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30 January 2024

West Bengal News

<p>State's ODF Plus Initiative</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The state government is actively pursuing the goal of achieving a 100% Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus model.• Presently, 87% of villages in the state have already attained ODF status, and efforts are underway to extend this to all villages. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The P&RD department is responsible for implementing ODF Plus under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Gramin (G).• The department achieved 100% ODF status on October 2, 2019, prompting the initiation of ODF Plus activities.• Out of 40,600 villages in Bengal, 35,500 have already achieved ODF Plus status. <p>Criteria for ODF Plus Model:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A village is declared ODF Plus when it is visually clean, with minimal litter and stagnant water.• Key factors include solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) and awareness generation activities for cleanliness.
<p>Finance Department's Transition to E-Office Mode</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Finance department is set to transition to an online mode for receiving files.• Manual file submissions have been causing delays and hindering day-to-day operations. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The decision is aimed at improving the ease of doing business within the Finance department.• The additional chief secretary of the Finance department issued a memorandum announcing the shift to an e-office mode.• The department will consider manual file submissions in specific cases to accommodate certain requirements.• Exceptions include files with DPRs, RFPs, MoUs.



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CM lays foundation stone, opens 198 projects worth Rs 500 crore

Context:

- CM Mamata Banerjee laid foundation stones and inaugurated 198 projects worth **Rs 500 crore in Cooch Behar**.
- Notable projects include the **Cooch Behar Heritage Gate constructed for Rs 1 crore 48 lakh and the statue of Veer Chila Roy**.
- **This is a part of transforming Cooch Behar into a heritage city.**

Key Announcements and Projects

- Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced the recognition of 220 Rajbongshi medium schools by the state government.
- Projects include a trade corridor between Dalkhola and Cooch Behar, rural roads, and the establishment of a trade corridor.
- More than 12,000 Pattas (land documents) were distributed to tea garden workers.
- Special announcement of Pattas for Uttoron areas (slums) in Siliguri.

Rajya Sabha Polls

Context:

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has declared that elections for 56 Rajya Sabha seats will take place on February 27 across 15 states. Notably, Bengal will see elections for 5 seats.

Key Points:

- Among the five Rajya Sabha MPs in Bengal, four belong to Trinamool Congress — Nadimul Haque, Subhasish Chakraborty, Abir Biswas, and Santanu Sen. The fifth, Abhisekh Manu Singhvi, is from Congress.
- The tenure of all five MPs from Bengal concludes on April 2, 2024.
- Uttar Pradesh will witness the highest number of retiring members, with 15 members' tenures ending on April 2, 2024.

Do you know?

- Members of Rajya Sabha are elected by the **elected members of the Assemblies of States and Union territories** in accordance with the system of **proportional representation** by means of the single transferable vote.
- Maximum strength of RS is Two hundred and fifty (250), of which 238 are to be elected and



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	12 are to be nominated by the President of India.								
<p>CAA to be implemented</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="215 348 521 380">WHAT'S THE ACT</td> <td data-bbox="521 348 808 642">Matua community, made announcement Sunday. Matuas, comprising a significant portion of state's SC popn, have been migrating to Bengal since the 1950s, fleeing religious persecution in erstwhile East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. Matuas anticipated to reap most benefits of CAA implementation</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="215 380 521 625"> <p>> Citizenship (Amendment) Act, notified in 2020, seeks to grant Indian citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim immigrants, including Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis, and Christians, from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who entered India before Dec 31, 2014</p> </td> <td data-bbox="521 642 808 758"> <p>> Trinamool spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said BJP's raising of issue ahead of LS polls is 'just election rhetoric'</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="215 625 521 657">WHY NOW?</td> <td data-bbox="521 657 808 758"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="215 657 521 758"> <p>> Union minister Shantanu Thakur, BJP MP from Bengal's Bongaon, which has a substantial population of</p> </td> <td data-bbox="521 758 808 758"></td> </tr> </table>	WHAT'S THE ACT	Matua community, made announcement Sunday. Matuas, comprising a significant portion of state's SC popn, have been migrating to Bengal since the 1950s, fleeing religious persecution in erstwhile East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. Matuas anticipated to reap most benefits of CAA implementation	<p>> Citizenship (Amendment) Act, notified in 2020, seeks to grant Indian citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim immigrants, including Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis, and Christians, from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who entered India before Dec 31, 2014</p>	<p>> Trinamool spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said BJP's raising of issue ahead of LS polls is 'just election rhetoric'</p>	WHY NOW?		<p>> Union minister Shantanu Thakur, BJP MP from Bengal's Bongaon, which has a substantial population of</p>		<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union minister Shantanu Thakur on Monday said Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) would be implemented in the next seven days, reinforcing the possibility of an early rollout of the law Modi government enacted in 2020 in the face of widespread protests. <p>CAA 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 seeks to grant citizenship to migrants belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan. The key condition for eligibility is that these migrants must have arrived in India on or before December 31 2014.
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