



Current Affairs of the Day

PAPER 1:

➤ History & Culture:

1. For first time since 1565, a Kamakhya festival sans fair

➤ Geography:

1. Unhappy with IMD, Kerala ropes in private forecasters
2. India Meteorological Department

PAPER 2:

➤ International Relations:

1. India to attend trilateral meet with China
2. Bangladesh rejects criticism of China deal
3. China to join UN arms trade treaty
4. India can reduce trade deficit with China by \$8.4 bn: study

PAPER 3:

➤ Security:

1. One lakh vacancies in Central Armed Police Forces
2. Central Armed Police Force (CAPF)



India to attend trilateral meet with China

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will take part in the **Russia-India-China trilateral** on Tuesday, in an indication that New Delhi is prepared to press on with diplomatic moves with Beijing despite the LAC face-off.
- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will also attend. Officials in Moscow and Delhi underlined that “no bilateral issues” would be discussed.

Value Added Information

Russia-India-China Summit

RIC Forum:

- It is a trilateral grouping of Russia, India and China that has met annually since 2002. In recent years, it has functioned as complement to other frameworks involving three countries and including Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

RIC Summit:

- The discussions of meeting focused on regional security, issues affecting Asia-Pacific region, counter-terror efforts and coordination at regional and multilateral forums. The ministers reiterated importance trilateral format as platform to foster closer dialogue and practical cooperation in identified areas
- The ministers released joint communiqué after meeting. They agreed to strengthen the trilateral dialogue for consultation and coordination on regional and global issues of mutual interest.
- **International and regional peace:** They held that cooperation is conducive to maintaining international and regional peace, stability and promoting global economic growth and prosperity. They stressed for establishment of just and equitable international order based on international law and mutual respect, fairness and justice. They held that various crises in the world should be resolved in accordance with the international law.
- **Terrorism:** The three nations also condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirmed that all acts of terrorism are criminal and



unjustifiable irrespective of their motivations, committed wherever and by whomsoever.

- **Arms Race:** They called for prevention of arms race in outer space for maintaining international peace and security. Russia and China reiterated that they welcome India's participation in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

Need for the trilateral

- The Russia-India-China trilateral meet is New Delhi's attempt to overcome challenges in ties with Moscow and Beijing. The original conception of this framework was a response to a very different global environment.

Conception of the Trilateral:

- The proposal for a Moscow-Beijing-Delhi 'strategic triangle' had originally come from former Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov during his visit to India in 1998, when he argued that such an arrangement would represent a force for greater regional and international stability.
- The idea of a 'strategic triangle' took a tangible form when former Foreign Ministers of Russia, China, and India — Igor Ivanov, Tang Jiaxuan and Yashwant Sinha — met on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2002.

Unhappy with IMD, Kerala ropes in private forecasters

Key Points:

- For the first time, a State government will be funding private weather companies for alerts and warnings about extreme climate events, moving away from the India Meteorological Department.
- An order by Kerala's Disaster Management Department issued on June 19, and viewed by The Hindu, authorises the release of ₹95 lakh to three private companies — Skymet Private Ltd, Earth Networks and IBM Weather Company — to use "ensemble predictions to improve extreme weather alert services in the State".



- The devastating floods of 2019 have heightened concerns about the state of extreme-weather preparedness in Kerala.
- The order states that these services would be part of a 1 year pilot project.

Value Added Information

India Meteorological Department

- IMD was established in 1875.
- It is an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India.
- It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology

One lakh vacancies in Central Armed Police Forces

Key Points:

- More than 6,000 positions are lying vacant in the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), the primary force deployed along the 3,488 km China border, according to a Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) submission before a Parliamentary panel in January.
- Overall, there were a total of 1,03,367, that is, 11% vacancies in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) comprising the ITBP, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the Border Security Force (BSF), the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the Assam Rifles.



Value Added Information

Central Armed Police Force (CAPF)

The Union Home Ministry has fixed the retirement age of all **Central Armed Police Force (CAPF)** personnel at 60 years.



The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) refers to **seven security forces** in India under the authority of **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

- Assam Rifles (AR)
- Border Security Force (BSF)
- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- National Security Guard (NSG)
- Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
- Each of the seven has its own cadre of officers, but they are headed by officers of the **Indian Police Service**.

Assam Rifles (AR):

- The Assam Rifles came into **being in 1835**, as a militia called the ‘**Cachar Levy**’, to primarily protect British Tea estates and their settlements against tribal raids.
- This Force significantly contributed in opening the region to administration and commerce and over time they came to be known as the “**right arm of the civil and left arm of the military**”.
- The Post-Independence role of the Assam Rifles continued to evolve ranging from conventional combat role during **Sino-India War 1962**, operating in foreign land as part of the **Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to Sri Lanka in 1987 (Op Pawan)** to peacekeeping role in the North-Eastern areas of India.

Border Security Force (BSF):

- BSF is a Border Guarding Force of India. **Established on December 1, 1965**, it is a paramilitary force charged with guarding India's land borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- The BSF has **air wing, marine wing, an artillery regiment, and commando units**. It currently stands as the world's largest border guarding force. BSF has been termed as the **First Line of Defence** of Indian Territories.



Central Industrial Security Force (CISF):

- The CISF came into **existence in 1969** with a modest beginning, having three battalions, to provide integrated security cover to the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
- With globalization and liberalization of the economy, CISF is no longer a PSU-centric organization. Instead, it has become a premier multi-skilled security agency of the country, mandated to provide security to major critical infrastructure installations of the country in diverse areas.
- CISF is currently providing security cover to nuclear installations, space establishments, airports, seaports, power plants, sensitive Government buildings and ever heritage monuments.
- Among the important responsibilities recently entrusted to the CISF are the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, VIP Security, Disaster Management and establishment of a Formed Police Unit (FPU) of the UN at Haiti.

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF):

- The Central Reserve Police Force came into **existence as Crown Representative's Police on 27th July 1939**. It became the Central Reserve Police Force on enactment of the CRPF Act on 28th December 1949.
- The mission of the Central Reserve Police Force is to enable the government to maintain Rule of Law, Public Order and Internal Security effectively and efficiently, to Preserve National Integrity and Promote Social Harmony and Development by upholding the supremacy of the Constitution.
- Broad duties being performed by the CRPF are:
 - Crowd control
 - Riot control
 - Counter Militancy / Insurgency operations.
 - Dealing with Left Wing Extremism
 - Overall coordination of large scale security arrangement especially with regard to elections in disturbed areas.
 - Fighting enemy in the event of War.
 - Participating in UN peacekeeping Mission as per Govt. policy.



- Rescue and Relief operations at the time of Natural Calamities and disasters

Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP):

- ITBP was **raised on 24 Oct, 1962**. Presently, ITBP is deployed on border guarding duties from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh covering 3488 km of **Indo-China Border** and manning Border Outposts on altitudes ranging from 9000' to 18700' in the Western, Middle and Eastern sectors of the **Indo-China Border**.
- ITBP is a **specialized mountain force** and most of the officers and men are professionally trained mountaineers and skiers. Being the first responder for natural disasters, ITBP has been carrying out numerous rescue and relief operations across the country.

National Security Guard (NSG):

- The National Security Guard (NSG) is a **counter terrorism unit**. It was **raised in 1984, following Operation Blue Star** and the assassination of Indira Gandhi, "for combating terrorist activities with a view to protect states against internal disturbances.
- NSG formally came into being in **1986 by an act of parliament**.
- The basic philosophy of NSG is swift and speedy strike and immediate withdrawal from the theatre of action. National Security Guard has been given the specific role to handle all facets of terrorism in any part of the country as a Federal Contingency Force.
- It is a task-oriented Force and has **two complementary elements** in the form of the **Special Action Group (SAG) comprising Army personnel** and the **Special Ranger Groups (SRG)**, comprising personnel drawn from the **Central Armed Police Forces/State Police Forces**.

Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB):

- The Special Service Bureau (now Sashastra Seema Bal) was thus conceived in **November 1962 and eventually created in March 1963**.
- The sole objective of achieving 'Total security preparedness' in the remote border areas for performing a 'stay-behind' role in the event of a war.



- SSB is now spread along the International border across Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. SSB's present charter of duties is to:

Safeguard the security of assigned borders of India and promote a sense of security among the people living in border areas.

1. Prevent trans-border crimes, smuggling and any other illegal activities.
2. Prevent unauthorized entry into or exit from the territory of India.
3. Carry out civic action programme in the area of responsibility.
4. Perform any other duty assigned by the Central Government (SSB is being deployed for Law & Order, Counter Insurgency Operations and Election duty).

Bangladesh rejects criticism of China deal

Key Points:

- Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul Momen on Monday said that Indian commentators who described the zero-tariff bilateral agreement for 97% of exports to China as “charity” for “least developed” Bangladesh are revealing their “narrow-mindedness”.
- This was the Minister's second comment in two days after certain Indian publications said China was using the deal to get Bangladesh on its side as tension with India simmers along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) near Ladakh.

For first time since 1565, a Kamakhya festival sans fair

- **Ambubachi**, the festival marking the annual ‘menstruation’ of the presiding Goddess, began at the Kamakhya temple on June 22 without mendicants, hermits and devotees for the first time in almost 500 years.

Value Added Information

About Ambubachi Mela:

- The festival symbolises **the fertility cult of goddess Kamakhya**.



- There is **no idol in the temple**, the goddess is worshipped in the form of a yoni-like stone over which a natural spring flows.
- Also known as **Siddha Kubjika**, the goddess is a Hindu tantric goddess of desire who evolved in the Himalayan hills. She is also identified as Kali and Maha Tripura.



- The festival is also known as ‘**Mahakumbh of the East**’ as it draws lakhs of devotees from all over the world.

Social significance of the festival:

- The ritualistic fair celebrating the goddess’ period is one of the reasons why the taboo associated with menstruation is less in Assam compared with other parts of India. **The attainment of womanhood of girls in Assam** is celebrated with a ritual called ‘**Tuloni Biya**’, meaning small wedding. Ambubachi Mela serves as an occasion **to promote awareness on menstrual hygiene**.

Facts for Prelims:

- Kamakhya, atop **Nilachal Hills in Guwahati**, is one of 51 shaktipeeths or seat of Shakti followers, each representing a body part of the Sati, Lord Shiva’s companion.

China to join UN arms trade treaty

Key Points:

- China will join a global pact to regulate arms sales, with Beijing saying on Monday that it is committed to efforts to “enhance peace and stability” in the world.



- The Communist Party leadership's top legislative body voted on Saturday to adopt a decision on joining the **UN Arms Trade Treaty** that is designed to control the flow of weapons into conflict zones.
- It comes after U.S. President Donald Trump announced plans last year to pull the U.S. out of the agreement — which entered into force in 2014.

India can reduce trade deficit with China by \$8.4 bn: study

Key Points:

- India can potentially reduce its trade deficit with China by \$8.4 billion over FY21-22, which is equivalent to 17.3% of the deficit with China and 0.3% of India's GDP, Acuité Ratings & Research said in a study.
- This can be achieved by the rationalisation of just a quarter of India's imports from that country in select sectors where India has well-established manufacturing capabilities, Acuité said.
- Without any significant additional investments, the domestic manufacturing sector can substitute 25% of the total imports from specified sectors in the first phase, it added.
- Over the past 3 decades, India's exports to China grew at a CAGR of 30% but its imports expanded at 47%, leading to lower capacity utilisation of domestic players in a few sectors.
- We can consider certain measures to reduce the dependence gradually which will also have a positive impact on the Indian economy.
- Nearly 40 sub-sectors of India had the potential to lower their import dependency on China.
- The sectors include chemicals, automotive components, bicycles parts, drug formulations, cosmetics, consumer electronics and leather-based goods.

