



## Current Affairs of the Day

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- Bihar plans migratory bird festival to raise awareness about them



## La Niña influence: Indian winter to be colder than normal

The ongoing winter season from December 2020 to February 2021 will be colder than usual in several parts of India, according to the seasonal outlook for temperatures from the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

### Highlights:

1. The gap between day and night temperatures will be wider, which could create erratic winter conditions impacting agricultural practices in the Rabi season, especially the growth of wheat that is the principal cereal crop in north, northwest and central India.
2. It might also affect the productivity of cash crops such as coffee, which grows mainly in south India. The maximum temperatures are going to be lower than the normal and minimum temperatures higher than the normal there. Coffee growth is extremely sensitive to variations in temperatures.
3. One reason for this could be the prevailing La Niña conditions in the Equatorial Pacific Ocean. La Niña is the cooling phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation cycle in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, as opposed to the warming El Niño phase.
4. It is characterised by the unusual cooling of the central and east-central equatorial Pacific Ocean. It usually brings in colder than normal winters in India.

### Mains:

1. What is the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO)? Discuss its impact on Indian climate.
2. What is the Indian Ocean Dipole? Discuss its impact on Indian climate.

## Last-ditch effort to save Brexit trade talks from failure

British and EU negotiators embarked on probably their final two-day scramble to secure a post-Brexit trade deal on Sunday, after failing for eight months to reach an agreement.

### Highlights:

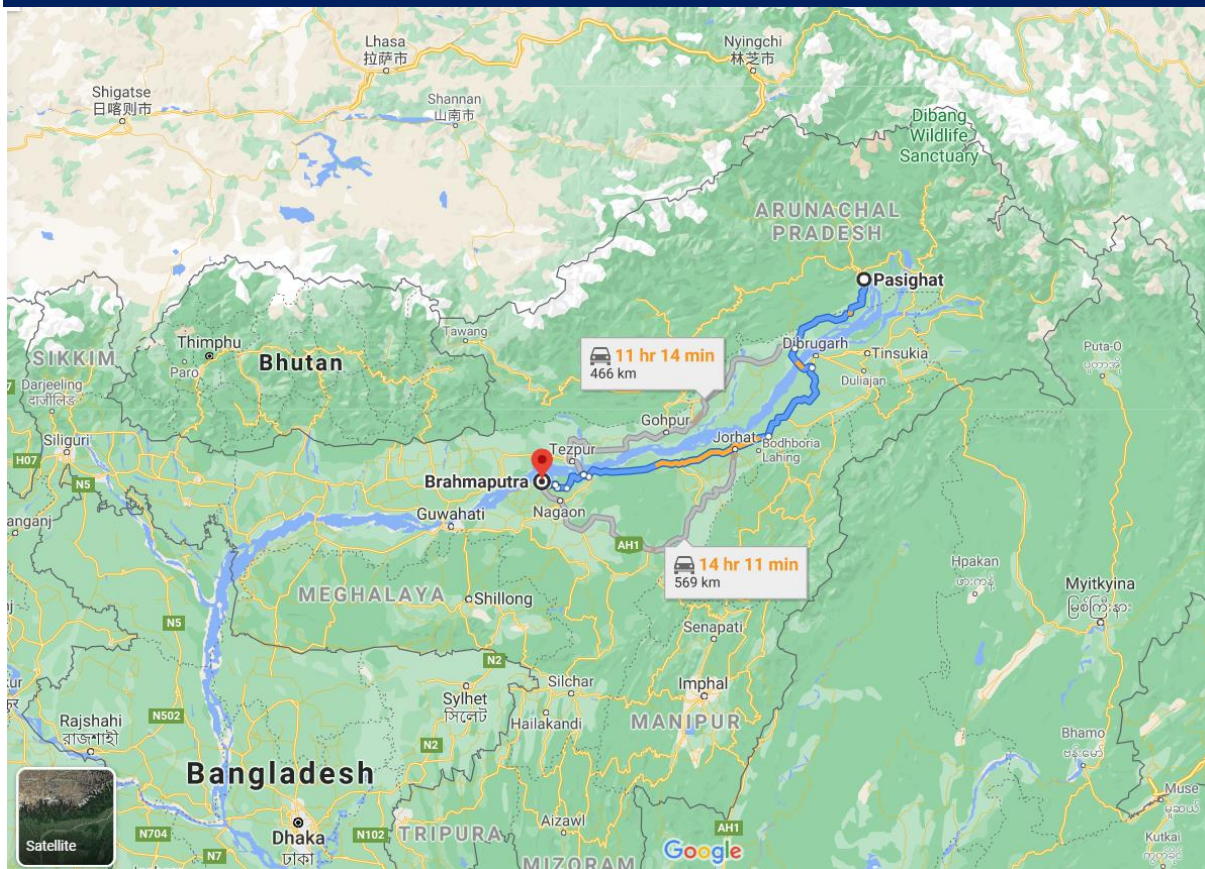


1. The U.K. is bound to the EU's tariff-free single market until a post-Brexit transition period expires at the end of the year -- an immovable deadline by which time the two sides must try to agree on new terms of their future relationship.
2. Without a deal, the bulk of cross-Channel trade will revert to World Trade Organization terms, a return to tariffs and quotas after almost five decades of close economic and political integration.
3. Britain will face severe political and economic fallout if it cannot seal a deal.

### Mains:

1. Post Brexit Britain and post RCEP exit India have more converging interests. Critically Discuss.

## Why is the Brahmaputra so wide? Due to sediment





The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) posted a satellite image of the Brahmaputra river on its website November 29, 2020, and explained that the cause behind the river being so wide was the tonnes of sediment it carried.

### Highlights:

1. The image, captured on November 9, showed the course of the Brahmaputra in its lower reaches, from Pasighat to its confluence with the Ganga in Bangladesh.
2. Notice how the narrow channel widens after passing the town of Pasighat, transforming into a braided river with multiple, interlacing channels. As the water slows in the flatter Brahmaputra Valley, it loses its capacity to carry sediment, depositing the excess silt in sandbars. In the course of a few kilometres, the river channel increases its width twentyfold.
3. It said the river was next only to the Yellow River in China in terms of the amount of sediment it carried.

### Prelims:

1. Recently in the great bend where China is planning to build a run of the river Dam.
2. Majuli Island is due to this sediment laid only which creates braided channels and riverine islands.

### Mains:

1. Why is Brahmaputra valley more flood-prone?

## Bihar plans migratory bird festival to raise awareness about them

Bihar is holding a bird festival for the first time as part of its initiative to save migratory birds that arrive in the state in large numbers every year. The three-day festival is being organised in eastern Bihar's Bhagalpur district and will tentatively start from December 11, 2020.

### Highlights:

1. The festival is being jointly organised by the Bhagalpur forest division, non-profit Bombay Natural History Society and the local Mandar Nature Club.



2. Forest officials and environmentalists said the selection of Bhagalpur for the bird festival held special significance. This was because the 60-kilometre-long stretch of the Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary between Sultanganj and Kahalgaon (in Bhagalpur) had long been a hub of migratory birds.
3. Migratory birds normally come during November and stay till March, finding the region favourable for spending the winter, according to environmentalists.
4. Some prominent migratory birds arriving in Bhagalpur include bar-headed goose, steppe eagle, Ferruginous duck, Eurasian curlew, white wagtail, great crested grebe, common greenshank and Eurasian coot.
5. The main attractions for migratory birds in the eastern part of the country were plenty of water bodies, such as Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary on the Ganga river, Jagatpur lake and Kanwar lake.
6. Environmentalists said such initiatives could put a check on incidents of bird poaching in the state. Poaching of migratory birds has been quite rampant in Bihar as they fetch a lot of money for bird catchers.

### Prelims:

1. Central Asian Flyway