West Bengal
September – December
Current Affairs
2017

Dr Gaurav Garg

STUDY IQ
TIRELESSSOUL

dr_gaurav_garg_a_tireless_soul

84 posts  1,248 followers
GauravGarg888

Dr. Gaurav Garg
@GauravGarg888
Founder of Study IQ, India’s largest education platform with over 100 courses
West Bengal to get World Bank subsidy to buy 130 electric buses

The West Bengal government has negotiated with the World Bank to avail subsidy to buy 130 electric buses for plying in Kolkata, Asansol and Durgapur.

The World Bank has agreed to provide a subsidy of Rs seven lakh per bus.

The bus depots in these places were equipped for charging batteries and a single charge would allow a bus to run for 150 km.

By December this year, 411 diesel buses manufactured by Volvo and others would also reach the state.
Gujarat Allocated Least Funds for Minorities, West Bengal the Most: Report

Report by Rehnuma Law Centre, an Ahmedabad-based advocacy group under Centre for Social Justice, has found that annual allocation of funds for minorities has been the lowest among all other states.


In contrast, the highest allocation was at Rs 3,470.78 crore by West Bengal.
According to 2011 Census of India, West Bengal has over 24.6 million Bengali Muslims whereas Gujarat has 5.84 million Muslims. But the disparity in fund allocation holds when it comes to percentages as well. While Gujarat allocated 0.029% to minorities in its state budget, Bengal kept 1.9% for its minorities.

Jharkhand “showed a downward trend in annual allocation for the three years analysed - 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18”

Madhya Pradesh allocated 54.2 per cent of the funds meant for minorities to the Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrasas (SPQEM). Another 8.1 per cent was reserved for grants related to madrasa and schooling education for minority children.
West Bengal gets $300 million ADB loan to carry forward fiscal reforms

Multilateral funding agency ADB has sanctioned a USD 300 million loan facility for carrying forward fiscal reforms in West Bengal.

The board of Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a loan of USD 300 million to continue a comprehensive series of fiscal reforms in West Bengal to bring about more accessible, affordable, and high quality public services,

West Bengal, for the first time in 2012 had received a USD 400 million from ADB -- its first policy based lending -- with an aim to create a fiscal space necessary to sustain higher public investment in the eastern India
ADB recognised that a full effect of reforms would require at least 5 year to materialise alongside a follow on programme to carry these forward.

In West Bengal, public investment as a percentage of **gross state domestic product** reached almost 1.3 per cent in 2015-16 from 0.5 per cent in 2011-12.

While, **fiscal deficit** reduced to 2.2 per cent from 3.4 per cent in the same period.

Under new loan programme to be carried out over two years, linking medium term expenditure plans to actual budgets supported by strengthening internal audit system and enhancements in the **integrated financial management system (IFMS)** are part of the reform process.

The capital outlay as a percentage of **gross state domestic product** is expected to rise to 2.2 per cent by **2021- 22** under the second programme
In West Bengal 70 lakh high school students given free bicycles

Seventy lakh high school students in state-run schools of West Bengal have been given bicycles free of cost under ‘Sabuj Sathi’ scheme, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said.

Govt launched Sabuj Sathi scheme on this day in 2015. The govt has empowered 70 lakh school students (Classes IX-XII) by providing them free bicycles.

‘Sabuj Sathi’ means students’ companion. ‘

Sabuj’, the Bengali word for ‘green’ also implies ‘children’ while ‘sathi’ means ‘companion’. “Those who live in remote areas can easily go to school now. Govt is committed towards the development of Maa, Mati, Manush.
Veteran Bengali actor Partha Mukhopadhyay dies at 70

Famed Bengali film actor Partha Mukhopadhyay died at a private hospital

Mukhopadhyay portrayed a number of memorable roles in the 1960s after getting a break as a child artiste in the film Maa directed by Chitto Basu in 1958.
West Bengal government to set fish tourism circuit

West Bengal government is firming up plans to set up a fish tourism circuit to attract country's fish-loving communities.

The State Fisheries Development Corporation (SFDC) is preparing the blueprint for the tourism circuit.

The circuit will centre around the hotels run by SFDC in places like Digha, Udaypur, Henry Island, Bishnupur, Jamunadighi and Siliguri.

A typical tour will consist of a two days-one night package, with fish as the focal theme – be it food or sightseeing. And fish dishes to be served will comprise the traditional favourites of Bengalis as well as newly-introduced varieties in the state like chanos (also called milkfish), pompano, cobia (all marine fishes) and vannamei (a type of shrimp).

The fish tourism circuit will begin functioning with tours to Digha.
3 river bridges in West Bengal to boost trade, highlight culture

The West Bengal government has decided to construct three river bridges — two over the Hooghly and one over the Ajay - to boost trade and connect places of cultural importance.

One bridge over the Hooghly river would connect Shantipur in Nadia district to Kalna in East Burdwan district, while the other one would link Budge Budge in South 24 Parganas district to Howrah district's Fuleshwar.

The bridge on Ajay river would connect Kenduli in Birbhum district with Burdwan district.

"Shantipur is famous not only for its sarees but also for its cultural heritage. Shantipur is also visited by many for its 'Rash Mela', held every year."
Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had said in September that her government would spend Rs 12,180 crore for infrastructure development in the state, in addition to the Rs 20,155 crore allocated in this year's budget for the purpose.
Iconic Vidyasagar Setu worries West Bengal government

Unmanageable traffic pressure may have put West Bengal's iconic Vidyasagar Setu in danger.

Vidyadagar Setu, also known as Second Hooghly Bridge, is the country's longest cable-stayed bridge. It is only 25 years old, but already facing repair, as it is unable to handle the large number of vehicles that cross it everyday.

Compared to other similar structures, the Vidyasagar Setu is still relatively young - such bridges require repair only once they touch the 30-year mark.

Construction on the bridge began in 1972, but it was opened only on October 10, 1992, by the then-Left government. A slew of court cases on land acquisition were responsible for the delay.
West Bengal to lease land for football centre to AIFF for Re 1

The West Bengal cabinet on Monday decided to provide a 15 acre land in Kolkata to the All India Football Federation on lease for Re 1 to help set up the National Centre of Excellence.

A football stadium and a football academy would also be there.

The cabinet decided that the 15 acre of land will be given to the AIFF for 90 years on an exchange of Re 1 only.

The Salt Lake Stadium had hosted 11 matches of the FIFA U-17 World Cup, including the final.
Odisha, West Bengal to hold joint coastal security exercise

To secure the coastline from intruders, the Odisha government and neighboring West Bengal would conducted a joint coastal security exercise in coordination with Indian Navy and Coast Guard.

The security exercise named as 'Sagar Kavach'

Aimed to further strengthen the existing coastal security mechanism along the 630 km long coastline of Odisha and West Bengal

The intruders were named as 'red force
Bandhan Express, New Train Between Bengal And Bangladesh:

The word Bandhan means 'bond' in English and the new train is a bid to ease communication between the two neighbouring countries and bond them better.

PM Narendra Modi said flagged off the train service.

The distance between Kolkata and Khulna is 172 km with a journey time of four and a half hours. The fully air-conditioned train will run every Thursday.

The journey will have two intermediate stations - Petrapole, with a stoppage time of 10 minutes, and Benepole, with a stoppage time of 15 minutes.
The **Maitree Express** between Dhaka and Kolkata, which has been running since 2008, is popular.

It runs six days a week from each side, covering a distance of 375 kilometers in 11 hours.

There are two stops for immigration checking; one is Gede in India and the other is Dorshona in Bangladesh.

The two new bridges have been built on the Bhairab and the Titas rivers to provide an "end-to-end" immigration facility to ease Dhaka-Kolkata Maitree train services.

"There is also a proposal from Bangladesh side to launch a train to connect Rajshahi in Bangladesh and Kolkata,
West Bengal to infuse Rs300 crore in BAPL which runs Durgapur airport near Kolkata

The West Bengal government decided to infuse up to Rs300 crore to rescue Bengal Aerotropolis Projects Ltd (BAPL), a private firm which runs an airport 200km from Kolkata and in which Singapore’s Changi Airports International owns a substantial stake.

The key problem with the airport built by BAPL in Durgapur is getting airlines to commence operations from it.

Last year, state-owned Air India withdrew its Kolkata-Durgapur-Delhi flights, citing poor occupancy, after operating it for a little over a year.

Currently, Zoom Air is the lone airline which connects Durgapur.
Niced begins dengue mapping in West Bengal

The National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases has commenced ‘dengue mapping’ for the first time in West Bengal, in a bid to accurately identify dengue-affected areas so that preventive measures can be taken.

Disease mapping is carried out to spot intensity of the outbreak of a disease.

Niced is affiliated to Indian Council of Medical Research.
India Gets Its First Indigenous Sniper Rifle From West Bengal:

After using German sniper rifles Heckler & Koch for decades, India got its own sniper rifle from Ordnance Factory Ishapore in West Bengal.

The new rifle is likely to eliminate country’s dependence on importing rifles from other manufacturers abroad.

Kolkata Police will be introducing it to services after it is tested by a group of commandos.
The Ishapore sniper costs Rs. 2.5 lakh plus taxes.

The rifle has a calibre of 7.62 mm and weighs 6.7 kg.

The rifle can shoot the target up to 800 Metres.
Netaji statue inaugurated at naval base in Kolkata

Seventy-four years after his historic voyage in German and Japanese submarines, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 8ft-high statue was inaugurated by the Navy at the country's only military installation named after him.

The statue was inaugurated by vice-admiral HCS Bisht, chief of Eastern Naval Command, commodore Suprobho K De, naval officer-in-chief, West Bengal, and Krishna Bose, Netaji's niece-in-law.

The event came at a time the Eastern Naval Command and the Navy's submarine wing are celebrating their golden jubilees.
East Bengal Win Record 8th Consecutive Calcutta Football League

East Bengal registered a record-extending eighth consecutive Calcutta Football League (CFL) title by holding Mohun Bagan to a 2-2 draw in a thrilling match at the Kanchenjunga Stadium here on Sunday.

East Bengal have won all the CFL titles since 2010. They have a total of 39 CFL titles which is also a tournament record.
Poet Punyaslok Dasgupta passes away

Poet Punyaslok Dasgupta known for his simplicity and loved by the common man, died of kidney ailment at a hospital at Jalpaiguri.

Dasgupta did not follow any particular style. Fantasy and mysticism were reflected in his works which include 'Kuashar Bagan' and 'Chander Sangeet'. 
Railways installs Asia's largest interlocking system in Kharagpur

The railways has installed Asia's largest solid state interlocking (SSI) system in Kharagpur West Bengal, which will enable station masters to set 800 different routes for trains in a matter of minutes.

Interlocking is a railway signal apparatus that prevents conflicting movements of trains through an arrangement of tracks such as junctions or crossings.

Installed at a cost of Rs 39 crore, the cutting-edge technology, which replaces the pre-1989 route relay system that only allowed operators to set maximum 423 routes, ensures that no cross-movement takes place.
SSI software will detect the routes a particular train can take and inform the station masters working at the panel, bringing down the operation time and the possibility of human error.

The software is microprocessor-based and suggests possible routes to the station master. All that he has to do is to assign platforms depending on the importance of the train, number of coaches and other parameters.
AYUSH Minister inaugurates India’s first advanced Homoeopathy Virology lab in Kolkata

The Union Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) Shri Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated India’s first State of art virology laboratory at Dr. Anjali Chatterjee Regional Research Institute for Homoeopathy in Kolkata

The laboratory, established at a cost of Rs. 8 crore is the only one in India for conducting basic and fundamental research in Homoeopathy for viral diseases like influenza, Japanese encephalitis, dengue, chickunguniya and swine flu.

New drugs and technologies would also be developed here to combat emerging challenges of viral diseases.
West Bengal to construct 13,000 km of rural roads: Minister

To improve the rural economy the West Bengal government would construct 13,000 kilometre of rural roads in the state.

West Bengal Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Subrata Mukherjee said the Mamata Banerjee government would spend Rs 3,100 crore as state's share to complete the Rs 7,800 crore project to construct 13,000 km rural roads.

Instead of previous plan 7000 km, govt now build 13,000 km but it has to shell out 40 per cent of the cost in the new norms

In the revised terms Centre has reduced its contribution to 60 per cent
Banglar Rasogolla get GI tag

The Geographical Indication (GI) Registry and Intellectual Property India presented the Geographical Indication Tag status to Banglar Rasogolla of West Bengal and Mamallapuram stone sculptures of Tamil Nadu.

West Bengal was involved in a lengthy battle with Odisha, which too had claimed Rasogolla as its invention.

Geographical Indications

A geographical indication (GI) is a name or sign used on certain products which corresponds to a specific geographical location or origin (e.g. a town, region, or country). Pochampally Ikat of Telangana; Gobindobhog Rice of West Bengal; Durgi Stone Carvings and Etikoppaka Toys of Andhra Pradesh; and Chakshesang Shawl of Nagaland, according to the Indian patent office website.
India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 has come into force with effect from 15 September 2003.

GI s have been defined under Article 22(1) of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement as: "Indications which identify a good as originating in the territory of a member, or a region or a locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographic origin.

The GI tag ensures that none other than those registered as authorised users (or at least those residing inside the geographic territory) are allowed to use the popular product name.

The registration of a GI is valid for 10 years after which it needs to be renewed.

Darjeeling tea became the first GI tagged product in India, in 2004-05,
According to one of the documents submitted by West Bengal citing historical evidence, Rasogollas invented in the Nadia district of West Bengal are 60 years old (lower end time frame).

Haradhan, a confectioner of village Phulia is named as the inventor. West Bengal has given half-a-dozen historical evidences to back its claim.

The Directorate of Food Processing Industry of West Bengal had applied (number 533) on September 8, 2015 seeking the GI status for Banglar Rasogolla.

Similarly, the Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation had applied (number 426) on May 31, 2013 seeking the GI tag status for Mamallapuram stone sculptures.
Mamallapuram are known to be carved in stone with characteristics of intricate designing chiselled finely, keeping with the spirit of the surrounding Pallava art and architecture.

Idols from mythology or of deities depict divinity.

The description includes cave architecture, rock architecture, structural temples, open sculptures, relief sculptures and painting/portrait sculptures.

Other Products made into GI list:

Banganapalle mango: The succulent Banganapalle mango has received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, making Andhra Pradesh the proprietor of the variety known for its sweetness.
Banganapalle mangoes have been grown for over 100 years in the State. It also known as Beneshan, Baneshan, Benishan, Chappatai and Safeda.

The fruits can retain their quality under cold storage even up to three month.

The primary centre of origin of the fruit is Kurnool district comprising Banaganapalle, Paanyam and Nandyal mandals.

Khammam, Mahabubnagar, Rangareddy, Medak and Adilabad districts in Telangana as secondary centres of origin.

**Etikoppaka toys**: The Geographical Indication Registry (GIR) has accorded this status to the Etikoppaka toys from Andhara Pradesh.
About Etikoppaka toys

The art of making the toys is over 400 years old and has been traditionally handed over to the artisans by their ancestors through generations.

They are made from the soft wood of Ankudi Karra (Wrightia tinctoria) tree. The toys are painted with natural dyes, which is prepared from seed, lacquer, bark, roots and leaves. The dyes are non-toxic.

The art of making such toys is known as turned wood Lacquer craft.
Gobindobhog rice: a speciality from Burdwan district of West Bengal, has got the geographical indication (GI) status. The state government had applied for GI status for Gobindobhog rice on August 24, 2015.

The region of Burdwan (now divided into the districts of east and west Burdwan) is known as the rice bowl of Bengal.

This variety of rice is primarily cultivated in east Burdwan district - in the southern basin of the Damodar river in the Raina 1, Raina 2 and Khandaghosh blocks.

Pochampally Ikat logo: From Telangana, the GI tag was granted to it.

Pochampally Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society that applied for GI tagging of logo, had stated that 40 villages in Nalgonda and Warangal weave Ikat textiles.
Pochampally Ikat or resist dyeing involves a sequence of tying and dyeing sections of bundled yarn to a predetermined colour scheme before weaving.

During the Nizam era, they were exported to Burma (Myanmar) and West Asia and east Africa, where they were known as Asia rumals.

The term `Ikat' stems from the Malay-Indonesian expression, mangikat, meaning to bind, knot or wind.

**Durgi stone craft :** Andhra Pradesh. Durgi carvings are sculpted in stone from soft limestone called `sudda rai' and is available only in Palnadu region. The stone is whitish grey and unique to this area.
Durgi stone craft is said to have originated in 15th century

The craft originated at Nagarjuna Konda, the famous Buddhist town in India where 300 artisans began carving Buddha statues and building stupas. Currently, there are 22 members and families practising the art at Durgi in Guntur.

**Chakhesang Shawl**: The Chakhesang Shawls became the latest and third goods from Nagaland to be granted the Geographical Indication (GI) Registration after the Naga Mircha and Naga Tree Tomato.

The Chakhesang Shawls (application no. 542). In April, Chakhesang Women Welfare Society has submitted the application for the GI tag approval of Chakhesang shawls under the listing category of Handicrafts.
After GI Tag, West Bengal Prepares to Celebrate a Grand 'Rosogolla Utsab'

After being awarded with the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for 'Banglar Rasogolla', sweet traders in West Bengal are all set to celebrate 'Rosogolla Utsab' where the tag line will be displayed around the syrupy dumplings.

The traders also want November 14 (the day when Bengal has been conferred with its patent) to be declared as 'Rosogolla Day'.

The whole idea behind the festival is to promote 'Banglar Rosogolla' across the world

The date and venue for the 'Utsab' is yet to be finalised
After Rosogolla, Bengal plans GI tags for Kalonunia, Randhunipagal rice

Close on the heels of getting GI (geographical indication) for Rosogolla, West Bengal government is all geared up to apply for tags for **Kalonunia and Randhunipagal varieties of rice.**

These two are indigenous varieties of aromatic fine rice available in the state.

While **Kalonunia** is grown in the northern region of the state, **Randhunipagal** is grown in the western part.
Kalonunia is cultivated in the districts of Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, Alipurduar and Darjeeling (plains regions of the district).

Randhunipagal is cultivated in the districts of Birbhum, Pruba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Bankura and Hooghly

Gobindobhog and Tulapanji, two other aromatic rice varieties, have already received the GI status

The term 'Bengal Aromatic Rice' has been included in official documentation registered with the patent office. Kalonunia and Randhunipagal would fall under the same label.

Gobindobhog and Tulapanji are primarily grown in the Damodar river basin and in the districts of north Bengal, respectively.
Kalonunia, a medium-sized blackish grain, is produced at the rate of 2.2 to 2.4 tonnes per hectare of cultivated paddy, while the small-sized Randhunipagal is produced at the rate of 2.3 to 2.5 tonnes per hectare of cultivated paddy.

These are eaten as plain rice or as an alternative to Basmati (in the case of Kalonunia) and as the principal component of payesh, pithe and khichuri bhog for pujas.
West Bengal government eyes GI tag for Kolkatti jewellery

Popularly known as Kolkatti or Calcutta Jewellery, necklaces, bracelets and other ornaments using the traditional Bengali designs are in demand across India and the diaspora overseas.

The Kolkatti jewellery has huge demand in the Middle East markets.

As doubts are now being raised on the origins of Kolkatti jewellery, the West Bengal government is seeking to apply for Geographical Indication (GI) for the output.
Bengal tableau rejected by Centre will be included in state parade

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said the ‘unity in brotherhood’ tableau from the state, which was rejected by the Centre for next year’s Republic Day parade will be included in the Red Road parade at Kolkata on January 26.

Inaugurating ‘Bangla Sangeet Mela’ at Kolkata, Banerjee said, the tableau might have been rejected by Centre but will not be rejected by the people.

At the Sangeet Mela inaugural function Banerjee said music can be an important platform in fostering unity and amity as music can instantly connect with every human being.

We will celebrate in a grand way the 100th year of singer Dwijen Mukhopadhyay.
The selection committee shortlists 25 tableaus from across the country, including those from states, UTs and Union ministries to showcase cultural diversity, progress in science and technology and military strength.

The states and UTs with the best tableau are awarded by the Central government.
West Bengal govt to collect toll tax from state highways

The West Bengal government has decided that it will collect toll tax from state highways in a bid to generate resources for upkeep and expansion of roads.

The state’s public works department will decide the rates
West Bengal SC Advisory Council holds first meeting

The Scheduled Caste Advisory Council of West Bengal held its first meeting at Kolkata under West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and decided to meet every six months.

The state cabinet had decided in October to set up the council to look into the development of people belonging to the scheduled castes in the state.

The council will look into the development of the social, educational, economical and cultural matters of the scheduled castes in the state and function on the lines of the existing tribal advisory council.

Out of the total 295 assembly seats in Bengal there are 66 reserved for scheduled caste candidates.
The West Bengal Government aims to achieve an export turnover of **Rs. 75,000 crore** by 2019-20.

According to **Amit Mitra**, State Finance and Commerce Minister, West Bengal's export turnover grew over **10 per cent** to **Rs. 53,649 crore** in 2016-17, compared with **Rs. 47,857 crore** in 2015-16.

At a compounded annual growth rate of **40 per cent**, we are looking at growing export turnover to **Rs. 75,000 crore** by 2019-20.

He revealed this at an exports excellence awards ceremony organised by **FIEO (Federation of Indian Export Organisations)** Eastern Region Kolkata.
West Bengal govt mulling ‘blockchain’ to protect records stored online

The West Bengal government is planning to introduce the blockchain technology to protect its documents from cyber attacks.

The state government’s proposed Cyber Security Centre of Excellence would be entrusted to execute the new ‘blockchain’ mechanism at various departments.

The centre will also conduct research and development on cyber crimes for which the state government will partner with private firms.

**Blockchain** is an online ledger of digitally recorded transactions which is encrypted in the form of blocks, each of which is connected by a network of computers.
Earlier this year, computers at some offices of the West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited were crippled by ‘WannaCry’ virus, a global ransomware.

Ransomware is a type of malicious software designed to block access to a computer system until a sum of money is paid.
The West Bengal School Education department has decided to incorporate key aspects of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and several interactive activities regarding prevention of child sexual abuse in the primary education curriculum of State-run schools.

The move is aimed at increasing awareness among school children about sexual abuse. The development comes at a time when the alleged sexual assault of a kindergarten student by two teachers at a renowned private school in Kolkata has triggered large-scale outrage in the State.

The proposal for the new inclusions in syllabus was made at a recent meeting between the members of the Syllabus Restructure Committee and the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR).
Rising population, crime prompt West Bengal to form new PS in Narendrapur

The gradual rise in population in the area south of Garia — which once formed the city boundary and was seen as the gateway to South 24 Parganas — finally convinced the state administration to come up with a new police station at Narendrapur.

The area is now dotted with high-rises and has a rising crime graph.

The proposed police station is likely to come up on the EM Bypass Extension near Garia crossing. The Narendrapur police station is likely to be carved out of the Sonarpur police station area that presently covers around 7.2 lakh people and spread over 179sqkm
Mamata announces ₹3 lakh for family of West Bengal man killed in Rajasthan

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday announced a solatium of ₹3 lakh for the family of Afrajul Khan, 50, a migrant worker from Malda district, who was killed in Rajasamand, Rajasthan by Shambhulal.

She also announced a job for one of his family members.
West Bengal draws up plans to check floods

West Bengal government is drawing up two master plans to check floods in north Bengal.

One master plan is for Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar and Darjeeling districts while the other one is for Malda, North and South Dinajpur.

The detailed project report (DPR) will be prepared after the assessment report is ready.

The funding pattern has not been finalised yet. Either the state government will fully fund the master plans or it might approach the World Bank for part of the funding.
West Bengal to get its first aircraft museum in Kolkata, second in India

The Navy is planning to hand over a decommissioned Tupolev-142 reconnaissance plane to the West Bengal government for setting up an aircraft museum in Kolkata, the second of its kind in the country.

The Navy is expecting a clearance from the defence ministry for handing over the TU-142 aircraft to the state government by the end of December.

While the aircraft will be provided by the Navy, expenses for dismantling and transporting the plane from Tamil Nadu and then reassembling it here will have to be borne by the state government.

The West Bengal government will operate the museum, the land for which is being scouted for.
There will be a mannequin resembling a pilot in the cockpit and visitors can see the machinery, bombs, torpedoes and gunner compartments of the plane as they walk through the aircraft museum.

The Indian Navy's workhorse long-range maritime patrol and anti-submarine aircraft TU-142M was de-ducted in March 2017 which means after 29 years of it’s service.

The Russian-made turboprop aircraft with four engines and eight propellers, aptly named the 'Albatross', was inducted into the Indian Navy in 1988.

The first such naval maritime aircraft museum in the country in a TU-142M plane was inaugurated by President Ramb Nath Kovind at Visakhapatnam on December 7.
In West Bengal, an app to help counter sexual abuse in schools

The West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR) is all set to launch a mobile app to teach schoolchildren how to counter the threat of sexual abuse.

The app will also create awareness among school children about the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO).

The app will comprise of a quiz regarding what a child should do when faced with the threat of sexual abuse.

With the app, the school children will get to answer multiple choice questions regarding what to do, whom to lodge a complaint to if someone tries to sexually abuse them.
The online game of the United National High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) called ‘Against All Odds’.

The UNHCR game — which is for children of the age group of seven years and above — seeks to create awareness among refugee children on how to face persecution and the process to seek asylum.
West Bengal to announce new IT policy in January: CM Mamata Banerjee

The West Bengal government will announce a new information technology (IT) policy at Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) in January.

The government has had discussions with industry bodies such as ASSOCHAM, CII and Nasscom before framing the policy.

The government is also setting up a hardware park at Sonarpur near the metropolis.

There is space available for creating 2.6 lakh job opportunities in the state.
Bagdogra airport expansion: West Bengal government in talks with tea gardens

The West Bengal government is working on facilitating the availability of 130 acres of land sought by the Airport Authority of India for a proposed Rs 300 crore expansion of the Bagdogra airport.

The expansion of Bagdogra airport is aimed at developing international facilities.

The state was in discussion with Gangaram (Duncan) and Bagdogra Tea Estate. “If get land from either of the two, then will be able to fulfil the requirements.

The AAI was ready to sanction Rs 300 crore as the project cost.

The state government has already handed over 24 acres of land to the AAI for developing night landing facilities at the airport.
West Bengal may lift building limits in fragile wetlands

The West Bengal government has proposed lifting building and land conversion restrictions in a section of the 12,500 hectares of East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW), angering environmentalists who say the move will kill the world’s largest organic sewage management system and choke Kolkata.

A document prepared by the East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA) under the department of environment wants to divide EKW into four zones, the last of which is proposed to have no special regulation.

Currently, conversion of wetland is banned and people who live on the EKW — a patchwork of sewage canals, shallow fishery ponds, and agriculture land — must seek government permission even for building culverts or new farms.
Background

Kolkata generates more than 750 million litres of waste water and sewage daily but the city’s core area has no sewage treatment plant.

Instead, an intricate network of wetlands managed by farmers and fisher folk receives the sewage, and with help from sunshine and oxygen, breaks it down to produce food for fish, which is then sold back to the city.

This unique ecosystem also produces a third of the city’s fish requirements. EKW is Kolkata’s biggest ecological asset.

In 1992, the HC banned conversion of water bodies and agricultural land across the EKW.

In 2002, a Geneva-based international convention, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, declared the EKW ‘a wetland of global importance’ and cited it as a model for reuse of water.
Road accidents down by 13% in West Bengal after Safe drive programme

The deaths due to road accidents in the state has been reduced by 13 per cent in a year after the ‘Safe Drive Save Life’ programme was launched in July 2016.

The West Bengal government had started the ‘Safe Drive Save Life’ drive to inculcate a sense of safe driving and responsible road behaviour among the people.

The number of accidents in the state was decreased by 16 per cent during the period and that of injured due to road accidents has also gone down by 12.4 per cent, she said at the state secretariat after an administrative meeting.
Bengal to be junior partner in Tajpur port project

After striking a defiant posture, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has climbed down from her stand to build a new port at Tajpur in the State’s West Midnapore district with private funds.

Tajpur will now be developed as a major port by Bhor Sagar Port Ltd, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) originally formed by the Central government-owned Kolkata Port Trust and the State government as a 74:26 joint venture to build a new major port at Sagar Island.
Sagar Island plan dropped

Mamata Banerjee’s insistence on building Tajpur as a State government project had nixed the development of the Sagar Island port project by the Central government over viability concerns. Sagar Island and Tajpur are located just 50-60 km apart.

West Bengal’s plan was to build Tajpur as a private port on the lines of Mundra, Pipavav, Krishnapatnam, Kattupalli, Dhamra, Karaikal and Gangavaram, among others, wherein a private firm will be awarded the concession to build and operate the new port for 30-50 years through a public auction.

Given the viability concerns, Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari had suggested that it be allowed to spearhead the Tajpur port project as a major port with Kolkata Port Trust holding a 74 per cent stake. But, the suggestion was turned down by the State government.
Threat to Haldia port

A port industry executive said that the Tajpur port, when developed, will take away the entire cargo of coal and minerals of Haldia Dock.

In the year ended March 2017, Kolkata Port Trust handled 50.314 million tonnes (mt) of cargo of which Haldia Dock Complex handled 34.141 mt.

Tajpur will now be developed as a landlord port, a globally followed model for developing ports in which the basic infrastructure such as break water and dredging will be funded by the government while private firms will set up the super-structure such as berths/terminals and erect equipment to handle cargo.

In turn, the private firms will share their annual revenue with the landlord port authority discovered through a tender.
Over 12,000 bottles of banned cough syrup seized in West Bengal

The Border Security Force seized more than 12,000 bottles of banned cough syrup Phensedyl from a village in West Bengal.

The recovery was made early in North 24 Parganas district during a joint operation with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) officials, a BSF official said.

The BSF's south Bengal frontier has so far seized more than 1.39 lakh bottles of Phensedyl valued at nearly Rs 1.70 crore and arrested 23 Indian and three Bangladeshi smugglers during different raids in 2017.
Bengal govt looks to potato futures to salvage prices

The Mamata Banerjee government is seeking to enhance the financial yield on potato crop in 2018 after a robust output this year sent prices well below cost of production for a significant number of farmers in the state.

To help farmers with better prices, the state government has held a round of talks with NCDEX to find out ways to introduce futures in potatoes.” West Bengal reported a 22% jump in potato production at 110 lakh tonnes in 2016-17, leading to a price crash.

Prices have been as low as Rs 2.40 per kg at the farm-gate level against a cost of production of Rs 4.5 - 5 per kg.
While the government is making an effort to rope in the NCDEX, farmers are likely to bring down acreage for next year by more than 5%. The potato crop is grown over 4.62 lakh hectares in West Bengal, which is the country’s second-largest producer of the vegetable
West Bengal cabinet approves changing state’s name to Bangla

Cabinet ministers in West Bengal cleared a proposal to name the state Bangla.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee had earlier proposed that the state be named Bangla in Bengali, Bangal in Hindi and Bengal in English. But the centre rejected the proposal.

The state wants to change its name because West Bengal is always last in a list of states in alphabetical order. The state will again seek the centre’s approval to change its name
The state cabinet also approved a proposal to offer steep concessions to Infosys Ltd to set up its development centre in Kolkata. Scrapping an agreement from 2010, under which Infosys had acquired 50 acres in Rajarhat township near Kolkata, the state has allowed the technology firm to scale back its investment and job creation commitments.

Under the new proposal, the state will allow Infosys the right to develop anything it wants on 49% of the 50-acre plot.
Kolkata to host half marathon to promote safe driving

Kolkata Police will organise ‘Safe Drive Save Life Half Marathon-2018’ on January 7 to promote safe driving.

Safe Drive Save Life’ campaign was launched by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in July 2016, following increasing number of road accidents.

It was believed that emphasis on mass education campaign to sensitise people was important.
West Bengal plans taekwondo lessons for medical students

The West Bengal government is considering introduction of classes in taekwondo, the Korean martial art, in all State-run medical colleges.

The decision is aimed at “reducing stress and increasing the physical fitness” of students.
West Bengal sees 100 cases of child abuse in 3 months

More than 100 cases were registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) in West Bengal in the last three-and-a-half months, 2012, a report submitted by the State administration to the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR) has revealed.

The highest number of such cases were reported from Bankura district (23), followed by Nadia (16) and Purba Medinipur (10). The children were in the age group of five to 17.

Among the 102 incidents reported to the WBCPCR so far, 45 were rape cases. As many as 223 children suffered molestation.
West Bengal To Sell Securities Worth Rs. 1,500 Crore For Development

The West Bengal government would sell the 15 year tenure securities for an aggregate amount of Rs. 1,500 crore in order to meet the development expenditure.

The government stock will be sold through the Reserve Bank of India by auction and the consent of the Central government has been obtained to the flotation of this loan.

The auction will be conducted on November 28 and the successful bidders are required to make payments on November 29.

The cut-off yield determined at the auction will be the coupon rate per cent per annum on the stock sold at the auction. The interest will be paid on May 29 and November 29.

The loan will be repaid at par on November 29, 2032.
Goa, J&K, Karnataka, Rajasthan, West Bengal among top states for women entrepreneurs

Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Rajasthan and West Bengal have emerged as top five states offering the maximum number of schemes for women entrepreneurs according to a report on the State of Women Entrepreneurship in India unveiled by sheatwork.com (www.sheatwork.com), a knowledge hub for women entrepreneurs.

The focus of schemes for women entrepreneurs is primarily on financial aid followed by training and skill building of women entrepreneurs.

The education sector sees the maximum number of women entrepreneurs followed by financial services, insurance, livestock, forestry and lodging, according to a release.
West Bengal, northeast to have IOC’s jumbo 450 kg LPG pack this financial year

Public sector petrochem giant Indian Oil Corporation is going to launch its 450 kg jumbo pack of LPG in entire West Bengal this financial year keeping bulk consumers as target buyers.

After introducing couple of months back in Coimbatore, IOC has given the jumbo pack ‘Mini-Bulk,’ to few buyers at Kolkata metro area as test cases. Following its success, “This will be launched throughout the state by the end of this Financial Year
After its introduction in 1970, IOC’s LPG, under brand name Indane, has become prime fuel in near 10 crore Indian household.

Beside its compact 5kg pack for rural, hilly and inaccessible areas, Indane has 14.2 kg, 19 kg and 47.5 kg packs for common users and Bullet for heavy users. In addition, now 450 kg is there for intermediary consumers.

IOC rolls out two million cylinders a day through its over 90 bottling plants throughout the country that makes it world’s second largest LPG marketer.
NMCG Approves Eight Projects worth over Rs 700 Crore Under Namami Gange Programme

National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved eight projects worth Rs. 700 crore, out of which four pertain to sewage management in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, three are related to treatment of drains through bio-remediation and one of inventorization and surveillance of river Ganga.

On sewage management front, a project for pollution abatement in river Ganga at Bally in West Bengal has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 200.07 crore that would include construction of a 40 MLD STP under Hybrid Annuity based PPP model among other works.
Pollution abatement works for river Ganga like interception, diversion and treatment of sewage in Bithoor have also been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 13.40 crore.

Three projects of treatment of drains using bio-remediation technology have also been given a green signal at an estimated cost of Rs 4.29 crore. These are for Rajapur drain and Digha drain in Patna and Laksar drain in Haridwar.
Christmas SALE
UPTO 40% OFF

+91 9580048004
+91 7291059476
011 41323204
www.studyiq.com

NDA
SSC & Bank Exams
UPSC Exams
UPSC Optionals
Teaching Exams
Law Exams
SSC JE
BANK IT Officer
International Relations
UPSC Separate Modules