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6 January 2024
West Bengal News

<p>State notifies increase in DA for government employees</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole-time state government employees will draw Dearness Allowance (DA) at the rate of 10 percent of basic pay with effect from January 1, 2024. Earlier, the state government gave six percent DA to government employees. With the present hike, the DA has been raised to 10 percent.
<p>Tetrapods</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The installation of 'tetrapods' has taken place by the Irrigation and Waterways (I&W) department to stop erosion at Sagar Island. It will help the pilgrims to have easy access to the sea for the holy dip without having to wade through mud. The Irrigation and Waterways department has installed a wave-dissipating concrete block known as 'tetrapod', covering a length of 400 metres, intending to trap the water when waves lash through these structures. This has led to the development of a full-fledged beach in two ghats.
<p>Mahananda River</p>	<p>Context</p> <p>The State provides Rs 3.3 cr to start river erosion work in Itahar at the bank of Mahananda River.</p> <p>About</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mahananda is a transboundary river that flows through the Indian states of Bihar and West Bengal before crossing into Bangladesh. It is an important tributary of the Ganges. The Mahananda originates in the Himalayas: Paglajhora Falls on Mahaldiram Hill near Chimli, east of Kurseong in Darjeeling district at an elevation of 2,100 metres It flows through Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary and descends to the plains near Siliguri. It touches Jalpaiguri district.



Kalonunia gets GI tag

27 FROM BENGAL ON LIST NOW



(L) Kalo Nunia rice variety; (R) Tangail weavers of Nadia

Five items that have been recognized for the GI tag | Sundarbans' natural honey, Jalpaiguri's Kalo Nunia rice and Murshidabad and East Burdwan's Garad and Korial and Nadia's Tangail sarees

- > Around 2,000 residents of Sundarbans, called Mauli, eke out livelihood by collecting honey in dense forest
- > Kalo Nunia is one of the most sought after rice varieties in north Bengal
- > There are around 20k Tangail weavers in Nadia and E Burdwan
- > Nadia has around 15,000 weavers

Context

The 'Kalonunia,' renowned as the 'King of Rice' in North Bengal, has received the **Geographical Indication (GI Tag)**.

Key points

- Kalonunia is one of the **oldest indigenous aromatic rice varieties** adopted in districts of North Bengal.
- The term '**Kalo**' means **black**, and '**Nunia**' represents an indigenous variety of rice in Bengali.
- The paddy field of Kalonunia appears entirely black, unlike the golden color of normal paddy fields.
- It features **medium-slender grains, an average length of 5.3 mm**, and cooked rice that is tasty, good in texture, bright in appearance, non-sticky, and friable.

Sagar Island

- It is also known as **Gangasagar or Sagardwip**.
- It is an Island in the **Ganges delta**, lying on the continental shelf of the Bay of Bengal.
- This Island falls under South 24 **Parganas District in West Bengal**.
- Although Sagar Island is a part of the Sunderban Administration, it does not have any tiger habitation, mangrove forests, or small river tributaries as is characteristic of the overall Sunderban delta.

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