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24 January 2024

West Bengal News

PM Rashtriya Bal Award	<b>Context</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Arijit Banerjee</b>, a 13-year-old boy of Siliguri, received the Prime Minister Rashtriya Bal Award for Pakhawaj Vadan.</li><li>● He is the only person who has received this award in Bengal.</li><li>● The <b>President conferred the Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to the 19 teenagers</b> selected from all regions of the country for their exceptional achievements in the fields of art and culture, bravery, innovation, social service and sports.</li><li>● This national recognition of Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar serves to inspire and motivate other youngsters across the country.</li></ul>
Class VIII girl selected for under-16 nat'l women's football team	<b>Context</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● A Class VIII girl student of <b>South Dinajpur's Kushmandi Block</b> has been selected in the Under-16 National Women's Football team.</li><li>● Three girls from Bengal have been selected in the Under-16 National Women's Football team.</li></ul>
GI tag from Malda	<b>Context</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Malda district is sending samples for <b>two varieties of brinjals and Kansat</b>, a sweet, for Geographical Indication (GI) tag.</li><li>● Another sweet, Rasokodombo, will shortly be sent for the same.</li><li>● Previously, 3 mango varieties — <b>Khirsapati (Himsagar), Fazli and Laxmanbhog</b> — got the tags</li></ul>



**Sand mining in Bengal**

**Context**

- The state government is expecting to get a revenue of Rs 1000 crore in the 2023-24 fiscal through the robust online mechanism of sand mining
- It was introduced by the Mamata Banerjee government in 2021.
- In July 2021, the state brought out a notification regarding the new 'Sand Mining Policy' to prevent damage to the riverine ecology and to take stringent action against black marketing and hoarding of sand.

**Sand Mining Policy in West Bengal**

- Currently the State of West Bengal follows a system **wherein mining Ghats are e-auctioned** by the State Government to private players.
- Mining lease is **granted by the State to the Winning private bidder**. The lease period for each sand Ghat is usually 5 (five) years.
- The **winning private bidders are authorized to extract sand** as per the mining plan against payment of one time-bid money, royalty and cess proportionate to the quantity of sand extracted.

**Atrai river**

**Context**

Atrai river is drying up because of construction of dams by the neighbouring country

**About**

- Atrai River (also spelt as Atrayee) **flows in West Bengal and northern parts of Bangladesh**.
- In ancient times the river was called Atrayee and finds a mention in the Mahabharata, one of the two Sanskrit epics of ancient India.
- It is linked with **Jorapani river**, Fuleswari river, and Karatoya River.
- The Atrai originates in Siliguri ward no 40, near Baikantapur forest of West Bengal and then after flowing through



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