Know Your BENGAL

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West Bengal, state of India, located in the eastern part of the country. It is bounded to the north by the state of Sikkim and the country of Bhutan, to the northeast by the state of Assam, to the east by the country of Bangladesh, to the south by the Bay of Bengal, to the southwest by the state of Odisha, to the west by the states of Jharkhand and Bihar, and to the northwest by the country of Nepal.

West Bengal is a state in eastern India. It is the nation's fourth-most populous state, with over 91 million inhabitants. Spread over 34,267 sq mi (88,750 km2).

The origin of the name Bengal (known as Bangla and Bongo in Bengali language) is unknown.

One theory suggests that the word derives from "Bang", a Dravidian tribe that settled the region around 1000 BC.

The word might have been derived from the ancient kingdom of Vanga (or Banga). Although some early Sanskrit literature mentions the name, the region's early history is obscure.

Bengalis' believe fish symbolizes fortune and good luck.

Kolkata is the only city in India where the trams service exists and is a highly popular public transport system.

West Bengal is the only Indian state which has The Himalayas, The Duars Forests, the vast beaches of The Bay of Bengal, and innumerable rivers. This is called "Accident of Geography".

Kolkata was the capital of British India from 1756 to 1911, because of which you find British monuments in every part of the city.

Bengali women were the first Indian women to go to school, pursue higher studies and start working.

Undivided Bengal was the first place in India where Sati, polygamy and child-marriage were abolished and widow-remarriage was established by the British laws.

The National Song of India, "Vande Mataram", was written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, another Bengali.

Bengali is the only language which takes pride in gifting two countries their national anthems; India and Bangladesh. Both were written by Rabindranath Tagore.

GEOGRAPHICAL FACTS

West Bengal is surrounded by land forms on all three sides.

In its south lies the Bay of Bengal.

It shares boundaries with Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Assam, Bangladesh, Jharkhand and Bihar. The northern part of West Bengal touches the Himalayan range.

The hill stations lying in this geographical region are the favorite tourist destinations in India. The climate of this part remains more or less cold through-out the year.

The foot hill of the Himalayan region is known as the Terrain region in West Bengal. This region is famous the world over for tea plantation.

The sub-Himalayan tract, known as the West Bengal Duars, or Western Duars, is a part of the Tarai lowland belt between the Himalayas and the plain.

Once infested with malaria, the area is now well drained and cultivated. Some of the finest tea plantations of India are situated there.

North of the Duars, the Himalayan mountain ranges rise abruptly along the northern boundary of the state.

Mount Kanchenjunga, actually located in adjacent Sikkim, dominates the landscape of the area, particularly in Darjiling (Darjeeling).

On a clear day, Mount Everest also can be seen in the distance.

HISTORICAL FACTS

West Bengal was formerly known as Vanga and was spread over a vast area. Ruled by several dynasties from ancient times, the actual history of this region is, however, available from the Gupta period.

The prosperity and the importance of the state increased largely when the British East India Company took over the place.

It was a widespread Bengal province until under the terms of the Indian Independence Act, 1947, the province of Bengal ceased to exist.

The Muslim-dominated districts, namely, Chittagong, Dacca and part of Presidency and Rajshahi division went to the present-day Bangladesh and the state of West Bengal came into existence in 1947.

The district of Cooch Behar was merged with the state on January 1, 1950.

The former Chandernogor came within the state on October 2, 1954 and the state got its present political boundary when, according to the States Reorganization Act, part of the state of Bihar was transferred to West Bengal.

The Indian National Congress (Congress Party) dominated the West Bengal government during nearly all of the state's first three decades.

In 1977, however, the Communist Party of India (Marxist; CPI-M) won a majority of seats in the state legislative elections and became the ruling party.

The CPI-M remained in power as the world's longest-serving democratically elected communist government until it was voted out of office in 2011.

The winner of the legislative elections that year, the All India Trinamool (or Trinamul) Congress (AITC), had been an ally in what was then the Congress Party's national ruling coalition government.

The AITC's founder and leader, Mamata Banerjee, became the state's first female chief minister (head of government).

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Governor : Keshari Nath Tripathi	**Chief Minister : Mamata Banerjee**
High Court : Calcutta High Court	Capital : Kolkata
State animal: Fishing cat	State River: Hooghly and Damodar
State bird: White-throated kingfisher	State Sport: Football
State flower: Night flowering Jasmine	State tree: Devil Tree
State Dance: Gaudiya Nritya	

SEATS

Assembly Seats	**295 Members(unicameral)**
Lok Sabha Seats	42
Rajya Sabha Seats	16

WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES

- Ballavpur WLS
- Bethuadahari WLS
- Bibhuti Bhusan WLS
- Buxa WLS
- Chapramari WLS
- Chintamani Kar Bird Sanctuary
- Haliday Island WLS
- Jorepokhri SalamanderWLS
- Lothian Island WLS
- Mahananda WLS
- Raiganj WLS
- Ramnabagan WLS
- Sajnakhali WLS
- Senchal WLS
- West Sunderban WLS

NATIONAL PARK

- Buxa National Park
- Gorumara National Park
- Neora Valley National Park
- Singalila National Park
- Sunderban National Park
- Jaldapara National Park

FAMOUS TEMPLES IN WEST BENGAL

- Dakshineswar Temple
- Kalighat Kali Temple
- Mayapur
- Tarakeshwar

MAJOR DISTRICTS OF WEST BENGAL

➢ **BURDWAN DIVISION**

- Bankura
- Bardhaman
- Birbhum
- East Midnapore (Purba Medinipur)
- Hooghly
- Purulia
- West Midnapore (Paschim Medinipur)

> **JALPAIGURI DIVISION**

- Cooch Behar
- Darjeeling
- Alipurduar
- Jalpaiguri
- Malda
- North Dinajpur (Uttar Dinajpur)
- South Dinajpur (Dakshin Dinajpur)

> **PRESIDENCY DIVISION**

- Howrah
- Kolkata
- Murshidabad
- Nadia
- North 24 Parganas (Uttar 24 Parganas)
- South 24 Parganas (Dakshin 24 Parganas)

NATURAL RESOURCES

West Bengal stands third in the country in terms of mineral production.

The state contributes about one-fifth to the total production of minerals in the country.

Coal constitutes 99% of the minerals extracted in West Bengal; fireclay, china clay, limestone, copper, iron, wolfram, manganese and dolomite are mined in small quantities.

There are good possibilities of obtaining mineral oil and natural gas in the areas near the Bay of Bengal, in Purba Medinipur, Sundarbans, South 24 Parganas and North Bengal plains.

Research is undergoing for finding natural gas in various places.

West Bengal is the third largest state for coal production, accounting for about half of India's total.

MAIN FESTIVALS

Kalpataru utsab: January 1 of every year is celebrated as Kalpataru Day at Dakshineshwar and kossipore uddyanbati.

- 21 February – Bengali language Day.
- Bengali New Year.
- Bhai Phonta.
- Kali Puja/Lakshmi Puja.

Durga Puja: The Durga Puja is the main festival which is celebrated in West Bengal. Durga Puja is the most important hindu festival of Bengalis. This festival is celebrated with musuc, dance and drama for 10 days. During these days, the devotees worship the ten armed goddess Durga in various beautifully illuminated and decorated pandals. On the last day, the clay figures of the goddess Durga are carried out in procession to be immersed in the river Ganges.

Ganga Sagar Mela, Mahesh YATRA, Id, Muharram, Holi, Diwali are the other festivals which are celebrated in West Bengal.

> **DANCE**

- Chau dance of Purulia is a rare form of mask dance.
- Gambhira Dance
- Brita Dance
- Santhal Dance
- Tusu Dance
- Lathi Dance

MAJOR AIRPORTS IN WEST BENGAL

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport

SOME FAMOUS PERSONALITIES

Rabindranath Tagore Nobel Prize in Literature, 1913

Bankim Chandra Chatterjee

Swami Vivekananda

Amitav Ghosh

Jhumpa Lahiri

Amartya Sen, Nobel Prize Awardee in Economics

Sushmita Sen

Pranab Mukherjee

Sourav Ganguly, Former Indian Captain,Athletico de kolkatta Co-Owner

Leander Paes, noted Lawn tennis player of India

Saurav Ghosal, currently highest ranked Indian player.

Anirban Lahiri, Indian Golfer

WEST BENGAL : NAME OF MUNICIPAL BODIES

> **BANKURA**

1. Bankura Municipality (Total Number of wards – 23)
2. Bishnupur Municipality (Total Number of wards – 19)
3. Sonamukhi Municipality (Total Number of wards – 15)

> **BIRBHUM**

4. Bolpur Municipality (Total Number of wards – 18)
5. Rampurhat Municipality (Total Number of wards – 17)
6. Suri Municipality (Total Number of wards – 18)

> **BURDWAN**

7. Dainhat Municipality (Total Number of wards – 14)
8. Jamuria Municipality (Total Number of wards – 22)
9. Kalna Municipality (Total Number of wards – 18)
10. Katwa Municipality (Total Number of wards – 19)
11. Memari Municipality (Total Number of wards – 16)

12. Raniganj Municipality (Total Number of wards – 21)

> **COOCH BEHAR**

13. Cooch Behar Municipality (Total Number of wards – 20)
14. Dinhata Municipality (Total Number of wards – 16)
15. Mathabhanga Municipality (Total Number of wards – 12)
16. Tufanganj Municipality (Total Number of wards – 12)

> **HOOGHLY**

17. Arambagh Municipality (Total Number of wards – 18)
18. Baidyabati Municipality (Total Number of wards – 22)
19. Bansberia Municipality (Total Number of wards – 22)
20. Bhadreswar Municipality (Total Number of wards – 20)
21. Champadany Municipality (Total Number of wards – 22)
22. Chandernagar Municipal Corporation (Total Number of wards – 33)
23. Hooghly-Chinsurah Municipality (Total Number of wards – 30)
24. Konnagar Municipality (Total Number of wards – 19)
25. Rishra Municipality (Total Number of wards – 23)
26. Serampore Municipality (Total Number of wards – 25)
27. Tarakeswar Municipality (Total Number of wards – 15)
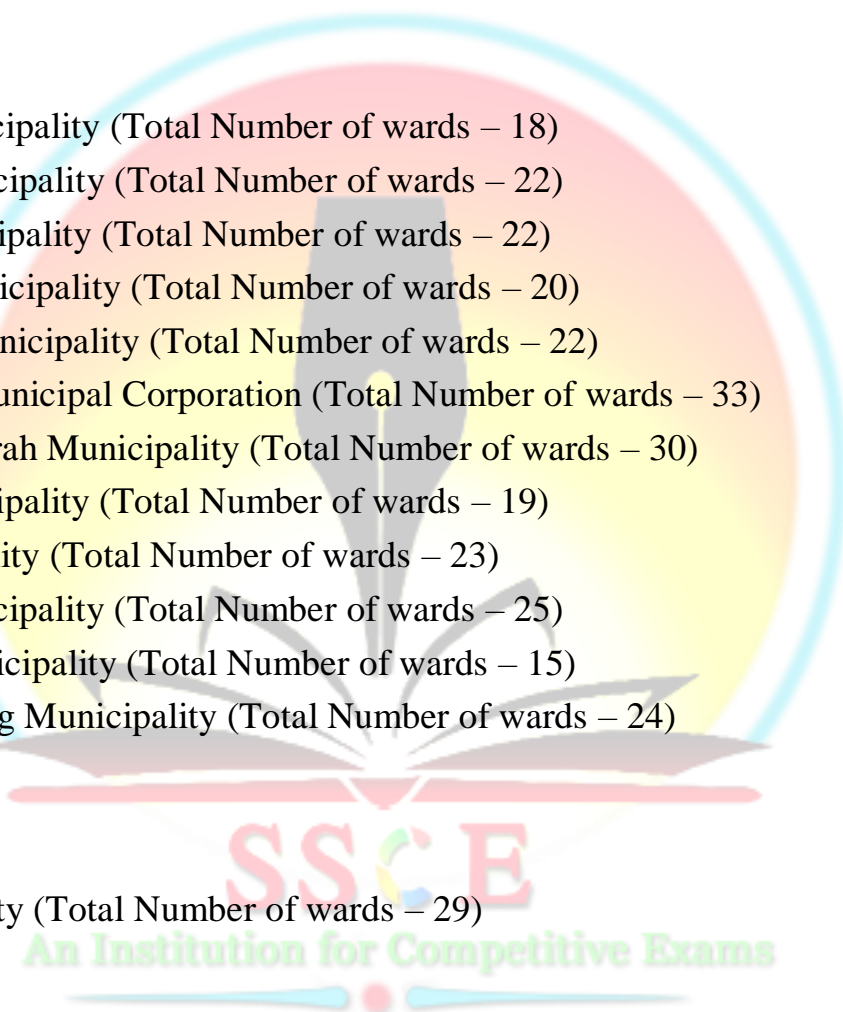28. Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality (Total Number of wards – 24)

> **HOWRAH**

29. Bally Municipality (Total Number of wards – 29)

> **JALPAIGURI**

30. Jalpaiguri Municipality (Total Number of wards – 25)

> **KOLKATA**

31. Kolkata Municipal Corporation (Total Number of wards – 141)

> **MALDA**

32. English Bazar Municipality (Total Number of wards – 25)
33. Old Malda Municipality (Total Number of wards – 17)

> **MURSHIDABAD**

34. Beldanga Municipality (Total Number of wards – 14)
35. Dhulian Municipality (Total Number of wards – 19)
36. Jangipur Municipality (Total Number of wards – 20)
37. Jiaganj-Azimganj Municipality (Total Number of wards – 17)
38. Kandi Municipality (Total Number of wards – 17)
39. Murshidabad Municipality (Total Number of wards – 16)

> **NADIA**

40. Birnagar Municipality (Total Number of wards – 14)
41. Gayeshpur Municipality (Total Number of wards – 18)
42. Kalyani Municipality (Total Number of wards – 19)
43. Nabadwip Municipality (Total Number of wards – 24)
44. Ranaghat Municipality (Total Number of wards – 19)
45. Santipur Municipality (Total Number of wards – 23)
46. Taherpur Municipality (Total Number of wards – 13)

> **NORTH 24-PARGANAS**

47. Ashokenagar-Kalyangarh Municipality (Total Number of wards – 22)
48. Baduria Municipality (Total Number of wards – 17)
49. Baranagar Municipality (Total Number of wards – 33)
50. Barasat Municipality (Total Number of wards – 30)
51. Barrackpore Municipality (Total Number of wards – 24)
52. Basirhat Municipality (Total Number of wards – 22)
53. Bhatpara Municipality (Total Number of wards – 35)
54. Bidhannagar Municipality (Total Number of wards – 23)
55. Bongaon Municipality (Total Number of wards – 21)
56. Garulia Municipality (Total Number of wards – 21)
57. Gobardanga Municipality (Total Number of wards – 17)

58. Halishar Municipality (Total Number of wards – 23)

59. Kamarhati Municipality (Total Number of wards – 35)

60. Kanchrapara Municipality (Total Number of wards – 24)

61. Khardah Municipality (Total Number of wards – 21)

62. Naihati Municipality (Total Number of wards – 28)

63. New Barrackpore Municipality (Total Number of wards – 19)

64. North Barrackkpore Municipality (Total Number of wards – 22)

65. North Dum Dum Municipality (Total Number of wards – 30)

66. Taki Municipality (Total Number of wards – 16)

67. Titagarh Municipality (Total Number of wards – 23)

> **PASCHIM MEDINIPUR**

68. Chandrakona Municipality (Total Number of wards – 12)

69. Ghatal Municipality (Total Number of wards – 17)

70. Kharar Municipality (Total Number of wards – 10)

71. Khargapur Municipality (Total Number of wards – 30)

72. Khirpai Municipality (Total Number of wards – 10)

73. Ramjibanpur Municipality (Total Number of wards – 11)

> **PURBA MEDINIPUR**

74. Contai Municipality (Total Number of wards – 18)

75. Tamluk Municipality (Total Number of wards – 19)

> **PURULIA**

76. Jhalda Municipality (Total Number of wards – 12)

77. Purulia Municipality (Total Number of wards – 22)

78. Raghunathpur Municipality (Total Number of wards – 13)

> **SOUTH 24-PARGANAS**

79. Baruipur Municipality (Total Number of wards – 17)

80. Budge Budge Municipality (Total Number of wards – 20)

81. Jaynagar-Mazilpur Municipality (Total Number of wards – 14)

➤ **DARJEELING**

82. Darjeeling Municipality (Total Number of wards -32 wards)

General Knowledge(GK) Questions on famous personality of West Bengal

1) Who is the present governor of West Bengal as of 2018-2019?

Answer : Kesarinath Tripathi

2) Who is the current acting Chief Justice of Kolkata High Court as of 2019?

Answer : Justice T B N Radhakrishnan

3) Who was the first Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court?

Answer : Barnes Peacock

4) Who was the first Indian Chief Justice in Calcutta High Court?

Answer : Phani Bhusan Chakravarty

5) Who is the present Finance Minister of West Bengal?

Answer : Amit Mitra

6) Who is the first Chief Minister of West Bengal?

Answer:- Prafulla Chandra Ghosh

7) Who is the present Chief Minister of West Bengal?

Answer:- Mamata Banerjee

8) Who is the youngest martyr of India's fight for freedom?

Answer:- Khudiram Bose

9)Who wrote the famous Geet Govindam ?

Answer:- Jayadeva

10) Who is the first Indian and Asian to receive the Nobel Prize in literature?

Answer:- Rabindranath Tagore in 1913 (West Bengal)

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