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23 November 2023

West Bengal News

<p>Birbhum bags SKOCH Award</p>	<p>Context Birbhum district administration won the SKOCH Award for setting up a new example by conducting open-air teaching during COVID-19.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earlier this year the West Bengal Small Industries Development Corporation Ltd (WBSIDCL) had won the prestigious SKOCH Award for ease of doing business in extending marketing support to the MSMEs during cyclonic storms Yash, Amphan and the Covid period. • Tantuja had also won the esteemed 'Star of Governance – Skoch Award in Handlooms & Textiles' for the promotion of handloom and textiles of the state under the Ease of Doing Business initiative
<p>Sourav appointed Bengal's brand ambassador</p> 	<p>Context Former Team India captain Sourav Ganguly has been appointed the brand ambassador of West Bengal.</p> <p>About</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sourav Chandidas Ganguly, also known as Dada, is an Indian cricket commentator and former cricketer. • He is popularly called the Maharaja of Indian Cricket. • He was captain of the Indian national cricket team and is regarded as one of India's most successful cricket captains.
<p>State Inks MoU with Uber for Bus Services</p>	<p>Context The state Transport department signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Uber to launch Uber Shuttle bus services.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By March 2024, Uber will run approximately 60 air-conditioned buses on predefined routes in Kolkata. • As part of this MoU, Uber has proposed to invest 10 million US dollars by 2025 in the state and create approximately 50,000 job opportunities in Kolkata in the next 5 years.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Jal Swapna Project

Context

- With an objective to provide clean drinking water to houses under the '**Jal Swapna**' project of the state government, Gautam Paul, MLA Karandighi laid the foundation stones of domestic water schemes.
- The projects have been undertaken at a cost of **Rs 300 crore**.

Key point

The schemes will be undertaken in twelve places, including the villages of **Rasakhoa-I, Rasakhoa-II, Bazargaon-I, Bazargaon-II and Lahutara Gram Panchayats** in Karandighi block of North Dinajpur district.

Jal Swapna Project

- The **Jal Swapna project** is a West Bengal government initiative to provide clean **drinking water to every rural household by 2024**.
- The project aims to provide water through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs).
- The project has a large budget in the state budget. In the 2021-22 financial year, the project provided drinking water to 15.72 lakh households.

National Stock Exchange partners with West Bengal govt to facilitate fundraising for SMEs in state

Context

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has collaborated with the West Bengal government **to spread awareness amongst MSMEs** in the state regarding fundraising through the IPO mechanism using the bourse's SME platform.

Key points

- NSE with the support of the West Bengal government will **conduct awareness** drives through seminars, MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises)camps, knowledge sessions, road shows, and workshops to guide corporates across the state for fundraising on its SME platform, Emerge, and handhold companies in the listing process
- Listing on the capital market shall help them raise capital to fuel their growth story.
- This shall provide an **opportunity to showcase their business** to a larger set of investors through the NSE Emerge platform

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