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24 November 2023

West Bengal News

<p>State joins hands with Amazon India to boost e-exports</p>	<p>Context The Bengal government has forged a partnership with Amazon India to drive e-commerce initiatives within the state.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MoU is about promoting e-commerce exports and onboarding of artisans, craftsmen and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on the Amazon platform • The recent developments taking place in the industry and logistics sector will drive momentum in the e-commerce domain.
<p>Japan's trade body to bat for projects in state</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) may promote Bengal, along with the eastern region, as a possible investment destination for Japanese companies • JETRO promotes Japanese trade and investment
<p>New export policy poised to double Bengal figures by next decade</p>	<p>Context Bengal's new Export Promotion Policy 2023 was unveiled at the seventh edition of the Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS).</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy is expected to facilitate investments from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank and private partners. • the construction of three economic corridors – Dankuni-Haldia, Dankuni-Kalyani and Dankuni-Raghunathpur – which would help Bengal double its exports in the next decade.
<p>Export-related facts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangladesh remains the state's largest export partner— exports to the neighbouring country have grown from 13.4% in 2018-19 to 17.4% in 2022-23 — followed by the UAE and US • Among Bengal's districts, Kolkata leads with a 38.2% share of the state's exports, followed by Howrah at 10% and East Midnapore at 9.2% in 2022-23 • Major export sectors in Bengal are iron and steel, gem and jewellery. • Bengal's overall exports amount to 13 billion dollars, a



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growth rate of 6.1%.

- The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for the state has reached **Rs 17.2 lakh crore for the fiscal year 2023-24**, showcasing a remarkable 2.6 times growth compared to the 2013-14 period.

9th Apeejay 'Bangla Sahitya Utsob'

Context

The ninth edition of India's first Bengali literary festival, **Apeejay Bangla Sahitya Utsob (ABSU)**, curated by **Oxford Bookstores**, is all set to commence

Key points

- The three-day long literary extravaganza will host some of the most prominent names in Bengali literature and culture who will present their perspectives on all aspects of "**Bangali aana**" (**Bengali culture**) and **literature**.
- The centenary old bookstore will provide the perfect backdrop for stimulating discussions, insightful exchanges, and a celebration of the written word.

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