



13 September 2023

West Bengal News

West Bengal Governor launches SPEED programme for faster decisions in universities

Context

- West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose launched the SPEED program in the state's universities, aiming to expedite decision-making processes.
- The SPEED (Simplified Procedure for Easy and Effective Decision) programme aims to speed up the decision-making process in the university system in West Bengal.

State Education Policy: 'Mother tongue' first language in Bengal govt's 3-language formula

Context

The West Bengal government has made the State Education Policy, 2023 public.

Key points

- It has recommended the introduction of a three-language formula in the upper primary level (class V to VIII) with the first language, the "mother tongue", being the medium of instruction.
- It also recommended a **unique identity card for all students**.
- The **three-language formula** is to be introduced in schools, for the students of **class 5 to 8**, depending upon the availability of infrastructure and resources.
- It is suggested that the first language (mother tongue) would be the medium of instruction of the school eg Nepali in Nepali-medium school, Santhali in Santhali-medium school, Rajbanshi in Rajbanshi-medium school, Bengali in Bangla-medium school, English in English-medium school, Urdu in Urdu-medium school, Hindi in Hindi-medium school, Kurmali in Kurmali-medium school etc.
- The second language may be English in a non-English medium or any language other than first language, depending upon the choice of the student.
- The third language may be any other language opted by the student, other than first and second languages.
- The three-language formula shall be applicable for upper primary level only as the language learning ability in the primary stage should not be burdened, keeping in mind the development needs and abilities of students at that age.
- In the primary level, the education policy also recommended that 'Bangla' as a subject may be introduced from Class I to Class XII for students of other mediums of instruction, but not as the first language.
- The 5+4+2+2 pattern for school education should be continued .i.e beginning with one year of pre-primary and four years of primary till class 4, the students move through four years of upper primary, to two years of secondary and two years of higher secondary.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

WB: Pharma Employees to Fight Against Retrenchment and Adverse Sales Promotion Tactics

Context

The decision was taken at a conference of the West Bengal Medical and Sales Representatives Union, the largest union of pharma employees in the state.

This decision was taken due to no eight-hour work schedule; and no declaration on minimum wage in West Bengal; job conditions have been deteriorating as there are no statutory service conditions.

There are around five lakh medical representatives across the country. In West Bengal, the number is around 45,000.

Most medical representatives are unionised. West Bengal Medical and Sales Representatives Union (WBMSRU), the largest union in the sector, has around 22,000 members.

Bengal facts (Literacy)



LITERACY

Literate (Total)	6,15,38,281
Male	3,38,18,810
Female	2,77,19,471
Literacy Rate	77.08%
Male	82.67%
Female	71.16%

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