28 November 2023
West Bengal News

Scrub typhus	Context
DANGER OF BEING UNDETECTED **CAUSED BY** Bacteria called orientia tsutsugamushi **CARRIED BY** Mite called Leptotrombidium, also known as chigger **SYMPTOMS**	Fever, muscle pain, cough, gastrointestinal symptoms, liver and spleen enlargement, and meningitis in extreme cases **TREATMENT**	Doxycyclin, fluids, supportive measures **WHERE DO CHIGGER MITES STAY?** ► Moist, grassy areas like fields, forests, lawns, lakes and streams **BABY BITES** ► Adult chiggers do not bite. It's the babies, at the larval stage, that you have to watch out for ► They're red, orange, yellow, or straw-coloured, no more than 0.3mm in length	The total number of scrub typhus cases in Jalpaiguri district has risen **About** ● It is caused by a zoonotic rickettsial bacterium called **Orientia tsutsugamushi**, which is transmitted to humans through the **bites of infected chiggers (larval mites).** ● Mites carrying the disease are generally found in the bush, jungle and paddy areas, so the disease is also called **jungle or bush typhus.** ● The symptoms of scrub typhus commonly include fever, headache, body aches and sometimes a rash.
State to start new portal to give medical VISA	**Context:** ● The Bengal government aims to introduce a new portal for issuing **medical visas within a short turnaround of two days.** ● The initiative is primarily focused on facilitating patients from **Bangladesh and other neighboring countries seeking medical treatment in Bengal.** **Key Points:** ● Presently, obtaining a medical visa takes around one to one-and-a-half months. ● The state government aims to make the portal operational by **mid-December.** ● In 2021, over 24 lakh medical tourists came to **India from Bangladesh** for treatment, highlighting the substantial demand for healthcare services in the region.
Tourist Tax in Darjeeling 	**Context:** ● **Darjeeling Municipality** has decided to reintroduce a tourist tax of ₹20 per tourist visiting the hill station. ● The decision comes after a gap of more than a decade, as the tax was **last imposed in 2012.** **Key Points:** ● Darjeeling is a popular hill destination in north Bengal, known as the **'Queen of Hills.'** ● It attracts over a million tourists annually, offering stunning views of Mt Khangchendzonga, **the third-highest mountain in the world.**

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Citizenship Amendment Act final draft to be ready by March 30, 2024	**Context:** **Objective:** Grant Indian citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan who entered India before December 31, 2014. **Background:** ● West Bengal has a long history of migration from neighboring countries, particularly **Bangladesh.** ● The influx of refugees, especially during the **1971 Bangladesh Liberation War,** created a significant Bengali Muslim population in the state. ● The CAA and NRC were seen as threatening this community's citizenship rights.
UNESCO World Heritage sites in West Bengal	● **Sundarbans National Park** ○ The world's largest estuarine mangrove forest, located on the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers. It was declared a **World Heritage Site in 1987.** ● **Santiniketan, West Bengal** has been inscribed on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites. ● **Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (1999), Darjeeling, West Bengal.** ● **Bishnupur Temples** ○ The Bishnupur Temples are a group of 18th-century temples built by the Malla rulers of Bishnupur. ○ The temples are known for their intricate terracotta carvings, which depict scenes from Hindu mythology and everyday life.