



29 January 2024

West Bengal News

<p>Exploration of in-situ mineral deposits in Bankura</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bankura district is identified to have substantial in-situ minor mineral deposits.• State government's report recommends detailed exploration for accurate assessment. <p>Key points: Mineral Potential of Bankura:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encompasses diverse in-situ minor minerals: quartzite, feldspar, granite, Black stone (gabbro & anorthosites), laterite, China Clay, and fireclay.• District's composition: rolling country with laterite and alluvium; a wide plain of recent alluvium to the east; Archaean age gneisses and schist in the extreme west.• Survey highlights China clay and fire clay as the most potential mineral deposits in the district.• It emphasizes the vast quartzite terrain in the eastern part of the district, potentially providing road metals and building stones.
<p>Increased Budget for Minority Development</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trinamool Congress (TMC)-led government in West Bengal has raised the budget for minority development to Rs 4,500 crore.• Announced by State Minister Firhad Hakim during the inauguration of Milan Utsav at Park Circus Maidan. <p>Key points: WBMDFC Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Besides loans, West Bengal Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (WBMDFC) offers scholarships under the 'Aikyashree' scheme.• Scholarships range from class I to PhD students, started in 2019 by the Chief Minister.• In the first year, approximately 37.5 lakh students received scholarships. <p>Scholarship Statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual distribution of around 45 lakh scholarships involving Rs 1200 crore.• Cumulatively, 3.89 crores of scholarships were disbursed, amounting to Rs 7796.14 crore.



বাংলা

- In 2023-24, 42 lakh applications, with 25 lakh scholarships disbursed.

Financial Support:

- Approximately 1100 individual loans and one lakh self-help group members receive loans annually.
- The focus on **minority children's development** by the Chief Minister has led to increased success in fields like MBBS and West Bengal Civil Services (WBCS).

Geeta Roy Barman honored with Padma Shri

Context:

- Bhawaiya Sangeet, one of **North Bengal's oldest music forms**.
- **Geeta Roy Barman**, a 48-year-old resident of Mathabhanga, to receive the Padma Shri award for her contribution.

Key Points:

- Bhawaiya is a musical form originating in **North Bengal, with roots in Rangpur Division** in Bangladesh along with Cooch Behar district of West Bengal and the undivided Goalpara district of Assam.
- The music often revolves around the **working class, expressing the pain and loneliness of women** and emphasizing deep emotions.
- Originating in the **16th century under Biswa Singha**, the king of the Koch dynasty, Bhawaiya has evolved into stage performances since the 1950s.
- The lyrics of Bhawaiya songs are non-denominational, and the music is especially sung during different festivals in North Bengal.

Padma Shri awardees in West Bengal

Ratan Kahar

- Folk singer **Ratan Kahar** expresses gratitude to the Centre for honoring him with the Padma Shri for his efforts in preserving Bengali folk songs.
- He is known for his chart-topping song '**Baroloker Biti Lo.**'

Sanatan Rudra Pal

- Clay modeller Sanatan Rudra Pal, another Padma Shri recipient, sees the award as inspiration for future clay modellers.
- Pal discusses the revitalization of traditional clay modellers due to the emergence of theme art forms in puja celebrations.
- Believes that **UNESCO recognition of Bengal's Durga Puja in 2021**, coupled with his Padma Shri award, will contribute to further growth.



বাংলা



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Diverse Achievers:

- List of other Padma Shri recipients from Bengal, including **ecologist Eklavya Sharma**, folk singer **Gita Roy Barman**, stitch artist **Takdira Begum**, dance form **Chhau** mask maker **Nepal Chandra Sutradhar** (posthumous), social activist **Dukhu Majhi**, and scientist **Narayan Chakraborty**.

Bangladeshi Recipient:

- Bangladeshi **Rabindra Sangeet exponent Rezwana Choudhury Bannya** also receives the civilian honor.

Padma Bhushan Recipients from Bengal:

- Actor **Mithun Chakraborty**, singer **Usha Uthup**, and former **Union minister Satyabrata Mukherjee** (posthumous) are three Padma Bhushan recipients from the state.

Copyright © by Adda247

All rights are reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior permission of Adda247.