



West Bengal Adopts Poila Baisakh as State Foundation Day

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Why in News?

The **West Bengal Legislative Assembly** recently made a significant decision by declaring '**Poila Baisakh**,' the first day of the Bengali calendar, as '**Bangla Dibas**' or **West Bengal Foundation Day**.

- A dispute emerged earlier in 2023 concerning West Bengal's Foundation Day when Raj Bhavan officially declared **June 20 as the State Foundation Day**. The Chief Minister of West Bengal argued that June 20, which carries associations with the **partition**, lacks relevance to the state's establishment.
- Also, the Assembly approved the proposal to make [Rabindranath Tagore's](#) '**Banglar Mati Banglar Jol**' the official song of West Bengal.

What is Poila Baisakh?

- Poila Baisakh is an important festival celebrated by Bengali communities across **West Bengal, Tripura, Jharkhand, and Assam**. It is also celebrated in **Bangladesh**.
 - It signifies the Bengali New Year and in 2023 it was celebrated on **April 15th**.

What is the Significance of June 20th For Bengal?

- On 20th **June, 1947**, the Bengal Legislative Assembly gathered to make a significant decision about Bengal's future.
 - They had three choices: **keep Bengal whole within India, split it into East Bengal and West Bengal for Bengali Muslims and Hindus respectively**, or divide it between India and Pakistan.
- After significant rounds of voting, the **decision was made to divide Bengal into West Bengal and East Pakistan (which later became Bangladesh)** and the [Radcliffe Line](#) was drawn later to mark the boundary.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year's Questions (PYQs)

Q. The Radcliffe Committee was appointed to (2014)

- (a) solve the problem of minorities in India
- (b) give effect to the Independence Bill
- (c) delimit the boundaries between India and Pakistan
- (d) enquire into the riots in East Bengal

Ans: (c)

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