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2 January 2024

West Bengal News

<p>State to convince farmers to cultivate onion in Kharif season</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Food Processing Industries & Horticulture (FPI&H) department is taking a slew of measures to encourage farmers in the state to take up the cultivation of onion, particularly during the Kharif season, to reduce the gap between demand and production.• They will soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF) for developing a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in onion.
<p>Illegal marijuana cultivation</p> 	<p>Context Cooch Behar district police have successfully eradicated 3859 bighas of illegally cultivated marijuana.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cooch Behar, a border district with Bangladesh and Assam in Bengal, faces challenges related to illegal activities, including cannabis cultivation.• The proactive measures are aimed at curbing the illegal cultivation of cannabis and maintaining law and order in the region.
<p>State govt to facilitate martial arts training for girl students</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The state government has decided to introduce self-defense training for girl students across the state starting from January 2024.• The programme is being directly sponsored and supervised by the Paschim Banga Samagra Shiksha Mission under the aegis of the School Education department.• The project christened as 'Rani Lakshmi Bai Atma Raksha Prashikshan 2023-24' was inaugurated at Beltala Girls' High School.
<p>State Song to be compulsorily played in all state govt functions</p>	<p>Context A directive from the Bengal Chief Secretary stated that the 'State Song' shall compulsorily be played with due respect during all state government functions at the start of such ceremony and the National Anthem will be mandatorily played after such ceremony/ function</p>



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Key points

- State Day (Bangla Divas) shall be observed every year by the people of the state on the day of **Poila Baisakh (Bengali New Year's Day)** with 'respect and dignity'.
- The approximate playing time of the State Song will be **1 minute 59 seconds**.
- All dignitaries/persons shall stand in attention when the 'State Song' and 'National Anthem' are played and mass singing is encouraged for both these songs.
- **Banglar Mati, Banglar Jal'** written by **Rabindranath Tagore** has been declared as 'State Song'.

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