

## West Bengal Current Affairs

JULY, 2019

- 1. Former Bengal leg-spin great Soumendranath Kundu passed away.** Note: Former Bengal and Railway leg-spinner Soumendranath Kundu (77-years) passed away in Kolkata. Kundu was bestowed with the Lifetime Achievement award by the Cricket Association of Bengal in 2013-14. Kundu took 127 wickets in 30 First-Class matches between 1958-59 and 1968-69.
- 2. The National Doctors' Day is celebrated every year in India on 1st July.** Note: The day honours the legendary physician and the 2nd Chief Minister of West Bengal Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy. This is a vital day for doctors as it provides them with an opportunity to reflect on their career and remind them about practising the art and science of Medicine and Surgery in an ethical manner.
- 3. West Bengal government has signed an MoU with the British Council for brushing up the English-Speaking skills of the students studying in Polytechnic Colleges in the state.** Note: The move is aimed to improve English speaking capacity for job seekers students. According to Technical Education Department sources, an enquiry to assess job readiness of students was conducted recently, and communication in English was found as a major hurdle. At present, there are 148 Polytechnic Colleges across the state.
- 4. Director Kaushik Ganguly's Bengali outing was honoured with 'Best Feature Film', 'Best Director', 'Best Actor' and 'Best Original Score' awards at the 9th edition of the SAARC fest in Colombo -- Nagarkirtan.** Note: Nagarkirtan is a love story of a transwoman and a flautist. 'Na Bole Wo Haram' (20-minute film by debutant director Nitish Patankar) bagged the 'Best Short Film' award, while 'Walking with the Wind' by Praveen Morchhale received the Special Jury Award for Direction and story.
- 5. Abhay & Tanvi Khanna clinched the men's and women's titles in the 6th Bengal Open squash tournament in Kolkata.** Note: Singh defeated top seed Abhishek Pradhan 11-6 11-6 11-4, while Tanvi fought her way past Tamil Nadu's Aparajitha Balamurukan 11-7 11-6 5-11 13-11. Earlier, the under-15 category witnessed a thrilling battle with fifth-seeded Tamil Nadu girl Shameena Riaz upsetting top seed Soniya Bajaj from Maharashtra 9-11 11-7 11-5 7-11 11-8. Daughter of former India hockey captain Mohammed Riaz, Shameena recently won the U-15 title at the Goregaon Sports Club All India Squash Open in Mumbai.
- 6. 'Odisha Rasagola' finally gets GI tag**
  - A year after West Bengal walked away with the geographical indication (GI) tag recognition for rasgulla, the Odisha government reopened the battle for ownership of the delicacy and won the rights over 'Odisha rasagola'.
  - The registration was conferred to 'Odisha Rasagola' under Section 16(I) or of authorised Section 17(3)(c) of Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act 1999. According to the application submitted to the Registrar of GI, 'Odisha Rasagola' is sweet from the state of Odisha made of chhena (cottage cheese) cooked in sugar syrup, which is very soft to feel, is juicy and non- chewy in consistency and can be swallowed without teeth pressure.
  - Odisha Small Industries Corporation Limited (OSIC) will be the registered holder of Odisha Rasagola's GI tag, and it will enjoy all legal and intellectual protection available for the product, whose uniqueness to Odisha Related Information Geographical Indication (GI)



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- It is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
  - In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place. GI tags – a requirement of the TRIPS agreement
  - India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999 has come into force with effect from 15th September 2003.
  - Darjeeling Tea was the first Indian product to get the geographical indication tag.
7. **West Bengal government observes Save Water Day.** Save Water Day' was observed by the West Bengal government Friday and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee participated in a march in the city to raise awareness on conservation. Mamata Banerjee urged the people to take "precautionary measures" to save the natural resource as water scarcity has become a major issue in the world.
  8. **WB govt to bring legislation for ensuring Journalists' job security.** Inaugurating the 75th year celebrations of the Kolkata Press Club, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that the legislation aims at social security of Journalist. It will also deal with the issues of retrenchment of Journalists and closure of TV channels and Newspapers publication houses. She also announced sanctioning of land for housing complex of Journalists besides 2nd campus of the Press club in the city.
  9. **New Governors appointed for six states including UP, WB & MP.** President has appointed Governors for six states. Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandi Ben Patel will now be the new Governor of Uttar Pradesh while Lal Ji Tandon, who is the Governor of Bihar, has been shifted to Madhya Pradesh. Phagu Chauhan will be the Governor of Bihar replacing Lal Ji Tandon. **Jagdeep Dhankhar has been appointed as the new Governor of West Bengal** while Ramesh Bais is the Tripura Governor. A Rashtrapati Bhavan communique said, R.N.Ravi will be the new Governor of Nagaland. The appointments will take effect from the dates they assume charge of their respective offices.
  10. **Veteran Naxalite leader Santosh Rana dies.** Born in Gopiballabpur in the undivided Midnapore district of West Bengal in 1944, he studied at the then Presidency College. During the turbulent years of the Naxalite uprising in the state in the 60's and 70's, Rana chose the path of armed revolution and became an ardent follower of the charismatic CPI(ML) leader Charu Mazumdar. Rana was elected an MLA from his native Gopiballabpur constituency in 1977, while he was in jail. Rana, however, shunned the path of armed revolution in the latter part of his political career.



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