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5 April 2024

West Bengal News

<p><b>Three constituencies in Bengal see a spurt in female electorate</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The female electorate in West Bengal has shown significant growth over the past five years, with three constituencies—<b>Dum Dum, Jadavpur, and Hooghly</b>—having more female voters than male voters, according to the latest data from the Election Commission (EC).</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This marks a <b>notable increase from 2019 when only Dum Dum had more female electors than males.</b></li> <li>Additionally, in ten other parliamentary constituencies, the margin between male and female voters is less than 20,000, indicating the considerable influence of female voters in around one-third of the state's 42 constituencies.</li> <li>The total number of electors in West Bengal has risen from 70,001,284 in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections to 75,925,571 in 2024, representing an 8.4% growth rate.</li> <li>The growth rate of female voters has been higher at 9.6%, increasing from 34,048,666 to 37,351,345.</li> <li>In contrast, the number of male electors has increased from 35,951,289 to 38,572,457, indicating a growth rate of 7.2%.</li> <li>The gender ratio in West Bengal has shown remarkable improvement, increasing from 949 in <b>2019 to 968 in 2024, compared to the national increase from 928 to 948.</b></li> <li>Twelve states and Union Territories, including Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Kerala, now have more women voters than men.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kolkata Port breaks all-time record by handling 66.4 MMT cargo</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMP) in Kolkata set a <b>new record by handling 66.4 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of cargo, surpassing the previous record of 65.66 MMT moved in 2022-23. This marks a 1.11% increase.</b></li> </ul>



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### Key points:

- Kolkata is the earliest major port in the country.
- Kolkata Port is India's only major riverine Port, situated at 232 km. up-stream from the Sandheads, having arguably the longest navigational channel amongst Major Ports of India and its navigational channel is one of the longest in the world.
- It has two dock systems - the Kolkata Dock System at Kolkata with the oil wharves at Baj Baj and the Haldia Dock Complex at Haldia

### National Maritime Day



### Context:

- **National Maritime Day** is celebrated in India every year on **April 5th**.
- It marks the **maiden voyage of the SS Loyalty in 1919**, a pivotal moment symbolizing India's journey as an independent maritime nation.

### Key Points:

- Recognizes the vital role of the **maritime sector in India's history, economy, and development**.
- **Honors the contributions of seafarers** and those working in the maritime industry.
- **Raises awareness** about the importance of maritime trade and the challenges faced by the industry.

### About:

- **SS Loyalty** is the **first Indian merchant ship to set sail under the Indian flag in 1919**.
- This historic voyage, **departing from Mumbai for London**, marked a significant step towards India's independence as a maritime nation.
- The **Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd.**, owned by the **visionary industrialist Seth Walchand Hirachand Doshi**, played a key role in this achievement.

### Theme:

- The Theme for 2024 National Maritime Day is **"Navigating the Future: Safety First!"**

### International Day of Mine Awareness

### Context:

- The **International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action** is **observed annually on April 4th**.



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- It's a day to raise awareness about the dangers of landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) on civilians, particularly in conflict zones.

### About:

- On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly declared that 4 April of each year shall be the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

### Theme:

- The theme for International Day for Mine Awareness & Assistance in Mine Action 2024 is '**Protecting Lives, Building Peace.**'
- It focuses on the needs and rights of people with disabilities in areas affected by conflict.
- The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is highlighting the importance of including people with disabilities in mine action efforts and ensuring their safety and access to assistance.

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