the **Indira Gandhi–Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Treaty (16 May 1974)**, which aimed to resolve border and enclave disputes between India and Bangladesh.
- Key provisions included:
  - Exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh,
  - Transfer of **South Berubari** to India (partially implemented),
  - Transfer of **Dahagram–Angarpota** to Bangladesh,
  - Provision of an access corridor through Indian territory to connect the enclave with Bangladesh mainland.
- While Bangladesh transferred South Berubari, India could not immediately transfer Tin Bigha due to constitutional and political constraints. As a compromise, India later agreed to lease the corridor instead of transferring sovereignty.
- Initially, the corridor was opened for only **12 hours during daylight**, creating major hardships for residents of Dahagram–Angarpota, especially due to lack of hospitals, education facilities and administrative access.
- A breakthrough came on **6 September 2011**, when India and Bangladesh agreed to keep the corridor open **24 hours a day**, ensuring uninterrupted access for enclave residents.
- The corridor was formally opened for continuous use on **19 October 2011** by **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** of Bangladesh.

## Petrapole – Benapole Border Checkpoint

- **Petrapole** is the Indian side of the **Petrapole–Benapole Integrated Check Post (ICP)** on the **India–Bangladesh border**, located near **Bongaon** in **North 24 Parganas district**.
- It is one of the most important international trade gateways between the two countries and the **largest land customs station in Asia**.
- Petrapole lies about **95 km from Kolkata** along **National Highway 112 (formerly NH 35)**. The nearest town and railway station is **Bongaon**.
- The region is part of the **lower Ganges Delta**, a flat and densely populated alluvial plain.
- The area **formed part of Jessore district** before 1883. After the **Partition of Bengal in 1947**, the **Radcliffe Line** placed the police station areas of **Bongaon and Gaighata** within India, integrating them into the **24 Parganas district** (now North 24 Parganas).
- The region is also culturally significant as it is associated with the noted Bengali writer **Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay**, whose literary works often reflect rural life in this area.
- Petrapole–Benapole is the **most important land trade route between India and Bangladesh**, accounting for:
  - Over **50% of bilateral land trade**,
  - Nearly **60% of India–Bangladesh trade via land routes**,
  - A trade volume of approximately **\$4 billion**, making it one of the busiest land customs points in Asia.
- The **Bandhan Express**, launched in **2017**, operates between **Kolkata and Khulna (Bangladesh)** via Petrapole–Benapole, enhancing passenger connectivity.

## West Bengal Legislative Assembly

- The **West Bengal Legislative Assembly** is the **unicameral legislature** of the Indian state of West Bengal. The Assembly meets at the **Vidhan Sabha building in Kolkata**, located in the historic administrative district of **B. B. D. Bagh**.

- The Assembly has a total strength of **294 seats**, with members elected using the **first-past-the-post system**.

#### Leadership

- Speaker:** Rathindra Bose (BJP), Cooch Behar Dakshin
- Leader of the House / Chief Minister:** Suwendu Adhikari (BJP), Bhabanipur
- Leader of the Opposition:** Sovandeb Chattopadhyay (AITC), Ballygunge
- Deputy Leaders of the Opposition:** Nayna Bandyopadhyay (Chowrangee), Ashima Patra (Dhanekhali)
- Deputy Speaker:** Vacant

#### Historical Background

The origins of the West Bengal Legislature date back to **18 January 1862**, when a **12-member Legislative Council for the Bengal Presidency** was created under the **Indian Councils Act, 1861**.

Over time, reforms expanded its size:

- 1892:** Increased to 20 members
- 1909:** Expanded to 50 members
- 1919:** Expanded to 125 members under the Government of India Act

In **1921**, the Bengal Legislative Council was formally inaugurated.

#### Bicameral Phase (1935-1969)

Under the **Government of India Act, 1935**, Bengal had a **bicameral legislature**, consisting of:

- Legislative Assembly (250 members)
- Legislative Council (permanent body)

After Independence, in **1947**, Bengal was partitioned into **West Bengal and East Bengal (later East Pakistan)** and the West Bengal Legislative Assembly was reconstituted with **90 members**.

A **Legislative Council was reintroduced in 1952**, but it was **eventually abolished in 1969** following a resolution of the Assembly and subsequent Parliamentary legislation.

#### Modern Assembly

- The modern West Bengal Legislative Assembly is a **unicameral body**, meaning it has only one house. It functions as the primary law-making institution of the state and is responsible for: passing state laws, approving the state budget, debating public policy, holding the executive accountable



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## WEST BENGAL MISCELLANEOUS

West Bengal has a coastline of **721.02 km**.

**Changey Falls** is the highest waterfall in West Bengal. Located in the Kalimpong district near the remote hamlet of Kolakham, it plunges from a staggering height of roughly 300 meters (984 feet) into the lush valleys of the Neora Valley National Park.

**West Bengal has 6 national parks**, showcasing diverse ecosystems ranging from the **Himalayan highlands** to the **Sundarbans mangroves**. These are **Sundarbans National Park** (UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to the Royal Bengal Tiger), **Jaldapara National Park** (famous for Indian one-horned rhinos), **Gorumara National Park** (known for rich biodiversity and grasslands), **Neora Valley National Park** (pristine forests and clouded leopards), **Singalila National Park** (red pandas and panoramic Himalayan views) and **Buxa National Park** (part of the Buxa Tiger Reserve, known for wildlife and the historic Buxa Fort).

The **Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve** is the first and only Biosphere Reserve in West Bengal. Established in **1989**, it is located in the Gangetic delta and covers an expansive 9,630 square kilometres making it the largest mangrove forest in the world. It was later designated as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1987.

The largest hydroelectric facility in West Bengal is the **Purulia Pumped Storage Power Station (PPSP)**, located in the Ajodhya Hills of the Purulia district.

The Howrah Bridge is officially named Rabindra Setu. It was **renamed in 1965** to honor the great Bengali poet and Nobel laureate, Rabindranath Tagore.

Kazi Nazrul Islam was born in the village of **Churulia**. This village is located in the Asansol

Sadar subdivision of the Paschim Bardhaman district (formerly part of the Burdwan district) in West Bengal.

**Purba Bardhaman** is known as the "Rice Bowl of West Bengal" due to its highly fertile alluvial soil and massive paddy production.

The **Damodar** is the longest river flowing entirely within the state of West Bengal. While it originates on the Chota Nagpur Plateau in Jharkhand, its entire remaining route runs exclusively through West Bengal before it merges with the Hooghly and Rupnarayan rivers.

The famous terracotta temples of Bishnupur were built by the kings of the **Malla dynasty** (also known as the Malla kings) between the 17th and 18th centuries.

Ghum Railway Station is located at an altitude of **2,258 meters (7,407 feet)** above sea level in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal. It holds the distinction of being the highest railway station in India.

According to the 2011 Census, **Kolkata** has the lowest sex ratio in West Bengal, recording **908 females per 1,000 males**.

According to the 2011 Census, **Darjeeling** district has the highest sex ratio in West Bengal. It recorded **970 females per 1,000 males**.

West Bengal covers approximately **2.7%** of India's total geographical area. It spans a landmass of 88,752 square kilometers out of the country's total area of about 3.28 million square kilometers.

The three major rivers of West Bengal that are tributaries of the Brahmaputra are the **Teesta**, the **Jaldhaka** and the **Raidak** (often referred to along with the **Torsa** and **Sankosh**). These rivers

originate in the Himalayas and flow through the northern plains of West Bengal before crossing into Bangladesh to join the main Brahmaputra (known as the Jamuna in Bangladesh).

Reserved Forests (59.38%) occupies the largest share of the recorded forest area in West Bengal.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY - GK

The major component of honey is **fructose** (fruit sugar), which accounts for roughly 38 to 40% of its total weight.

There are 20 standard amino acids that serve as the fundamental building blocks of all proteins.

Chemical reactions in biological systems are accelerated by **enzymes**. These are specialized biological catalysts—primarily composed of proteins or RNA—that speed up biochemical processes by lowering the **activation energy** required for reactions to occur.

Fat is mainly stored in **adipose tissue**, which is a specialized loose connective tissue made up of fat-storing cells called adipocytes.

Polish biochemist **Casimir Funk** coined the term "vitamine" in 1912. He derived it from the words "vital" and "amine", as he believed these essential micronutrients were chemical amines.

Carotene in cow's milk imparts a **yellow or golden-yellow** color. This fat-soluble pigment (primarily beta-carotene) comes from the green grass and plants the cow eats and dissolves directly into the milk's fat.

Food wrapped in newspapers is primarily contaminated with **lead** from the printing ink. Additionally, the paper and ink may contain other heavy metals like **cadmium**.

**Ischemia** is a medical condition where a restriction or blockage in blood supply reduces the flow of oxygen and vital nutrients to tissues and organs.

**Thiamine, also known as vitamin B1**, is an essential water-soluble B vitamin required for energy metabolism, cell function and a healthy nervous system.

**Ascorbic acid is the chemical name for Vitamin C**. It is a water-soluble vitamin and powerful antioxidant essential for tissue repair, collagen production and immune function.

The SI unit of capacitance is the **Farad**.

Earth's escape velocity is 11.2 km/s (about 40,270 km/h), which is the minimum speed required for an object to overcome Earth's gravitational pull and escape into space without any additional propulsion.

The filament in a standard incandescent electric bulb is made of **tungsten**.

A **convex mirror** is used as a rear-view mirror in vehicles.

**Radio waves** have the longest wavelength in the electromagnetic spectrum, with sizes ranging from about 1 millimeter to over 100 kilometers.

**Violet colour deviates (or bends) the most** when white light passes through a prism.

The SI unit of momentum is the **kilogram meter per second**.

Fluorescent lamps are mainly filled with an inert gas like **argon** (or sometimes neon, xenon, or krypton) combined with low-pressure **mercury vapor**.

The speed of sound in air at room temperature (around 20°C / 68°F) is approximately **343 meters per second**.

The blue color of the sky is caused by **Rayleigh scattering**.

Myopia (nearsightedness) is corrected using a **concave lens** (also called a diverging or minus lens).

German astronomer **Johannes Kepler** formulated the three laws of planetary motion in the early 1600s.

The waves used in common TV remote control are **Infrared Rays**. Infrared (IR), sometimes called infrared light, is electromagnetic radiation (EMR) with wavelengths longer than those of visible light. It is therefore invisible to the human eye.

**Fluorine (F)** is identified to be the most reactive element in the periodic table.

**Rayon** was the first man-made fibre, developed in the late 19th century.

**Strontium-90** primarily accumulates in the bones and teeth because it chemically resembles calcium,

causing the body to absorb it into the skeletal system, where its radioactive emissions can increase the risk of bone cancer and leukemia.

**Double sulphitation** is a clarification and refining method used primarily in the **sugar industry** to produce white plantation sugar from sugarcane juice.

**Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)**, commonly known as laughing gas, is a colorless gas with a slightly sweet smell that is used as an inhaled anesthetic and sedative to reduce pain and anxiety during medical and dental procedures.

**Ethylene gas** is the only safe and government-approved gas for the artificial ripening of fruits.

**Chromium** is the essential element required to manufacture stainless steel. By definition, an alloy must contain at least **10.5% chromium**.

**Mercury** is the metal known as quicksilver. It earned this name because of its shiny, silver-white appearance and its highly mobile, liquid state at room temperature.

**Venus** is the hottest planet in the Solar System.

## ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY - GK

The **world's first tiger census** was conducted in Palamu Forests in 1932.

**Earth Hour** is organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

Afghanistan's Helmand Province is famous for opium cultivation.

Teak is the dominant tree species of **Tropical Deciduous Forests**.

**Brazil is the most biodiverse country** in the world. It is home to an estimated 10-13% of all known species on Earth.

**Pitcher plant** is an insectivorous plant.

**Dachigam National Park** in Jammu and Kashmir is known for the Hangul deer.

The Bhopal Gas Tragedy was caused by the **leakage of methyl isocyanate (MIC)**.

Dr. M. S. Swaminathan is known as the **Father of the Green Revolution in India**.

World Environment Day is observed every year on **5 June**.

Chikungunya is a viral disease spread by **Aedes mosquitoes**.

India's Department of Environment was established in **1980**.

The **White Revolution** is associated with **Dr. Verghese Kurien**.

The **Forest Rights Act** came into force in **2006**.

The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** publishes the **Global Gender Gap Index**.

**Nepenthes** both a **producer** and a **consumer**.

**DDT** stands for **Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloroethane**.

The **Great Indian Bustard** is classified as a **Critically Endangered** species.

The **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)** was formally released on June 30, 2008.

**Norman Myers** introduced the concept of **Biodiversity Hotspots**.

**Equatorial Forests** represent **Global (Gamma) Diversity**.

**Gamma Diversity** refers to biodiversity at a large regional or global scale.

**Alpha Diversity** refers to species diversity within a particular habitat.

**Beta Diversity** measures species variation between habitats.

**Rohida** is also known as the **Desert Teak of Rajasthan**.

The thickness of the atmosphere increases during **summer**.

**Rhizobium** bacteria are found in the **root nodules of leguminous plants**.

**Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary**, India's **99th Ramsar Site**, is located in **Uttar Pradesh**.

The **Biological Diversity Act** was enacted in India in **2002**.

**Meghalaya** is part of the **Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot**.

The **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** oversees the implementation of India's **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)**.

The world's oldest continuously flowing river system is the **Finke River** in Central Australia, known as *Larapinta* by the Indigenous Arrernte people.

**Peru** made global legal history by becoming the first country to grant legal rights to insects, specifically native Amazonian stingless bees.

**Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary** in **Uttar Pradesh** has been declared an **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)**.

**Ethiopia** was selected to host the 2027 U.N. Climate Change Conference (**COP32**).

The state of **Uttarakhand** imposes a green tax on vehicles entering from other states to protect the Himalayan ecology and curb vehicular emissions.

India's first-ever DNA-based **census of wild elephants** (SAIEE 2021–25) estimated a national population of **22,446 elephants**.

The **Delhi** government has declared approximately 41 square kilometres (about 4,080 hectares) of the Southern Ridge area as a reserved forest to help control pollution and strengthen the local environment.

## INDIAN HISTORY - ONE LINERS

The **Kaivarta Revolt** (also known as the **Varendra Rebellion**) was an 11th-century uprising in Bengal (1075–1082 CE) against the Pala Empire.

The **Charyapada** is the earliest known collection of poetry in the Eastern Indo-Aryan languages (including Bengali, Assamese and Odia).

The **Dawn Society** (1902) was a prominent cultural and educational organization founded in Calcutta (Kolkata) by educationist and nationalist **Satish Chandra Mukherjee**.

The **Mahalwari System** was introduced by **Holt Mackenzie** in 1822.

The **Theosophical Society** was founded in 1875 by **Madame Blavatsky** and **Colonel Olcott**.

The book **Poverty and Un-British Rule in India** was written by **Dadabhai Naoroji**.

The **Delhi Conspiracy Case (1912)** involved an attempt on the life of **Lord Hardinge**.

The **All India Khilafat Conference** was held in **Delhi in 1919**.

The slogan "**Inquilab Zindabad**" was coined by **Maulana Hasrat Mohani**, an Urdu poet and freedom fighter, in 1921.

The **August Offer** was announced by **Lord Linlithgow** in 1940.

**George Yule (1888)** became the first Englishman to preside over the INC.

The English-language daily newspaper **Bande Mataram** was founded by **Bipin Chandra Pal** in 1905 and was prominently edited by **Sri Aurobindo** (Aurobindo Ghosh).

**India House** in London was established by **Shyamji Krishna Varma** in 1905.

The **Berlin Committee** was formed in 1915 to support India's independence movement abroad.

The **Doctrine of Lapse** was first applied to **Satara (1848)**.

**Mangal Pandey** belonged to the **34th Bengal Native Infantry**.

The **Government of India Act, 1919** introduced **dyarchy in provinces**.

The **Silk Letter Conspiracy** (or **Silk Letter Movement**) was a plot orchestrated by **Deobandi** leaders between 1913 and 1920 to overthrow British rule in India.

The **All-Parties Conference (1928)** appointed the committee that produced the **Nehru Report**.

The **Butler Committee (1927)** was appointed to examine the relationship between the **British Crown** and princely states.

## INDIAN GEOGRAPHY - ONE LINERS

The **Bhor Ghat** is a mountain pass between **Mumbai and Pune**.

The **southernmost tip of Great Nicobar (Indira Point)** is only about 150 kms away from the northern tip of **Sumatra, Indonesia**.

The **Brahmaputra River** takes a sharp "U-turn" (known as the "Great Bend") around the **Namcha Barwa** mountain peak in Tibet. This abrupt geological fold—caused by the collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates—forces the

river to cut through the Himalayas and enter India in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

The **Malabar Coast** is internationally renowned for its *kayals*, which are an extensive network of shallow, brackish lagoons, lakes and canals that run parallel to the Arabian Sea.

**Doon valleys** are found between **Lesser Himalayas** and **Shivaliks**.

**Kibithu** is India's easternmost inhabited border point. Situated in the **Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh** at an altitude of approximately 4,000 feet, this strategically vital village lies on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) near the tri-junction of India, China and Myanmar.

**Loamy soils** provide highest **agricultural productivity**.

**Weight-losing industries** locate near **raw material sources**.

India has **significant thorium reserves (monazite sands)** but is not a leading uranium reserve holder globally. Monazite sands are **highly concentrated along the Kerala coast in India**.

Ukai Dam is built on the **Tapti River**.

Srisailem Dam is located on the **Krishna River**.

Shale oil is found in **deep, fine-grained rock formations** and extracted using **hydraulic fracturing (fracking)**.

India has **limited reserves of high-quality coking coal**.

Horn of Africa comprises **Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia** and **Djibouti** and is shaped by the **Great Rift Valley system**.

**Magic Rice** is part of **Nagaland's culinary heritage** and can be eaten after soaking without cooking.

Millets are **C4 crops** with **high photosynthetic efficiency** and **climate resilience properties**.

Fata Morgana is a **complex superior mirage** seen in **polar or cold regions over ice surfaces**.

Silvopasture integrates **trees, fodder crops** and **livestock in a combined agroforestry system**.

Urea is **not included** under India's **Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme**.

Kimberlite rocks are **primary diamond-bearing volcanic rocks**.

Synthetic rubber has **higher tensile strength** and **durability than natural rubber**.

Effective literacy rate excludes **population below 7 years of age**.

Phosphine is used in **semiconductor manufacturing** and **grain storage fumigation**.

Mount Vesuvius is located in **Italy near Naples**.

Mount Vesuvius is located in **Italy near Naples**.

Kīlauea is a **shield volcano in the Hawaiian Islands**.

Mayon Volcano is located in the **Philippines**.

Cotopaxi is a **stratovolcano in Ecuador**.

Ground-level ozone is formed by **reaction of nitrogen oxides and VOCs in sunlight**.

Lake Victoria is the **largest lake in Africa** and the **largest tropical lake in the world by area**.

## INDIAN POLITY - ONE LINERS

**J.S. Verma Committee (Fundamental Duties):** Focused on awareness, enforcement and integration of Fundamental Duties into education and civic life.

Under Article 53 of the Constitution of India, the executive power of the Union is vested in the President, who exercises it either directly or through officer's subordinate to them in accordance with the Constitution.

The **CEC and Election Commissioners** hold office for **6 years or until 65 years of age (whichever earlier)** under **Article 324(2)** and these limits ensure **independence and institutional neutrality**.

The **S.R. Bommai case (1994)** is a landmark Supreme Court judgment that curtailed the arbitrary use of **Article 356 (President's Rule)**. The Court held that **state governments are not subordinate to the Centre**, reinforced **federalism as part of the Basic Structure** and ruled that a government's majority must be tested only on the floor of the Legislative Assembly.

The **President of India has no discretion to withhold assent to a constitutional amendment**

**bill, making assent a mandatory constitutional formality.**

The **Inter-State Council (1990)** was established on the recommendation of the **Sarkaria Commission**, is chaired by the **Prime Minister** and includes **Chief Ministers and selected Union Ministers**, functioning as a **consensus-based advisory forum**.

The **Public Acts, Records and Judicial Proceedings (Article 261)** ensure **full faith and credit across India**, meaning laws, records and court judgments of one state are recognized and enforceable in all other states.

The **Nehru-Noon Agreement (1958)** dealt with the **division of Berubari Union and resolution of India-Pakistan enclave's issue**.

The **Shah Bano Case (1985)** upheld **maintenance under CrPC for Muslim women**.

Parole is a temporary, **conditional release of a prisoner before their sentence expires**. It allows an inmate to leave for specific reasons - such as a family emergency or to reintegrate into society - while requiring them to obey rules and report to authorities.

## INDIAN ECONOMY - ONE LINERS

GDP includes output by both domestic residents and **foreign firms operating inside the country**.

**Transfer payments:** income received without contributing to current production.

Examples: **pensions, scholarships, unemployment allowance, remittances**.

**Deficit Financing:** situation where **government expenditure exceeds revenue (excluding**

**borrowings)** and the gap is financed through **borrowing or money creation**.

**Bank of Hindustan (1770):** first modern bank in India, established in **Calcutta**, ceased in **1832**.

**Nachiket Mor Committee (2013-14):** focused on **financial inclusion**.

**P.J. Nayak Committee (2014):** recommended creation of **Bank Investment Company (BIC)** to manage PSU banks.

Financial Stability Board (FSB) was established in **April 2009** in response to the **2008 Global Financial Crisis**.

**Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** was established under **RRB Act, 1976** on recommendation of **Narasimham Committee on Rural Credit (1975)**.

An Inverted Duty Structure (IDS) arises when **import duties on finished goods are lower than those on raw materials or intermediate inputs used in their production**, making domestic manufacturing costlier and imports relatively cheaper.

Tax expenditure refers to the **revenue foregone by the government due to exemptions, deductions, rebates and concessional tax rates granted under the tax system** to promote specific economic or social objectives.

The **Phillips Curve**, developed by economist A. W. Phillips, describes an inverse short-run relationship between inflation and unemployment - meaning when unemployment falls, inflation tends to rise due to higher wage pressures and when unemployment rises, inflation tends to fall as demand weakens.

A Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a financial institution registered under **the Companies Act, 1956/2013** and regulated by the

**RBI under the RBI Act, 1934**, whose principal business is providing loans, advances, leasing, hire-purchase, or investment in securities, but which does not have a banking licence.

Seigniorage is the profit earned by the government from issuing currency, defined as the **difference between the face value of money and its production cost**, for example when a ₹500 note costs only a few rupees to print.

**Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)** are large banks whose failure can trigger widespread disruption in the financial system due to their size, interconnectedness and critical role in credit and payments, hence they are considered **"Too Big to Fail."**

Constitutional provisions **under Article 292** allow the Union Government to borrow from domestic and external sources as authorised by Parliament, **while Article 293** restricts State borrowing to internal sources and requires Centre's consent if it is indebted to the Union.

**Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS)** refer to tax avoidance strategies used by multinational enterprises to shift profits from high-tax jurisdictions to low-tax or no-tax jurisdictions, thereby eroding the tax base of countries where actual economic activity takes place and reducing their tax revenues.

## WORLD GK

**Suez Canal** connects Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea.

**Montreal Protocol (1987)** is considered the most successful environmental treaty due to near-universal ratification and ozone recovery trend.

**Stockholm Convention targets Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)** like DDT, which are *bioaccumulative and long-range transported*.

Greenland sits on the North American tectonic plate, making it geographically part of North America. Politically, the island is an autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark.

**Lake Baikal contains ~20% of world's unfrozen freshwater**, making it both *deepest and oldest freshwater lake*.

**Ring of Fire** accounts for ~90% of world's earthquakes, linked to *subduction zones around Pacific Plate*.

**Dead Sea** is a hypersaline lake, not a sea and its surface lies at the *lowest land elevation on Earth*.

Bab-el-Mandeb Strait is a vital maritime chokepoint between **Yemen** (Arabian Peninsula) and **Djibouti/Eritrea** (Horn of Africa), connecting the **Red Sea** to the **Gulf of Aden** and serving as the essential southern gateway for all shipping to and from the **Suez Canal**.

The **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** is strictly a state-to-state tribunal and has no jurisdiction over individuals, nor can it force sovereign states to stand trial without their prior consent.

The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** was established under the **Rome Statute (2002)** and is headquartered in **The Hague, Netherlands**.

The **UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)** is headquartered in **Nairobi, Kenya**, making it the only major UN agency based in Africa.

The **Amazon Rainforest** spans across **Brazil, Peru, Colombia** and is the largest tropical rainforest.

The **Dead Sea** lies between **Israel and Jordan** and is the lowest exposed point on Earth.

Arctic Council is the main intergovernmental forum for Arctic governance, focused on **sustainable development** and **environmental protection** and excludes **military/security issues**. It has eight member states: **Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden** and the **United States**.

The **Paris Agreement (2015)** aims to limit global temperature rise to **well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels** under the **UNFCCC**.

The **G7 Summit** represents advanced economies including **USA, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Canada, Japan**.

The **OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries)** is headquartered in **Vienna, Austria** and influences global oil prices.

The **CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species)** regulates wildlife trade to prevent species extinction and is based in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

The **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)** is headquartered in **Abu Dhabi, UAE** and promotes renewable energy transition.

The **Bering Strait** connects the **Arctic Ocean and Pacific Ocean** and separates **Russia and Alaska (USA)**.

The **Great Pacific Garbage Patch** is a massive accumulation of plastic waste in the **North Pacific Gyre**.

The **Aral Sea**, located between **Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan**, has drastically shrunk due to river diversion.

The **Galápagos Islands** belong to **Ecuador** and played a key role in **Darwin's theory of evolution**.

The **UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)** defines maritime zones like **EEZ (200 nautical miles)** and governs ocean resource rights.

## IMPORTANT BOOKS & AUTHORS

Book	Author
A House for Mr. Biswas	V. S. Naipaul
A Bunch of Old Letters	Jawaharlal Nehru
An Era of Darkness	Shashi Tharoor
Jallianwala Bagh, 1919: The Real Story	Kishwar Desai
Unbreakable	Mary Kom
A Century Is Not Enough	Sourav Ganguly
Fault Lines	Raghuram Rajan
Ananda Math	Bankim Chandra Chatterjee
Naa Jeevana Gamanam	A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism	Dinyar Patel
The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari	Robin Sharma
The Years, A Man's Place	Annie Ernaux
The Vegetarian	Han Kang
Paradise, Afterlives, By the Sea	Abdulrazak Gurnah
The Wild Iris, Averno	Louise Glück
There Is No Place for Us	Brian Goldstone

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Justice Sheel Nagu	Judge	Supreme Court of India	Former CJ, Punjab & Haryana HC
Justice Shree Chandrashekhar	Judge	Supreme Court of India	Former CJ, Bombay HC
Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva	Judge	Supreme Court of India	Former CJ, Madhya Pradesh HC
Justice Arun Palli	Judge	Supreme Court of India	Former CJ, J&K & Ladakh HC
V. Mohana	Judge (Direct elevation from Bar)	Supreme Court of India	2nd woman directly elevated from Bar after Indu Malhotra
Raghav Chadha	Chairman	Rajya Sabha Committee on Petitions	Parliamentary committee appointment
Saurabh Vijay	CEO	UIDAI	1998-batch IAS officer, Maharashtra cadre
Prashant Pise	Ambassador	India to Oman	1995 batch IFS officer
R. Mukundan	President	Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)	2026-27 term
Suchitra K. Ella	President-Designate	CII	Bharat Biotech MD
Shashwat Goenka	Vice-President	CII	RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group
Suvendu Adhikari	Chief Minister	West Bengal	First BJP CM of state
Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan	Chief of Naval Staff	Indian Navy	Succeeds Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi
Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani	Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)	Indian Armed Forces	Succeeds Gen Anil Chauhan
Anugraha Narayana Das	Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)	Ministry of Defence	1991-batch IDAS officer; focus on <b>defence finance transparency &amp; efficiency</b>
Vishvajit Sahay	Secretary (Defence Finance)	Ministry of Defence	Former CGDA; strengthens <b>defence financial governance &amp; budget systems</b>

## SPORTS

### ICC Suspends Cricket Canada Membership

- The International Cricket Council suspended Cricket Canada for **serious governance and administrative breaches**. Canadian teams remain eligible for ICC tournaments, while

funding continues under ICC supervision. Reforms in governance, transparency, and compliance are required for reinstatement.

### Satwik-Chirag Win Singapore Open 2026

- Indian badminton pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the **Singapore Open 2026 Men's Doubles** title, defeating Indonesia's Fajar Alfian-Muhammad Shohibul Fikri. It was their **first Singapore Open title and first BWF World Tour title since 2024.**

### RCB Win IPL 2026 (Back-to-Back Champions)

- Royal Challengers Bengaluru defeated Gujarat Titans by **5 wickets** in Ahmedabad. RCB became only the **third team in IPL history** to win back-to-back titles (2025 & 2026), after CSK and MI.

### Esha Singh Wins Gold with World Record

- Shooter Esha Singh won **gold in women's 25m pistol** at the ISSF World Cup Munich with a **world record score of 43**, breaking the previous record of 42. She defeated top shooters including Olympic champion Yang Jinn.

### Vaibhav Sooryavanshi IPL Record Sixes

- Young cricketer Vaibhav Sooryavanshi smashed a record **65 sixes in IPL 2026**, breaking Chris Gayle's long-standing record of 59 sixes in a season. He also became the youngest player to score **600+ runs in an IPL season.**

### Gurindervir Singh 100m National Record

- Sprinter Gurindervir Singh clocked **10.09 seconds in the 100m**, becoming the fastest Indian sprinter in history. He became the first Indian to enter the sub-10.10 range, marking a major milestone in Indian athletics.

### Vijay Shankar Retirement

- Indian all-rounder Vijay Shankar retired from domestic cricket and IPL. He represented India in white-ball formats, played multiple IPL franchises, and was part of India's 2019 World Cup squad. His retirement ends a 10+ year professional career.

### East Bengal Win Indian Super League 2026

- East Bengal FC** won their first-ever **Indian Super League (ISL)** title, defeating Inter Kashi 2-1 in a dramatic comeback in Kolkata. The victory ended a **22-year wait** for a top-tier domestic league trophy and marked a historic moment in **Indian football.**

### CIC Rules BCCI Outside RTI Act

- The **Central Information Commission (CIC)** ruled that the **BCCI** is not a "**public authority**" under the RTI Act, 2005. The decision reversed its **2018 stand**, citing **legal structure** and **financial independence** from government control.

### Vaibhav Sooryavanshi IPL Record (2026)

- 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** became the Indian batter with the most **sixes in a single IPL season**, hitting **43 sixes in IPL 2026.** He broke the previous Indian record and emerged as one of the most **explosive young performers.**

### India at Asian Boxing U15 Championships 2026

- India won **27 medals (9 gold, 6 silver, 12 bronze)** at the **Asian Boxing U15 Championships 2026.** The **U-15 girls team** led the performance with **7 gold medals**, showcasing strong emerging talent in **boxing.**

### Sahdev Yadav Elected SAWF President

- Sahdev Yadav** was elected **President of the South Asian Weightlifting Federation (SAWF)**, strengthening **India's leadership** in regional **sports governance.** The move is expected to enhance **South Asian cooperation** in weightlifting development.

### Rahul Dravid Becomes ETPL Franchise Owner

- Former India captain **Rahul Dravid** became the owner of the **Dublin franchise (Dublin Guardians)** in the **European T20 Premier League (ETPL)**, Europe's first **multi-country**

ICC-sanctioned T20 league involving Ireland, Scotland, and Netherlands.

### India Win Archery World Cup Stage 2 Gold

- The Indian women's recurve team (Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat, Kumkum Mohod) won gold at Archery World Cup Stage 2, Shanghai, defeating China in a shoot-off (28-26), marking India's first recurve World Cup gold since 2021.

### Faustino Oro Becomes Second Youngest Grandmaster

- Argentine prodigy Faustino Oro became the second youngest Grandmaster in chess history at 12 years, 6 months, 26 days, achieving the milestone at the Sardinia World Chess Festival 2026, earning the nickname "Messi of Chess".

### Apaar Saxena Wins International Master Title

- Indian chess player Apaar Saxena earned the International Master (IM) title after securing all required IM norms in European tournaments, highlighting India's growing dominance in global chess.

### IOC Lifts Ban on Belarus (LA 2028 Olympics)

- The IOC lifted restrictions on Belarusian athletes for the LA 2028 Olympics, allowing full participation, while Russia remains suspended and its athletes can compete only as neutral athletes under strict conditions.

### France Defeat India in Thomas Cup 2026

- France defeated India 3-0 in the Thomas Cup 2026 semifinal, ending India's campaign with a bronze medal finish. The loss was impacted by Lakshya Sen's injury, while France reached its first-ever Thomas Cup final.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

Important Day	Date	Key Highlights	Significance
Telangana Formation Day	2 June	Marks 12th anniversary of formation of Telangana (2014), carved out of Andhra Pradesh	Celebrates statehood movement, identity, and democratic aspirations
World No Tobacco Day	31 May	WHO campaign theme: "Unmasking the Appeal: Countering Nicotine and Tobacco Addiction"	Raises awareness on tobacco harm, youth addiction, and global health risks
Goa Statehood Day	30 May	Goa became the 25th state of India in 1987; 39th Statehood Day in 2026	Commemorates Goa's transition from UT to state and cultural identity
International Day of UN Peacekeepers	29 May	Honors UN "Blue Helmets" serving in conflict zones; first mission began in 1948 (UNTSO)	Recognizes peacekeepers' sacrifice, global peace and security efforts
World Football Day	25 May	Declared by UN in 2024; celebrates football's global role in unity and development	Promotes peace, inclusion, youth empowerment, and SDGs through sport
Rash Behari Bose Birth Anniversary	25 May	Remembered for revolutionary role, Ghadar Movement, and Indian Independence League	Honors contribution to India's freedom struggle and internationalizing it
World Turtle Day	May 23	Focuses on conservation of turtles & tortoises; highlights	Promotes biodiversity protection and ecosystem balance

		threats like plastic pollution, habitat loss, climate change, illegal trade	
International Day for Biological Diversity	May 22	Theme: “Acting locally for global impact”; highlights ecosystem protection under Kunming-Montreal Framework	Raises awareness about biodiversity loss and conservation actions
Anti-Terrorism Day	May 21	Observed in memory of Rajiv Gandhi; includes pledge against terrorism in schools & offices	Promotes peace, unity, and awareness against extremism
World Metrology Day	May 20	Theme: “Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making”; India advances digital compliance & IST precision	Highlights importance of measurement in trade, science & governance
World AIDS Vaccine Day	May 18	Promotes HIV vaccine research; focuses on scientific progress like mRNA, bNAbs	Encourages global collaboration for HIV prevention research
International Museum Day	18 May 2026	“Museums Uniting a Divided World”	Promotes museums as spaces for cultural dialogue, peace-building, inclusion, heritage preservation; aligned with SDGs 10, 16, 17; organized by ICOM
Sikkim Statehood Day	16 May 2026	–	Marks 51 years of Sikkim joining India (1975 referendum); became 22nd state; highlights cultural diversity, democracy, Himalayan identity
Mental Health Awareness Week 2026	11–17 May 2026	“Action”	Focus on practical steps for mental wellbeing; supports WHO/NHS guidelines; emphasizes connection, exercise, mindfulness, early help-seeking
International Nurses Day	12 May 2026	“Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives”	Honors Florence Nightingale legacy; highlights nursing workforce, healthcare challenges, empowerment, global health systems
International Day of Plant Health	12 May 2026	“Plant Biosecurity for Food Security”	Promotes plant protection from pests/diseases; linked with FAO, IPPC; supports food security, One Health approach
National Technology Day 2026	11 May	“Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Growth”	Commemorates Pokhran-II (Operation Shakti), promotes responsible innovation, ethical tech deployment, and inclusive digital growth.

<b>Mother's Day 2026</b>	10 May 2026 (Sunday)	—	Celebrates motherhood, care, sacrifice; modern origin linked to Anna Jarvis; widely observed globally with cultural variations
<b>World Red Cross Day</b>	8 May	Theme: <b>"Keeping Humanity Alive"</b> ; honors Red Cross volunteers & workers	Commemorates Henry Dunant & promotes humanitarian aid globally
<b>Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti</b>	7 May	165th birth anniversary; cultural programs, Rabindra Sangeet	Celebrates Nobel laureate, creator of <i>Jana Gana Mana</i>
<b>World Athletics Day</b>	7 May	Focus on youth fitness, athletics promotion	Encourages sports participation among youth
<b>International Labour Day</b>	1 May	Theme 2026: <b>Healthy Psychosocial Working Environment</b>	Highlights workers' rights, safety & dignity
<b>Maharashtra Day</b>	1 May	Formation of Maharashtra (1960); cultural programs	Marks linguistic reorganisation of states
<b>Gujarat Foundation Day</b>	1 May	Celebrations in Surat; cultural events & stunts	Marks creation of Gujarat (1960) after Bombay State division

## IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES

Personality	Key Facts / Why in News
<b>Rabindranath Tagore</b>	Remembered on <b>PochisheBoishakh (2026)</b> ; first Asian <b>Nobel Laureate (Literature, 1913)</b> , composer of <i>Jana Gana Mana</i> , founder of <b>Visva-Bharati University</b> , key figure of <b>Bengal Renaissance</b> .
<b>Maharana Pratap</b>	Commemorated on his <b>Jayanti (2026)</b> ; <b>13th ruler of Mewar</b> , known for resistance against <b>Mughal Empire</b> , especially the <b>Battle of Haldighati (1576)</b> .
<b>Pandit Iyothee Thass</b>	Marked on his <b>181st birth anniversary</b> ; <b>anti-caste reformer</b> , early <b>Dalit Buddhist thinker</b> , founder of <b>Sakya Buddhist Society</b> , editor of <i>Tamilan</i> journal.
<b>Veera Pasi</b>	Recognised for his role in the <b>1857 Revolt</b> ; associated with <b>Rana Beni Madhav Baksh Singh</b> , symbol of <b>Dalit participation</b> in India's freedom struggle.
<b>Baba Banda Singh Bahadur</b>	Honoured on <b>Sirhind Fateh Divas</b> ; defeated <b>Mughal forces (1710)</b> , captured <b>Sirhind</b> , abolished <b>zamindari system</b> , introduced <b>land reforms</b> and <b>Nanak Shahi coins</b> .
<b>Mehar Singh</b>	Associated with <b>Mehar Baba Competition-3 (IAF innovation initiative)</b> ; known for <b>Srinagar airlift (1947)</b> , pioneering aviation missions, and first landing at <b>Leh airstrip</b> .

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE IN NEWS - NATIONAL

**ULLAS Initiative:** Adult literacy mission under **NEP 2020**, targeting **non-literate adults (15+ years)** via **ULLAS app**,

**community learning centres**, and **digital literacy tracking**.

**JEEVAN App:** Digital platform for **senior citizen welfare**, offering **pension + healthcare integration**, **emergency panic**

alerts, and geo-tagged care services.

**Project SAKSHAM:** Skill initiative by NHA, providing vocational training (electrician, plumbing, tailoring, nursing) with strong focus on women empowerment (>80% beneficiaries).

**SHATAYU Dashboard:** Eldercare governance tool enabling caregiver mapping, certification monitoring, and district-level geriatric service planning.

**SEEDS Initiative:** India's development diplomacy tool supplying SME infrastructure & machinery support abroad, strengthening South-South cooperation and SDG-linked productivity.

**JANANI Platform:** Unified maternal & neonatal digital health system, enabling real-time pregnancy tracking, high-risk alerts, and replacing RCH portal.

**SEHAT Mission:** ICMR-ICAR One Health initiative using biofortified crops to address malnutrition + NCDs (diabetes, hypertension).

**Padma Awards 2026:** India's highest civilian honours recognising excellence via Padma Vibhushan, Bhushan, Shri, awarded to art, public service, science, social work, sports domains.

**Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar Committee:** MHA committee to study illegal immigration & demographic change, using district-level demographic analytics to address border security, infiltration, and tribal identity protection.

**UN-Habitat Catalogue of Solutions (2026-29):** Provides 81 urban governance tools to address global housing deficit (2.8 billion affected), promoting SDG-aligned sustainable cities, compact planning, green transit, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

**Lipulekh Pass Dispute:** India-Nepal territorial disagreement over Kalapani-Limpiyadhura-Lipulekh tri-junction, rooted in Treaty of Sugauli (1816) ambiguity and conflicting interpretations of Kali River origin.

**BRICS PartNIR (Partnership on New Industrial Revolution):** BRICS framework (since 2021) to drive Industry 4.0 cooperation, focusing on digital industrial integration, sustainable manufacturing, and tech-driven supply chain transformation.

**Yellow Line (West Asia):** IDF-defined military buffer boundary extending control in southern Lebanon & Gaza, reflecting evolving asymmetric warfare & territorial security strategy.

**Afsluitdijk Dam (Netherlands):** Global model of flood control and land reclamation, informing India's Kalpasar Project for climate adaptation and coastal engineering.

**FAO Agricola Medal 2026:** Highest FAO honour awarded to PM Modi for contributions to global food security, millet promotion, and sustainable agriculture diplomacy.

**Salaya Port:** A key Gulf of Kutch (Gujarat) minor port handling West Asia-Africa maritime trade, recently designated as temporary Immigration Check Post (ICP) for nearby ports; known for dhows traffic, livestock and agro-export hub (~5 lakh tonnes annually) and monsoon-safe natural harbor system.

**Gulmarg Gondola:** Asia's highest and longest cable car system (Jammu & Kashmir) located in Baramulla district, reaching up to 4,200 metres near Apherwat Peak, forming a critical part of Kashmir tourism economy infrastructure.

**Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project:** A 1,200 MW run-of-the-river hydro project on the Lohit River (Arunachal Pradesh) under THDC-State JV, part of India's Northeast energy expansion strategy, expected to generate ~4853 MU annually with major

infrastructure boost in Anjaw district.

**Agni-1 Missile (DRDO):** A solid-fuel short-range ballistic missile (700–1200 km) developed by DRDO, capable of carrying a 1000 kg nuclear payload, strengthening India's tactical nuclear deterrence under SRBM category.

**BrahMos Missile System:** A supersonic cruise missile (Mach 2.8–3.0) jointly developed by India (DRDO) and Russia, with fire-and-forget capability, low radar signature, and range up to 500

km (ER variant) for precision strike deterrence.

**SURYAstra Rocket System:** Indigenous Universal Rocket Launcher System (PULS-based) developed by NIBE Ltd with Israel's Elbit Systems, capable of precision strikes up to 150–300 km, enhancing deep strike artillery capability.

**Exercise PRAGATI 2026:** Multinational land warfare and HADR exercise in Meghalaya involving India and 12 Indo-Pacific nations, focusing on AI-enabled battlefield coordination and counter-terror interoperability.

**Operation NETRA 1.0:** Indian Army high-altitude medical outreach mission in Ladakh, using QR-based digital health system (Op Netra App) under Operation Sadbhavana for civil-military integration and healthcare delivery.

**INS Sanghamitra (NGOPV):** Indigenous Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (3,000-tonne class) built by GRSE, designed for maritime surveillance, EEZ protection, and extended endurance (8,500 nautical miles) under Aatmanirbhar Bharat defence shipbuilding.

## PRACTICE MCQs

**Q1. Dearness Allowance is primarily given to compensate for:**

- A. Tax savings
- B. Inflation and cost of living
- C. Promotion benefits
- D. Housing shortage

**Q2. The major component of honey is:**

- A. Glucose
- B. Sucrose
- C. Fructose
- D. Maltose

**Q3. The term "vitamine" was coined by:**

- A. Louis Pasteur
- B. Casimir Funk
- C. Robert Koch
- D. Linus Pauling

**Q4. Which heavy metal is commonly found in newspaper ink contamination?**

- A. Iron
- B. Zinc

- C. Lead
- D. Copper

**Q5. The SI unit of capacitance is:**

- A. Volt
- B. Ohm
- C. Farad
- D. Tesla

**Q6. The filament of an incandescent bulb is made of:**

- A. Copper
- B. Tungsten
- C. Iron
- D. Graphite

**Q7. Myopia is corrected using:**

- A. Convex lens
- B. Concave lens
- C. Prism
- D. Cylindrical lens

**Q8. Radio waves have:**

- A. Shortest wavelength
- B. Medium wavelength
- C. Longest wavelength
- D. No wavelength

**Q9. Earth Hour is organized by:**

- A. UNEP
- B. WWF
- C. UNESCO
- D. IPCC

**Q10. The world's first tiger census was conducted in:**

- A. Sundarbans
- B. Jim Corbett
- C. Palamu Forests
- D. Kaziranga

**Q11. The most biodiverse country in the world is:**

- A. India
- B. Indonesia
- C. Brazil
- D. Australia

**Q12. Hangul deer is found in:**

- A. Kaziranga
- B. Dachigam National Park
- C. Gir Forest
- D. Sundarbans

**Q13. The Bhopal Gas Tragedy was caused by leakage of:**

- A. Chlorine
- B. Ammonia
- C. Methyl isocyanate
- D. Phosgene

**Q14. The Forest Rights Act came into force in:**

- A. 2002
- B. 2005
- C. 2006
- D. 2008

**Q15. Biodiversity hotspots concept was introduced by:**

- A. Charles Darwin
- B. Norman Myers
- C. E.O. Wilson
- D. Rachel Carson

**Q16. Gamma diversity refers to diversity at:**

- A. Species level
- B. Genetic level
- C. Regional/global level
- D. Habitat level only

**Q17. Kaivarta Revolt occurred in:**

- A. Bihar
- B. Bengal
- C. Odisha
- D. Punjab

**Q18. The Mahalwari system was introduced by:**

- A. Cornwallis
- B. Holt Mackenzie
- C. Dalhousie
- D. Wellesley

**Q19. Ukai Dam is built on river:**

- A. Narmada
- B. Tapti
- C. Godavari
- D. Mahanadi

**Q20. Horn of Africa includes:**

- A. Egypt, Sudan, Libya
- B. Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea, Djibouti
- C. Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda
- D. Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia

**Q21. Inter-State Council was recommended by:**

- A. Mandal Commission
- B. Sarkaria Commission
- C. Punchhi Commission
- D. Finance Commission

**Q22. Transfer payments include:**

- A. Taxes
- B. Salaries
- C. Pensions and scholarships
- D. Profits

**Q23. Seigniorage refers to:**

- A. Tax collection
- B. Profit from issuing currency
- C. Export earnings
- D. Banking regulation

**Q24. Phillips Curve shows relation between:**

- A. Inflation and unemployment
- B. GDP and inflation
- C. Interest rate and GDP
- D. Tax and subsidy

**Q25. Suez Canal connects:**

- A. Atlantic & Pacific
- B. Mediterranean & Red Sea
- C. Arctic & Atlantic
- D. Indian & Pacific

**Q26. ICJ jurisdiction is limited to:**

- A. Individuals
- B. States
- C. Islands
- D. Terrorists

**Q27. UNEP headquarters is in:**

- A. New York
- B. Geneva
- C. Nairobi
- D. Paris

**Q28. Fault Lines is written by:**

- A. Raghuram Rajan
- B. Urjit Patel
- C. Montek Singh Ahluwalia
- D. Bibek Debroy

**Q29. Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani has been appointed as:**

- A. NSA
- B. CDS
- C. Army Chief
- D. Defence Secretary

**Q30. Esha Singh created a world record in:**

- A. 10m air rifle
- B. 25m pistol
- C. Trap shooting
- D. Skeet shooting

## ANSWERS

1. B	2. C	3. B	4. C	5. C
6. B	7. B	8. C	9. B	10. C
11. C	12. B	13. C	14. C	15. B
16. C	17. B	18. B	19. B	20. B
21. B	22. C	23. B	24. A	25. B
26. B	27. C	28. A	29. B	30. B