



STATE PCS CA CONSOLIDATION WEST BENGAL



**MAY
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

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Siliguri Corridor

Why in News?

Assam **Chief Minister** Himanta Biswa Sarma warned Dhaka against threatening India's **Siliguri corridor** (Chicken Neck) in West Bengal, pointing out Bangladesh's own **vulnerable narrow land strips**.



Key Points

Siliguri Corridor

About:

- ✦ The Siliguri Corridor is a **narrow stretch of land**, approximately **60 km long and 17–22 km wide**.
- ✦ It is referred to as the '**Chicken Neck**' due to its **narrow shape**.

Location:

- ✦ Located between **Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh**, it is the **only land link** between India and its **northeastern states**.

Significance of Siliguri Corridor:

✦ National Security Importance:

- ✍ The Siliguri Corridor serves as a **critical lifeline connecting mainland India to the Northeast**, and any disruption in this narrow stretch could threaten national security by isolating the entire region.
- ✍ The corridor lies in a **highly sensitive zone**, flanked by Bangladesh to the south and the **China-Bhutan border** to the north, making it vulnerable to external threats.

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✦ Military and Strategic Relevance:

- ✍ The corridor functions as a **lifeline for the Indian Army**, enabling the movement of troops and logistics to critical forward areas in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✍ It plays a key role in India's defensive strategy against China, especially in light of historical conflicts like the **1962 Sino-Indian War** and ongoing **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** tensions.

✦ Geopolitical Sensitivity:

- ✍ The corridor's **proximity to China's Chumbi Valley**, where India, Bhutan, and China converge, enhances its geostrategic vulnerability.
- ✍ In the event of an escalation, any attempt to dominate or disrupt this area could severely undermine India's access to its Northeast, making it a critical focus of India's regional and foreign policy.

✦ Economic Importance:

- ✍ **Trade and Connectivity:** The Siliguri Corridor acts as a **vital trade lifeline**, serving as a key **transit route to Bhutan and Nepal**, thereby strengthening cross-border commerce and regional economic integration.
- ✍ **Tourism Gateway:** It serves as a **gateway to tourist hotspots like Darjeeling, Gangtok, and Bhutan**, attracting domestic and international travellers.
- ✍ **Developmental Integration:** It underpins **India's Act East Policy** by facilitating connectivity between Northeast and Southeast Asia, making it pivotal for unlocking trade, infrastructure, and investment opportunities in the region.

💡 India's Response and Alternative Connectivity Plans:

- ✦ India has been actively exploring alternative routes to reduce its dependence on the Siliguri Corridor.
- ✍ Under **Article VIII of the India-Bangladesh Trade Agreement (1980)**, India has been

working on transit routes through Bangladesh to facilitate better connectivity.

- ✦ A notable precedent was set in 1992 when India allowed Bangladesh to use the **Tin Bigha corridor**, enabling access to the **Dahagram-Angarpota enclave**.

- ✍ More recently, India has been developing a railway network through Bangladesh to improve connectivity between the Northeast and the rest of the country.

Banglar Bari Rural Housing Scheme

Why in News?

The **Chief Minister of West Bengal** has announced that 12 lakh beneficiaries have received the second installment under the **Banglar Bari rural housing scheme**.

- 💡 The remaining 16 lakh beneficiaries under Phase 1 will receive funds in **December 2025**, while Phase 2 of the scheme is set to commence in **May 2026**.

Key Points

💡 About Banglar Bari Housing Scheme:

- ✦ The scheme, **launched on 25th June, 2015**, aims to **provide housing to the rural poor**, especially after the Centre halted funds under the **PM Awaas Yojana**.
- ✦ To avail of the benefits under the scheme, the beneficiaries must belong to the **Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** category.
- ✦ The housing mission is being executed through **four distinct verticals**, offering beneficiaries flexibility in choosing the most suitable option:
 - ✍ In-situ Slum rehabilitation of Slum Dwellers with the participation of private developers using land as a resource (**ISSR**)
 - ✍ Promotion of Affordable Housing for **weaker sections** through credit linked subsidy (**CLSS**)

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- ✎ Affordable Housing in Partnership with Public & Private sectors (AHP)
- ✎ Subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction (BLC)

💡 Chaa Sundari Extension Scheme:

- ✦ Workers are receiving free ration, water, electricity, and healthcare, land rights (pattas), and financial aid under the **Chaa Sundari Extension Scheme**.
- ✎ The scheme was launched in 2020 by the government of West Bengal.
- ✎ It aims to **provide pucca dwelling houses** to the **permanent tea garden workers of closed/sick tea gardens** who do not have pucca houses of their own by way of allotment through the construction of dwelling units on lands in the tea gardens.
- ✦ The scheme currently benefits over 8,000 families in Jalpaiguri and 13,000 families in Alipurduar.

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY)

- 💡 **Launch:** To achieve the objective of “**Housing for All**” by 2022, the erstwhile rural housing scheme **Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)** was restructured to Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) from 1st April 2016, as a **centrally sponsored scheme**.
- ✦ The **Union Cabinet approved** the proposal for implementation of the **PMAY-G** during **FY 2024-25 to 2028-29**.
- 💡 **Aim:** To provide a pucca house with basic amenities to all rural families, who are homeless or living in kutcha or dilapidated houses by the end of March 2022.
- ✦ To help rural people **Below the Poverty Line (BPL)** in the construction of dwelling units and upgradation of existing unserviceable kutcha houses by assisting in the form of a full grant.
- 💡 **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development.
- 💡 **Status:** States/UTs have **sanctioned 2.85 crore houses to the beneficiaries** and 2.22 crore houses have been completed till March 2023.

Railway Stations Redeveloped under Amrit Bharat Scheme (ABSS)

Why in News?

The **Prime Minister** inaugurated three **redeveloped railway stations in West Bengal**—Kalyani Ghoshpara, Panagarh, and Joychandi Pahar, as part of the nationwide launch of 103 Amrit Stations under the **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)**.

Key Points

💡 Amrit Bharat Station Scheme:

✦ About & Objective:

- ✎ The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme was **launched in December 2022** by the **Ministry of Railways**.
- ✎ The scheme aims to redevelop 1309 stations nationwide.
- ✎ The redevelopment will provide **modern passenger amenities** along with ensuring well-designed traffic circulation, inter-modal integration, and signage for the guidance of passengers.
- ✎ Focused efforts will **enhance the stations' greenery and visual appeal** to create a more inviting environment for passengers.
- ✎ Under this scheme, local products will be showcased and sold under the **'One Station One Product' scheme**.
- ✦ Integrated Approach to Urban Development:
 - ✎ The redevelopment is planned with a **holistic approach to urban development**, treating the stations as “**City Centres**.”
 - ✎ This approach aims to integrate **both sides of the city and create well-designed traffic circulation**, inter-modal connectivity, and clear signage for passengers' guidance.

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Note:

💡 The Indian Railways ranks as the **world's fourth-largest railway network**, encompassing a track length of **67,368 km**. Only the US, China, and Russia have larger networks.

✦ It's also the **world's second-largest network** managed under a single administration, spanning 115,000 km.

💡 **UNESCO World Heritage Sites:**

✦ The Indian Railways takes pride in owning four **UNESCO-recognized world heritage sites**.

📌 Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus in Mumbai, Nilgiri Mountain Railway, and Kalka Shimla Railway.

Thalassemia Burden in West Bengal

Why in News?

On **World Thalassemia Day**, West Bengal experts expressed concern over the State's **high Thalassemia prevalence**, which exceeds the national average.

Key Points

💡 **World Thalassemia Day:**

✦ It is observed every year on **8th May** as a global effort for prevention, awareness and early diagnosis for **inherited blood disorder disease Thalassemia**.

✦ The **theme for 2025** is **"Together for Thalassemia: Uniting Communities, Prioritizing Patients"**.

💡 **National Burden and High-Risk Communities:**

✦ According to the **2016 National Health Mission report**, 10,000 to 15,000 babies with Thalassemia Major are born annually in India.

✦ **Communities with higher carrier rates** include Bengalis, Sindhis, Punjabis, and Gujaratis.

💡 **Alarming Prevalence in West Bengal:**

✦ According to the **West Bengal Health Department**, 6% to 10% of the State's population carries the disease, compared to the national average of 3% to 4% (**2011 Census data**).

✦ **West Bengal's Thalassemia burden is worsened by:**

- 📌 Low public awareness
- 📌 Intra-community marriages
- 📌 Insufficient early screening

✦ The State has over **18,000 transfusion-dependent patients** and a **2.5% patient positivity rate**, as per the State Health Department.

✦ **State Efforts:**

- 📌 West Bengal has **established 36 Thalassemia Control Units (TCUs)** across districts.
- 📌 These **TCUs focus on first-trimester pregnancy screening** and **screening among adolescents** to prevent future transmission.

✦ **Legal and Social Challenges:**

- 📌 There is **no national law preventing marriages** between Thalassemia carriers.
- 📌 Health officials identify **intra-community marriages** as a key social challenge and emphasize **early screening and awareness to prevent Thalassemia in children**.

✦ **The Importance of Parental Screening:**

- 📌 Experts recommend **pre-marital or pre-conception screening for both partners** to prevent the condition.
- 📌 Without regular care and transfusions, life expectancy may not exceed 30 years for Thalassemia patients.
- 📌 Early detection, informed parenting, and ongoing care can significantly improve quality of life and outcomes.

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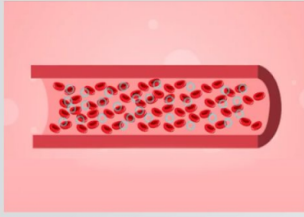


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World Thalassemia Day



Definition

Thalassemia (thal-uh-SEE-me-uh) is an inherited blood disorder. It affects your body's ability to produce normal hemoglobin. If you have thalassemia, your body produces fewer healthy hemoglobin proteins, and your bone marrow produces fewer healthy red blood cells.

Statistics Around Thalassemia

Thalassemia affects approximately **4.4** out of every **10,000** live births throughout the world.

Types

→ **Alpha Thalassemia:** Four genes are inherited, two from each parent, that make alpha globin protein chains. When one or more genes are defective, alpha thalassemia is developed.

→ **Beta Thalassemia:** Two beta-globin genes, one from each parent are inherited. Your anemia symptoms and how severe your condition is depends on how many genes are defective and which part of the beta globin protein chain contains the defect.

Symptoms of Thalassemia

Asymptomatic

- (no symptoms)

Mild to Moderate Symptoms

- Growth problems
- Delayed puberty
- Bone abnormalities, such as osteoporosis
- An enlarged spleen

Severe Symptoms

- Poor appetite.
- Pale or yellowish skin (jaundice).
- Urine that's dark or tea-colored.
- Irregular bone structure in your face.



Kolkata Air Toxicity

Why in News?

A new study by Kolkata-based Bose Institute revealed that **PM 2.5** becomes significantly **more toxic** when **pollution levels exceed** 70 micrograms per cubic metre of air.

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Key Points

Key Findings of the Study:

- ✦ A new long-term study conducted in Kolkata revealed that PM2.5 toxicity spikes sharply when pollution levels cross 70 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$).
- ✦ According to the researchers, the toxicity continues to rise until it stabilises around 135 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Study Duration and Area Covered:

- ✦ The analysis covered **seven years of data (2016–2023)**.
- ✦ Air samples were collected from eastern Kolkata and the northern and southern zones of the city.

Violation of National Standards:

- ✦ India's **national PM2.5 standard is 60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** (24-hour average).
- ✦ From October to February, this **threshold was breached on about 75% of winter days** in Kolkata's metropolitan region.

Health Hazards of PM2.5:

- ✦ PM2.5 particles can penetrate deep into the lungs, causing **asthma, COPD, cardiovascular issues, and pulmonary fibrosis**.
- ✦ The toxicity is linked to oxidative stress, which can damage human cells through molecules like **peroxides, hydroperoxides, and hydroxyls**.

Scientific Insight on Toxicity:

- ✦ Researchers explained that toxicity rises due to chemical components from **biomass and solid waste burning**, with **vehicular emissions** contributing to a lesser extent.
- ✦ The study was limited to winter months, when **PM2.5 levels peak in the Indo-Gangetic Plain**.

Emission Trends Post-NCAP:

- ✦ Under the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** launched in 2019, Kolkata received over Rs 636 crore between 2019 and 2023.
- ✦ Post-NCAP, emissions declined from:
 - ✍ Vehicles by 33%
 - ✍ Industries by 39%
 - ✍ Road dust by 42%

Biomass Burning Remains Unchecked:

- ✦ Despite NCAP, there was no notable reduction in **biomass** and **waste burning** emissions.
- ✦ **The study attributes this to:**
 - ✍ Open-air burning of dry leaves in winter
 - ✍ Widespread use of biomass for cooking among **economically weaker sections** due to high **LPG** refill costs.
- ✦ These practices remain largely unsupervised, contributing to continued high air toxicity.

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- ✦ It was launched by the MoEFCC in **January 2019**.
- ✦ It is the **first-ever effort in the country to frame a national framework for air quality management with a time-bound reduction target**.
- ✦ It seeks to **cut the concentration of coarse** (particulate matter of diameter 10 micrometer or less, or **PM10**) and **fine particles** (particulate matter of diameter 2.5 micrometer or less, or **PM2.5**) **by at least 20% in the next five years**, with **2017 as the base year** for comparison.
- ✦ **The plan includes 102 non-attainment cities**, across 23 states and Union territories, which were identified by the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** on the basis of their ambient air quality data between 2011 and 2015.
 - ✦ **Non-attainment cities:** These are those that have fallen short of the **National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)** for over five years.

Particulate Matter (PM)

- ✦ Particulate matter, or PM, refers to a complex mixture of extremely **small particles and liquid droplets** suspended in the air. These particles come in a wide range of sizes and can be made up of hundreds of different compounds.
 - ✦ **PM10 (coarse particles)** - Particles with a diameter of 10 micrometres or less.
 - ✦ **PM2.5 (fine particles)** - Particles with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less.

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Particulate Size Matters: Comparing sizes

Small particles pose the greatest risk to human health. While the nose can filter most coarse particles, fine and ultrafine particles are inhaled deeper into the lungs where they can be deposited or even pass into the bloodstream.

Measurement indicate microns in diameter (μm).

PM₁₀ ($\leq 10 \mu\text{m}$)
Coarse Particles



Pollen



Mold spores



Dust

PM_{2.5} ($\leq 2.5 \mu\text{m}$)
Fine Particles



Bacterium



T4 Bacteriophage



Dust mite allergens



Pet dander

UF ($< 0.1 \mu\text{m}$)
Ultrafine Fine Particles



Influenza A



Smoke



Soot/ Black Carbon



SARS-CoV-2

Human hair
50-180 μm

Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti 2025

Why in News?

Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti is celebrated every year on the **25th day of Boishakh**, the Bengali month that usually falls in early May and is fondly known as **Pochishe Boishakh**.



Key Points



Birth:

- ✦ He was born in **Calcutta** on **7th May 1861**.



About:

- ✦ He was also referred to as 'Gurudev', 'Kabiguru', and 'Biswakabi'
- ✦ He is regarded as the outstanding creative artist of modern India and hailed by W.B Yeats, Rabindranath Tagore was a **Bengali poet, novelist, and painter**, who was highly influential in introducing Indian culture to the west.
- ✦ He was an exceptional **literary figure** and a **renowned polymath** who singlehandedly reshaped the region's literature and music.
- ✦ He was a **good friend of Mahatma Gandhi** and is said to have **given him the title of Mahatma**.
- ✦ He had always stressed that **unity in diversity** is the only possible way for India's national integration.
- ✦ He had spoken at the **World Parliament for Religions** in the years 1929 and 1937.

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Contributions:

- ✦ He is said to have **composed over 2000 songs** and his songs and music are called '**Rabindra Sangeet**' with its own distinct lyrical and fluid style.
- ✦ He is responsible for modernising Bengali prose and poetry. His notable works include **Gitanjali, Ghare-Baire, Gora, Manasi, Balaka, Sonar Tori**. He is also remembered for his song '**Ekla Chalo Re**'.
 - 📌 He published his first poems aged 16 under the pen-name '**Bhanusimha**'.
- ✦ He not only gave the **national anthems for two countries, India and Bangladesh**, but also **inspired a Ceylonese student of his, to pen and compose the national anthem of Sri Lanka**.
- ✦ Besides all his literary achievements he was also a philosopher and educationist who in **1921 established the Vishwa-Bharati University**, a university that challenged conventional education.

Awards:

- ✦ In **1913** he was awarded the **Nobel Prize in Literature** for his work on Gitanjali.
 - 📌 He was the **first non-European** to receive the Nobel Prize.
- ✦ In 1915 he was awarded **knighthood** by the **British King George V**. In 1919, following the **Jallianwalla Bagh massacre** he renounced his Knighthood.

Death:

- ✦ He died on **7th August 1941** in Calcutta.

Pochishe Baisakh

- 💡 It means the **first day of Baisakh**, the opening month of the **Bengali lunisolar calendar** which typically falls on **14th or 15th April** each year.
- 💡 It traces back to the reign of **King Shoshangko (~594 CE)**, when the Bengali calendar was introduced.
- 💡 It is an important festival celebrated by Bengali communities across **West Bengal, Tripura, Jharkhand, and Assam**. It is also celebrated in **Bangladesh**.

Corporate Bhavan

Why in News?

Union Finance and Corporate Affairs inaugurated the '**Corporate Bhavan**' in New Town, Kolkata.

Key Points

Corporate Bhavan:

- ✦ The seven-storey building spans approximately 13,239 square metres and was constructed at a cost of around Rs 150.43 crore.
- ✦ The Corporate Bhavan integrates key offices under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs under one roof, such as:
 - 📌 Regional Directorate (East), Registrar of Companies, Official Liquidator, Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), National Company Law Tribunal (Kolkata Bench), Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- ✦ The Minister stated that the facility will act as a **single-window interface** for startups, investors, auditors, companies, and insolvency professionals.
- ✦ The Minister also emphasised the need for regulatory frameworks that:
 - 📌 Promote **good governance**
 - 📌 Support enterprise and formalisation
 - 📌 Build public trust in regulatory systems

PM Internship Scheme (PMIS) Facilitation Centre:

- ✦ The **first-ever PMIS Facilitation Centre** was **also launched** during the event, located on the 7th floor of Corporate Bhavan.
- ✦ The centre will serve as a **resource hub for aspiring interns** seeking guidance and support under the **PM Internship Scheme**.
- ✦ **Objectives:**
 - 📌 Established as a collaborative initiative between MCA and **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**.
 - 📌 Targets youth aged 21–24 who are not in full-time education or employment.

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✦ Key functions:

- ✎ Facilitating registration and application under PMIS
- ✎ Offering professional career counselling and guidance
- ✎ Matching candidates with suitable internships
- ✎ Raising awareness through outreach programmes

PM Internship Scheme

💡 The scheme aims to **provide students with internship opportunities to address youth unemployment**.

✦ It seeks to provide internships to 1 crore young people **over the next five years**.

💡 Applicants will get a monthly stipend of Rs 4,500 from the government, and an additional Rs 500 by companies as part of their **Corporate Social Responsibility** initiatives consisting of one year.

💡 A **one-time grant of Rs 6,000** will be provided upon enrollment, along with insurance coverage under the **PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana** and **PM Suraksha Bima Yojana**.



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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's part of a bound notebook or folder.

Summary

Key Points

Details

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Summary

Summary