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18 March 2024

West Bengal News

<p>Log Sabha portal</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose launched the 'Log Sabha' portal. The portal aims to directly connect with people during the Lok Sabha elections. <p>Key points:</p> <p>Previous Initiative: During last year's Panchayat elections, the Governor opened a 'Peace Room' at Raj Bhavan, which received thousands of representations from the public, resulting in prompt action.</p>
<p>Bengal's 2024 Elections</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bengal will vote in seven phases spread over 47 days (about one and a half months) for the Lok Sabha elections 2024. The process starts on April 19 and ends on June 1, with counting of votes on June 4. <p>Voter Statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total electors: 75,919,891 Male voters: 38,569,610 Female voters: 37,348,511 First-time voters: 1,572,455 (2.07%) Electors aged 85 years and above: 483,197 Electors aged 100 years and above: 3,596 Total polling stations: 80,530 Polling stations managed by women: 5,942 Polling stations managed by PwD: 24 Webcasting facilities in at least 50% of polling stations.
<p>Kolkata GPO: India's Pioneering General Post Office</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founded in 1774 by Warren Hastings, Kolkata GPO is India's oldest general post office, marking 250 years of connecting people. It stands as a testament to India's postal evolution, showcasing a rich heritage in postal services.



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Key points:

- Currently celebrating its **250th anniversary**, Kolkata GPO highlights its pivotal role in shaping India's postal landscape.
- Kolkata GPO has been central to the nation's postal services, embodying the spirit of **'India Post is always on the move.'**
- Special covers and postcards on **"Transportation of Mails through Ages," "Telegraph System,"** and **"Lantern, Badges & Spears of Runners"** were unveiled.
- Despite changes in empires, governments, governance, and economy, Kolkata GPO has stood tall, symbolized by the statue of a mail runner at the GPO.

Ordnance Factories Day



Context:

- **Ordnance Factories Day** is celebrated on **March 18th every year in India.**
- It commemorates the **establishment of the first Ordnance Factory in Cossipore, Kolkata, in 1801.**

About:

- The day highlights the **contributions of the Ordnance Factories Board (OFB) to India's self-reliance in defense equipment.**
- The OFB is a crucial organization **under the Ministry of Defence.**
- **It is responsible for manufacturing a wide range of weaponry and ammunition for the Indian Armed Forces.**
- Often referred to as the **"Fourth Arm of Defence"**, the OFB plays a vital role in national security.

Theme:

- Ordnance Factories Day 2024 theme is **"Operational Efficiency, Readiness, and Mission Accomplishment in the Maritime Domain".**

Global Recycling Day

Context:

- **Global Recycling Day** is an annual event on **March 18** that helps to **acknowledge that recycling is a key part of a circular economy that helps to protect the environment and Earth's natural resources**



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History:

- It was the **brainchild of the Bureau of International Recycling**, with the first announcement coming in **2015** by its president, **Ranjit Singh Baxi**.
- The **inaugural celebration followed a few years later in 2018**.
- The day is now **recognized by the United Nations as well**.

About:

- The year **2024 marks the 7th Global Recycling Day**
- **Global Recycling Day 2024 focuses on the theme #RecyclingHeroes**.
- It's a call to recognize individuals and initiatives making a positive impact through recycling.

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