4 January 2024
West Bengal News

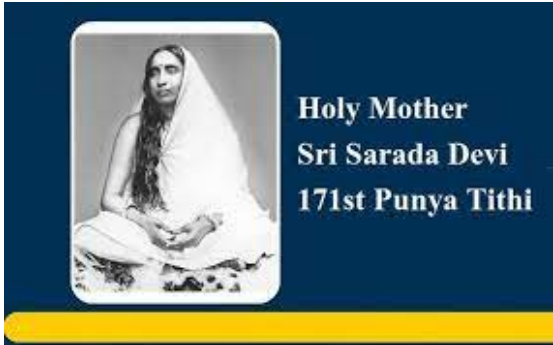| State Agri dept begins potato cultivation	**Context**
	The Agriculture Department of the Government of West Bengal has started potato cultivation with the **Apical Rooted Cutting (ARC) process** at the **Centre of Floriculture and Agri-Business Management (COFAM)** department of the University of North Bengal in Siliguri.

About the Apical rooted cutting(ARC) process
- Apical cuttings are **rooted transplants produced in a screenhouse** from tissue culture plantlets.
- Rather than allowing tissue culture plantlets to mature and produce mini tubers, cuttings are produced from the plantlets.
- Once rooted, **the cuttings are transplanted into the field** to produce seed tubers.

Maa Sarada's 171st birth anniversary	**Context**
	Several centres of Ramakrishna Math and Mission observed the **171st birth anniversary of Sri Sri Maa Sarada Devi.**

Key points
- Sri Ramakrishna looked upon Sarada Devi as a **special manifestation of the Divine Mother of the universe.**
- In 1872, on the night of the **Phala-harini-Kali-puja,** he ritualistically worshipped Sarada Devi as the Divine Mother, thereby awakening universal Motherhood latent in her.
- Sri Ramakrishna **worshipped Sodosi (a form of Dasha Mahavidya)** and he imagined the 16-year-old incarnation of Aadi Shakti (Sodosi) within Maa Sarada Devi while worshipping.
- **Endearingly known as 'Holy Mother',** Sri Sarada Devi, the spiritual consort of Sri Ramakrishna, was born on December 22, 1853, in a Brahmin family in Jayrambati, a village adjoining Kamarpukur in Bengal.

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Bus for cyber awareness	**Context** - The Kolkata Police is going to flag off a bus as part of their **cyber awareness programme** soon. - Kolkata Police had provided a bus to the state **Information Technology and Electronics (IT&E) department** which had installed the setup for cyber awareness purposes. - The bus will roam across the city and make people aware of the trend of cybercrime and how to stay safe from such crimes.
Paper-based QR code ticketing system	**Context** - A paper-based QR code ticketing system facility was introduced at **Salt Lake Sector-V of the East-West Metro Corridor** - This alternative ticketing system was introduced in Green Line at Sealdah Metro Station. - The **Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)** has developed this system.