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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

30 March 2024

West Bengal News

Centre	Withholds	Rs	1000	Crore	for
Bengal's Samagra Shiksha Mission					

Context:

- Funds for Bengal's Samagra Shiksha Mission (SSM) have not been dispatched by the Centre, amounting to Rs 1000 crore, as the 2023-24 financial year draws to a
- State Higher Education minister Bratya Basu criticized this lack of funding, labeling it another instance of financial deprivation for Bengal.
- Basu highlighted that the underlying reason behind this deprivation is the state government's refusal to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Union government regarding the 'PM Shri' scheme.
- Basu deemed this practice unethical and unlawful, particularly criticizing the naming of the scheme 'PM Shri' when the state bears 40 percent of the financial burden.

About:

- The Samagra Shiksha scheme is an integrated scheme for school education covering the entire gamut from pre-school to class XII.
- The scheme treats school education as a continuum and follows Sustainable Development Goal for Education (SDG-4).
- The scheme not only supports the implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 but has also been aligned with the recommendations of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- The scheme aims to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment. It should take care of their diverse backgrounds, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.
- The scheme has been extended for a period of five years i.e., from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

ECI Appoints Special Observers for **Bengal Elections as Nominations Close** for First Phase

Context:

The Bengal elections have drawn the attention of the Election Commission of India (ECI), prompting the appointment of two special observers.





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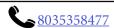
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	 Key points: Alok Sinha, a retired IPS officer from the 1986 batch, has been designated as the special general observer, while Anil Kumar Sharma, also retired from the IPS in 1984, will serve as the special police observer for Bengal. Their deployment is slated for April 1st, coinciding with the conclusion of nominations for the initial phase of elections scheduled for April 19th. 	
Kolkata mountaineer to embark on North Pole expedition	 A Kolkata mountaineer, Satyarup Siddhanta, renowned for his achievement as the youngest person to conquer the seven highest peaks and volcanic summits worldwide, including Antarctica's Mount Sidley, is set to embark on a North Pole expedition this April. Key points: Scheduled to depart from Kolkata on March 31, Satyarup will commence his journey by traveling to Krasnoyarsk, the capital of Siberia. His journey into mountaineering began unexpectedly in 2008 during a trek with friends, despite battling asthma since childhood, where he discovered his passion for scaling peaks. If successful, Satyarup will not only become the first Indian to conquer the Seven Summits, Seven Volcanic Summits, the North Pole, and the South Pole but also join an esteemed group of global adventurers. 	
Ramakrishna Mission president Swami Smaranananda Maharaj dies at 95	 Swami Smaranananda Maharaj, the president of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, passed away at the age of 95 in Kolkata. Swami Smaranananda Maharaj took over as the 16th president of the order in 2017. Ramakrishna Mission Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission is a Hindu religious, spiritual and philanthropic organization headquartered in Belur Math, West Bengal. The mission is named after the Indian Hindu spiritual guru and mystic Ramakrishna. The mission was founded by Ramakrishna's chief disciple Swami Vivekananda on 1 May 1897. 	

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