

WBCS GAZETTE

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MAY 2026



TOPICS COVERED

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

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Maintaining Legacy Of Success in WBCS 2023

Gr. A & B

35+

Selections in WBCS 2023
Group A & B

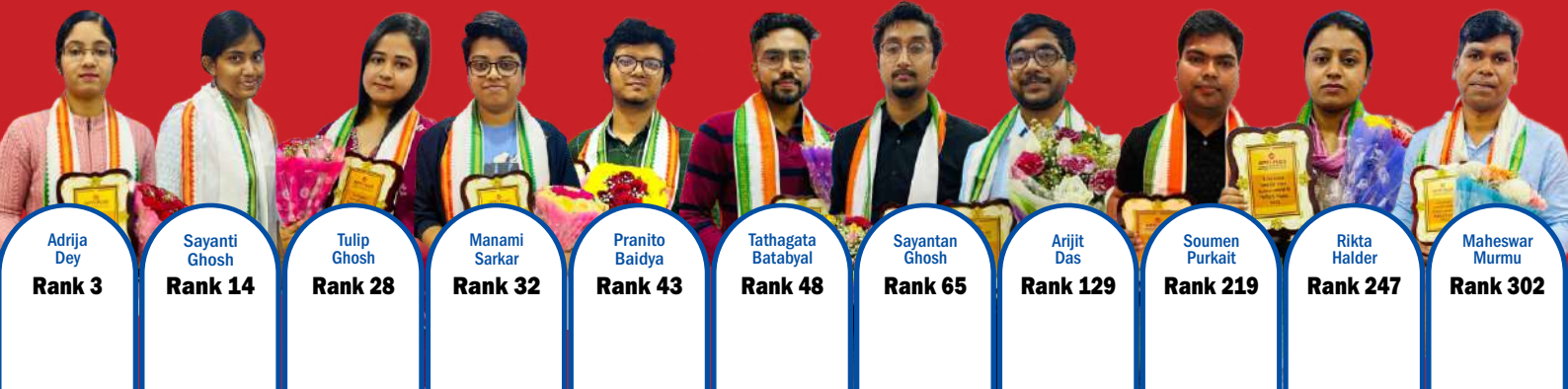
SREEJA
NAMASHARMA



Rank 1

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

& many more...



Adrija Dey
Rank 3

Sayanti Ghosh
Rank 14

Tulip Ghosh
Rank 28

Manami Sarkar
Rank 32

Pranito Baidya
Rank 43

Tathagata Batabyal
Rank 48

Sayantana Ghosh
Rank 65

Arijit Das
Rank 129

Soumen Purkait
Rank 219

Rikta Halder
Rank 247

Maheswar Murmu
Rank 302

SYLLABUS: CURRENT EVENTS OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE: TO BE READ FROM THE IAS GAZETTE: COVERS – POLITY, GOVERNMENT SCHEMES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMY, SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, SECURITY, GEOGRAPHY, SOCIETY, ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

BENGAL RELATED NEWS

Highest-ever Voter Turnout

Content

- West Bengal recorded its **highest-ever voter turnout (92.47%) since Independence** in the two-phase Assembly elections, reflecting strong democratic participation.

Details:

- Overall Turnout:** 92.47% (record high for the state).
- Phase-wise:** Phase 1 – 93.19% (Apr 23); Phase 2 – 91.66%.
- Electorate:** ~6.81 crore voters.

- Gender Trend:** Women (92.28%) outvoted men (91.07%).
- Past Record:** 84.72% in 2011 Assembly elections.
- National Comparison:** Tripura holds highest turnout (93.61%, 2013).
- Counting:** Results for WB, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Puducherry will be declared on the 4th (next month).
- By-elections:** Counting also in Karnataka, Nagaland, Tripura, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

West Bengal's AI Lag Grows, Risks Economic Divide from India's Tech Hubs

In News

- West Bengal is lagging behind India's major technology hubs in **AI adoption**, creating a widening **economic divide**. While states like Karnataka, Maharashtra and Telangana are rapidly integrating AI into governance and industry, West Bengal is progressing slowly. This raises concerns about **future investment loss, talent migration and regional inequality**, similar to earlier missed opportunities during India's IT revolution.

West Bengal Trails in AI Adoption

The AI adoption gap reflects a deeper economic divergence between West Bengal and India's leading tech states.

- Karnataka, Maharashtra and Telangana are actively integrating **AI into industry and governance**.
- West Bengal's adoption remains **slow and unstructured**.
- Risk of long-term **competitive disadvantage** in the digital economy.

Economic Indicators

- Karnataka FDI (2024): **\$4,496 million** driven by IT and services sector.
- Maharashtra: **31% of India's total FDI equity inflows**.
- Bengaluru: Major hub for **Fortune 500 R&D and startups**.
- West Bengal GSDP growth (2012–22): **4.3% vs India's 5.6%**.
- GDP share: **6.8% (1990–91) to 5.8% (2021–22)**.
- Per capita income: around **20% below national average**.
- Historical decline: from above national average to around **14th rank**.

Key States Driving AI Growth in India

AI growth is concentrated in a few urban technology hubs.

- Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Delhi, Chennai:** leading AI ecosystems.
- Karnataka: ₹28 crore **AI Centre of Excellence**; projected **3.5 lakh AI jobs by 2029**.

- Gujarat: ₹50–200 crore AI ecosystem investment.
- Telangana: AI-enabled services for 10 million+ citizens by 2027.

Investment Concentration

- Bengaluru receives 35–40% of venture capital.
- Smaller cities receive less than 10% of VC funding.
- Leads to uneven innovation and talent distribution.

National AI Goals and Challenges

India aims to become a global AI leader through inclusive digital transformation.

National Strategy

- Focus on computing power, data infrastructure, AI skills and startups.
- IT sector spending (2026): \$176.3 billion.
- India: second-largest market for ChatGPT with 100+ million weekly users.

Challenges

- Uneven AI adoption across states.
- Global competition from OpenAI, Google (Gemini), Anthropic (Claude).
- Some IT firms face cautious growth due to global slowdown.

Structural Weaknesses in West Bengal

West Bengal's lag is driven more by internal constraints than lack of opportunity.

Key Issues

- Absence of a unified AI strategy.
- Strong policy and administrative inertia.
- Economic concentration in Kolkata region.
- Lower FDI attractiveness compared to Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- Limited expansion of tech ecosystems outside core urban areas.

Long-Term Trend

- Growth consistently below national average since liberalisation.

- Weak diversification into high-tech sectors.

Implications

Economic Impact

- Loss of AI-driven employment opportunities.
- Reduced global competitiveness.
- Widening inter-state income inequality.

Social Impact

- Migration of skilled youth to tech hubs.
- Regional imbalance in innovation capacity.

Federal Impact

- Growing divide between tech-advanced and lagging states.

Can West Bengal Catch Up?

- Catch-up is still possible but requires urgent and coordinated structural reforms.

Key Requirement

- Passive reforms are insufficient; aggressive transformation is necessary.

Proposed Strategy

- Creation of a “Deep State” AI Think Tank comprising:
 - Government administrators
 - Industry leaders
 - Entrepreneurs
 - Innovators

Functions

- Identify high-impact AI applications.
- Build public-private partnerships.
- Accelerate AI integration across sectors.

Conclusion

- West Bengal's AI lag reflects a structural economic and institutional challenge rather than a purely technological gap. Without urgent policy coordination, investment mobilisation and institutional innovation, the state risks further decline in India's rapidly evolving digital economy. However, timely intervention can still help narrow the gap.

West Bengal: How India's Third-Richest State became its Twenty-fourth

Context

- West Bengal, once the **third richest state in India**, has experienced a sustained and measurable economic decline over the past seven decades. From being an economic leader at independence, it has fallen to **24th rank in per capita income (2023–24)**, indicating a deep **structural slowdown** rather than temporary underperformance.

West Bengal's Economic Trajectory

Historical Position

- **1947**: Economic heartland of India.
- **1960–61**: Ranked **3rd in India** (after Punjab and Maharashtra).
- Surpassed most emerging growth states at that time.

Current Position

- **2023–24**: Ranked **24th in per capita income**.
- Per capita income declined from **127.5% of national average to 83.7%**.

Nature of Decline

Structural and Not Cyclical

- Decline is **systematic and cumulative** over decades.
- Not explained by short-term economic fluctuations.
- Several states that were earlier behind have now overtaken West Bengal.

States That Surpassed Bengal

- **Odisha.**
- **Telangana.**
- **Karnataka.**
- These states have converged with or exceeded national averages.

Key Economic Insight

Relative Decline

- West Bengal did not just grow slowly.
- It **fell behind faster-growing states**.
- Indicates loss of **industrial competitiveness and investment attractiveness**.

Long-Term Trend

- Continuous decline across successive governments.
- Suggests **deep structural weaknesses in economic governance**.

Implications

Economic

- Loss of leadership in manufacturing and industry.
- Reduced contribution to India's high-growth sectors.
- Weak FDI and investment competitiveness.

Comparative Disadvantage

- Formerly advanced state now lagging behind newer growth hubs.
- Reflects failure to adapt to the post-liberalisation economic model.

Conclusion

- West Bengal's economic story is a case of **long-term structural decline**, where a historically leading state has progressively lost ground to newer industrial and reform-driven states. The shift from a **top-tier economic position to a bottom-tier ranking** highlights the importance of sustained policy adaptability, investment climate and institutional reform in maintaining economic leadership.

Whoever wins West Bengal will inherit a tough Economy

Context

- **West Bengal's economy is not in crisis but under sustained pressure. Ahead of elections, economic issues have become a key political concern. The next government will inherit high public debt, an elevated fiscal deficit and the responsibility of maintaining a large welfare-driven expenditure system.**

Income Trends

Rising but Lagging

- Per capita income has increased over time.
- However, it remains below the national average.
- 2023-24 figures:
 - West Bengal: ₹79,600
 - India average: ₹1.06 lakh

Structural Gap

- Income gap has persisted for nearly two decades.
- Indicates slow convergence with national growth.

Employment Situation

Mixed Trends

- Rural unemployment has declined.
- Urban unemployment remains relatively high.
- Suggests uneven labour market recovery.

Fiscal Situation

High Fiscal Deficit

- Fiscal deficit has remained around 3% or higher for most years.
- Peaks:
 - 2010-11: 4.24%
 - Pandemic period: ~3.9%
 - Recent years: ~3.3%

Welfare Spending Pressure

- State follows a welfare-heavy model.
- Subsidy bill (2024-25): over ₹21,000 crore.

Debt Burden

High Public Debt

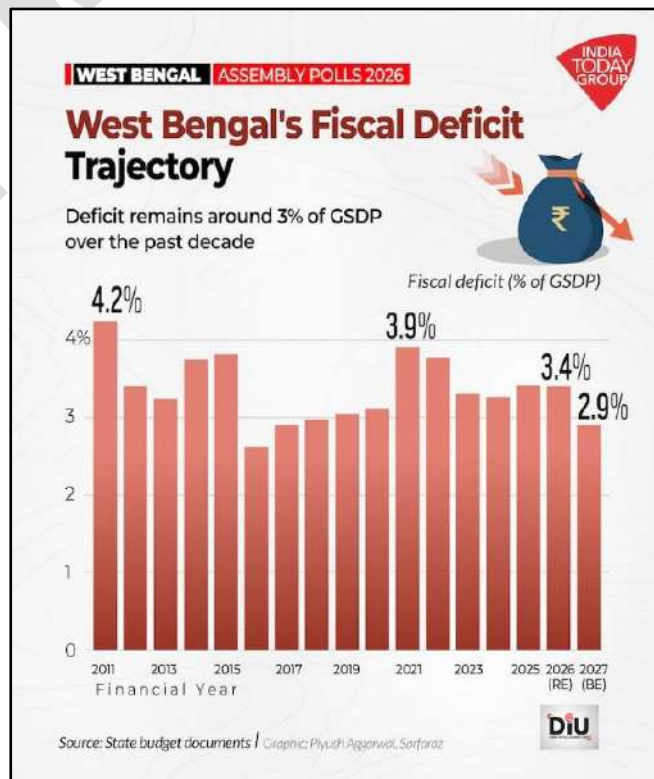
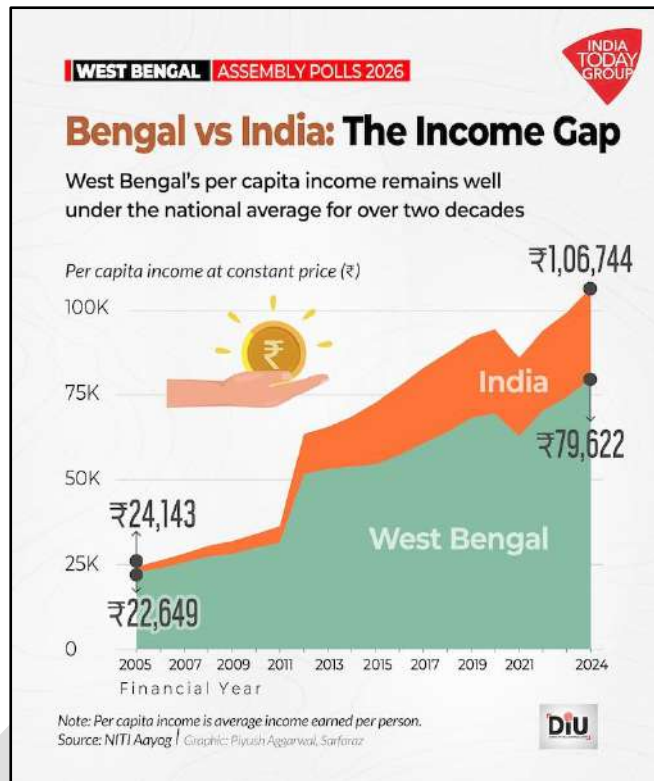
- Debt level: around 38% of GSDP.
- High debt leads to:
 - Large interest payment burden
 - Reduced fiscal space for development

Investment Constraint

- High debt directly reduces capital expenditure capacity.
- Capital spending mostly remains 1-2% of GSDP.
- Infrastructure investment remains volatile and limited.

Key Structural Issues

- High debt + deficit combination.



- Large share of expenditure locked in **subsidies and welfare schemes**.
- Limited fiscal flexibility for **industrial or infrastructure expansion**.
- Persistent gap between **social spending and capital investment**.

Implications

Economic

- Constrained **development spending**.
- Weak **infrastructure expansion**.
- Limited capacity for **industrial revival**.

Governance

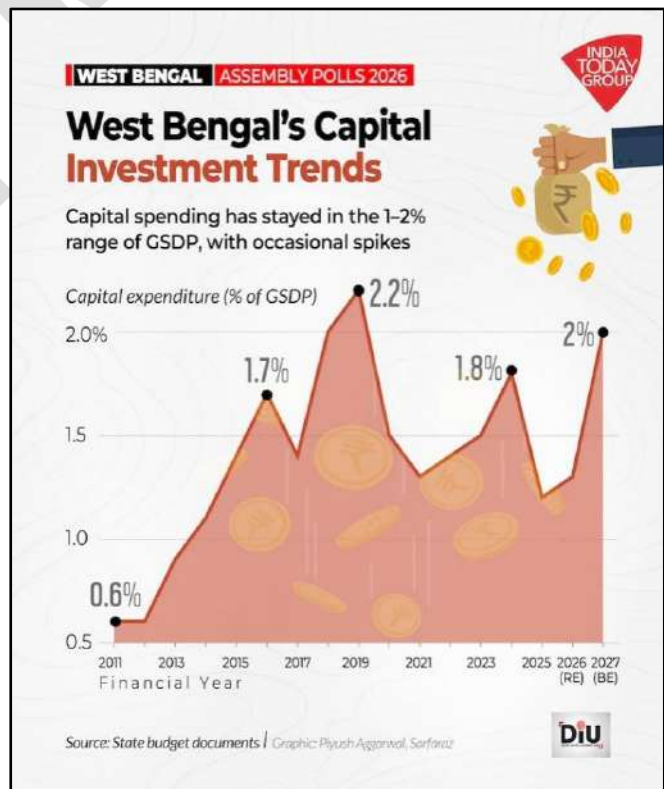
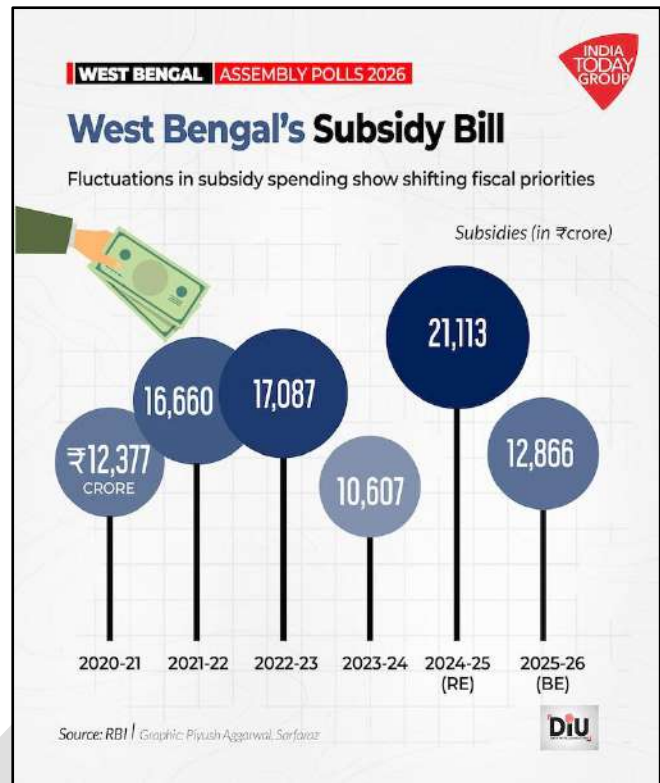
- Trade-off between **welfare commitments and growth investment**.
- Future governments face tight **fiscal constraints**.

Long-Term Risk

- Slower structural transformation.
- Continued dependence on **welfare-led fiscal model**.

Conclusion

- West Bengal's economy is in a state of **fiscal stress rather than crisis**, but persistent issues like **high debt, elevated fiscal deficit and welfare-driven expenditure** significantly limit its development potential. The state's future growth will depend on balancing **fiscal discipline with investment-led development**.



West Bengal's 50-Year Revenue Story: Big Numbers, Limited Strength

Context

- West Bengal's government revenue has increased significantly over the last 50 years, rising from a few hundred crores in the 1970s to over ₹2 lakh crore today. However, when adjusted for inflation, population growth and structural economic changes, the real improvement is far more modest, revealing a case of nominal growth with limited real fiscal strength.

Revenue Growth: Nominal vs Real

Nominal Expansion

- Revenue increased by ~60–70 times (1991–2026).
- Government appears significantly richer in absolute terms.

Real Growth (Inflation Adjusted)

- Inflation increased by ~10–12 times in the same period.
- Real revenue growth: only ~5–6 times.
- Indicates weaker actual purchasing and investment capacity than headline numbers suggest.

Relative Economic Decline

Declining National Share

- West Bengal earlier contributed ~10% of India's economy.
- Now contributes around 5–6%.

Faster-Growing States

- Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat have grown faster.
- West Bengal has lost relative economic position, not just pace.

Tax Collection Efficiency

Low Tax Conversion

- West Bengal collects ~₹5 per ₹100 of economic activity.
- Better-performing states collect ₹6–₹7 per ₹100.

Reasons for Low Efficiency

- Large informal economy.
- Weak tax compliance systems.

- Dominance of small-scale services and trade over large industries.

Structural Shift in Economy

Earlier Structure

- Strong industrial and manufacturing base.
- Higher and more stable tax revenue generation.

Current Structure

- Shift toward services and consumption-led economy.
- Major revenue sources:
 - GST
 - Fuel taxes
 - Stamp duty

Impact

- Consumption-based taxes are less stable than industrial taxation.
- Reduced fiscal robustness.

Debt and Fiscal Constraints

Rising Debt Burden

- Significant portion of revenue goes to:
 - Interest payments
 - Salaries
 - Administrative expenses
 - Welfare schemes

Fiscal Limitation

- Limited funds remain for:
 - Infrastructure
 - Industrial investment
 - Long-term growth projects

Debt Cycle

- Low investment → slow growth → low revenue → rising debt dependency.
- Creates a structural fiscal trap-like condition.

Revenue Efficiency Gap

Lost Potential

- If tax efficiency matched top-performing states, West Bengal could earn:
 - ₹30,000–40,000 crore extra annually

Development Impact

- Could significantly improve:
 - Infrastructure

- Healthcare
- Education
- Industrial development
- Employment generation

Impact of GST

Structural Change

- Reduced state-level tax autonomy.
- Shift from production-based to **consumption-based taxation**.

Implications

- Lower fiscal flexibility.
- Increased dependence on national tax framework.
- Reduced control over revenue expansion strategies.

Future Economic Challenges

Key Issues for Next Government

- Managing **high debt without slowing growth**.
- Increasing revenue without over-taxation.
- Reviving **industrial base**.
- Balancing **welfare spending and capital investment**.
- Generating **private-sector employment**.

- Improving **urban infrastructure** (especially **Kolkata**).

Overall Assessment

Strengths

- Large absolute revenue base.
- Steady nominal growth over decades.

Weaknesses

- Low **tax efficiency**.
- High **debt burden**.
- Weak **industrial expansion**.
- Heavy reliance on **consumption-based taxation**.

Conclusion

- West Bengal's revenue story reflects **strong nominal growth but weak structural strengthening**. While government income has increased in absolute terms, inefficiencies in taxation, rising debt and weak industrial transformation have limited real fiscal capacity. The core challenge is shifting from **large numbers to high-quality, sustainable revenue generation** through industrial revival and improved fiscal efficiency.

Why West Bengal's share in India's GDP has declined across Political Regimes

Context

- West Bengal's economy has expanded in absolute terms, but its **share in India's GDP has steadily declined across different political regimes**. This long-term trend reflects **structural economic weaknesses**, rather than the performance of any single government.

Declining Share in India's GDP

Long-Term Trend

- 1960: West Bengal contributed around **10.5% of India's GDP**.
- 2023-24: Share declined to about **5.6%**.
- Indicates a **persistent relative decline over six decades**.

Key Observation

- The state is **growing, but slower than national average**.
- Other states are expanding faster and capturing a larger share of national output.

Structural Causes of Decline

1. Weak Industrialisation

- Long-term **industrial stagnation since the 1960s-70s**.
- Loss of manufacturing base due to:

- Labour unrest
- Capital flight
- Policy uncertainty



2. Low Investment Climate

- Difficulty in attracting large-scale private investment.
- Manufacturing growth weaker compared to:
 - Gujarat
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Karnataka

3. Fiscal Constraints

- High committed expenditure (salaries, pensions, interest payments).
- Limited fiscal space for capital investment.
- Capital expenditure historically very low (around 3–4% in earlier phases).

4. Slow Relative Growth

- West Bengal growth (2012–22): ~4.3%.
- National average: ~5.6%.
- Consistent growth gap over a decade leading to declining GDP share.

Sectoral Structure Issues

Services Dominance

- Services form a major share of GSDP.

Weak Manufacturing Base

- Manufacturing expansion remains limited.
- No strong industrial transformation comparable to other leading states.

Agriculture

- Still significant but low productivity and low income generation.

Per Capita Income Trend

- Once above national average in 1960s.
- Now about 20% below national average.
- Indicates relative economic decline despite absolute growth.

Policy and Structural Constraints

- Perceived policy uncertainty in investment environment.

- Land acquisition and industrial bottlenecks.
- Persistent challenges in building large-scale industrial ecosystems.

Core Issue

- Decline is not due to contraction, but relative underperformance.
- West Bengal is a case of “slower growth vs faster-growing states”.

Conclusion

- West Bengal’s declining share in India’s GDP is a structural, long-term phenomenon driven by weak industrialisation, lower investment inflows and slower relative growth. The trend cuts across political regimes, indicating that the issue is systemic rather than political, requiring deep structural reforms in industry, investment climate and fiscal capacity.

WEST BENGAL – HISTORY & CULTURE

The "Golden Age" of the Bengal Sultanate (roughly 1494–1538) refers to the prosperous reign of the Hussain Shahi dynasty, particularly under Alauddin Hussain Shah and his son Nasiruddin Nasrat Shah. It was characterized by territorial expansion, economic prosperity, cultural synthesis of Hindu and Muslim traditions and the rapid development of Bengali literature and art, often described as a cultural renaissance.

Ramacharitam, a Sanskrit epic by Sandhyakar Nandi (c. 1084–1155 CE) of the Pala period, blends the Ramayana narrative with the life of King Ramapala. It is notable for detailing the Varendra (Kaivart(a) rebellion, where Kaivarta chief Divya overthrew Mahipala II and captured Varendra. Often seen as an early peasant revolt, it began as a feudal uprising (samantas) and later turned into a mass movement.

The Battle of Tukaroi (3 March 1575), also called the Battle of Bajhaura/Mughulmari, was fought between the Mughal Empire and the Bengal Sultanate near Tukaroi (Balasore, Odish(a), ending in a decisive Mughal victory that significantly weakened the Bengal Sultanate.

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) is a 610 mm narrow-gauge railway in West Bengal, running ~88 km from New Jalpaiguri to Darjeeling, built during 1879–1881. It uses loops and zig-zags (notably Batasia Loop) to climb the Himalayas and includes Ghum (2,258 m)—India’s highest railway station. It was declared a UNESCO

World Heritage Site (1999) under Mountain Railways of India.

"Bande Mataram" was first sung publicly by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress.

Pundravardhana (Pundr(a): Ancient Bengal kingdom (c. 8th century BCE); covered N. Bangladesh (Rajshahi, Bogr(a) & N. West Bengal. Capital: Mahasthangarh (Pundranagar(a)—major urban & economic centre under Maurya & Gupta rule. Location: between Padma (S), Ganga (W), Karatoya/Jamuna (E); core of Varendra.

The **Eklakhi Mausoleum (c. 1425) in Pandua, West Bengal**, is considered the first distinctive "Bengal Style" brick tomb and the prototype for subsequent Islamic architecture in the region. It introduced the single-room, square plan (approx. 75 ft on each side) with a single, large dome, which became the standard for later Bengal tombs and mosques. Its defining feature is the slightly curved cornice (roofline), which imitates the bamboo and thatch roofs of traditional Bengali huts (a response to heavy rainfall).

Moghaluari (Paschim Medinipur): Archaeological site in West Bengal with a 6th–12th c. CE Buddhist monastery complex; excavated by University of Calcutta (2002–03). Linked to ancient Tamralipta noted by Xuanzang. Finds include pre-Pala structures, stucco art, decorative bricks and inscribed pottery (5th–6th c.).

Ballal Dhipi (Nadi(a): Archaeological site near Nabadwip; 12th c. CE (and earlier) remains. **Structure:** ~30 ft high, terracotta brick mound (≈1300 sq ft) with lime-sand flooring. Named after Ballala Sena (Sena dynasty). **Temple complex traces** found; debated origin—**Buddhist stupa/vihara (11th–13th c.)** or part of **Sena capital**. Shows similarities with Vikramshila Mahavihara and Somapura Mahavihara.

Bangarh (Gangarampur): Ancient city & administrative centre in West Bengal. As per the **Damodarpur inscription**, it was the headquarters of **Kotivarsha Vishaya**, under **PundravardhanaBhukti** (capital: Mahasthangarh) during **Chandra, Varman & Sena** rule.

Gosanimari (Kamtapur/Rajpat): Capital of **Kamata Kingdom** in 15th c. CE, especially under the **Khen dynasty**. Located in **Cooch Behar (WB)**, now an archaeological site (**Rajpat**). Served as the **political centre** before the rise of the **Koch dynasty**.

Deulghat (Puruli(a): Temple complex ruins near Boram, on the **Kangsabati River**; ~15 brick temples with rich stucco decoration. **Date:** 9th–11th c. CE (**Pala–Sena period**). Features tall structures with intricate brickwork; likely **Jain origins**, later converted to **Hindu shrines**.

Gomira Masks (Mukh(a): Traditional wooden ritual masks from **Kushmandi (South Dinajpur district)**, used in **Gomira dance** to invoke good & ward off evil (rooted in **Shakti cult**). Made of **Neem/Gamari wood**; depict **Chamunda, Kali, Bura-Buri (Shiva–Parvati), Nar-Rakshas**. Performed **Apr–Jun** at **Gomirar Tola** with **Dhak–Sanai**. **GI Tag (2018)**.

Tusu Parab: Harvest festival of tribal communities in West Bengal, Jharkhand & Odisha, celebrated on **Poush Sankranti (14–15 Jan)**. Marks end of agrarian season; worship of **Goddess Tusu (prosperity)**, mainly by **unmarried girls** who immerse decorated **Chowdal** in rivers.

Sholapith (Indian cork): Eco-friendly craft of West Bengal using the milky-white core of *Aeschynomene aspera* (“herbal ivory”), traditionally made by **Malakar artisans**. Sourced from wetlands like the **Sundarbans**, it is **lightweight, porous & water-resistant**. Used for **topor (bridal headgear), wedding décor** and **Durga Puja idols**. Crafted by peeling, slicing and shaping into **flowers, dolls and religious figures**. Faces threat from **thermocool substitutes**; major centres: **Murshidabad, Birbhum, Nadia**.

WEST BENGAL GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

- The **Jalangi River** originates from the Padma channel in the northern part of Nadia district. It flows southwest for 233 km through the deltaic plains of **Murshidabad and Nadia districts** before merging with the **Bhagirathi River** near **Nabadwip**. The **Bhagirathi–Jalangi interfluvial region** is known as the 'Kalantar'. The **Jalangi** lies in the moribund tract of the Ganges–Brahmaputra Delta, marked by **low-lying alluvial plains**. Elevation declines from ~20 m at its origin to ~6 m at the confluence, forming part of the **south-sloping Younger Deltaic Plain**.
- The **Ichamati** is a **trans-boundary river** flowing through **India and Bangladesh**, forming parts of their **international boundary**. It originates as a bifurcation of the **Mathabhanga** (a distributary of the **Padm(a)**) near **Majhdia (Nadia, West Bengal)** and flows through **Nadia and North 24 Parganas**, before entering **Bangladesh (Satkhira & Khulna)**. Covering about **210–216 km**, it joins the **Kalindi** near **Hasnabad** and ultimately drains into the **Bay of Bengal** near **Moore Island**. The



river has a **fragmented, border-crossing course** and forms **oxbow lake complexes** near **Bangaon**. It is heavily affected by **siltation**, causing **low dry-season flow** and **monsoon flooding**.

- The **Raniganj Coalfield's** commercial coal production started in 1774.
- **Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)** plays a crucial role in managing water resources and preventing floods: DVC operates four major dams – **Tilaiya and Maithon on River Barakar, Panchet on River Damodar and Konar on River Konar**.
- NH-31A is a vital, short highway connecting the plains of West Bengal (Sevok) to Sikkim, passing through the **Himalayan foothills via Namthang to the Sikkim border** and serving as the primary scenic route from Siliguri/Sevok Road to Gangtok.
- The **Chatim Tree (*Alstoniascholaris*)** is the official state tree of West Bengal.

WEST BENGAL POLITY AND ADMINISTRATION

- Alipurduar was created as the **20th district of West Bengal, India, on June 25, 2014**, by bifurcating the former Jalpaiguri district.
- Kalimpong and Jhargram were created as new districts in West Bengal in 2017 to improve administrative efficiency.
- **Saila Kumar Mukherjee** was the first Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly in independent India. He was elected on **June 20, 1952**, following the first general elections and served until March 20, 1957.
- **West Bengal** was the first state in India to launch and implement major land reforms through "Operation Barga" in **1978**.
- The **Calcutta High Court** is the oldest High Court in India, established on July 1, 1862, under the High Court's Act of 1861.
- The Calcutta High Court has a permanent Circuit Bench in **Jalpaiguri**, inaugurated in 2019 to serve four districts: Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar.
- Sir Barnes Peacock was the first Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court.
- The **Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC)** was a semi-autonomous administrative body established in 1988 to govern the hill areas of Darjeeling District in West Bengal, India, following a peace agreement between the GNLFC, West Bengal government and the central government.
- The **Tin Bigha Corridor** is a 178 X 85-meter strip of Indian land on the West Bengal-Bangladesh border in Cooch Behar, leased to Bangladesh in 1992 (perpetual lease from 2011) to connect its mainland to the Dahagram-Angarpota enclave.
- **Petrapole, located on the India-Bangladesh border** in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, is the largest land port in South Asia.
- The Maitree Express is an international passenger train connecting Kolkata (KOA(A), India and Dhaka (DAK(A), Bangladesh, covering roughly 375–393 km.

WEST BENGAL MISCELLANEOUS

Prafulla Chandra Ray: Known as the Father of Indian Chemistry, he founded **Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals** in 1901.

The first horse-drawn trams in India ran for 2.4 miles (3.9 km) between Sealdah and Armenian Ghat Street on 24 February 1873.

Radhanath Sikdar, an Indian mathematician and surveyor, was **the first person to calculate the height of Mount Everest** in 1852. As the "chief computer" for the Great Trigonometrical Survey, he determined that Peak XV (later renamed Mount Everest) was the highest mountain in the world at 29,000 feet.

Serampore Trio—William Carey, Joshua Marshman & William Ward: **British Baptist missionaries** in early 19th-c. Bengal, based at Serampore (then Danish colony). They founded Serampore College, pioneered **Bengali printing & vernacular education**, translated the **Bible** and campaigned against **social evils like Sati**.

India's first (and world's second) IVF baby, **Durga (Kanupriya Agarwal)**, was born in Kolkata in 1978, a feat achieved by **Dr. Subhash Mukhopadhyay**.

Upendranath Brahmachari (1873–1946), a prominent Indian physician and medical researcher, synthesized **Urea Stibamine** in 1920. It was developed as a safer and more effective treatment for *kala-azar* (visceral leishmaniasis), a deadly parasitic disease.

The Bengal Iron Works (later Bengal Iron Company) was **established in 1870 in Kulti, West Bengal**, marking the start of modern iron production in India. It introduced **the first coal-based blast furnace in India**.

The **India Government Mint, Kolkata was first established in 1757** and was located in a building next to the Black Hole in the old fort – where the GPO (General Post Office) stands today. It was called the Calcutta Mint and used to produce coins with the mint name Murshidabad.

Leela Roy was the **only elected woman member from Bengal in the Constituent Assembly of India**, elected in December 1946. A freedom fighter, social reformer and close associate of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, she resigned from the Assembly in protest against the partition of Bengal.

"Patriot-Prophet" is a seminal biographical study written by Bhupendranath Datta, the younger brother of Swami Vivekananda, first published in 1954. It highlights Vivekananda as a spiritual leader and a revolutionary, focusing on his contribution to Indian national consciousness, social reformation and his vision for India's awakening.

Calcutta Corporation (1924): Became a **nationalist civic body** under **Swaraj Party**. Chittaranjan Das became **1st Mayor (16 April 1924)**; Subhas Chandra Bose appointed **CEO**—marking **proactive civic governance & nationalist politics**.

Haldibari-Chilahati Rail Link: India–Bangladesh rail route linking Haldibari&Chilahati; reopened 17 Dec 2020. ~7.5 km restored stretch; freight services boost trade & connectivity between WB, Assam & N. Bangladesh.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY - GK

- The **Tyndall Effect** and the blue color of the sky are due to the scattering of light; shorter wavelengths (blue/violet) scatter more than longer wavelengths (red).
- The **Stapes**, located in the middle ear, is the smallest and lightest bone in the human body.
- The minimum speed needed for an object to break free from Earth's gravitational pull is approximately **11.2 km/s**.
- The **Ohm (Ω)** is the standard unit of electrical resistance.
- The main components of household LPG cylinders are **Propane and Butane**, with Ethyl Mercaptan added for a distinct smell to detect leaks.
- Insulin is produced in the **Islets of Langerhans** in the Pancreas; it regulates blood glucose levels.

- In projectile motion, horizontal velocity remains constant while vertical motion is uniformly accelerated.
- Ecotone is a transition zone between two ecosystems.
- Gravitational potential is negative and becomes zero at infinity.
- Echo is heard only if time gap ≥ 0.1 second.
- Saliva contains amylase, which digests starch.
- Lymph is a clear, colorless fluid lacking RBCs and platelets but rich in lymphocytes, connecting tissues and aiding immunity by draining excess fluid and waste.
- Stratosphere (10–50 km) contains the ozone layer (O_3), which absorbs 97–99% of harmful UV-B and UV-C radiation, protecting life on Earth.
- Blood pressure is measured using sphygmomanometer.
- Chlorophyll is a green pigment that absorbs blue (400–500 nm) and red (650–680 nm) light, reflecting green and converts light energy into chemical energy during photosynthesis.
- Methane (CH_4) is a highly potent greenhouse gas, with 28–30 \times the warming impact of CO_2 over 100 years and 80 \times + over 20 years.
- Homeostasis is the self-regulating process by which biological systems maintain a stable, balanced internal environment despite changing external conditions.
- Black body absorbs all incident radiation.
- Cerebrum controls intelligence and memory. Cerebellum controls balance. Medulla controls involuntary actions.
- Electronegativity is highest for fluorine, yet noble gases generally have negligible electronegativity.
- RBCs in humans lack nucleus, increasing space for hemoglobin, but this also limits their lifespan (~120 days).
- Blood pressure is highest in arteries and lowest in veins, due to distance from heart and resistance.
- Higher trophic levels have less energy, due to energy loss as heat at each transfer.
- X-rays are ionizing radiation, hence prolonged exposure is harmful.
- Solubility of most solids increases with temperature, but gases show opposite trend.
- During meiosis I, homologous chromosomes separate, while meiosis II separates sister chromatids.
- Thermal pollution reduces oxygen solubility in water, stressing aquatic organisms.
- Antibiotics target bacterial structures like cell wall, absent in viruses, hence ineffective on them.
- Ultrasound frequency used in medical imaging ranges from 1–15 MHz, above audible range.
- Optical fibers transmit signals via repeated total internal reflection, minimizing signal loss over long distances.
- Vitamin C is essential for collagen synthesis, hence deficiency leads to weak connective tissues.
- Pasteurization typically involves heating milk to $\sim 72^\circ C$ for 15 seconds, then rapid cooling.

- Microwaves operate by producing high-frequency electromagnetic waves (typically at 2.45 GHz) that directly target **polar**

molecules—most notably water—rather than heating the container directly.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY - GK

- Tropical rainforests and estuaries represent some of the **highest Net Primary Productivity (NPP)** ecosystems on Earth per unit area due to abundant sunlight, water and nutrient availability.
- **Ecotone** is a **transition zone between ecosystems**, often showing **edge effect with higher biodiversity**.
- **Detritus food chain begins with dead organic matter, not living producers.**
- **Keystone species** have **disproportionately large impact** relative to their abundance (e.g., apex predators).
- **Nitrification** converts **ammonia → nitrites → nitrates**, while **denitrification** returns **N₂** to atmosphere.
- **Dobson Unit (DU)** measures **total column ozone concentration**.
- **Stratosphere** shows **temperature inversion due to ozone absorption of UV radiation**.
- **Paris Agreement (2015)** aims to **limit global warming below 2°C above pre-industrial levels**.
- **Biodiversity hotspots** are biogeographic regions with immense biodiversity—at least **1,500 endemic vascular plant species**—that are under severe threat, having lost over **70%** of their original habitat.
- **Albedo effect** refers to **reflection of solar radiation**, with ice having high albedo.
- **Photochemical smog** forms in presence of **sunlight, NO_x and hydrocarbons**.
- **El Niño** weakens **trade winds**, causing **warming of eastern Pacific Ocean**. El Niño generally weakens the Indian southwest monsoon, reducing rainfall and increasing drought risks in India, particularly during strong events.
- **La Niña** strengthens trade winds, which intensifies the westward movement of warm surface water toward Asia and Australia. La Niña typically brings enhanced rainfall to India, strengthening the summer monsoon and boosting agriculture, particularly rice production.
- **PM2.5 particles (<2.5 μm)** can enter **alveoli and bloodstream**, unlike larger PM10 particles.
- **Ground-level ozone (O₃)** forms via **NO_x + VOCs under sunlight**, not directly emitted.
- Thermal stratification creates distinct, non-mixing layers in lakes—the warm, oxygen-rich **epilimnion** (top) and the cold, dense **hypolimnion** (bottom)—inhibiting oxygen transfer.
- Mangroves are remarkably efficient carbon sinks, **storing up to 10 times more carbon per hectare than terrestrial forests**, primarily due to their **waterlogged, anoxic (oxygen-poor) soils**.
- **Dead zones** (e.g., Gulf of Mexico) result from **hypoxia (<2 mg/L dissolved oxygen)**.

- Nagoya Protocol deals with access and benefit sharing (ABS) of genetic resources.
- Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are lipophilic, resistant to degradation and bioaccumulative.
- Stockholm Convention (2001) targets elimination/restriction of POPs globally.
- Blue Carbon refers to carbon stored in coastal ecosystems (mangroves, seagrass, salt marshes).
- Peatlands store ~2× more carbon than all forests combined, despite small area.
- Cadmium exposure causes Itai-itai disease, affecting bones and kidneys.
- Endosulfan is a banned organochlorine pesticide due to persistence and toxicity.
- Microplastics are plastic particles smaller than 5 millimeters in size, originating from degraded debris (secondary) or manufactured products like microbeads and tire wear (primary).
- Carbon trading is a market-based system that reduces greenhouse gas emissions by allowing entities to buy and sell carbon credits or allowances.
- Permafrost thaw releases methane, amplifying climate feedback loops.
- Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) are sudden, catastrophic releases of water from glacial lakes, typically dammed by unstable ice or moraine (sediment).
- The 2016 Kigali Amendment is a legally binding international agreement to amend the Montreal Protocol, phasing down the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

INDIAN HISTORY – ONE LINERS

- Vardhamana Mahavira (6th century BCE) is revered as the 24th and final Tirthankara (supreme preacher) of the current era, not the original founder.
- The Satavahana dynasty (c. 1st century BCE – 3rd century CE) was the first in India to issue coins made of lead.
- The Chinese pilgrim Fa-Hien (Faxian) visited India between 399–414 CE during the reign of the Gupta emperor Chandragupta II (also known as Vikramaditya).
- Iron—referred to in later Vedic texts as *Shyama Ayas* or *Krishna Ayas* (meaning dark/black metal)—became prominent during the Later Vedic period (c. 1000–600 BCE).
- Dasarajna Battle occurred on river Parushni (Ravi) between Bharata king Sudas and 10 tribes.
- Allahabad Pillar inscription of Samudragupta describes Dakshinapatha campaign and prashasti style.
- The Painted Grey Ware (PGW) culture is an Iron Age civilization (approx. 1200–600 BCE) that flourished in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab and the Ghaggar-Hakra valley. It is primarily associated with the Later Vedic period, characterized by early agricultural settlements, the introduction of iron and widespread distribution of fine, wheel-made grey pottery with black painted designs.
- Udayin (c. 460–444 BCE), a Haryanka dynasty king of Magadha, moved the capital from Rajgriha to Pataliputra (modern Patna) to exploit its strategic location at the confluence of the Ganga, Son and Gandak rivers.
- Junagarh Rock Inscription (c. 150 CE) of Rudradaman I (near Girnar, Gujarat) is a Sanskrit prose record noting Sudarshana Lake restoration, victories over Satavahanas and his benevolent rule.

- **Indian Councils Act, 1909 (Morley-Minto Reforms)** introduced separate electorates for Muslims, allowing them to elect representatives exclusively through **Muslim voters**.
- The **Charter Act of 1833** ended the East India Company's monopoly on trade with China and the tea trade.
- Wood's Despatch of 1854, often called the '**Magna Carta of English Education in India**,' laid the foundation for the modern Indian education system.
- **Dahsala System (1580)** by **Akbar**, devised by **Raja Todar Mal**, fixed land revenue on a **10-year average of yield and prices**, ensuring **stable and fair taxation**.

Buddhist Councils

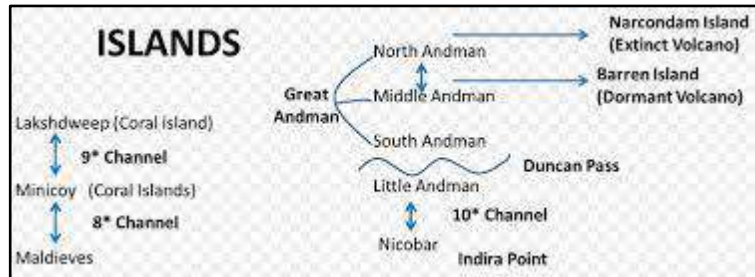
Councils	Patronage	Presided by	Place	Details
First Council (486 BC)	Ajatshatru (Haryanka dynasty)	Mahakassapa Upali	Raj Griha	Compilation of <i>Vinaya Pitaka</i> and <i>Sutta Pitaka</i>
Second Council (383 BC)	Kalashoka (Shishunaga dynasty)	Sarvakamini	Vaishali	Division of <i>Sangha</i> into <i>Theravedin</i> and <i>Mahasanghika</i>
Third Council (250 BC)	Ashoka	Mogaliputta Tissa	Pataliputra	Compilation of <i>Abhidham Pitaka</i>
Fourth Council (First century AD)	Kanishka (Kushan dynasty)	Vasumitra	Kashmir	Division into two sects – <i>Hinayana</i> and <i>Mahayana</i>

- **Ashokan inscriptions** predominantly used the **Prakrit** language written in the **Brahmi** script throughout most of the Indian subcontinent. In the northwestern region (modern Pakistan/Afghanistan), the **Kharosthi** script was used, along with some instances of Greek and Aramaic.

INDIAN GEOGRAPHY – ONE LINERS

- The Standard Meridian of India (82°30' E) passes through **Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh** and is the reference for Indian Standard Time (IST). It runs through five Indian states: **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh**.
- India lies entirely in Northern Hemisphere, but extends across **Eastern longitudes only**.
- **Trans-Himalaya (~1,600 km)** runs north of the Himalayas across **China, India & Nepal**, featuring cold-desert, high-altitude (3,000–6,000+ m) ranges like **Karakoram, Ladakh, Zaskar & Kailash**.
- Highest peak of Western Ghats is **Anamudi (Keral(a))**.
- The Brahmaputra River enters India from Tibet in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, where it is known as the **Siang or Dihang**.
- **Pulicat Lake** lies on the **Andhra Pradesh-Tamil Nadu border** (Tirupati & Thiruvallur) on the **Coromandel Coast**; India's **2nd-largest brackish lagoon**, separated from the **Bay of Bengal** by **Sriharikota Island**.
- **Aravalli range** is among **oldest fold mountains**, showing **residual hill characteristics**.
- **Duncan Passage (~48 km)** is a strait in the **Indian Ocean** separating **Rutland Island (North)** and **Little Andaman (South)**, linking the **Bay of Bengal** with the **Andaman Sea**.
- **Nanda Devi** is widely recognized as the **highest peak located entirely within India**, standing at 7,816 meters in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand.
- The **Meghalaya Plateau** is separated from the Peninsular Plateau by the **Malda Gap** (also known as the **Garo-Rajmahal Gap or Gap/Fault**).
- **Luni river** flows into **Rann of Kachchh**, not into sea directly.
- The **Subansiri River**, also known as the "Gold River," is the largest tributary of the Brahmaputra River.

- **Karbi Anglong Plateau (Assam)** is an extension of the **Peninsular Plateau**, geologically linked to the **Meghalaya Plateau**, but separated by the **Dhansiri & Kopili river valleys**.
- **Kolleru Lake** is a major freshwater lake located in Andhra Pradesh, situated in the fertile coastal plain between the **Krishna and Godavari river deltas**.
- **Western disturbances originate in Mediterranean region**, bringing winter rainfall to North India.
- **Brahmaputra river shows riverine islands**, including **Majuli (world's largest river island)**.
- **Thorium in India** occurs mainly in monazite sands along **Kerala, Tamil Nadu & Odisha coasts**, with the richest deposits on the **Travancore coast (Kollam & Palakkad, Kerala)**.
- **Barchans** are crescent-shaped dunes, formed in **unidirectional winds**.
- **Vembanad Lake**, located in Kerala, is the **longest lake in India**, stretching approximately 96.5 kilometers in length.



INDIAN POLITY - ONE LINERS

- **Zero Hour** is not mentioned in the Constitution.
- **Anti-defection law** is in the 10th Schedule.
- Contempt of Court derives from **Articles 129 & 215**, which empower the **Supreme Court** and **High Courts**, as courts of record, to punish for contempt of themselves.
- **Inter-State Council** is under Article 263.
- **Advocate General** is the highest law officer at state level.
- Under Article 123 (President) or Article 213 (Governor) of the Indian Constitution, an ordinance promulgated during a legislative recess **must be approved by Parliament or the state legislature within six weeks of reassembly**.
- **Article 20(2)** of the Indian Constitution guarantees protection against double jeopardy, stating that "no person shall be prosecuted and punished for the same offence more than once".
- **Prospective overruling** was first applied in India in the Golaknath case. The Doctrine of Prospective Overruling allows courts to change the law but apply the new interpretation only to future cases, preserving past decisions for stability and fairness.
- **Right to Privacy** is a Fundamental Right under Article 21 (Puttaswamy case).
- **Writ of Quo Warranto** can be issued against a public office holder.
- **NITI Aayog** is not a constitutional body.
- The Ninth Schedule was added by the **First Amendment Act, 1951** to shield certain laws from judicial review, following the Shankari Prasad v. Union of India ruling on challenges to laws violating Fundamental Rights.
- **Article 300A** (inserted by the **44th Amendment, 1978**) provides that **no person shall be deprived of property except by authority of law**, making the **Right to Property** a **constitutional/legal right** (not a

Fundamental Right) against arbitrary state action.

- **Article 200** empowers the **Governor to assent, withhold assent, return (non-Money Bill), or reserve a bill for the President**; if re-passed by the **State Legislature**, the **Governor cannot withhold assent**.
- **Article 100(3)** mandates that the **quorum** for a sitting of either House of **Parliament** is **1/10th of the total membership**, including the **presiding officer (Speaker/Chairman)**.
- A No-Confidence Motion in India can **only be introduced in the Lok Sabha (Lower House)**, as per Rule 198 of its Rules of Procedure.
- **Article 100(3)** mandates that the **quorum** for a sitting of either House of **Parliament** is **1/10th of the total membership**, including the **presiding officer (Speaker/Chairman)**.
- The State Finance Commission in West Bengal is constituted by the Governor under **Article 243-I** and **Article 243-Y** of the Constitution of India.
- The **Doctrine of Repugnancy** under **Article 254** dictates that if a State law conflicts with a Central law on a **Concurrent List** subject, the Central law prevails to the extent of the inconsistency, unless the State law has received Presidential assent.
- The Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 is indeed a **statutory law** enacted by Parliament under the authority of **Article 262** of the Indian Constitution, not a directly constitutional provision itself.
- Votes cast as **None of the above (NOT(A))** are counted, but are considered 'invalid votes'.
- **Cooperative societies** got constitutional status via 97th Amendment.

INDIAN ECONOMY – ONE LINERS

- **Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)** measures currency value by comparing the cost of an identical basket of goods across different countries.
- **Transfer payments**—such as pensions, unemployment benefits and scholarships—are **excluded from national income (GDP/GNP)** because they are **one-way transfers with no corresponding productive activity**.
- **Headline inflation** is the **overall inflation rate** measured by the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, covering a **broad basket of goods and services**, including **volatile items like food and energy** and is used by central banks like the Reserve Bank of India and European Central Bank for policy decisions.
- **GVA at Basic Prices** (used in India since 2015) measures **sectoral output** as **producer price – product taxes + production subsidies**, reflecting **actual income of producers**—including **production taxes** (e.g., land tax) but excluding **sales taxes** like Goods and Services Tax.
- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)** is a **penal overnight emergency borrowing window** for banks to borrow from the Reserve Bank of India when **liquidity dries up**, introduced in **2011**, at a rate **~25 bps above the repo rate**, against **government securities**.
- **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)** is the Reserve Bank of India's **key tool (since 1998)** to manage **daily liquidity** via **repo (inject liquidity)** and **reverse repo (absorb liquidity)**

operations, ensuring **interest rate stability and inflation control**.

- **High-powered money (H) / Reserve Money (M₀)** is the **central bank's total liability**—currency with the public + bank reserves—forming the **base for credit creation** via the money multiplier, issued by institutions like the Reserve Bank of India and Federal Reserve.
- **Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR/CRAR)** measures a bank's **capital buffer** against **risk-weighted assets** to ensure loss absorption and depositor protection, with norms (~8–10%) set under Basel III.

$$\text{CAR} = \frac{\text{Tier 1 Capital} + \text{Tier 2 Capital}}{\text{Risk-Weighted Assets}}$$

- A "haircut" under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) refers to the **percentage of debt creditors (usually banks) agree to waive when a distressed company is resolved or liquidated**.
- **Capital Account Convertibility (CAC)** is the **freedom to convert domestic and foreign financial assets** at market rates, enabling unrestricted cross-border capital flows (investment, loans, assets); it enhances global integration but can increase volatility.
- **Bad bank** is a **specialized entity** that buys **NPAs (bad loans)** from banks to **clean their balance sheets**, acting like an **asset reconstruction company (ARC)** to **recover/restructure stressed assets**, enabling banks to **resume lending**.

- **Prompt Corrective Action (PC(A))** is a **supervisory framework of the Reserve Bank of India to intervene early in stressed banks**, imposing curbs on lending, expansion and dividends based on capital adequacy, asset quality (NPAs) and profitability to restore financial health.
- **Money multiplier** measures how much **total money supply** banks create from initial deposits, given by:

$$\text{Multiplier} = \frac{1}{\text{Reserve Ratio}}$$

It works via **fractional reserve banking**, where banks **lend a portion of deposits**, expanding money beyond central bank base money.

- **Treasury Bills (T-bills)** are **short-term (91/182/364 days), low-risk government securities** issued by the Government of India via the Reserve Bank of India, **zero-coupon and issued at a discount**, redeemed at face value—ideal for **safe, short-term investments**.
- **Non-Performing Asset (NP(A))** is a loan where **principal or interest is overdue for >90 days** and thus **stops generating income for the bank**.
- **Oligopoly** is a market structure dominated by a **few large firms with high entry barriers**, where firms are **mutually interdependent** and **pricing/strategy of one firm significantly influences others**, leading to **strategic competition or potential collusion**.

WORLD GK

- The United Nations (UN) was officially established on October 24, 1945, in San Francisco, following the devastation of World War II to prevent future global conflicts, promote peace and foster international cooperation.
- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) consists of 15 members: 5 permanent (China, France, Russia, UK, US) and 10 non-permanent members elected for 2-year terms by the General Assembly.
- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an intergovernmental oil cartel founded in 1960 at Baghdad by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela; HQ: Vienna. It coordinates petroleum policies to stabilize oil markets and ensure steady income for members. The United Arab Emirates became the latest country to exit OPEC (and OPEC+) effective 1 May 2026, citing national interest and production flexibility.
- Yalta Conference (Feb 4–11, 1945, Crime(a): meeting of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin to plan final defeat of Nazi Germany and post-war Europe; outcomes—Germany split into 4 occupation zones, decision to establish the United Nations and pledge of free elections in liberated Europe.
- The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow waterway connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman, bordered by Iran (north) and the Musandam Peninsula (south), through which about 25% of global seaborne oil and 20% of LNG trade passes, making it a critical global energy chokepoint.
- Lake Baikal is the world's oldest (25–30 million years) and deepest lake (1,642 m), located in southern Siberia, Russia, holding about 20% of Earth's unfrozen freshwater—more than all North American Great Lakes combined—and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for rich biodiversity and crystal-clear ice.
- The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system, stretching over 2,300 km (1,400 miles) along Queensland, Australia.
- The New Development Bank (NDB), established in 2014–15 by BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) and headquartered in Shanghai, is a multilateral financial institution that finances infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging economies.
- Brexit refers to the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union on 31 January 2020, following the 2016 referendum (51.9% Leave), driven by demands for national sovereignty, immigration control and reduced EU financial contributions.
- The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is an informal strategic grouping of Australia, India, Japan and the United States, initiated in 2007 by Shinzo Abe, aimed at countering China's growing economic and strategic influence and supported by dialogue and joint exercises like Exercise Malabar.
- The Schengen Area is a border-free zone allowing free movement across 29 countries (including 25 EU members + Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein), covering 450+ million people, with Bulgaria and Romania joining in 2025.

- The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** is a **32-member political-military alliance** formed in **1949** for collective security, headquartered in **Brussels** and based on the principle that **an attack on one member is an attack on all**.
- The **TRIPS Agreement** is a **1995 World Trade Organization treaty** that sets **minimum standards for intellectual property rights**, including **20-year patents** and **50-year copyright protection**, covering **copyrights, trademarks and patents**.

IMPORTANT BOOKS & AUTHORS

Name of the Author	Name of the Book
Dr. Dhiraj Kakadia	Mahatma: A Great Communicator
Kailash Satyarthi	Karuna: The Power of Compassion
Shashi Tharoor	The Sage who Reimagined Hinduism: The Life, Lessons and Legacy of Sree Narayana Guru
Biswabhusan Harichandan	E Mati Katha Kahe (Odi(a); BuxiJagabandhu: The Great Commander (English)
Vijay Goel	Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman
Yadunath Das	Vishwaguru Srila Prabhupada
Prem Prakash	History That India Ignored
Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay	Anandamath
Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay	Kapalkundala
Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay	Durgeshnandini
Amartya Sen	The Idea of Justice
Amartya Sen	Development as Freedom
Raghuram Rajan	I Do What I Do
Shashi Tharoor	The Battle of Belonging
Ramachandra Guha	India After Gandhi
A. P. J. Abdul Kalam	Ignited Minds
A. P. J. Abdul Kalam	Indomitable Spirit
Gurcharan Das	India Unbound
Adam Smith	Wealth of Nations
Elizabeth Kolbert	The Sixth Extinction
Shashi Tharoor	Pax Indica: India and the World of the Twenty-first Century
Arundhati Roy	Mother Mary Comes to Me
Daniel Kraus	Angel Down (Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2026)
Bess Wohl	Liberation (Pulitzer Prize for Drama 2026)
Jill Lepore	We the People: A History of the U.S. Constitution (2026)

IMPORTANT APPOINTMENTS

Name	Appointment / Post
Shri Anugraha Narayana Das	Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGD(A)
Vishvajit Sahay	Defence Finance Secretary
Shreyas Iyer	Brand Ambassador of F1 Programme in India

Ashok Lahiri	Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog
Dinesh Trivedi	India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh
Deep Jariwala	US Governor's Chair
Chanchal Kumar (IAS)	Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B)
Sudarshan Pattnaik	Brand Ambassador for India Census 2027
Kiran Mani	Asia-Pacific Head, OpenAI
Vikram Doraiswami	India's Ambassador to China
Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth	Vice Chief of the Indian Army
Ashwini Bhide	First Woman BMC Commissioner
Menaka Guruswamy	India's first openly queer Member of Parliament
Roman Gofman	Chief of Mossad (Israel Intelligence Agency)
Susan Coyle	First female Army Chief of Australia
Harivansh Narayan Singh	Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha

AWARDS IN NEWS

Award Name	Details
Pulitzer Prize 2026 (Illustrated Reporting & Commentary)	R K Anand, Suparna Sharma, Natalie Obiko Pearson won for Bloomberg project "trAPPed". Exposed cyber fraud (digital arrest scam) using visual + data storytelling . Highlights cybercrime, digital surveillance risks globally.
Whitley Award 2026	Parveen Shaikh awarded for conserving Indian Skimmer in Ganga Basin . Used community-led guardian model improving nest survival & population growth . Expansion planned in Prayagraj .
Sur Jyotsna National Music Awards 2026	Honoured Sumitra Guha & Laxman Krishnarao Pandit for excellence in Hindustani classical music . Focus on heritage preservation & young artists promotion . Held in New Delhi .
WWF National Award (Machchli Award 2026)	Anita Chaudhary honoured for wildlife conservation & anti-poaching efforts at Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary . Rescued ~500 animals , acted against poaching, illegal mining , strengthened ecosystem protection .
WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) National Award	N. Alim Yusuf recognized for AI-based mobile app detecting invasive plant species in Kerala . Enables real-time biodiversity monitoring and supports ecological conservation using AI technology .
GEM Award 2026 (UNIDO)	Guntur Municipal Corporation (Vienn(a)) awarded for deploying 200+ women e-auto drivers in waste collection . Promotes women empowerment, clean energy & sustainable urban governance .
Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Award 2026	Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao honoured for climate-resilient agriculture . Focus on soil health, water management & sustainable farming systems . Coincides with Swaminathan centenary year .
Femina Miss India World 2026	Sadhvi Satish Sail (Go(a)) crowned at Bhubaneswar . Will represent India at Miss World 2027 . Known for modeling, entrepreneurship & youth leadership .
Harvard South Asian Person of the Year 2026	Sayani Gupta recognized for South Asian representation in storytelling . Known for roles in Article 15, Delhi Crime, Four More Shots Please! and debut as director (Aasmani) .

**World Archery Para
Archer of the Year 2025**

Sheetal Devi (Indi(a) honoured by World Archery. First armless female archer to win global recognition. Medals in World Para Archery Championships + Paralympics bronze, symbol of inclusion in sports.

SPORTS

Thomas Cup 2026 – India enters Semi finals

- India defeated Chinese Taipei 3-0 in Horsens, Denmark; reached semifinals and secured medal; Lakshya Sen defeated Chou Tien-chen; Satwik-Chirag beat Wang Chi-lin & Chiu Hsiang-chieh; Ayush Shetty defeated Lin Chun-Yi.

Thomas Cup 2026 – Semi final: India vs France

- India lost 0-3 vs France; secured Bronze Medal; Ayush Shetty lost to Christo Popov; Kidambi Srikanth lost to Alex Lanier; HS Prannoy lost to Toma Junior Popov; Lakshya Sen absent (elbow injury); France reached first-ever final.

Commonwealth Weightlifting 2026

- India won 4 Gold medals in Apia, Samoa; Sunil Singh (65kg – 271 kg total); Aisangfa Gogoi (58kg – 185 kg); Abhinob Gogoi (71kg – 284 kg); Charu Pesi (Universal Cup – 289 kg total); lifts included Snatch + Clean & Jerk; strong youth + senior performance.

ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 (Cairo)

- India topped medal tally with 16 medals (5 Gold, 6 Silver, 5 Bronze); Hemant Burman won Silver (50m Rifle 3P – 351.7); Oleg Noskov won Gold (355.6 World Junior Record); Trap Mixed Team Bronze by Zuhair Khan & Addya Katyal (score 19); strong rifle + trap performance.

World Para Athletics Championships 2027

- To be held in June 2027, Tashkent (Uzbekistan); venue: Olympic City Main Stadium; first time in Central Asia; 13th edition under International Paralympic

Committee (IPC); earlier hosts: Doha (2015), Dubai (2019), Kobe (2024), New Delhi (2025).

Virat Kohli – 9000 IPL Runs

- First player to score 9000 IPL runs; achieved in 275 matches vs Delhi Capitals at Arun Jaitley Stadium; reached milestone in 6th over; IPL top scorers: Rohit Sharma (7183), Shikhar Dhawan (6769), David Warner (6565), KL Rahul (5580).

PV Sindhu – BWF Council Role

- PV Sindhu elected Chair of Athletes' Commission + Voting Member of BWF Council; first active elite athlete in governance; attended BWF AGM, Horsens; supported by BWF President Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul; influences global badminton policy.

India IP Fee Waiver (Sports Sector)

- Govt announced 3-year IP fee waiver (World IP Day, New Delhi); covers Trademarks, Patents, Copyrights, Designs, GI, Traditional Knowledge; supports startups, athletes, innovators; promotes "Innovate-Patent-Produce-Prosper" mission.

Kashmir Willow Bat – GI Tag Highlight

- GI-tagged Kashmir willow bat highlighted; symbol of Indian craftsmanship; boosts exports & sports goods industry; manufacturing hubs: Jammu & Kashmir, Meerut (UP); supports MSME growth in sports sector.

Smart Wearables Hackathon 2026

- Launched Viksit Bharat Digital Matrix 2026 Hackathon with IIT Delhi; focus on smart wearables, fitness tracking, sports tech

innovation; aims to integrate design + technology + sports performance systems.

OmegaBall – IIT Madras Innovation

- IIT Madras introduced **OmegaBall** (3-team football format); played on circular field with 3 goals; each team attacks 2 goals + defends 1; inter-college event with **Loyola College, Saveetha University, YMCA, etc.**; proposal for national OmegaBall club.

Rithika Sri – First Transgender Umpire (Indi(a))

- **Rithika Sri** (Tamil Nadu) became India's first transgender cricket umpire; TNCA introduced "Other" gender category in umpire exam; born **R. Muthuraj** (Salem); Diploma in Mechanical Engineering; started umpiring in **2021** (Salem, Coimbatore); faced discrimination; supported by **2014 SC judgment** (third gender recognition).

ICC Women's T20I Challenge Trophy 2026 (Rwand(a))

- Launched by ICC on **18 April 2026** in Kigali, Rwanda. Five-nation tournament: **Rwanda, Italy, Nepal, USA, Vanuatu**. Venue: **Gahanga Cricket Stadium**. Format: **double round-robin** (each team plays others twice). Runs till **2 May 2026**. Aim: **develop associate nations, give international exposure and build pathway to global women's cricket tournaments**.

Mumbai Cricket Association (MC(A)) Player Contract Model

- MCA becomes **first Indian state association** to launch **structured player contracts** (2026–27 season). Approved by **Apex Council**. Salary grades: **Grade A (₹12–20 lakh)**, **Grade B (₹8–12 lakh)**, **Grade C (₹8 lakh)**. Eligibility: **MCA registration, fitness standards, no India/ IPL participation in last 2 seasons, selection committee recommendation**. Goal: **financial stability for domestic cricketers and support beyond IPL/international cricket**.

R Vaishali – Women's Candidates 2026 Champion

- Indian chess player **R Vaishali** won **Women's Candidates Tournament 2026** (Cyprus). Qualified for **Women's World Chess Championship vs Ju Wenjun**. Becomes **2nd Indian woman after Koneru Humpy** to achieve this. Dramatic finish: benefited from **Divya Deshmukh holding Bibisara Assaubayeva to draw**. Started poorly (bottom after 5 rounds), then **strong comeback**. Previous achievements: **2× FIDE Grand Swiss winner**, part of **India Women's Olympiad 2024 gold team**.

Jannik Sinner – Monte Carlo Masters 2026

- **Jannik Sinner** defeated **Carlos Alcaraz** (7–6, 6–3) to win **Monte Carlo Masters 2026** and regain **World No. 1 ranking**. Won **3rd ATP Masters 1000 title of 2026** (after Indian Wells & Miami). Extended **17-match winning streak**. Became among elite players with **4 consecutive ATP 1000 titles**. Rivalry with Alcaraz seen as **next-gen tennis rivalry**. Monte Carlo win significant as **key clay-court preparation for French Open (Roland Garros)**.

Asian Wrestling Championships 2026 (India Performance)

- Held in **Bishkek**. India strong performance. Gold medalists: **Sujeet Kalkal (65kg)** beat **Umidjon Jalolov (8–1)**; first Indian 65kg gold since **Bajrang Punia (2019)**. **Abhimanyu Mandwal (70kg)** defeated **Olympian Tulga (5–3)**. India total: **14 medals** (2 Gold, 4 Silver, 8 Bronze). Highlights: **technical dominance, Olympic-level wins, rising freestyle strength**.

Blanka Vlasic – World 10K Bengaluru 2026 Ambassador

- Former Croatian high jumper **Blanka Vlasic** appointed **International Ambassador** for **TCS World 10K Bengaluru** (26 April 2026). Olympic medals: **Silver (2008 Beijing)**, **Bronze (2016 Rio)**. Personal best: **2.08 m (national record)**. Promotes **fitness, mental strength**.

and global participation. Also part of Champions for Peace and Croatian Olympic Committee Vice President.

Payal Nag – Para Archery Historic Gold

- 18-year-old Payal Nag (Odisha) became first quadruple amputee to win international gold in archery. Won at World Para Archery Series Final 2026 (Bangkok). Defeated Sheetal Devi (139–136). Uses prosthetic support + shoulder/mouth trigger technique. Coach: Kuldeep Kumar Vedwan. Overcame accident (age 8, electric shock). Symbol of resilience, para-sports inclusion and innovation in adaptive sports.

Murali Sreeshankar – Indian Athletics Series 2026

- Murali Sreeshankar won the men's long jump (8.15m) at the Indian Athletics Series 2026 in Kanteerava Stadium. He was the only athlete to cross 8 metres, marking a strong comeback after 2024 knee surgery. He had missed the Paris Olympics 2024 and returned after an inconsistent 2025 season. His previous best was 8.13m. Sunny Kumar (7.90m) and Purushotham (7.87m) finished second and third. In women's long jump, Ancy Sojan won gold with 6.54m, followed by Shaili Singh (6.52m) and Moumita Mondal (6.37m).

Khelo India Tribal Games 2026

- Karnataka won the inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 with 23 gold, 8 silver, 7 bronze. Odisha finished second and Jharkhand third, while host Chhattisgarh ended ninth.

Karnataka dominated swimming, athletics and wrestling events. Top performers included Manikanta L (8 gold), Dhanush N (5 gold), Anjali Munda (5 gold, Odisha) and Meghanjali (4 gold). Chhattisgarh's highlight was a football silver medal loss (0–1 to West Bengal). The event promoted tribal talent and grassroots sports development.

India – Doping (AIU Report 2026)

- India ranked first globally in doping bans with 148 track & field athletes suspended, ahead of Kenya and Russia. The AIU monitors anti-doping violations under World Athletics. Notable bans include Dutee Chand (4 years), Parvej Khan (till 2030) and Dhanalakshmi Sekar (8 years). Other violations include sample tampering and test evasion. WADA 2024 reported 260 positives in India with a 3.6% positivity rate. NADA collected 7,100+ samples. AFI has introduced reforms, but stronger enforcement is still needed.

Gurjant Singh – Hockey Retirement

- Gurjant Singh retired from international hockey at the 2026 Hockey India Awards. He played 130 matches and scored 33 goals, known for speed and attacking strength. He debuted after winning the 2016 Junior World Cup and joined the senior team in 2017. His major achievements include Olympic bronze medals (2020, 2024), Asian Games gold (2022) and Asia Cup gold (2017). He received the Arjuna Award in 2021 and is regarded as a key figure in India's modern hockey success.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Event	Key Points
Maharashtra Day 2026 (May 1)	Celebrates formation of Maharashtra (1960) after division of Bombay State under the Bombay Reorganisation Act. Reflects Marathi identity, unity and cultural pride. Origin linked to Samyukta Maharashtra Movement demanding linguistic statehood. Celebrated with parades (Shivaji Park), flag hoisting, cultural events like Lavani and awards. Shares date with Gujarat Day.

Gujarat Foundation Day 2026 (May 1)	Marks formation of Gujarat (1960) after separation from Bombay State; also called Gujarat Gaurav Diwas . Rooted in Mahagujarat Movement led by Indulal Yagnik . 2026 celebrations in Surat include cultural programs, police bike stunts, seminars . Highlights Gujarat as “Growth Engine of India” with strong industry, trade and culture (Garba, Dandiya) .
International Labour Day 2026 (May 1)	Also called May Day , honours workers’ rights, fair wages, safe conditions . Origin from Haymarket Affair (1886, Chicago) demanding 8-hour workday . First observed globally in 1889; in India in 1923 (Chennai) by Singaravelu Chettiar . Theme 2026:Healthy psychosocial work environment . Linked to labour reforms, dignity of labour and global solidarity .
Ayushman Bharat Diwas 2026 (April 30)	Observed to promote universal healthcare and success of PM-JAY (2018) . Provides ₹5 lakh annual coverage per family , benefiting 10.74 crore families (~50 crore people) . Features include cashless treatment, nationwide portability, coverage of pre-existing diseases . Aligns with SDG-3 (Health) and aims for “Healthcare for All” .
World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2026 (April 28)	Led by International Labour Organization , promotes safe workplaces, accident prevention, occupational health . Theme 2026:Psychosocial work environment . Focus on mental health, stress, work-life balance . Established in 2003 , linked to worker protection and global safety standards.
World Malaria Day 2026 (April 25)	Observed to combat malaria, a mosquito-borne disease (Plasmodium parasite) . Established by World Health Organization (2007) . Theme 2026:Driven to End Malaria . Highlights vaccines (RTS,S, R21), prevention, diagnosis . India achieved 80% reduction (2015–23) and targets elimination by 2030 .
National Panchayati Raj Day 2026 (April 24)	Marks implementation of 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 , strengthening grassroots democracy . Theme 2026:Sashakt Panchayat, Sarvangeen Vikas . Features 3-tier system: Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, Zilla Parishad . Ensures 50% reservation for women , promotes decentralization and rural development .
World Book and Copyright Day 2026 (April 23)	Celebrates books, authors, reading culture ; established by UNESCO (1995) . Date linked to deaths of William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes (1616) . Theme focus: Multilingualism . World Book Capital 2026: Rabat . Promotes literacy, publishing, copyright protection .
Earth Day 2026 (April 22)	Global environmental movement started in 1970 led by Gaylord Nelson . Theme 2026:Our Power, Our Planet . Focus on climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss , promoting renewable energy and sustainability . Inspired by Silent Spring by Rachel Carson .
National Civil Services Day 2026 (April 21)	Honours civil servants (IAS, IPS, IFS) for governance and policy implementation. Origin from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s 1947 “Steel Frame of India” speech . Celebrated since 2006 at Vigyan Bhawan . Includes PM’s Awards for Excellence in Public Administration .
World Heritage Day 2026 (April 18)	Also called International Day for Monuments and Sites , led by UNESCO & ICOMOS . Theme 2026:Emergency response for living heritage . Focus on protecting cultural traditions during conflicts/disasters . India has 44 UNESCO sites , highlighting tangible & intangible heritage .
Ambedkar Jayanti 2026 (April 14)	Marks birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (1891, Mhow) . Known as B.R. Ambedkar Remembrance Day . Chief architect of Indian Constitution, first Law

	Minister. Champion of Dalit rights, social justice, equality, education, labour & gender rights. Studied at Columbia University & University of London. Key works: Annihilation of Caste, The Problem of the Rupee, Who Were the Shudras?, Thoughts on Pakistan . Celebrations: tributes, rallies, seminars, awareness campaigns. Promotes equality, dignity, inclusive society.
Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Day 2026 (April 13)	Commemorates 1919 massacre (Amritsar) under General Dyer. Trigger: Rowlatt Act protests ; arrest of Saifuddin Kitchlew & Satyapal. ~1650 rounds fired, 500+ deaths (Indian estimate). Turning point → mass freedom movement. Rabindranath Tagore renounced knighthood . Hunter Commission set up (limited action). Udham Singh assassinated Michael O'Dwyer (1940) . Memorial preserves bullet marks, Martyrs' Well. Symbol of colonial brutality & sacrifice.
Jyotirao Phule Jayanti 2026 (April 11)	Marks birth anniversary (1827); 200th birth anniversary year begins (2026). Social reformer against caste & gender inequality. Founded Satyashodhak Samaj (1873) . Opened first girls' school (1848) with Savitribai Phule. Advocated education, equality, farmer & worker rights. Works: Gulamgiri, ShetkaryachaAsud . Celebrations: educational programs, awareness campaigns.
World Homoeopathy Day 2026 (April 10)	Birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann . Theme: " Homoeopathy for Sustainable Health ". Principles: Like cures like, Law of minimum dose . India = global hub (3.45 lakh doctors, 8593 dispensaries). Key institutions: CCRH, Ministry of AYUSH . Used in epidemics (JE, Chikungunya, COVID-19). Promotes affordable, preventive healthcare.
World Health Day 2026 (April 7)	Theme: " Together for Health. Stand with Science ". Marks WHO founding (1948) . Focus: evidence-based healthcare, global cooperation, One Health approach . Events: One Health Summit (G7-France), WHO Global Forum . India initiatives: Ayushman Bharat, NDHM, Jan Aushadhi, Mission Indradhanush . Promotes trust in science, global health security.
International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 2026 (April 6)	Theme: " Sport: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers ". Declared by UN (2013), observed since 2014. Marks first modern Olympics (1896) . Promotes peace, inclusion, youth engagement . IOC Olympism365: 550+ programs in 189 countries. Highlight: Dakar 2026 Youth Olympics (Africa's first) . Linked to SDGs (2015, strengthened 2024) .
National Maritime Day 2026 (April 5)	Commemorates SS Loyalty voyage (1919) – first Indian merchant ship (Scindia Steam Navigation). Declared in 1964. Theme: " Maritime India - Empowering Progress ". Importance: 90-95% trade via sea . Role in economy, security, employment. Celebrations: port events, awards, seminars.
International Day for Mine Awareness 2026 (April 4)	Theme: " Invest in Peace; Invest in Mine Action ". Established by UNGA (2005). Focus: landmines, victim assistance, safe land restoration . Mine action: detection, removal, rehabilitation . Treaties: Mine Ban Treaty (1997), Cluster Munitions (2008) . Promotes peace building & development .
RBI Foundation Day 2026 (April 1)	Marks establishment of RBI (1935, RBI Act 1934). Nationalised (1949) . First Governor: Osborne Smith ; First Indian: C.D. Deshmukh . Functions: monetary policy, currency issuance, forex management, banking regulation . New initiatives: e-cheques, MuleHunter.AI, fraud protection . Role in inflation control, rupee stability .
Utkal Divas 2026 (April 1)	Odisha Formation Day (1936) – first linguistic state. Leaders: Madhusudan Das, Gopabandhu Das . Origin: Utkal Sammilani (1903) . Significance: Odia identity,

	unity. Culture: Odissi, Jagannath Temple, Konark Sun Temple. Celebrations: parades, cultural events.
Mahavir Jayanti 2026 (March 31)	Birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir (599 BCE). Founder of Jainism. Teachings: Ahimsa, Satya, Asteya, Brahmacharya, Aparigraha. Attained Kevala Jnana. Celebrations: Rath Yatra, prayers, charity, fasting. Promotes peace, ethical living, non-violence.
Earth Hour 2026 (March 28)	20th year of WWF campaign. Started in Sydney (2007). Observed last Saturday of March (8:30–9:30 pm). Promotes climate action, sustainability. India: WWF-India (since 2009, 58 cities). Activities: lights-off, clean-ups, awareness drives. Highlights environment-health link.

IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES

Saint Basaveshwara



A 12th-century philosopher, social reformer and founder of the Lingayat/Veerashaiva movement, he opposed caste hierarchy, ritualism and priestly dominance. He introduced Ishtalinga for direct devotion and advocated Kayaka (dignity of labour) and Dasoha (equitable distribution). Through Vachanas and the Anubhava Mantapa, he promoted equality, ethical living and spiritual democracy, triggering a major socio-religious transformation.

Babu Jagjivan Ram



A freedom fighter, Dalit leader and long-serving Union Minister, he championed social justice and equality. Founder of the All India Depressed Classes League, he worked to end untouchability and discrimination. As Labour Minister, he shaped key labour laws; as Defence Minister, he led during the 1971 war; and as Agriculture Minister, he supported the Green Revolution, leaving a lasting governance legacy.

Samrat Samprati



A Mauryan ruler and grandson of Ashoka, he was a major patron of Jainism. Guided by Suhastin, he promoted the religion by building temples, installing idols and supporting its spread across regions. Recognized in Jain traditions as a key figure, his reign emphasized non-violence, charity and religious expansion.

Shyamji Krishna Verma



A revolutionary nationalist and scholar (1857–1930), he was deeply influenced by Swami Dayanand Saraswati and led the Arya Samaj movement. He founded the Indian Home Rule Society (1905) and established India House in London, which became a hub for revolutionary activities. Through his journal The Indian Sociologist, he spread anti-colonial ideas and supported leaders like V.D. Savarkar, playing a key role in the overseas freedom movement.

Guru Hargobind Sahib



The **6th Sikh Guru** (1595–1644), he introduced the concept of **Miri-Piri (temporal + spiritual authority)** and transformed Sikhism into a **militant-spiritual force**. He established the **Akal Takht (1609)**, encouraged **martial training** and fought several battles against the **Mughals**. Known as **Bandi Chhor Baba**, he symbolized **resistance, justice and protection of humanity**, shaping the **Saint-Soldier ideal**.

Rani Avantibai Lodhi



A **freedom fighter** and queen of **Ramgarh**, she was a major leader in the **Revolt of 1857**, opposing the **Doctrine of Lapse**. Known for her **military leadership**, she expelled British forces and led the **Battle of Kheri (1857)**. Choosing **martyrdom over surrender (1858)**, she remains a symbol of **courage, resistance and women's leadership** in India's freedom struggle.

Panini



An ancient scholar (c. **5th century BCE**) from **Gandhara**, he authored the **Ashtadhyayi**, a foundational text of **Sanskrit grammar**. Comprising **~4000 sutras**, it systematized **phonetics, morphology and syntax** using a **rule-based (generative) system**, often compared to a **language algorithm**. His work laid the basis for **linguistics and classical Sanskrit standardization**.

Harichand Thakur



A **social reformer** and founder of the **Matua sect**, he advocated **equality, dignity and devotion** among marginalized communities, especially **Namashudras**. His teachings emphasized **truth, love and simple devotion** without renunciation, while rejecting **caste oppression**. Through the **Matua Mahasangha**, he organized the oppressed, making him a key figure in **social-religious reform in Bengal**.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE IN NEWS - NATIONAL

Himalayan Salamander is a **vulnerable amphibian** endemic to **Eastern Himalayas**, found in **Darjeeling–Sikkim region**.

Project Deepak by **BRO** develops and maintains **strategic roads** in the **Western Himalayas** since **1961**.

A **Super El Niño (SST anomaly >2°C in Pacific)** weakens **trade winds** and suppresses **India's southwest monsoon**.

Lipulekh Pass is a **strategic tri-junction route (India–Nepal–Tibet)** central to **trade, security** and the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra** dispute.

India allowed **100% FDI in insurance via automatic route** to boost **penetration, capital inflow and competition**.

INS Mahendragiri is an **indigenous stealth frigate** under **Project 17A** with **advanced multi-role combat capabilities**.

Mission Drishti is the world's first OptoSAR satellite combining optical and radar imaging for all-weather surveillance.

CINBAX-II is an India-Cambodia joint military exercise focused on counter-terrorism and sub-conventional operations.

Treaty of Sugauli defined the Kali River as Nepal's western boundary.

Underground Coal Gasification is an in-situ process that converts underground coal into syngas (CO + H₂ + CH₄) for energy use.

Nano urea is a liquid fertiliser with ~70% nitrogen-use efficiency but raises concerns of nanotoxicity and environmental risks.

India imports over 80% of critical minerals, with complete dependence on lithium, cobalt and nickel.

National Company Law Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body under the Companies Act, 2013, handling corporate insolvency under the IBC.

The Komagata Maru incident exposed racial immigration policies when Canada denied entry to 376 Indian passengers.

Sabastian Kimaru Sawe became the first athlete to run an official marathon under 2 hours (1:59:30) at the 2026 London Marathon.

Doppler Weather Radar uses the Doppler effect to measure rainfall and wind velocity for accurate storm tracking and forecasting.

Ecocide refers to severe, widespread and long-term environmental damage caused with knowledge of likely harm, though it is not yet an ICC-recognised crime.

Global primary rainforest loss declined by 36% in 2025, yet remains far above targets needed to meet 2030 climate goals.

Election Commission of India introduced QR-based ID cards integrated with ECINET for secure access to counting centres.

Ru-Soam bridges in Sikkim are traditional Lepcha cane suspension bridges showcasing climate-resilient, eco-friendly engineering.

Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021 allows abortion up to 24 weeks for special categories like minors.

India remains the world's 5th-largest military spender as per Stockholm International Peace Research Institute report.

World Health Organization approved Coartem Baby as the first malaria drug specifically for newborns.

Payments Banks were recommended by the Nachiket Mor Committee.

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea governs international waters.

Artemis Accords is based on 1967 Outer Space Treaty.

Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary is a key elephant corridor linking Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha.

AZEC Plus is a Japan-led clean energy platform (2023) promoting decarbonisation and energy resilience in Asia.

Prajna is a DRDO-developed AI-based satellite imaging system for real-time security surveillance.

Meghalaya granted official language status to Khasi and Garo under Article 345, alongside English.

Odisha became India's first state to implement Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) for sustainable, zone-based ocean resource management.

Adi Shankaracharya propounded Advaita Vedanta, asserting unity of Atman and Brahman and the concept of Maya.

Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam is an Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspot and an Important Bird Area.

Emperor Penguin is the only bird breeding in Antarctic winter; now Endangered (IUCN).

Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) is a thermohaline "global conveyor belt"

regulating climate by redistributing heat.

India patent filings grew 30.2% (1.43 lakh in FY26).

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) completed 10 years, handling ~81% of India's retail digital payments.

Kalai-II Project on Lohit River (Arunachal Pradesh) has 1200 MW capacity.

Haemophilus influenzae type b causes meningitis and spreads via respiratory droplets.

Sanderling is a migratory Arctic shorebird and a bio-indicator of coastal ecosystem health.

Mount Semeru is Java's highest active stratovolcano on the Pacific Ring of Fire.

PRACTICE MCQs

Q1. The blue colour of the sky is primarily due to:

- (a) Reflection of sunlight by oceans
- (b) Refraction of light in atmosphere
- (c) Scattering of shorter wavelengths of light
- (d) Absorption of red light by ozone

Q2. Which component is added to LPG cylinders to detect leakage?

- (a) Methane
- (b) Ethyl Mercaptan
- (c) Propylene
- (d) Ethanol

Q3. Which layer of the atmosphere contains the ozone layer?

- (a) Troposphere
- (b) Mesosphere
- (c) Stratosphere
- (d) Thermosphere

Q4. Echo is heard only if the time gap between original sound and reflected sound is:

- (a) ≥ 0.01 second
- (b) ≥ 0.05 second
- (c) ≥ 0.1 second
- (d) ≥ 1 second

Q5. Which gas has a higher warming potential than CO₂ over a 100-year period?

- (a) Oxygen
- (b) Nitrogen
- (c) Methane
- (d) Hydrogen

Q6. Photochemical smog is formed due to the reaction of:

- (a) SO₂ and CO
- (b) NO_x and hydrocarbons in sunlight
- (c) CO₂ and water vapor
- (d) Methane and oxygen

Q7. Which of the following is a characteristic of lymph?

- (a) Contains RBCs
- (b) Contains platelets
- (c) Rich in lymphocytes
- (d) Red in color

Q8. Which ecosystem shows very high Net Primary Productivity (NPP)?

- (a) Desert
- (b) Tundra
- (c) Tropical rainforest
- (d) Grassland

Q9. Which pollutant can directly enter the bloodstream through alveoli?

- (a) PM10
- (b) PM2.5
- (c) CO₂
- (d) SO₂

Q10. The smallest and lightest bone in the human body is located in the:

- (a) Inner ear
- (b) Middle ear
- (c) Skull
- (d) Nasal cavity

Q11. Which gas shows decreasing solubility with increasing temperature?

- (a) Oxygen
- (b) Sodium chloride
- (c) Sugar
- (d) Potassium nitrate

Q12. Which of the following pollutants is primarily responsible for Itai-itai disease?

- (a) Mercury
- (b) Lead
- (c) Cadmium
- (d) Arsenic

Q13. In projectile motion (neglecting air resistance), which of the following remains constant?

- (a) Vertical velocity
- (b) Acceleration
- (c) Horizontal velocity
- (d) Total velocity

Q14. Which of the following best defines a keystone species?

- (a) Species with maximum population
- (b) Species at lowest trophic level
- (c) Species with disproportionately large ecological impact
- (d) Species that produce most biomass

Q15. Which part of the brain is responsible for maintaining balance?

- (a) Cerebrum

- (b) Cerebellum
- (c) Medulla
- (d) Hypothalamus

Q16. Which international agreement focuses on eliminating Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)?

- (a) Kyoto Protocol
- (b) Paris Agreement
- (c) Stockholm Convention
- (d) Montreal Protocol

Q17. Optical fibers work on the principle of:

- (a) Reflection
- (b) Refraction
- (c) Total internal reflection
- (d) Diffraction

Q18. The escape velocity of Earth is approximately:

- (a) 7.9 km/s
- (b) 9.8 km/s
- (c) 11.2 km/s
- (d) 15 km/s

Q19. The unit of electrical resistance is:

- (a) Volt
- (b) Ampere
- (c) Ohm
- (d) Watt

Q20. Which of the following ecosystems acts as a transition zone between two ecosystems?

- (a) Biome
- (b) Ecotone
- (c) Biosphere
- (d) Habitat

Q21. Which type of pesticide is Endosulfan?

- (a) Organophosphate
- (b) Organochlorine
- (c) Carbamate
- (d) Bio-pesticide

Q22. Which gas is primarily responsible for the formation of ground-level ozone?

- (a) CO₂

- (b) SO₂
- (c) NO_x
- (d) CH₄

Q23. Which process returns nitrogen gas back to the atmosphere?

- (a) Nitrification
- (b) Ammonification
- (c) Denitrification
- (d) Nitrogen fixation

Q24. Microplastics are defined as plastic particles smaller than:

- (a) 1 mm
- (b) 2 mm
- (c) 5 mm
- (d) 10 mm

Q25. Which amendment aims to phase down Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)?

- (a) Kyoto Protocol
- (b) Paris Agreement
- (c) Kigali Amendment
- (d) Montreal Protocol

ANSWERS

Q. No.	Correct Option	Correct Answer
1	C	Scattering of shorter wavelengths of light
2	B	Ethyl Mercaptan
3	C	Stratosphere
4	C	≥ 0.1 second
5	C	Methane
6	B	NO _x and hydrocarbons in sunlight
7	C	Rich in lymphocytes
8	C	Tropical rainforest
9	B	PM2.5
10	B	Middle ear (The Stapes)
11	A	Oxygen
12	C	Cadmium
13	C	Horizontal velocity (and Acceleration due to gravity)
14	C	Species with disproportionately large ecological impact
15	B	Cerebellum
16	C	Stockholm Convention
17	C	Total internal reflection
18	C	11.2 km/s
19	C	Ohm
20	B	Ecotone
21	B	Organochlorine
22	C	NO _x
23	C	Denitrification
24	C	5 mm
25	C	Kigali Amendment