

# WBCS GAZETTE



**APTI PLUS**

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**AUGUST**

**2025**

## A Monthly Digest for GK & State News



### TOPICS COVERED

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



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**DEBNATH MONDAL**  
**RANK 17**



**SOHAM SEN**  
**RANK 19**



**UNMESH MITRA**  
**RANK 25**



**RAM KRISHNA SEN**  
**RANK 32**



**SANTU BANKURA**  
**RANK 34**



**SHYAMAL BANERJEE**  
**RANK 36**



**ARIF MANDAL**  
**RANK 41**



**ASHUTOSH SHUKLA**  
**RANK 44**



**ABHIJIT DAS**  
**RANK 54**



**ANICK SINHA**  
**RANK 59**



**SAYANTAN GHOSH**  
**RANK 63**



**RAJDEEP GHOSH**  
**RANK 72**



**ARINDAM GOSWAMI**  
**RANK 78**



**SUMIT BANERJEE**  
**RANK 86**



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and many more...



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

## BENGAL RELATED NEWS

### Ban on Raw Jute Imports in Bengal

#### Context

- The government has banned the import of **raw jute through land ports**. Leaders of Bengal's jute industry say this will **hurt the sector**, as nearly **90% of India's jute products are made in Bengal**.

#### Industry Requests Changes

- The **Indian Jute Manufacturers' Association (IJMA)** wants the government to **allow raw jute and yarn to come through Petrapole** in North 24 Parganas.
- They suggest - **ban finished products from Bangladesh** instead, since raw jute is needed to make jute products in Bengal.

#### Effect on Costs and Trade

- India imports **around ₹2,000 crore of jute products** from Bangladesh every year.
- Bengal adds value to these products and **re-exports them**.
- Importing through **Mumbai port** will **increase costs** and make jute products less competitive.

#### Trade Disruption

- Jute makes up **60% of trucks from Bangladesh**. After the ban, trucks entering India dropped from **150-200 to 15-20 per day**, causing major problems for trade.

#### Jute Industry in India

Heading	Details
<b>Introduction</b>	Jute is the <b>second most important natural fibre</b> after cotton. Major producing states: <b>West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh</b> . Employs about <b>4 lakh workers</b> . Area under raw jute and mesta cultivation: <b>6,62,000 hectares</b> .
<b>Importance of Jute</b>	Known as <b>golden fibre</b> , jute is <b>eco-friendly, biodegradable and renewable</b> . Used to make <b>hessian, sacking, yarn, carpets, blankets, decorative fabrics and shopping bags</b> .
<b>Production and Domestic Use</b>	India is a <b>world leader in jute products</b> , producing about <b>75% of global output</b> . Most jute is used within India ( <b>90% domestic consumption</b> ). Production in 2022-23: <b>1,246.6 thousand tonnes</b> , 2021-22: <b>1,080 thousand tonnes</b> .
<b>Jute Producing Countries</b>	The leading world's jute producing countries are <b>India, Bangladesh, China and Thailand</b> . India is the world's largest producer of raw jute and jute goods
<b>Exports</b>	Exports of jute products grew at an average of <b>9% per year between 2016 and 2021</b> . Key exported products: <b>sacking, hessian, yarn, floor coverings, bags, gift articles and decorative fabrics</b> . Exports of jute diversified products in 2022-23: <b>US\$ 21.24 billion</b> .

**Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA)**  
The **Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA)**, established in 1884 and renamed in 1902, is the apex body representing the Indian jute industry. Registered under the Indian Trade Union Act in 1931 and later incorporated under the Companies Act in 1989, it has played a pivotal role in industry development. IJMA set up the **Indian Jute Industries Research Association** in 1943 and supported the **Institute of Jute Technology** (now the Department of Jute and Fibre Technology, University of Calcutta) to train supervisory personnel. It has contributed to research, healthcare, scholarships and welfare initiatives for jute workers.



<b>Export Destinations</b>	Main countries: <b>United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Belgium, Egypt, Germany, Italy, Japan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.</b> The United States is the largest importer with <b>23% share (US\$ 75.6 million in 2023-24).</b>
<b>Minimum Support Price</b>	For 2025-26 season: <b>Rs. 5,650 per quintal</b> , a 6% increase. For 2024-25 season: <b>Rs. 5,335 per quintal.</b> Ensures <b>over 66% return</b> over production costs, benefiting farmers.
<b>Jute Packaging Reservation</b>	Jute bags are <b>mandatory for 100% of food grains and 20% of sugar</b> in 2023-24. Supports <b>4 lakh workers and 40 lakh farm families</b> , while promoting <b>environmental sustainability.</b>
<b>Governing Bodies</b>	<b>National Jute Board:</b> Works on human resource development, technology transfer and machinery assistance. <b>Jute Product Development and Export Promotion Council:</b> Organizes fairs, analyzes markets, registers exporters and manages 250 members under a 12-member committee.

**Top 5 raw jute-producing states in India (2023-24) based on production:**

Rank	State	Production (in '000 Bales)	Area (in '000 hectares)	Yield (kg/hectare)
1	West Bengal	7,865.70	491.06	2,883.20
2	Bihar	985.72	66.69	2,660.51
3	Assam	673.43	59.52	2,036.58
4	Meghalaya	55.09	7.75	1,279.51
5	Odisha	58.56	6.42	1,641.87

Source - Directorate of Jute Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India.

- The first jute mill in India was established in 1855 at Rishra, near Kolkata, on the banks of the Hooghly River. This mill was set up by **George Acland**, who brought jute spinning machinery from Dundee.
- Location favored due to **raw material supply, proximity to coal, Hooghly River, skilled labor.**
- In India there are 116 composite jute mills out of which the state of **West Bengal has 86 jute mills** with Andhra Pradesh having 15 mills, Uttar Pradesh 3 mills, Bihar 4 mills, Orissa 3 mills, Assam 2 mills, Chhattisgarh 2 mills and Tripura 1 Jute Mill.
- Product composition in total jute production:** Hessian 15%, Sacking 75%, Others 10%.
- West Bengal:** Major Jute producing districts: Midnapur, Bardhaman, 24 Parganas, Malda, Murshidabad.
- The **Hooghly district** is the largest jute producing region in West Bengal, according to the National Jute Board. It's also known for having a **high concentration of jute mills.** Other significant jute-producing districts include Nadia and Murshidabad
- Assam:** Second-largest producer; mainly cultivated by marginal & small farmers. Major districts: Nagaon, Goalpara, Barpeta, Darrang.

**Climate, Cultivation and Types of Jute & Kenaf**

- Climate and Soil for Jute:** Jute requires a **humid climate** with temperature minimum **1000 mm rainfall.** New grey alluvial soil of good depth, enriched by annual flood silt, is ideal, though sandy and clay loams are also suitable.
- Jute Cultivation:** Sown from **March to May**, jute grows **8-12 feet** in 90-100 days. Plants are cut, bundled and left for **3-4 days**, then **retted in water for ~3 weeks** to loosen fibres, which are washed, sun-dried

**EXPORT OF JUTE GOODS**

Type	2024-25	
	Qty. '000 MT	Value Rs. In Million
Hessian	96.57	8688.20
Sacking	42.14	5423.70
Yarn	14.19	1558.10
JDPs	-	-
Others	39.18	16835.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>192.08</b>	<b>32505.60</b>

**EXPORT OF RAW JUTE**

2024-25	
Quantity in '000 MT	Value in Million
<b>22.50</b>	<b>1342.60</b>

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Kolkata

**(Exports of Raw Jute & Jute Goods-2024-25)**

and bundled. **Note--Harvesting:** Done at **early pod formation stage** for balance between quality and quantity; 100–150 days after sowing. **Retting:** Bundles submerged in **slow-moving clean water (~34°C)**, covered with water hyacinth/weed; weighed down with logs or blocks; crucial for fibre quality.

- **Grades of Raw Jute:** **White jute:** W1–W8; **Tossa jute:** TD1–TD8; **Mesta/kenaf:** Mesta Top, Mid, Bottom. Regional grades include **Assam1–8, Bimli1–8, Jungli1–8**, with the lowest called **cuttings**.
- **Economic prospects:** Biodegradable jute bags as **plastic alternatives**; jute also used in **paper, pulp, composites, textiles and value-added products**.
- **Kenaf (Mesta):** Fast-growing bast fibre (*Hibiscus cannabinus*), thrives in **warm, moist climates** and **sandy loam soils**, less demanding than jute. Fibres are **pale, lustrous, ~3 ft long**. Major producers: **India, Bangladesh, Thailand, China**. Uses: **cordage, canvas, sacking, newsprint, carpet backing**.

## Shramashree Scheme

### Context

- West Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** announced the **Shramashree** scheme to support migrant workers returning to the State after facing harassment in other States.

### Target Beneficiaries

- Supports around **22 lakh Bengali-speaking migrant workers**.
- Migrants must be **registered on Bengal's migrant workers' portal**.

### Financial Assistance

- **One-time grant of ₹5,000** to cover travel expenses.
- **Monthly financial support of ₹5,000** for up to one year or until employment is secured.

### Additional Support

- **Food Security:** Beneficiaries receive **Khadya Sathi** ration cards.
- **Healthcare:** **Swasthya Sathi** health insurance cards provided for free healthcare.
- **Education:** Children of migrants enrolled in state schools.
- **Accommodation:** **Community kitchens and housing** provided for those without accommodation.
- **Skill Development:** Skills training under **Utkarsha Bangla** to enhance employability.
- **Employment:** Job cards issued under the **Karmashree** scheme.

### Registration and Monitoring

- Migrants register through the **Shramashree** portal.
- Registered workers receive a **Shramashree card** for accessing benefits.

- Scheme monitored by **Chief Secretary** and officials from the **Labour Department**.

### Other Measures

- **Migrant Workers' Welfare Board** established for assistance.
- **Amader Para Amader Samadhan** camps provide information and guidance to returning workers.

## Saltwater Crocodiles in Sundarbans

### Context

- The **State Forest Department** at the **Sajnekhali Wildlife Sanctuary** conducted a **2024–25 population assessment** of saltwater crocodiles.
- **Saltwater crocodiles**, the largest reptiles in the world, are thriving in the **Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve, West Bengal**. These apex predators help **keep rivers and creeks clean** by feeding on carcasses and remains in water.

### Survey Details

- Study covered **1,168 km of creeks**, about **64% of significant creek length** in Sundarbans.
- **Encounter rate:** 1 crocodile per 5.5 km of creek.
- Hatchling sightings have increased, which is a **positive sign for population growth**.

### Population Growth

- **Direct sightings in 2025:** 213 crocodiles.
- **Population estimate:** 220–242 crocodiles.
- **Breakup:** 125 adults, 88 juveniles, 23 hatchlings.
- Compared to 2024, there is a **significant increase** (71 adults, 41 juveniles, 2 hatchlings).

### Habitat and Distribution

- Crocodiles prefer **creeks and rivers with tide widths below 180 metres**.
- They tolerate a **wide range of water salinity**, but increasing salinity due to climate change may threaten their habitat.
- They are found in **West Bengal, Odisha and Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.

### SUNDERBANS

The **Sundarbans**, the world's largest mangrove forest, lies in the delta of the **Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers** along the Bay of Bengal. Home to unique species such as the **saltwater crocodile, water monitor lizard, Gangetic dolphin and olive ridley turtle**, about 40% of the forest is in India and 60% in Bangladesh. Recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** (India, 1987; Bangladesh, 1997) and a **Ramsar Wetland of International Importance** in India (2019), the region is also part of **Project Tiger**, protecting the **Royal Bengal Tiger** population. Under the **2011 India-Bangladesh MoU**, both countries collaborate on conservation and monitoring.

### **Conservation Efforts**

- **Bhagabatpur Crocodile Project** in South 24 Parganas started in **1976** for conservation and breeding.
- Between 1976 and 2022, **577 crocodiles** were released into the wild.
- Systematic surveys, **GPS mapping** and habitat studies help monitor and protect the population.

### **Saltwater Crocodile**

The **saltwater crocodile** (*Crocodylus porosus*) is the **largest living reptile** in the world.

### Habitat and Distribution

- Found in **coastal brackish mangrove swamps, river deltas, estuaries and freshwater rivers**.
- In India, abundant in **Sundarbans, Bhitarkanika National Park and Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.
- Also found across **Southeast Asia, northern Australia and Micronesia**.

### Diet and Behavior

- A **hypercarnivorous apex predator** that ambushes prey and swallows it whole.

- Eats **fish, crustaceans, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals** and even other predators like sharks.
- Plays an important role in **maintaining healthy aquatic ecosystems**.

### **Conservation Status**

- Listed as **Least Concern** on the **IUCN Red List** since 1996.
- Threatened by **illegal hunting** (for skin) and **habitat loss**.
- Protected under **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (Schedule I)** and **CITES Appendix I**, with some populations in Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea under Appendix II.

## **Binamrata Letter-Writing Initiative**

### **Context**

- The Department of Posts (West Bengal Circle), Philatelic Congress of India and Rotary International launched '**Binamrata**' to revive letter writing.

### **About the Initiative**

- Encourages students to write **handwritten letters expressing gratitude** to parents, teachers, or elders.
- Focus on reviving the **personal and emotional touch** of letters.

### **Participation**

- Students of **Classes IX and X** participated.
- Over **5,000 students from 63 schools** took part.

### **Partners**

- **Philatelic Congress of India**: National federation of philatelists, formed in 1975.
- **Rotary International**: Global network promoting social service and community development.

## **Swasthya Sathi Scheme**

### **Context**

- West Bengal has included **bone marrow transplant** under its universal health scheme **Swasthya Sathi**.

### **About the Scheme**

- **Launched**: 30 December 2016 by West Bengal Chief Minister.

- **Purpose:** Provide free health coverage for secondary and tertiary care to all families in the state.
- **Monitoring:** State Level Implementation Committee (SLIC) and Swasthya Sathi Samiti.

#### Key Features

- **Coverage:** Up to ₹5 lakh per family per year.
- **Beneficiaries:** No family size limit; includes parents and dependent physically challenged members.
- **Diseases Covered:** All pre-existing diseases included.
- **Cost:** Entirely borne by state government; cashless & paperless.
- **Technology:** Smart card-based, online enrolment, hospital empanelment, real-time E-health records.

#### Important Facilities

- **Pre-authorisation:** 100% online within 24 hours.
- **Claim Settlement:** Reimbursement to hospitals within 30 days, else interest charged.
- **Support:** 24x7 toll-free helpline and Android mobile app.
- **Fraud & Grievance:** Online alerts and monitoring system.

## Seven New Check Posts Approved

#### Context

- The Central Government has approved eight integrated border check posts in West Bengal.
- West Bengal shares international borders with Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. Efficient border management and trade facilitation are crucial for economic growth, employment and infrastructure development in border areas.

#### Details

- Petrapole check post is already operational.
- Seven new check posts are planned at Changrabandha, Ghojadanga, Fulbari, Panitanki, Hilli, Jaigaon and Mahadipur.

#### Importance of New Check Posts

- **Promotes Trade:** Facilitates trade with Bangladesh and Nepal.
- **Creates Employment:** Provides job opportunities in border regions.

- **Improves Infrastructure:** Strengthens transport and trade facilities at borders.
- **Ensures Smooth Movement:** Helps in the easy movement of goods and people across borders.

#### Petrapole

Petrapole, located near Bongaon in North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, is the Indian side of the Petrapole-Benapole border checkpoint with Bangladesh. It is the only land port in South Bengal and the largest land customs station in Asia, handling nearly 60% of India-Bangladesh trade, valued at over \$4 billion. Situated about 95 km from Kolkata on National Highway 112, the nearest rail link is Bongaon, while the Petrapole-Benapole rail line reopened in 2001. The Bandhan Express, inaugurated in 2017, connects Kolkata to Khulna via this route. Historically, the area was part of Jessore district before the 1947 Partition, becoming part of 24 Parganas. The region lies in the lower Ganges Delta. It is culturally significant as the home of Bibhutibhushan Bandopadhyay, whose writings depict the local landscape.

## Bula Chowdhury

#### Context

- Bula Chowdhury, a former swimmer and Padma Shri awardee from West Bengal, has significantly contributed to Indian sports.
- Recently, Chowdhury's medals and mementos were stolen from her ancestral home in Hooghly district, West Bengal.

#### International Achievements

- Won six gold medals at the 1991 South Asian Federation Games.
- Started long-distance swimming in 1989, crossing the English Channel twice (1989, 1999).
- Swam the Palk Straits (Sri Lanka to Tamil Nadu) in 2004 in nearly 14 hours.
- In 2005, became the first woman to swim across sea channels on five continents, including the Strait of Gibraltar, Tyrrhenian Sea, Cook Strait, Toroneos Gulf (Greece),



Catalina Channel (California) and Robben Island (South Africa).

- Created a record by swimming **30 km in 3 hours 26 minutes**.

#### Awards and Recognition

- **Arjuna Awardee** for outstanding contribution to Indian sports.
- **Padma Shri awardee**, one of India's highest civilian honors.
- Former **India national women's swimming champion**.

## West Bengal's Fertility Decline and Demographic Transition

### Context

- West Bengal's **total fertility rate (TFR)** is **1.6**, below the replacement level of 2.1.
- This mirrors trends in southern and western India and is comparable to East Asian countries, highlighting an early demographic transition in the state.

### Key Points

#### Fertility Trends

- India's TFR has dropped below the **replacement rate of 2.1**, though the national replacement rate is slightly higher at **2.25** due to skewed sex ratios and higher infant mortality.
- Number of births peaked in **2001 (29 million)** and declined to **23 million in 2024**.
- Population is still growing, but growth will slow as fertility remains low.

#### Global Comparison

- Over **two-thirds of the world's population** now live in countries with TFR below replacement levels.
- Examples:
  - **China**: TFR 1.0; population peaked at 1.4 billion in 2021, projected to fall to 512 million by 2100.
  - **South Korea**: TFR 0.7; projected decline from 52 million in 2020 to 22 million by 2100.

#### Population Peak and Aging

- India's population expected to **peak at 1.67 billion in 2055**, earlier than previous projections.

- Rising life expectancy (**41 in 1950 → 72.5 in 2023**) leads to **aging population** and higher dependency ratio.

#### Regional Variations

- Southern and western states: **TFR below replacement**, similar to East Asia.
- Poorer states: Uttar Pradesh (2.4), Bihar (3.0), Jharkhand (2.3) still above replacement levels, supporting national average.
- **West Bengal**: TFR of **1.6**, below replacement.

#### Policy Implications

- High rate of **population control measures** in India (14% families limit size on medical advice vs 5% globally).
- Experts suggest **rolling back population control policies**, even in states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

#### Total Fertility Rate

The total fertility rate in a specific year is defined as the total number of children that would be born to each woman if she were to live to the end of her child-bearing years and give birth to children in alignment with the prevailing age-specific fertility rates.

#### Replacement-Level Fertility

**Replacement-Level Fertility** is the average number of children a woman needs to have to keep a population stable, effectively replacing the current generation. In developed countries, this is typically **2.1 children per woman**, slightly above two to account for **infant and child mortality**, ensuring that enough children survive to adulthood to replace their parents.

## West Bengal mandates Daily Prime-Time Screening of Bengali Films in Cinema Halls

### Context:

- To promote regional cinema and ensure visibility for Bengali films, the West Bengal government has issued a notification requiring all cinema halls and multiplexes in the state to

screen Bengali films during prime time every day.

#### Key Features of the Order:

- Every cinema hall and every screen of multiplexes must show **at least one Bengali film daily**.
- **Prime time** is defined as 3 pm to 9 pm, ensuring a daily slot for Bengali films in this window.
- **Annual target:** 365 prime-time screenings per screen throughout the year.
- Amendments will be made to the **West Bengal Cinemas (Regulation of Public Exhibitions) Rules, 1956** to formalize this requirement.
- The order is **effective immediately** and will remain in force until further notice.

#### Significance:

- Strengthens the **promotion of Bengali cinema** amid competition from Hindi, South Indian and international films.
- Ensures **year-round accessibility** of regional films to audiences.
- Complements previous state incentives for **Bengali film production**.

## West Bengal's Bill to regulate Private Healthcare Costs

#### Context:

- To protect patients from unexpected and inflated medical bills, the West Bengal Legislative Assembly had passed the **West Bengal Clinical Establishments (Registration, Regulation and Transparency) (Amendment) Bill, 2025**.
- The Bill amends the 2017 Act to enhance regulation, transparency and accountability in private clinical establishments across the state.

#### Key Provisions:

- **Fixed and Package Rates:** All clinical establishments must strictly follow **fixed**

**charges and package rates** for investigations, bed charges and operations.

- **Cost Estimates:** Hospitals must provide **treatment cost estimates** for procedures not covered under fixed rates and update patients and kin every 24 hours. Final bills cannot exceed estimates beyond limits set by the State Health Department.
- **Electronic Record-Keeping:** Mandatory maintenance of **detailed medical records** via electronic software, including e-prescriptions and discharge summaries. Records must be shared with the State Government on demand.
- **Licensing and Transparency:** Strengthened regulation of licensing processes and adherence to State-mandated operational standards.

#### Significance:

- Protects patients from **overcharging** and hidden costs in private healthcare.
- Improves **transparency and accountability** of private hospitals.
- Encourages timely communication of **treatment costs and billing** to patients and families.

#### Concerns Raised:

- **Women's safety and confidentiality** of patient information in electronic records.
- Practicality of communicating updated charges **within 24 hours**.
- Dynamic nature of medical treatment may sometimes conflict with fixed charge regulations.

#### Oversight:

- The **West Bengal Clinical Establishment Regulatory Commission**, announced in 2017, continues to monitor private healthcare infrastructure and compliance with these regulations.

## WEST BENGAL RELATED STATIC GK

West Bengal **does not have a designated "state game."**

There are two UNESCO World Heritage sites located in West Bengal: **Sundarbans National Park** and **Darjeeling Himalayan Railway**.

West Bengal, along with Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, were the **only states where the 2024 Indian general election was held in all 7 phases.**

The **Chingrikhali Fort** in **Diamond Harbour, West Bengal**, was built by the Portuguese in the 16th century.

The **first woman legislator from West Bengal in independent India was Renuka Ray**. She was elected to the Constituent Assembly from West Bengal and later to the West Bengal Legislature in 1952.

The **Purulia district of West Bengal lies entirely within the Chotanagpur plateau region.**

The **port in West Bengal that handles the maximum cargo volume is Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMP), Kolkata**. It encompasses both the Kolkata

Dock System (KDS) and the Haldia Dock Complex (HDC). In the fiscal year 2023-24, it achieved a record-breaking 66.4 million metric tonnes of cargo handling.

Burdwan the Principal town and administrative headquarters is situated on the north bank of **Damodar River**.

Bardhaman district in West Bengal was officially **bifurcated on April 7, 2017, into two new districts: Purba Bardhaman (East Bardhaman) and Paschim Bardhaman (West Bardhaman).**

Bardhaman region is also known as the **rice bowl of Bengal**.

Bankura district in West Bengal is described as the **connecting link between the plains of Bengal to the east and the Chota Nagpur Plateau to the west**. This area acts as a transitional zone, where the flat alluvial plains of Bengal gradually give way to the hilly and plateau terrain of Chota Nagpur.

Mallabhum or Bishnupur kingdom was the kingdom ruled by the Malla kings of

Bishnupur, primarily in the present Bankura district.

**Suri** is the headquarters of the Birbhum district.

**Kalonunia rice** is a black-husked, aromatic, non-Basmati rice mainly grown in **Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar** and parts of **Darjeeling & Kalimpong**. Known locally as **Kalonuniachaal**, it is blast-resistant, non-sticky and used in everyday meals, traditional sweets and puffed rice. It received the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2024**, giving it legal protection and regional identity.

The **Atrai River** originates in **Siliguri, West Bengal**, near Baikanthapur forest, flows through **Dinajpur District, Bangladesh**, then re-enters India via **Dakshin Dinajpur (Kumarganj and Balurghat)**. It re-enters Bangladesh, splitting into the **Gabura** and **Kankra** rivers, crossing the **Barind Tract** and draining into **Chalan Beel**. The river is a **perennial fishing source** but often causes **monsoon flooding** in surrounding areas.

The first freedom fighter from Bengal to be awarded the Bharat Ratna was Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy in 1961.

**Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy**, the second CM of West Bengal, was born on July 1, 1882. His birthday is celebrated as National Doctor's Day

Was the CM for 14 years, from **1948-1962**

**Founded 5 cities in Bengal:** Durgapur, Kalyani, Bidhannagar, Ashokenagar & Habra

Coincidentally, he died on **July 1, 1962**

Was awarded the **Bharat Ratna** in February 1961

**Opened several charitable hospitals:** Chittaranjan Seva Sadan, Jadavpur TB Hospital, Kamla Nehru Hospital

**National Doctor's Day** is observed to show the value of doctors in our lives and to thank them for their significant roles and responsibilities



## West Bengal

**LANDFORMS**

- Mountains
- Plateaus
- Hills
- Plain
- Sandy Coastal



**Highest peak:** Sandakfu (3,636 m or 11,929ft)

**Notified area:** Coopers's Camp and Taherpur

**POPULATION**

Male	46,809,027
Female	44,467,088
Sex Ratio	947
Rank	4th
Urban %	31.87
Rural %	68.13
Density	1,000/km <sup>2</sup> (2,700/sq mi)
Growth	13.84%
Highest Density	Kolkata (24,306)
% of total	1,01,12,599
Boys	51,87,264
Girls	49,25,335
Sex Ratio	950

**West Bengal Population Density**

S.No.	District Name	Population	Area (in KM)	Density
1.	Bankura	3,596,674	6,882	523
2.	Bardhaman	7,717,563	7,024	890
3.	Birbhum	3,502,404	4,545	771
4.	Cooch Behar	2,819,086	3,387	833
5.	Dakshin Dinajpur	1,676,276	2,219	753
6.	Hooghly	5,519,145	3,149	1,753
7.	Howrah (Haora)	4,850,029	1,467	3,300
8.	Jalpaiguri	3,872,846	6,227	621
9.	Kalimpong (Darjeeling)	1,846,823	3,149	239
10.	Kolkata	4,496,694	185	24,252
11.	Maldah	3,988,845	3,733	1,071
12.	Murshidabad	7,103,807	5,324	1,334
13.	Nadia	5,167,600	3,927	1,316
14.	North Twenty Four Parganas	10,009,781	4,094	2,463
15.	Paschim Medinipur	5,913,457	9,368	1,076
16.	Purba Medinipur	5,095,875	4,713	923
17.	Purulia	2,930,115	6,259	468
18.	South Twenty Four Parganas	8,161,961	9,960	819
19.	Uttar Dinajpur	3,007,134	3,140	956
<b>Average population density of West Bengal</b>				<b>1,028</b>



### Highest Literate Districts

District	Per
Purba Medinipur	87.02%
Kolkata	86.31%
North Twenty Four Parganas	84.06%
Howrah (Haora)	83.31%

### Highest Sex Ratio Districts

District	Sex Ratio
Kalimpong (Darjeeling)	970
Paschim Medinipur	966
Hooghly	961
Murshidabad	958

### Least Populous Districts

District	Population in 2011	Population in 2025 (Estimated)
Dakshin Dinajpur	1,676,276	1,852,955
Kalimpong (Darjeeling)	1,846,823	2,041,478
Cooch Behar	2,819,086	3,116,218
Purulia	2,930,115	3,238,949

### Most Populous Districts

District	Population in 2011	Population in 2025 (Estimated)
North Twenty Four Parganas	10,009,781	11,064,812
South Twenty Four Parganas	8,161,961	9,022,232
Bardhaman	7,717,563	8,530,994
Murshidabad	7,103,807	7,852,548

### Lowest Sex Ratio Districts

District	Sex Ratio
Kolkata	908
Purba Medinipur	938
Howrah (Haora)	939
Uttar Dinajpur	939

- In West Bengal, Tribal population is 52,96,963 as per Census 2011, which is about 5.8% of the total population of the State.
- Tribal population of West Bengal constitutes about 5.08% of total Tribal population of the Country.
- Tribal communities are present in all the Districts of the State. Higher concentration of Tribal population is seen in the Districts like Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Dakshin Dinajpur, Paschim Medinipur, Bankura and Purulia.

Sl.	Indicator	ST (WB)	ST (India)
1	Decadal growth rate of population	20.20	23.66
2	Sex Ratio	999	990
3	Literacy Rate	57.90	59.00
4	Infant Mortality Rate		95.7
5	Percentage of household having latrine facility within premises	24.40	22.60
6	Percentage of household having drinking water source within the premises	18.6	19.7
7	Percentage of household having access to treated tap water/ hand pump as drinking water source	56.67	53.82
8	Incidence and rate of crime committed against Scheduled Tribes	(a) % age contribution of WB - 0.7% (b) Rank of WB (Rate of cognizable crime)-19	

**SOURCE: WEST BENGAL TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

## APPOINTMENTS

### Nagaland Governor

- Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Governor of Manipur, has been given additional charge as the Governor of Nagaland.

### General Secretary of Constitution Club of India

- Rajiv Pratap Rudy, has retained his post as General Secretary (Administration) of the

**Constitution Club of India (CCI)**, a platform for interaction among past and present Members of Parliament, originally started for Constituent Assembly members in 1947 and formally inaugurated in 1965 by President S. Radhakrishnan.

### Chairperson of the Capacity Building Commission

- Mrs. S. Radha Chauhan has officially assumed charge as the **Chairperson of the Capacity Building Commission (CBC)**, an independent body under the **National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)** that aims to transform the civil services learning ecosystem for a smart, accountable and citizen-centric public service.

### Command of the Indian Naval Academy

- Vice Admiral Manish Chadha, assumed command of the **Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala**, succeeding Vice Admiral C.R. Praveen Nair.

### Vice Chief of the Naval Staff

- Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, has taken charge as the **47th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff**.

### Financial Advisor (Defence Services)

- Dr. Mayank Sharma has officially assumed charge as the **Financial Advisor (Defence Services)** in the Ministry of Defence, a key IDAS position responsible for financial advice,

defence planning and oversight of the defence budget.

### Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)

- Dr. A. Rajarajan has assumed charge as the **Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**, Thiruvananthapuram, succeeding Dr. S. Unnikrishnan Nair.

### Next Vice Chief of Army Staff

- Lt Gen Pushpendra Singh** assumed charge as **Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS)**, succeeding Lt Gen N.S. Raja Subramani.

### Global President & CEO of Procter & Gamble (P&G)

- Procter & Gamble (P&G) has appointed Shailesh Jejurikar, its current COO, as Global President & CEO effective January 1, 2026, making him the first Indian to lead the company.

### CEO of Sansad TV

- Lok Sabha Secretary-General Utpal Kumar Singh, a former IAS officer, has been given additional charge as CEO of Sansad TV.

### First Woman Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU

- Prof Uma Kanjilal has been appointed as the first woman Vice-Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).

## AWARDS IN NEWS

### Miss Universe India 2025

- Manika Vishwakarma has been crowned Miss Universe India 2025 and will represent India at the 74th Miss Universe in Thailand.
- India boasts a proud Miss Universe history, producing global icons like Sushmita Sen (1994) – the first Indian winner, Lara Dutta (2000) – the second and Harnaaz Sandhu

(2021) – who brought the third crown after two decades.

### Gallantry Awards

- President Droupadi Murmu has formally approved gallantry and service awards.

#### Gallantry Awards History:

- Post-Independence, the first three wartime awards--**Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra**

and **Vir Chakra**--were instituted on 26th January 1950, effective from 15th August 1947.

- The **Ashoka Chakra Class I, II, III** were instituted in 1952, later renamed in 1967 as **Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra** and **Shaurya Chakra**.
- **Order of precedence:** Param Vir Chakra, Ashoka Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Vir Chakra, Shaurya Chakra.

#### Eligibility:

- All ranks of **Army, Navy, Air Force**, reserve forces, territorial army and other lawfully constituted armed forces.
- **Nursing staff, hospital personnel and civilians** serving under these forces are also eligible.

#### Wartime Gallantry Awards:

- **Param Vir Chakra:** Highest wartime honor for distinguished valor.
- **Maha Vir Chakra:** Second-highest for conspicuous gallantry in presence of the enemy.
- **Vir Chakra:** Third-highest wartime gallantry award.

#### Peacetime Gallantry Awards:

- **Ashoka Chakra:** Highest for valor, courageous action, or sacrifice away from combat.
- **Kirti Chakra:** Second-highest for acts of bravery or self-sacrifice in peacetime.
- **Shaurya Chakra:** Awarded for extraordinary gallantry by armed forces personnel.

#### Other Awards:

- **Sena Medal, Nao Sena Medal, Vayu Sena Medal:** Recognize exceptional devotion to

duty or courage in the Army, Navy and Air Force, respectively.

### **First woman Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF)**

- Sonali Mishra, a 1993-batch senior IPS officer, has been appointed as the **first woman Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF)**.
- The **Railway Protection Force (RPF)**, responsible for safeguarding railway passengers and property, was established in **1957** through an Act of Parliament, gained powers to arrest and prosecute railway-related crimes in **1966** and was declared an **armed force of the Union in 1985**, working to ensure safety across stations, trains and passengers nationwide; its current DG, **Sonali Mishra**, will serve until **31 October 2026**.

### **Chairperson of the National Medical Commission**

- Dr. Abhijat Sheth has been appointed as the **new Chairperson of the National Medical Commission (NMC)**
- **National Medical Commission (NMC)** is a statutory body that regulates medical education, practitioners, institutes and research in India. Established in **2020** to replace the Medical Council of India (MCI), the NMC grants recognition to medical qualifications, accredits medical schools, registers practitioners and monitors medical practice and infrastructure.

## **BOOKS & AUTHORS [CURRENT]**

Book	Author and Details
M.S. Swaminathan: The Man Who Fed India	Priyambada Jayakumar. The book covers Swaminathan's formative years, scientific journey and role in India's food security.
The Conscience Network	Sugata Srinivasaraju. In June 1975, during Indira Gandhi's Emergency, civil liberties were suspended in India, but young Indians in the U.S. resisted from afar. <i>The Conscience Network</i> by Sugata Srinivasaraju chronicles the story of <b>Indians for Democracy (IFD)</b> and their fight for democracy beyond borders.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS [STATIC GK]

Book Name	Author and Details
Kim (1900)	Rudyard Kipling; A story about an Irish orphan in India involved in the Great Game, blending espionage, Buddhism and the vibrant life of the bazaar and Grand Trunk Road. A children's classic for grown-ups.
White Mughals (2003)	William Dalrymple; Chronicles James Kirkpatrick, a British Resident in Hyderabad and his marriage to Khair un-Nissa, highlighting early Anglo-Indian relationships before the Raj.
Up the Country (1867)	Emily Eden; Letters home describing northern India, offering witty social commentary and a record of her brother George Auckland's disastrous policy in Afghanistan.
A Matter of Honour (1974)	Philip Mason; Short history of the Indian Army, exploring loyalty between British officers and sepoys and the army's enduring legacy in independent India.
Curry and Rice (1860)	George Francklin Atkinson; Sketches of social life in British India, detailing daily routines, officers, families and local customs with charming illustrations.
The Great Mutiny (1978)	Christopher Hibbert; A concise account of the 1857 Indian Rebellion, highlighting the brutality, European officer losses and the retaliations that shocked public opinion.
The Siege of Krishnapur (1973)	JG Farrell; A novel depicting the massacre of the British garrison at Cawnpore during the 1857 Mutiny, combining historical accuracy with literary art.
Man-Eaters of Kumaon (1944)	Jim Corbett; Accounts of hunting man-eating leopards and tigers in northern India and early conservation efforts, later leading to the establishment of Jim Corbett Park.
A Passage to India (1924)	EM Forster; A novel exploring British-Indian relations, cultural misunderstandings and the friendship between Dr. Aziz and Cyril Fielding during the Raj.
Staying On (1977)	Paul Scott; Follows retired officer Tusker and his wife Lucy, portraying life after independence and the shrinking world of the British in post-Raj India.
The Tears of the Rajas (1805–1905)	Ferdinand Mount; Examines the Mutiny, money and marriage in India, published by Simon & Schuster.

## SPORTS

### Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025

- India will host the **Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025** in Dehradun from **20–23 August 2025**, marking its debut in international winter sports.
- The event will take place at **Maharana Pratap Sports College, Raipur (Dehradun)**, organized

under the **Ice Skating Association of India (ISAI)**, featuring high-speed, action-packed ice races.

- Over **11 Asian countries**, including China, Japan, Singapore, Thailand and India, will compete, reflecting growing interest in winter sports across Asia.



- The **Ice Skating Association of India (ISAI)** is the national governing body for competitive ice skating disciplines in India, including **figure skating, synchronized skating, speed skating and short track speed skating**. It is affiliated with the **International Skating Union** and the **Asian Skating Union**.
- **History:** The ISAI was registered in **2002**. Before its establishment, ice skating was governed by the Winter Games Federation of India

### Real Madrid Tops Brand Finance Football 50-2025

- Real Madrid has been named the **world's most valuable football club** in the Brand Finance Football 50-2025 report
- It has a **brand value of €1.921 billion** and a near-perfect **brand strength score of 94.9**. It is its **fourth consecutive year at the top**. The club achieved **14% year-on-year brand value growth**, secured the **highest AAA+ brand rating** and continues to combine **sporting success**, including its 15th **UEFA Champions League title**, with **global commercial dominance**.

### Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) 2025

- The **Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) 2025** will be held at **Dal Lake, Srinagar** from **August 21-23, 2025**, marking the **first-ever water sports event** under the Khelo India program.
- Organized by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** in collaboration with the **Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council** and **SAI**, the festival aims to **promote sports culture, eco-tourism and youth participation** in the Kashmir Valley.
- The official mascot, the **Himalayan Kingfisher**, symbolizes **energy, tranquility, adventure and ecological balance**, while the logo showcases a **Shikara boat on Dal Lake with snow-capped mountains**, integrating Khelo India colors.

### 2025 World Games in Chengdu, China.

- India's **Namrata Batra** reached the **women's 52 kg Wushu final** at the **2025 World Games in Chengdu, China**.
- This marks a historic milestone as India's **first-ever medal in Wushu** at this global event. Namrata secured her place in the final with a **2-0 win over Krizan Faith Collado** of the Philippines, guaranteeing at least a **silver medal**. She will face **Mengyue Chen of China** for the gold.

### Asian U19 & U22 Boxing Championships 2025

- India's boxing teams shone at the **Asian U19 & U22 Boxing Championships 2025** in Bangkok, winning **27 medals**
- The **U19 team** earned **14 medals** (3 gold, 7 silver, 4 bronze) and the **U22 team** bagged **13 medals** (1 gold, 4 silver, 8 bronze), with **Ritika** winning gold in women's 80+ kg. **Yatri Patel** (Women's 57 kg), **Priya** (Women's 60 kg), **Neeraj** (Men's 75 kg) and **Ishan Kataria** (Men's 90+ kg) won silver medals, contributing significantly to India's medal tally and international boxing standing.

### International Wiesław Maniak Memorial

- India's **Annu Rani** won gold in the women's javelin at the **International Wiesław Maniak Memorial** in Poland with a season-best throw of **62.59m**.
- Rani led the competition ahead of **Eda Tugsuz** (Turkey, **58.36m**) and **Lianna Davidson** (Australia, **58.24m**). Her throws included 60.96m, 62.59m (season best) and 60.07m. Other Indian athletes included **Pooja** (800m, 3rd, **2:02.95**) and **Jisna Mathew** (400m, 6th, **54.12s**). Rani now aims to surpass the **64m qualification mark** for Tokyo 2025.

### First franchise-based Archery League

- The **Archery Association of India (AAI)** has launched the country's first franchise-based **Archery League**, scheduled for **October 2025** at the **Yamuna Sports Complex, Delhi**.

- The league will have **six franchise teams** with top Indian archers, Olympic and national medalists and foreign players from the world's top 10. Supported by **World Archery, World Archery Asia and India's Sports Ministry**, the league aims to boost India's archery profile, offer international exposure and inspire future athletes.
- The **Archery Association of India (AAI)** is the national governing body for archery, tasked with organizing, promoting and regulating the sport across the country. Established on **8 August 1973** following archery's return to the Olympic Games in 1972, AAI is a **non-profit, government-funded organization** headquartered in **New Delhi**. Its current president is **Arjun Munda** and the association is affiliated with the **World Archery Federation, World Archery Asia, Indian Olympic Association** and is recognized by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**.

### World Athletics Eligibility Rules

- Starting **1 September 2025**, **World Athletics** will enforce new eligibility rules for the female category, requiring all athletes to undergo a **once-in-a-lifetime SRY gene test** to confirm biological sex.
- This test, conducted via cheek swab or blood sample under Member Federation supervision, will first be applied at the **World Athletics Championships Tokyo 25** beginning 13 September 2025.
- The regulations aim to **protect the integrity of women's sports** by ensuring fair competition, following recommendations from the **Gender Diverse Athlete Working Group**. Eligible athletes include biological females, biological females with past testosterone use under conditions, males with Complete Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (CAIS) who did not undergo male puberty and males with Differences of Sex Development (DSD) who meet transitional provisions.

### FISU World University Games 2025

- India finished **20th** at the **FISU World University Games 2025** in Germany, securing a total of **12 medals**-- 2 gold, 5 silver and 5 bronze.
- In **athletics**, Praveen Chitravel (men's triple jump) and Seema (women's 5000m) won silver, while the men's 4x100m relay team earned bronze. **Archery** was a standout, with Sahil Rajesh Jadhav winning gold (men's individual compound), Parneet Kaur taking silver (women's individual) and the mixed team clinching another gold. Historic firsts included a bronze in mixed team badminton and Vaishnavi Adkar's bronze in tennis singles. Despite ranking below the 2023 performance (7th with 26 medals), India demonstrated **consistent growth and potential**.

### 100 years of Indian hockey

- Hockey India (HI) celebrated 100 years of Indian hockey.
- Senior Nationals will receive ₹70 lakh each, Junior and Sub-Junior Nationals ₹30 lakh each and each state ₹25 lakh to support local competitions.

### Divyanshi Bhowmick

- Divyanshi Bhowmick made history at the 29th Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships in Tashkent by winning the U-15 Girls' Singles title.
- At just 14, she defeated China's Zhu Qihi 4-2 in the final. She became the first Indian in 36 years to win the U-15 Girls' Singles title. Among the other titles she won are the U-17 Girls Singles gold at the 2024 WTT Youth Contender in Algiers and silver in the 2023 ITTF World Youth Championships held at Nova Gorica in the U-15 Girls Doubles with Jennifer Varghese.

### FIDE Women's Chess World Cup 2025

- Divya Deshmukh made history by winning the **FIDE Women's Chess World Cup** in Batumi, Georgia, defeating veteran **Koneru Humpy** in rapid tiebreaks.

- At 19, she became India's fourth female Grandmaster (GM), joining the ranks of Humpy, R. Vaishali and Harika Dronavalli. Her was also crowned **World Junior Champion 2024** and instrumental in India's **Chess Olympiad gold** in Budapest, where she also won individual gold.

### Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2025

- At the **Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2025** as **Tanvi Sharma** and **Vennala Kalagotla** became the first-ever Indian duo to win two medals in women's singles in a single edition.
- Tanvi, junior World No. 1, dominated top contenders, while Vennala battled through tight matches with grit and composure.
- The **Badminton Asia Junior Championships** is an annual under-19 tournament organized by **Badminton Asia** to determine the continent's top junior players. It rotates among different host cities across Asia, with each city's hosting frequency noted in records.

### National Sports Governance Bill, 2025

- The **National Sports Governance Bill, 2025** is a measure designed to modernize India's sports administration by enforcing **transparency, accountability and structural reforms** in all National Sports Federations (NSFs).
- A major provision brings the **BCCI under the RTI Act**, granting it public accountability while recognizing it as a formal NSF.
- The bill sets up a **comprehensive governance structure**, increasing the age limit for sports

officials to 75, establishing the **National Sports Board** for oversight and ensuring **representation of athletes, women and distinguished sportspersons** in decision-making bodies. It also provides for a **National Sports Tribunal** to resolve disputes, with appeals allowed to the Supreme Court and introduces a **National Sports Election Panel** to oversee elections. Top executives are limited to 15 members with a three-term maximum and mandatory cooling-off periods.

- By bringing Indian sports governance in line with **Olympic Charter standards**, the bill seeks to improve accountability in influential bodies like the BCCI, promote inclusivity and strengthen India's global sporting image, while also supporting its **ambitions to host the 2036 Olympics**.

### ICC World Test Championship Hosting Rights

- The **England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)** has been awarded the hosting rights for the next three **ICC World Test Championship (WTC) Finals** in 2027, 2029 and 2031.
- Since the WTC's inception in 2021, England has hosted three finals: **Southampton (2021)** – New Zealand beat India, **The Oval (2023)** – Australia defeated India and **Lord's (2025)** – South Africa overcame Australia. By awarding multiple finals to ECB, the ICC aims to ensure **organizational continuity, maximize fan engagement and optimize broadcasting reach**, while leveraging iconic venues like **Lord's, The Oval and Edgbaston**.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Event & Details
July 29, 2025	<b>Global Tiger Day 2025</b> – Highlights tiger conservation, population decline (~4,000 left), habitat protection, anti-poaching and community engagement. The theme for International Tiger Day 2025 is "Securing the future of tigers with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the heart"
July 30, 2025	<b>World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2025</b> – Focus on ending human trafficking, supporting victims, law enforcement and global cooperation.

August 1, 2025	<b>World Wide Web Day 2025</b> – Celebrates the web's transformative power, addressing digital divide, cybersecurity and responsible tech use.
August 7, 2025	<b>National Handloom Day 2025</b> – Celebrates India's weaving heritage, women weavers and cultural preservation.
August 9, 2025	<b>World Sanskrit Day 2025</b> – Promotes Sanskrit learning, cultural heritage and modern relevance.
August 10, 2025	<b>World Lion Day 2025</b> – Raises awareness for lion conservation, highlighting threats like poaching, habitat loss and human-lion conflicts. The theme for World Lion Day 2025 was "Community-Led Conservation,".
August 12, 2025	<b>World Elephant Day 2025</b> – Raises awareness for elephant conservation, focusing on habitat preservation, anti-poaching and welfare initiatives. The World Elephant Day 2025 theme is "Matriarchs & Memories"
August 12, 2025	<b>International Youth Day 2025</b> – Promotes youth participation in local governance and sustainable development initiatives.
August 15, 2025	<b>This Day in History – 15 August</b> – Highlights major global events, including India's independence (1947), Panama Canal opening (1914) and Woodstock Festival (1969).
August 15, 2025	<b>79th Independence Day of India 2025</b> – Celebrates India's freedom with flag hoisting, PM's address, cultural programs and national initiatives.
August 20, 2025	<b>Sadbhavana Diwas 2025</b> – Commemorates Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary, promoting peace, tolerance and national unity.
August 20, 2025	<b>Akshay Urja Day 2025</b> – Focuses on renewable energy awareness, promoting solar, wind and biomass energy adoption.

## STATIC GK

**Banasura Sagar Dam** in Wayanad, Kerala is India's largest earthen dam.

**Kharavela** of Kalinga maintained records in **Hathigumpha inscription**.

**Earth Summit 1992** (Rio) led to **Agenda 21** for sustainable development.

**WHO** declared smallpox eradicated in 1980.

**International Court of Justice** is in The Hague, Netherlands.

**Mangalyaan** made India the first Asian nation to reach **Mars orbit in its first attempt**.

**Hemis National Park** in Ladakh is the largest high-altitude national park in India.

**Nalanda University** library was called **Dharmaganja**.

**Vikram Samvat** calendar started in 57 BCE.

**Earth Hour** started in 2007 by World Wildlife Fund to promote energy conservation.

**Montreal Protocol (1987)** phased out ozone-depleting substances.

**SAARC** established in 1985 for regional cooperation.

**International Monetary Fund (IMF)** created at Bretton Woods in 1944; maintains global financial stability.

**Paris Agreement (2016)** targets <2°C global warming.

**Hogenakkal Falls** is formed on the Kaveri River by Dharmapuri rocks.



**First Chief Justice of India:**  
Harilal J. Kania.

**UN Peacekeeping operations**  
began in 1948.

**Mount Vinson** is the highest  
peak in Antarctica at 4,892 m.

**Altai Mountains** form borders  
between Russia, China,  
Mongolia and Kazakhstan.

**Mehrgarh** in Balochistan is one  
of the earliest farming  
settlements (~7000 BCE).

**Guru Gobind Singh** established  
the Khalsa in 1699.

**Ranganadi River** is a tributary  
of the Brahmaputra in  
Arunachal Pradesh.

**PIL provisions** were expanded  
under Justice P.N. Bhagwati in  
the 1980s.

**Saptagram** was a major  
medieval port in Bengal before  
Hugli emerged.

The Mayurakshi flows through  
Jharkhand and  
then through the districts  
of Birbhum and Murshidabad  
in West Bengal before flowing  
into the Hooghly River.

The **Kunchikal Fall** is the  
highest waterfall in India and  
also the **second highest in Asia**.

**First Education minister:**  
Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad.

In **Oscar 2023**, the Telugu  
song "NaatuNaatu" from RRR  
by M. M. Keeravani (music)  
and Chandrabose (lyrics) won  
**Best Original Song**, while **The Elephant Whisperers**, directed  
by Kartiki Gonsalves and  
produced by Guneet Monga,  
won **Best Documentary Short**.  
India's Oscar history also  
includes Bhanu Athaiya  
(Gandhi, **Best Costume Design**, 1983), A. R. Rahman &  
Gulzar (Slumdog Millionaire,  
2009, **Best Original Score & Song**) and Resul Pookutty  
(Slumdog Millionaire, 2009,  
**Best Sound Mixing**).

The **Earth's atmosphere** is  
structured into **five main layers** based on altitude and  
pressure. The **Troposphere (0–18 km)** experiences decreasing  
temperature with height and  
ends at the **Tropopause**, while  
the **Stratosphere (18–50 km)**  
sees rising temperatures up to  
the **Stratopause**. Above it, the  
**Mesosphere (50–90 km)** has  
decreasing temperatures  
ending at the **Mesopause**,  
followed by the  
**Thermosphere/Ionosphere (80–640 km)** where  
temperatures rise again up to  
the **Thermopause**. The  
outermost layer, the  
**Exosphere (up to 10,000 km)**,  
continues the trend of  
increasing temperature and  
ends at the **Exopause**.  
Atmospheric pressure  
**decreases with altitude**,  
creating low-pressure zones  
that bring **cloudy and moist weather** and high-pressure  
zones associated with **clear and sunny skies**.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS GK

India ranked **6th globally in patent filings in 2023**.

**RBI guideline:** A savings  
account is marked inoperative  
if **no transactions for over 2 years**.

Gulf of Mannar Biosphere  
Reserve: **10,500 km<sup>2</sup>**,

established 1989, UNESCO  
recognition 2001: Includes the  
Marine National Park; first  
marine biosphere reserve in  
South and South-East Asia.

Special Rupee Vostro  
Accounts (SRVAs): Accounts  
opened by foreign entities  
with Indian banks to **settle**

**international trade transactions in Indian Rupees (INR). Introduced: 2022.**

World Trade Organization  
(WTO) –Established: 1995  
under the **Marrakesh Agreement, post Uruguay Round (1986–94). India: Member of GATT since 1948;**

**WTO member since January 1995.**

The **Kakori Train Action (9 August 1925)** was a revolutionary robbery near Lucknow by members of the Hindustan Republican Association, including Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqullah Khan, to seize British government funds for India's freedom struggle.

**Operation Black Forest (April 21–May 11, 2025)** was a major anti-Naxal operation in the Karreguttalu Hills (Chhattisgarh–Telangana border), jointly conducted by CRPF, Chhattisgarh STF and DRG, resulting in **31 Naxalite deaths, including senior leaders** and the seizure of weapons and explosives.

**Indus Waters Treaty (1960)** is a water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan, mediated by the World Bank, allocating Eastern Rivers (Sutlej, Beas, Ravi) to India and Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) to Pakistan, giving Pakistan 80% of the water. India can use Western

Rivers for domestic, agricultural purposes and run-of-the-river hydroelectric projects without large storage dams, while ensuring the flow to Pakistan as per Article III(1).

**S&P upgraded India's long-term sovereign credit rating to 'BBB' with a stable outlook in June 2025**, citing strong fiscal consolidation, robust growth, stable inflation and a resilient financial sector.

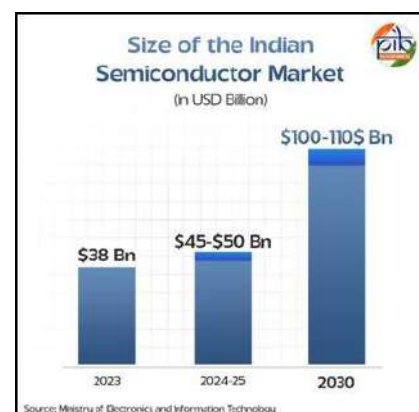
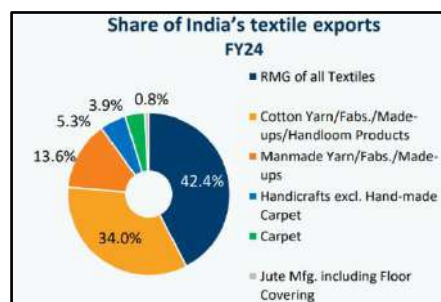
**MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises)** are non-farming businesses engaged in manufacturing, processing, or preserving goods. They are classified by investment and turnover: Micro ( $\leq ₹2.5$  crore/ $₹10$  crore), Small ( $\leq ₹25$  crore/ $₹100$  crore), Medium ( $\leq ₹125$  crore/ $₹500$  crore). The **Ministry of MSMEs**, formed in 2007, promotes and supports their growth nationwide.

India is the **second-largest producer of textiles and garments** globally, contributing around **2.3% to GDP**, **13% to industrial production** and **12% to exports**. It is the **6th largest exporter of textiles** and

apparel (4.1% share) and the **world's largest producer of jute** (70% of global output). India is also the **second-largest producer of silk** and **man-made fibers**, uniquely producing all four commercial silk varieties.

**Liquid Biogas (LBG)** is liquefied biogas suitable for long-distance transport and electricity generation, while **Compressed Biogas (CBG)** is high-methane gas mainly used as a green vehicle fuel. LBG is easier to store in low volumes; CBG requires high-pressure cylinders. Both reduce emissions and help replace fossil fuels.

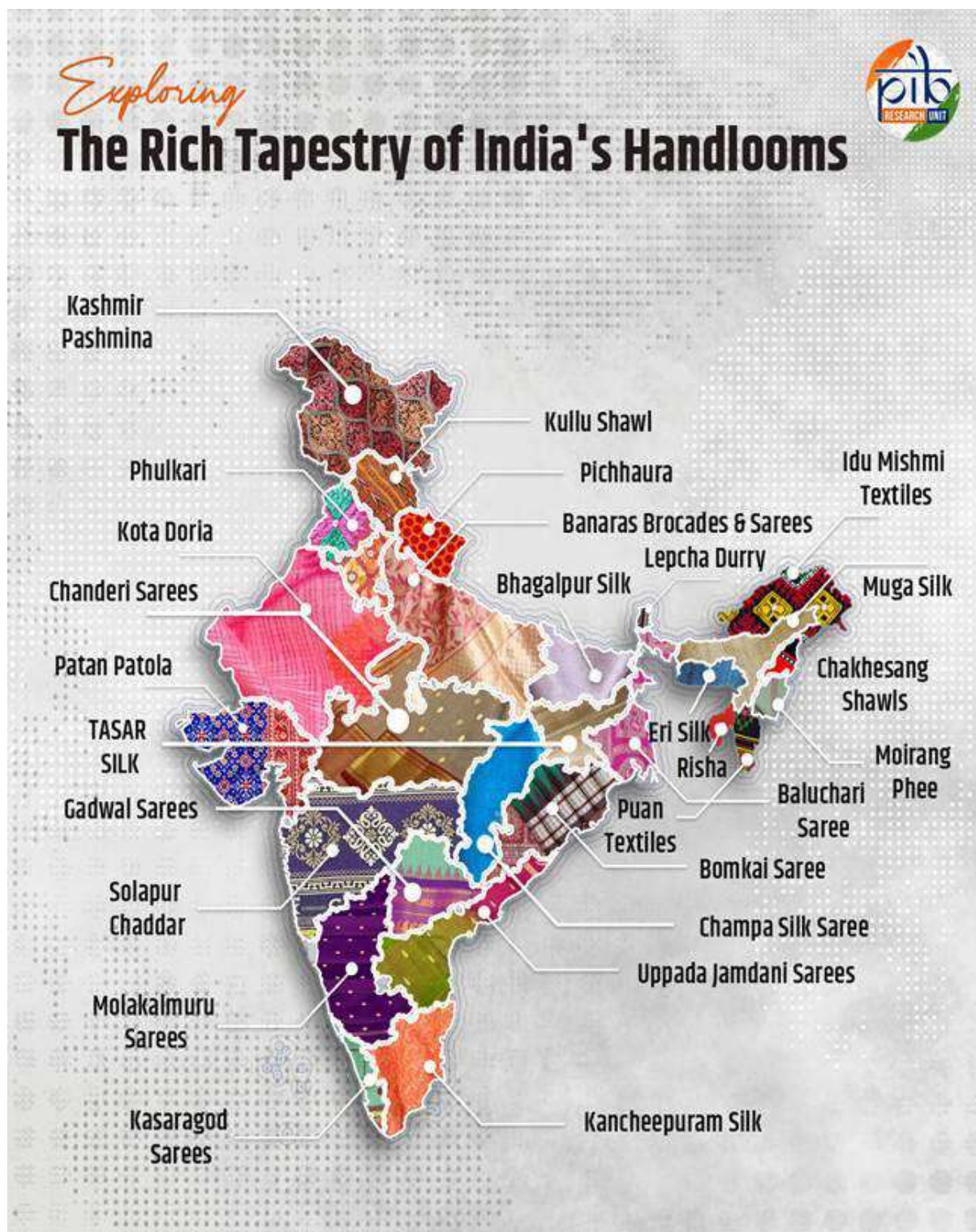
The **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**, evolving from the **Shanghai Five** in 1996, formally began in 2001 and now has **10 members**, including **India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus**. Guided by the **Shanghai Spirit**, it promotes mutual trust, equality and development, with institutions like the **Heads of State Council** and **RATS** for security cooperation.



## LEARNING THROUGH INFOGRAPHICS











**NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar**

**NISAR**  
NASA - ISRO SAR Mission

A Joint Earth Observation Mission

Launched via GSLV-F16	World's First dual-frequency radar: L-band (NASA) + S-band (ISRO)	Orbit: Sun-synchronous, 747 km	Life: 3 years Cycle: 12 days
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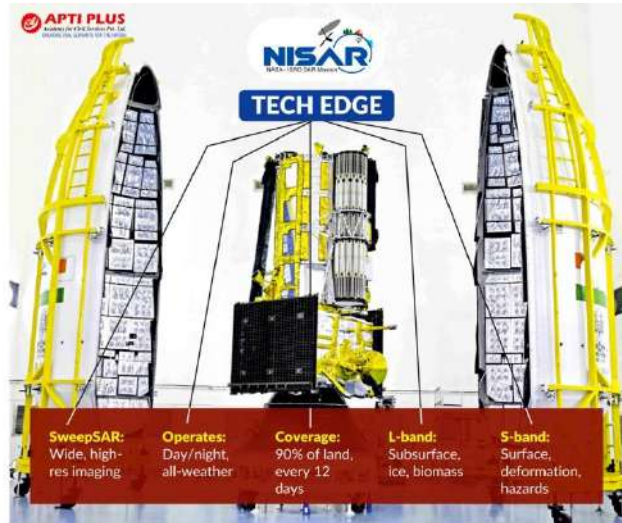
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**NISAR**  
NASA - ISRO SAR Mission

**TECH EDGE**

<b>SweepSAR:</b> Wide, high-res imaging	<b>Operates:</b> Day/night, all-weather	<b>Coverage:</b> 90% of land, every 12 days	<b>L-band:</b> Subsurface, ice, biomass	<b>S-band:</b> Surface, deformation, hazards
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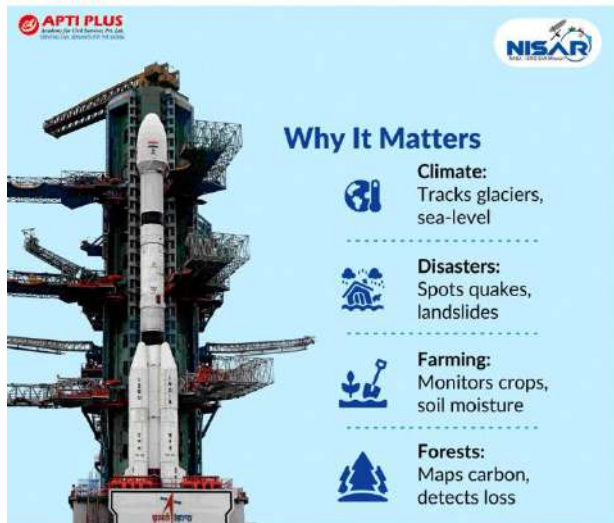
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**Why It Matters**

- Climate:** Tracks glaciers, sea-level
- Disasters:** Spots quakes, landslides
- Farming:** Monitors crops, soil moisture
- Forests:** Maps carbon, detects loss

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**Strategic Impact**

- NASA-ISRO's first full co-build
- Supports SDGs, Paris Goals, Disaster Plans
- Open data = Global Equity
- Boosts India-US space ties
- Projects India as "Vishwa Bandhu"

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# INDIA-UK FTA INKED

## HOW INDIA GAINS



PRE-FTA DUTY RANGE	POST-FTA DUTY
PROCESSED FOOD*	Upto 70%
VEG/OIL*	Upto 20%
TRANSPORT/AUTO	Upto 18%
LEATHER/FOOTWEAR	Upto 16%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY	Upto 14%
HEADGEAR/GLASS/CERAMICS	Upto 12%
TEXTILES/CLOTHING	Upto 12%
WOOD/PAPER	Upto 10%
BASE METALS	Upto 10%
MECHANICAL MACHINERY	Upto 8%
MINERALS	Upto 8%
CHEMICALS	Upto 8%
PLASTIC/RUBBER	Upto 6%
INSTRUMENTS/CLOCKS	Upto 6%
GEMS & JEWELLERY	Upto 4%
FURNITURE/SPORTS GOODS	Upto 4%
ARMS/AMMUNITION	Upto 2%



(For 97.1% Tariff lines)

## INDIA-USA TRADE

What does  
India Export to the  
United States?

India's Export  
**\$80.8 Billion**

USA's Export  
**\$44.4 Billion**

**\$36.4 Billion**  
India's Trade Surplus

DRUG FORMULATIONS \$8.8 Bn

TELECOM INSTRUMENTS \$7.4 Bn

PRECIOUS STONES \$5.7 Bn

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS \$4.4 Bn

GOLD & JEWELLERY \$3.5 Bn

RMCG COTTON \$3.1 Bn

IRON & STEEL \$2.9 Bn

COTTON FABRICS \$2.7 Bn

ELECTRICALS \$2.7 Bn

MARINE PRODUCTS \$2.5 Bn

## India Leads Asia in Wetland Conservation

91  
Ramsar Sites  
as of July '25 –  
Highest in  
Asia

Ramsar = Wetlands of  
International Importance

Adopted in Ramsar, Iran –  
1971 | In force: 1975

India joined in 1982

Total area: 1.3+ million  
hectares

## Ramsar Sites in India: Quick Facts

- Smallest: Renuka, Himachal Pradesh
- First Sites (1981): Chilika Lake (Odisha) & Keoladeo NP (Rajasthan)
- Largest: Sundarbans, West Bengal
- Tamil Nadu - Highest count (20 sites)
- Feb 2 - World Wetlands Day

## How Are Ramsar Sites Declared

- Proposed by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change + State Govt. + Experts
- Ecological & Biodiversity Study
- Send to Ramsar Secretariat
- Once Approved – International Recognition & Protection

# Map of Ramsar Sites in India





## Evolution of Indian Flag

The National Flag of India, in its present form, was adopted on July 22, 1947. In its evolution, lies the different phases of the fight for independence and in its unfurling lies the story of India's freedom.

- In 1906, during the Swadeshi and Boycott struggle, a flag of India was hoisted for the first time in the Parsee Bagan Square in Calcutta (present-day Kolkata).



- In 1907, a similar flag with slight modifications was raised by Madam Bhikaji Cama in Paris. This flag was also exhibited in Berlin at a socialist conference and thus came to be called the Berlin Committee Flag.



- In 1917, as a part of the Home Rule Movement, Annie Besant and Bal Gangadhar Tilak hoisted another flag. The flag signified autonomous rule for Indians within the Colonial Empire.



- In 1921, at the Bezwada (now Vijayawada) session of Congress, a young freedom fighter Pingali Venkaiah, presented a design of a flag to Mahatma Gandhi. The flag consisted of three stripes representing multiple communities living in harmony in India. A spinning wheel was superimposed in the center, signifying the country's progress.



- In 1931, a formal resolution was passed adopting Pingali Vekaiah's flag with a little modification. While the white and green remained, the red was replaced by saffron. The saffron was for courage, white for peace and green for fertility and growth.



- Finally, in July 1947, the Constituent Assembly formally adopted the flag of free India. The spinning wheel was replaced by the Dharma Chakra of Emperor Ashoka, symbolizing truth and life. **This came to be called the Tiranga.**



Source: [Ministry of Culture](#)