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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

9 March 2024

West Bengal News

<p>West Bengal Artisans Financial Benefit Scheme 2024</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The state government of West Bengal, led by Mamata Banerjee, has launched the "West Bengal Artisans Financial Benefit Scheme 2024" to provide systematic financial support to artisans. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Scheme Name: West Bengal Artisans Financial Benefit Scheme 2024Objective: Provide systematic financial support to artisans for procurement of modern tool kits, working sheds, and access to digital markets.Beneficiaries: Around 1 lakh artisans and 200 industrial cooperative societies annually.Financial Outlay: Expected Rs 200 crore.Announced by the Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of West Bengal. <p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">One-time grant of up to Rs 15,000 for individual artisans for purchase and repair of tool kits.For cooperative societies of at least 10 artisans, assistance of Rs 3 lakh, and an additional Rs 7 lakh for workshed and fixed assets.Digital marketing support: Rs 2,000 per annum for individual artisans and Rs 10,000 for cooperative societies.Facilitation enlistment on the state portal for artisans and formation of industrial cooperative society.Eligibility: Handicraft artisans or groups aged between 18-60 years, engaged in traditional crafts/trades with hand tools/equipment/small machines.Monitoring: Screening committees to be formed in panchayat, municipality, and corporation areas.Duration: Scheme to remain in force for 5 years, subject to any withdrawal or amendment.
<p>State to Introduce Uniform Syllabus for 'Art and Work Education'</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The School Education department aims to introduce a uniform syllabus and study material for Art Education and Work Education in primary and upper primary levels across the state from the next academic year.



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	<p>Key points: Currently, these subjects are taught without specific textbooks or syllabi, leading to a lack of coordination and parity among schools.</p> <p>Curriculum Changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Education is now included with Physical Education, forming a combined subject named "Health and Physical Education." • Art Education has been renamed as "Art and Work Education."
<p>State launches 2 fully women-operated sub-stations</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On International Women's Day, Power Minister Aroop Biswas inaugurated two fully women-operated power sub-stations, a first-of-its-kind initiative in India. <p>Sub-Stations:</p> <p>Salt Lake 132 KV Gas Insulated Sub-Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operated by: Women employees of West Bengal State Electricity Transmission Company. • Capacity: 2*50 MVA. • Benefits: Ensures better power supply to Metro Rail's East-West line, including Sector I, Sector II, Sector III, and Salt Lake Stadium in Salt Lake. It will also operate the Salt Lake Stadium 132 KV GI sub-station through remote automation. <p>Elita Garden Vista 33KV Sub-Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operated by: Women employees of West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company. • Capacity: 12 MVA. • Benefits: Supplies electricity to around 2,000 customers in Rajarhat, New Town. Enables more even distribution of electricity and meets future demand.
<p>International Women's Day</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated annually on March 8th. • It's a day to recognize the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. • It also serves as a call to action for accelerating gender equality.



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About:

- The United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day in 1975, which had been proclaimed the International Women's Year.
- In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly invited member states to proclaim March 8 as an official UN holiday for women's rights and world peace.

Theme:

- The United Nations has designated the year 2024's theme as 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress'
- It focuses on addressing economic disempowerment
- The campaign theme for this year is 'Inspire Inclusion.'

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