



STATE PCS CA CONSOLIDATION WEST BENGAL



**APRIL
2025**



C-171/2,
Block-A,
Sector-15,
Noida



641, Mukherjee Nagar,
Opp. Signature
View Apartment,
New Delhi



21,
Pusa Road,
Karol Bagh
New Delhi



Tashkent Marg,
Civil Lines,
Prayagraj,
Uttar Pradesh



Tonk Road,
Vasundhra Colony,
Jaipur,
Rajasthan



Burlington Arcade Mall,
Burlington Chauraha,
Vidhan Sabha Marg,
Lucknow



12, Main AB Road,
Bhawar Kuan,
Indore,
Madhya Pradesh

Content

✦ Jagannath Temple in Digha	3
✦ NGOPV Yard 3040.....	3
✦ Waqf Amendment Act 2025 and Violence in West Bengal	5
✦ Major Thermal Power Project to Be Set Up in Salboni, West Bengal.....	6
✦ Surface Ozone Pollution	7
✦ SC Judgement on West Bengal Schools Recruitment Scam.....	8
✦ No Funds for West Bengal Under Samagra Shiksha	9

Jagannath Temple in Digha

Why in News?

The **Lord Jagannath temple** is being inaugurated at the coastal town of Digha in West Bengal's Purba Medinipur district.

Key Points

- 💡 **About the Digha Jagannath Temple:**
 - ✦ The Rs 250 crore Digha Jagannath Temple, built on 20 acres of land, will be **inaugurated by the state Chief Minister** on 30 April 2025.
 - ✦ The temple is expected to significantly **enhance Digha's tourism appeal**, potentially **bringing international recognition** to the town.
 - ✦ It is also envisioned as a **symbol of spirituality and unity**, reflecting the principle of "Shorbo Dhormo Somonnoy" (universal religious harmony).
 - 📎 The **Jagannath Temple** is a replica of the 12th-century shrine in Puri, and its inauguration has been highly anticipated.

Jagannath Temple



- 💡 The temple is believed to have been constructed in the 12th century by **King Anatavarman Chodaganga Deva** of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.
- 💡 Jagannath Puri temple is called '**Yamanika Tirtha**' where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of 'Yama', the **god of death has been nullified in Puri** due to the presence of **Lord Jagannath**.

- 💡 This temple was called the "**White Pagoda**" and is a part of **Char Dham pilgrimages** (Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram).
- 💡 The temple is known for its **unique architecture, which includes a massive compound wall and a large temple complex** with multiple towers, halls, and shrines.
- 💡 The temple's main attraction is the **Annual Rath Yatra festival**, in which the three main deities of the temple, **Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra** are taken out in a grand procession on a chariot.
- 💡 The temple is also known for its unique food offering, the **Mahaprasad**, which is prepared in the temple kitchen and is distributed among the devotees.

NGOPV Yard 3040

Why in News?

On 24 April 2025, **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE)** in Kolkata hosted the **keel laying ceremony for Yard 3040**, the **fourth Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (ex-GRSE)**.



Key Points

- 💡 **About NGOPVs:**
 - ✦ The **Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs)** are designed with an approximate **displacement of 3,000 tonnes**, ensuring endurance and operational flexibility for diverse maritime missions.

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- ✦ These vessels are intended to perform multiple roles, including:
 - ✍ Coastal defence and surveillance.
 - ✍ Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.
 - ✍ Protection of offshore assets such as oil rigs, platforms, and installations
 - ✍ Anti-piracy missions within India's **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** and in international waters.
- ✦ NGOPVs will be equipped with **state-of-the-art sensors, surveillance systems, and modern weaponry**, significantly enhancing the **Indian Navy's maritime** domain awareness and its capabilities in low-intensity maritime conflicts.
- ✦ The addition of these vessels will bolster India's efforts to secure its maritime interests and promote stability across the wider **Indo-Pacific region**.

💡 Background on NGOPV:

- ✦ The **Indian Navy signed contracts for the indigenous design and construction of eleven NGOPVs** on 30 March 2023 with Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL), Goa, and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), Kolkata.
 - ✍ Under the agreement, Lead Shipyard GSL will construct seven ships, while Follow Shipyard GRSE will build four ships.
- ✦ The NGOPVs, with an approximate displacement of 3,000 tonnes, are designed for a range of missions including **Coastal Defence and Surveillance, Search and Rescue operations, Protection of Offshore Assets, and Anti-Piracy missions**.

💡 Alignment with National Initiatives:

- ✦ The construction of the eleven NGOPVs aligns with India's vision of **'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'** and **'Make in India,'** and the project is set to significantly enhance the Indian Navy's maritime capabilities.

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

- 💡 Each coastal State may claim an EEZ beyond and adjacent to its territorial sea that extends seaward **up to 200 nm from its baselines**.
- 💡 Within its EEZ, a **coastal state has**:
 - ✦ Sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing natural resources, whether living or nonliving, of the seabed and subsoil.
 - ✦ Rights to carry out activities like the production of energy from the water, currents and wind.
- 💡 Unlike the territorial sea and the contiguous zone, the EEZ only allows for the above-mentioned resource rights. It **does not give a coastal state the right to prohibit or limit freedom of navigation or overflight**, subject to very limited exceptions.

'Make in India' Initiative:

- 💡 **About:** The campaign was launched to **facilitate investment, foster innovation, enhance skill development**, protect intellectual property & build best-in-class manufacturing infrastructure.
- 💡 Objectives:
 - ✦ **Increase** the growth rate of the **manufacturing sector to 12-14% per annum**.
 - ✦ Create **100 million additional manufacturing jobs by 2022 (revised to 2025)**.
 - ✦ Increase the **manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP to 25% by 2025**.
- 💡 **Pillars of 'Make in India':**
 - ✦ **New Processes:** Recognized **'ease of doing business'** as vital for entrepreneurship, implementing **measures to improve the business environment for startups** and established enterprises.
 - ✦ **New Infrastructure:** The government prioritised developing **industrial corridors and smart cities** to create world-class infrastructure.
 - ✍ It also enhanced innovation and research through streamlined registration systems and improved **intellectual property rights (IPR)** infrastructure.

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✦ **New Sectors:** **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** was significantly opened up in various sectors including **Defence Production, Insurance, Medical Devices, Construction, and Railway infrastructure.**

✦ **New Mindset:** The government **embraced a role as a facilitator rather than a regulator**, partnering with industry to drive the country's economic development.

💡 **Make in India 2.0:** The ongoing **"Make in India 2.0" phase**, encompassing 27 sectors, continues to propel the program forward, consolidating India's role as a significant player in the global manufacturing arena.

Waqf Amendment Act 2025 and Violence in West Bengal

Why in News?

The **Supreme Court of India** addressed a plea seeking to invoke emergency powers under **Article 355** to protect West Bengal from ongoing violence related to **protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.**

💡 The Court **raised concerns over whether such a measure would encroach upon the Executive and Legislative domains**, particularly in light of recent criticism that the judiciary has overstepped its authority.

Note:

💡 Judicial overreach occurs when the **judiciary exceeds its constitutional role** by interfering with the functions of the legislative or executive branches of government.

✦ In simpler terms, it is when the **judiciary steps beyond its authority and involves itself in areas meant for the executive or legislature.**

Key Points

💡 **Background of the Issue:** Communal violence erupted in several districts of West Bengal during

protests against the **Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025**, leading to multiple deaths, displacement of residents, and damage to property.

Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025

💡 About Waqf:

✦ It refers to an **endowment made by a Muslim for charitable or religious purposes**, such as building mosques, schools, hospitals, or other public institutions. It is **inalienable, i.e., it cannot be sold, gifted, inherited or encumbered.**

💡 Key Provisions of the Act:

✦ **Ending Arbitrary Property Claims:** Section 40 of the original Waqf Act (1995) has been **removed**, preventing Waqf Boards from arbitrarily declaring properties as Waqf.

📎 Section 40 of the Waqf Act (1995) gives the Waqf Board the **authority to decide whether a property is a Waqf property or not.**

✦ **Eligibility for Waqf Dedication:** Only **practicing Muslims** (for at least five years) can dedicate their property to Waqf.

📎 Properties already registered with Waqf Boards will remain so unless disputed or identified as government land.

✦ **Diverse Representation:** The Waqf Boards will include two non-Muslim members for inclusivity, and among Muslim members, at least two must be women.

📎 Representation from Shia, Sunni, Bohra, Aghakhani, and OBC Muslim communities is also mandated.

✦ **Waqf Tribunals:** The Waqf tribunals **consist of 3 members** i.e., a district judge, a state government officer (joint secretary level), and an expert in Muslim law and jurisprudence.

📎 **Aggrieved parties can appeal directly to the concerned High Court** within 90 days of receiving the Waqf tribunal's order.

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Article 355 of the Indian Constitution

- 💡 The article states that **it shall be the duty of the Union to protect every state against external aggression** and **internal disturbance** and to ensure that the government of every state is carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- 💡 It **serves as the basis for invoking emergency-like powers** and can lead to President's Rule under **Article 356** if constitutional machinery fails in a state.
- 💡 However, Article 355 **does not grant the judiciary the authority to compel the Union to act**, as it is within the discretion of the Executive.

Major Thermal Power Project to Be Set Up in Salboni, West Bengal

Why in News

The Chief Minister of West Bengal is scheduled to lay the **foundation stone** for a **Rs 16,000 crore thermal power project** in **Salboni**, located in **Paschim Medinipur district**. This is the **largest private investment** in West Bengal's **core sector** in the last 14 years.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:**
 - ✦ The project will establish a **1600 MW thermal power plant**, divided into **two units of 800 MW** each.
 - ✍ The first unit is expected to be operational in four years, and the second unit in the fifth year.
 - ✦ It is being developed by **Jindal South West (JSW) Energy** under the **Design-Build-Finance-Own-Operate (DBFOO)** model.
- 💡 **Energy and Resource Linkages:**
 - ✦ **Coal India Ltd** will supply coal for the plant through the **Shakti B(IV)** scheme.
- 💡 **Economic and Industrial Impact:**
 - ✦ At peak construction, the project is expected to generate employment for **4,000-6,000**

people and create 800-1,000 permanent jobs once operational.

- ✦ It represents a major step in the **revival of large-scale industry** in western West Bengal.

Future Expansion Plans:

- ✦ At the **Bengal Global Business Summit 2025**, **Sajjan Jindal** (Chairman, JSW Group) announced plans to **double the plant's capacity** with another major investment.
- ✦ Additional **thermal power projects** are also planned in **Durgapur, Bakreshwar, and Santaldih**.
- ✦ The state government and JSW Group also plan to establish a new **industrial park** in **Salboni**.

Major Thermal Power Plants in West Bengal

- 💡 **Bandel Thermal Power Station** (situated on the western bank of Bhagirathi River, Hooghly district)
- 💡 **Bakreshwar Thermal Power Plant** (Birbhum district)
- 💡 **Kolaghat Thermal Power Station** (Purba Medinipur district)
- 💡 **Sagardighi Thermal Power Plant** (Murshidabad district)
- 💡 **Santaldih Thermal Power Station** (Purulia district)

SHAKTI Scheme

- 💡 The Ministry of Coal introduced the **Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala (Coal) Transparently in India (SHAKTI)** in 2017.
 - ✦ SHAKTI Policy is a transparent way of allocating coal to the Power Sector.
- 💡 Under SHAKTI Para B (iv), the coal linkages have been earmarked to the States of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, **West Bengal**, Assam and Kerala for a capacity of 4000 MW, 5600 MW, 6740 MW, 3299 MW, 1600 MW, 2000 MW, 4100 MW, 500 MW and 500 MW respectively.

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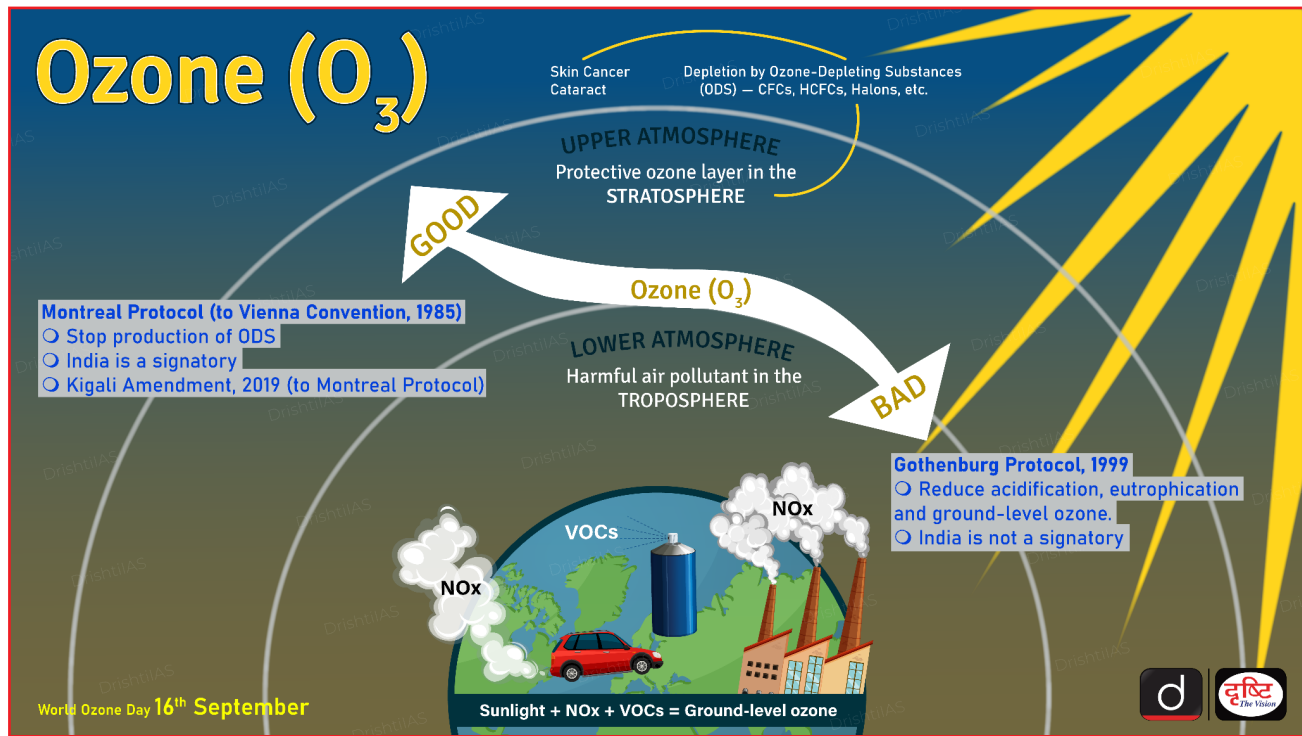
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Surface Ozone Pollution

Why in News?

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur study reveals that **surface ozone pollution** is severely affecting India's major food crops, especially in the **Indo-Gangetic Plain** and central India.



Key Points

About Surface Ozone Pollution:

- ✦ **Surface ozone (O_3) pollution** refers to the **excess presence of ozone at the Earth's surface**, which is formed through chemical reactions in the atmosphere.
- ✎ Unlike the ozone layer in the **stratosphere**, which protects life from harmful **ultraviolet radiation**, Surface ozone is a harmful pollutant that poses significant health risks and environmental damage.

About the study:

- ✦ Surface ozone pollution is damaging major food crops such as **wheat, rice, and maize**.
- ✦ The study argues that rising **ozone pollution jeopardizes** India's progress toward **Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty)** and **Goal 2 (Zero Hunger)** by 2030.
- ✦ Declining crop yields could **directly affect livelihoods and food access**, especially for vulnerable populations.
- ✦ **Key Findings of the Study:**
 - ✎ The research at the **Centre for Oceans, River, Atmosphere and Land Sciences (CORAL)**, highlights the "lesser-known but potent" threat posed by surface ozone.
 - ✎ Ozone acts as a **strong oxidant that damages plant tissues**, causes foliar injuries, and leads to significant drops in crop productivity.

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- ✎ Using data from the **Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase-6 (CMIP6)**, the study assessed both historical and future trends of ozone-induced damage.
 - Without adequate mitigation, **wheat yields may decline by up to 20%**, while **rice and maize could see losses of around 7%**.
 - In the worst-case scenarios, **ozone exposure** in key agricultural zones could **exceed safe limits by six times**.
- ✎ The research warns that **ozone-related yield losses** could **undermine India's ability to ensure food security** at home and impact food grain exports to Asian and African nations.
- ✦ Gaps in Current Air Quality Initiatives:
 - ✎ The **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** largely focuses on urban air pollution, leaving agricultural regions underserved.
 - ✎ The study highlights the need for **targeted interventions to monitor and curb** surface ozone pollution in farmlands.
- ✦ Call for Policy Action:
 - ✎ The researchers advocate for **urgent policy measures to reduce ozone emissions** and protect crop health.
 - ✎ Effective **pollution control strategies** in agricultural areas could boost food production and help meet both national and global food security goals.

Formation of Surface Level Ozone

- ✎ Surface-level ozone is a secondary pollutant, meaning it is not directly emitted but formed through chemical reactions between **nitrogen oxides (NOx)** and **volatile organic compounds (VOCs)**.
 - ✦ NOx (emitted by vehicles, power plants, and industrial processes) and VOCs (emitted from vehicles, petrol pumps, solvents, and waste burning).
- ✎ These **reactions occur in the presence of sunlight**, making ozone formation more significant during sunny days and warmer seasons.

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

About:

- ✦ The NCAP aims to systematically **address air pollution by involving all stakeholders and ensuring necessary action**.
- ✦ Under NCAP, **131 cities have been identified** for implementation of city specific action plans.

Objective:

- ✦ This is the **first attempt in the country to develop a national framework** for air quality management with the goal of time-bound reduction.
- ✦ It aims to reduce the **concentration of coarse (PM10) and fine particles (PM2.5)** by at least 20% over the next five years (base year for comparison – 2017).

SC Judgement on West Bengal Schools Recruitment Scam

Why in News?

- ✎ The Supreme Court while upholding the quashing of nearly 25000 teaching and non-teaching staff appointments made by the **West Bengal School Selection Commission (WBSSC) in 2016**, laid down key principles to be considered by the Court when dealing with challenges to appointments in government employment.

Key Points

- ✎ **Background:** The recruitments made in 2016 by the WBSSC were linked to the cash-for-school jobs recruitment “scam”. The SSC had held the selection process in 2016 for assistant teachers for classes nine to 12 and non-teaching staff.
- ✎ **SC Judgement:**
 - ✦ The Supreme Court bench upheld the Calcutta HC's finding that the selection process was fraudulent and manipulated.
 - ✎ Tainted candidates' services will be terminated, and salaries must be refunded.

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- ✍ The entire selection process was declared void for violating **Articles 14 (Equality before Law) and Article 16 (Equality in matters of public employment)** of the Indian Constitution.
- ✍ Even untainted candidates will lose jobs but need not refund salaries.
- ✍ No future appointments can be made from the scrapped process.

💡 SC's 4 Key Principles to Strike Down Tainted Selection Processes:

- ✦ Entire exam results will be cancelled if in-depth inquiry signals fraud in process.
- ✦ The evidence used to cancel en masse selection may not necessarily prove malpractice beyond reasonable doubt (but just a reasonable certainty of systemic corruption).
- ✦ If deep manipulation in the process is proven, purity of the process has to be given precedence over inconvenience to untainted candidates.
- ✦ If it is factually established that the entire process is vitiated, individual hearings are not necessary.

No Funds for West Bengal Under Samagra Shiksha

Why in News?

The Centre has not allocated any funds from its share under the **Ministry of Education's** flagship **Samagra Shiksha scheme (SSA)** to Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.

Key Points

💡 About the Funds:

- ✦ **Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal** were allocated Rs 328.90 crore, Rs 2,151.60 crore, and Rs 1,745.80 crore, under the SSA for the 2024-25 financial year.

- ✍ Although these states had received no funds from the Centre's share.

- ✦ In contrast, Rs 27,833.50 crore out of the total Rs 45,830.21 crore central allocation had been disbursed to other states and Union Territories.
- ✦ **Uttar Pradesh, which received the highest allocation of Rs 6,971.26 crore**, had already received Rs 4,487.46 crore.

💡 Criteria for Fund Release:

- ✦ The Centre disburses SSA funds based on multiple factors, including:
 - ✍ States' pace of expenditure.
 - ✍ Receipt of the required state share.
 - ✍ Submission of audited accounts and expenditure statement
 - ✍ Clearance of outstanding advances.
 - ✍ Up-to-date utilisation certificates from previous years.

💡 Dispute Between Tamil Nadu and Centre:

- ✦ Tamil Nadu has reportedly refused to implement the **National Education Policy's (NEP)** three-language formula.
- ✦ The state has also not signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing **PM-SHRI schools**, which may have contributed to the funding halt.

💡 Parliamentary Standing Committee Observations:

- ✦ The committee noted that withholding SSA funds was severely impacting:
 - ✍ Teachers' salaries.
 - ✍ **Right to Education (RTE)** reimbursements.
 - ✍ Student transportation in remote areas.
 - ✍ It criticized the Centre for linking SSA fund disbursement to states participation in separate schemes like **PM-SHRI**.
 - ✍ The committee recommended the immediate release of SSA funds to Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal to ensure continuity in education programs.

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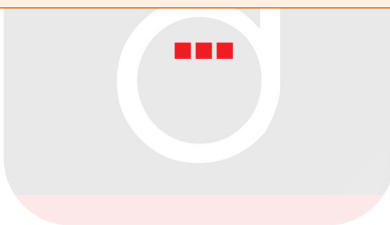


Samagra Shiksha

- Samagra Shiksha is an **integrated** scheme for school education extending from **pre-school to class XII** to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education.
- It **subsumes** the three Schemes of **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)**, **Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)** and **Teacher Education (TE)**.
- The scheme treats school education holistically as a **continuum from Pre-school to Class 12**.
- The main emphasis of the Scheme is on improving the quality of school education by focussing on the **two T's – Teacher and Technology**.
- It is being implemented as a **centrally sponsored scheme**. It involves a 60:40 split in funding between the Centre and most States. It was **launched by the Ministry of Education in 2018**.

PM-SHRI Scheme

- The PM SHRI Scheme is a **centrally sponsored initiative**, launched in 2022, by the Government of India aimed at establishing over **14,500 PM SHRI Schools** by **enhancing existing schools** to showcase the implementation of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- The primary objective is to create an **inclusive and nurturing environment** that **promotes the well-being and safety** of every student, **offering diverse learning experiences** and access to **quality infrastructure and resources**.



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