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Geography Of West Bengal for WBCS (Exe.)

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Geography of West Bengal

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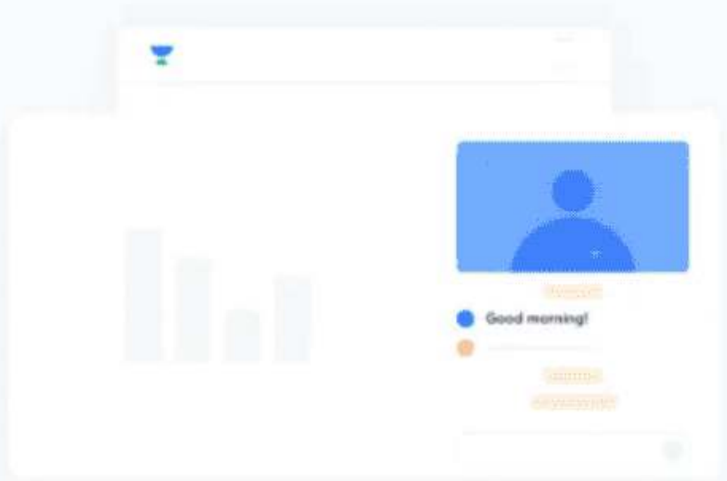
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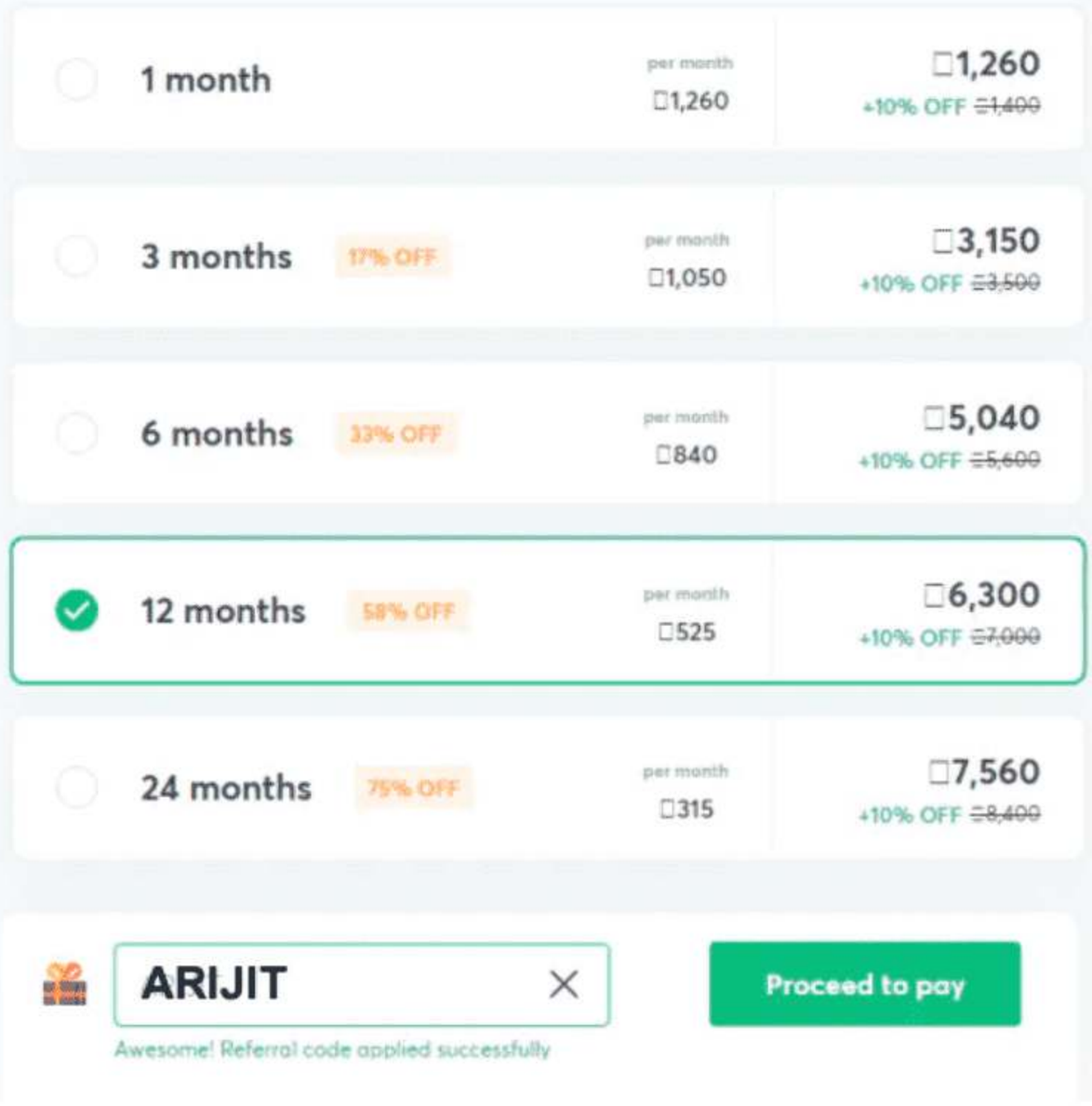
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Geography of West Bengal

Peninsular State –

- 3 sides of Bengal surrounded by land (Nepal ,Sikkim , Bhutan) in North .
- East – Assam and Bangladesh
- West – Bihar , Oddisha and Jharkhand
- South – Joined with water body Bay of Bengal .

- The capital and largest city of the state is Kolkata – the third-largest urban bulk, and the seventh-largest city in India.
- Asansol is the second largest city & urban agglomeration in West Bengal after Kolkata.
- Other major cities and towns in West Bengal are Howrah, Durgapur, Raniganj, Haldia, Jalpaiguri, Kharagpur, Burdwan, Darjeeling, Midnapore, and Malda.

Geography of West Bengal

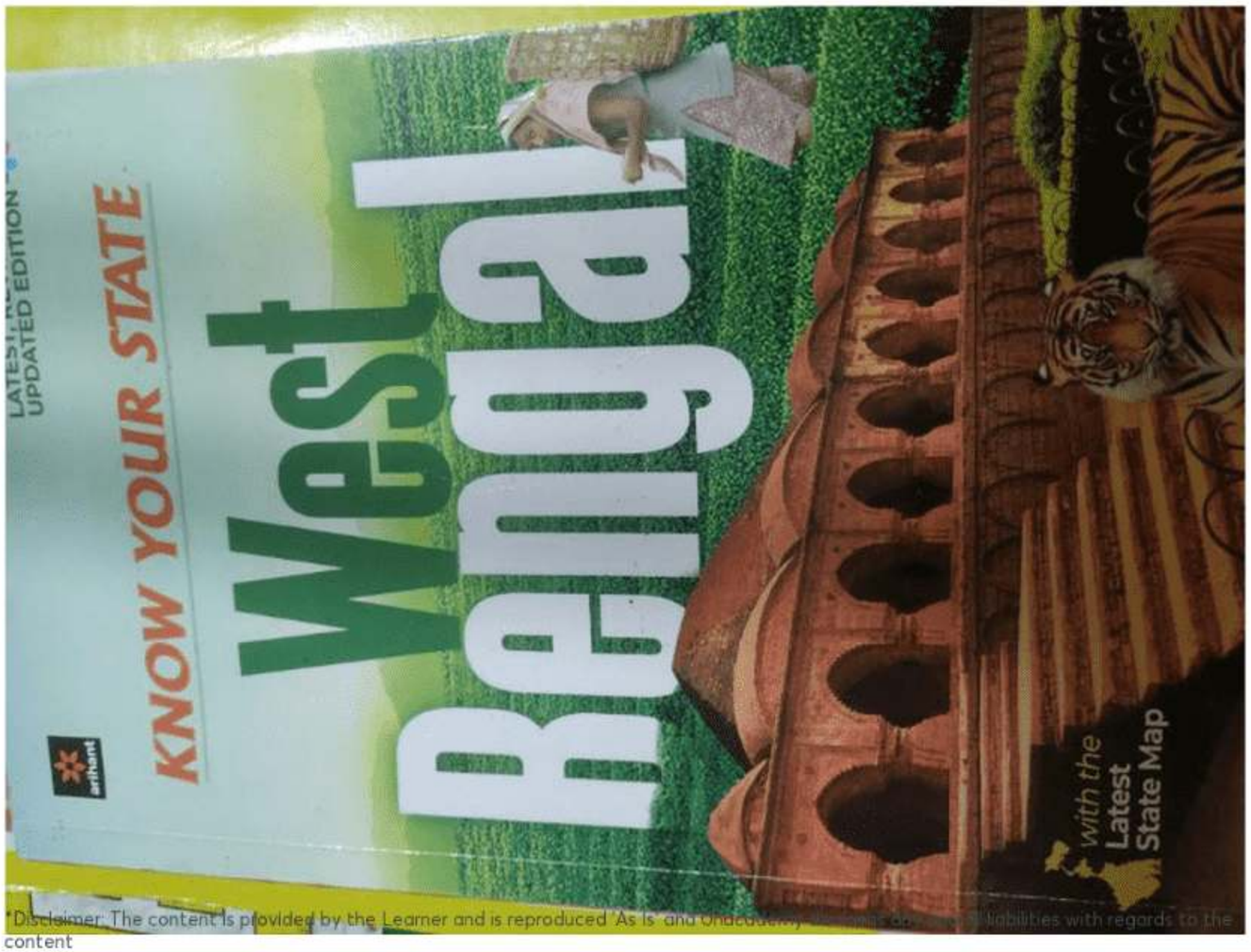
State Boundary of Bengal

	State Name		District Name
A.	Odisha (150km S-W)	→	East and West Midnapore
B.	Jharkhand (500 km W	→	West Midnapore , Purulia , Budwan , Birbhum, Malda , Murshidabad
C.	Bihar (300KM N-W)	→	Malda, N. Dinajpur and Darjeeling
D.	Sikkim(60Km Smallest N)	→	Darjeeling
E.	Assam (90 Km North-East)		

Question

ANJANA BISWAS

Sir.....



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Geography of West Bengal

Neighboring Countries of West Bengal

	Country Name		District Name
a)	Nepal (90km Smallest N-W)	⟶	Darjeeling
b)	Bhutan (150Km N-E)	⟶	Darjeeling , Jalpaiguri
c)	Bangladesh (900Km Largest East)	⟶	Coochbihar , Jalpaiguri , N & S Dinajpur Maldah , Murshidabad , Nadia, N&S 24 Pgs

- 3 Bigha Corridor – International Boundary (India and Bangladesh)
- Longest State Boundary shared with – Jharkhand
- Longest International Boundary shared with – Bangladesh (2272Km)

Geography of West Bengal

West Bengal State Symbols

1. **State animal** Fishing cat



2. **State bird** White-throated kingfisher



3. **State flower** Night-flowering jasmine



4. **State tree** Devil tree



Geography of West Bengal

Political Features Of Bengal

There are 23 districts and 5 divisions in West Bengal.

Division	Districts	Estab.	HQ	Sub.Div
▪**Presidency Division**	1.Howrah District	1947	Howrah	2
	2. North 24 Parganas district	1986	Barasat	5
	3. South 24 Parganas district	1986	Alipore	5
	4. Kolkata district	1947	Kolkata	1
	5.Nadia district	1947	Krishnanagar	4

Geography of West Bengal

Political Features Of Bengal

Division	Districts	Estab.	HQ	Sub.Div
▪ **Jalpaiguri division**	1.Aliporeduar District	2014	Aliporeduar	1
	2. Cooch Behar District1986	1950	Cooch Behar	5
	3. Darjeeling District 1986	1947	Darjeeling	4
	4. Jalpaiguri District	1947	Jalpaiguri	2
	5.Kalimpong District	2017	Kalimpong	1

Geography of West Bengal

Political Features Of Bengal

Division	Districts	Estab.	HQ	Sub.Div
▪ **Malda division**	1. Malda district	1947	English Bazar	2
	2. Uttar Dinajpur district	1992	Raiganj	2
	3. Dakshin Dinajpur district	1992	Balurghat	2
	4. Murshidabad district	1947	Baharampur	5

Geography of West Bengal

Political Features Of Bengal

Division	Districts	Estab.	HQ	Sub.Div
▪ **Burdwan division**	1._Birbhum district	1947	Suri	3
	2._Hooghly district	1947	Chinsura	4
	3._Paschim Bardhaman district	2017	Asansol	2
	4._Purba Bardhaman district	2017	Bardhaman	4

Geography of West Bengal

Political Features Of Bengal

Division	Districts	Estab.	HQ	Sub.Div
▪ **Medinipur division**	Bankura district	Bankura	1947	3
	1.Paschim Medinipur district	Madnipur	2002	4
	2. Purba Medinipur district	Tamluk	2002	4
	3.Jhargram district	Jhargram	2017	1
	4. Purulia district	Purulia	1956	4
	5. Bankura district	Bankura	1947	3

Geography of West Bengal

- Each district is governed by a **district collector** or **district magistrate**, appointed either by the **Indian Administrative Service** or the **West Bengal Civil Service**.
- Each district is **subdivided** into **Sub-Divisions**, governed by a **sub-divisional magistrate**, and again into **Blocks**.
- **Blocks** consists of **panchayats** (village councils) and **town municipalities**.

Geography of West Bengal

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Geography of West Bengal

Physical Division of West Bengal

Name	Location	Rocks & Soil	Vegetation	River	Crops
North Mountain	Darjeeling Jalpaiguri	Sedimentary পাললিক Metamorphic ,Mountain soil (রূপান্তরিত)	coniferous taiga (সরলবর্গীয়)	Teesta Torsa Jaldhaka Mahananda	Tea , Coffee Orange pineapple
Terai ("moist land")	South Jalpaguri North Coochbehar foothill of Himalaya	Sedimentary Mountain soil	Tropical rainforests	Teesta Torsa Mahananda	Tobacco Tea Orange

Geography of West Bengal

Physical Division of West Bengal

Name	Location	Rocks & Soil	Vegetation	River	Crops
North Plain	South Coochbehar North & South Dinajpur Maldah	Sedimentary Old alluvial	Moist deciduous forests (পর্ণমোচী)	Jaldhaka Mahananda Torsha	Paddy Mango Wheat
Western Plateau	Purulia, Bankura West Bardhaman West Midnapore	Granite soil Laterite soil	Dry deciduous	Ajay River Mayurakshi River	Millet Tea vegetables

Geography of West Bengal

Physical Division of West Bengal

Name	Location	Rocks & Soil	Vegetation	River	Crops
South Plan	Murshidabad	Sedimentary(পাললিক)	deciduous (পর্ণমোচী)	Bhagirathi	Paady
	Nadia, Hoogly	New alluvial soil		Hoogly	Wheat
	Howrah, Kolkata			Damodar	Jute
	North Part of E. Mindapore			Ajay	Mango
	E.Midnapore				vegetables
	North 24 Pgs				
	South 24 Pgs				

Geography of West Bengal

Physical Division of West Bengal

Name	Location	Rocks & Soil	Vegetation	River	Crops
Coastal (উপকূল) Plain	North Part of E. Mindapore	Sandstone (বেলেপাথর) Sandy Saline(বালুকাময়)	deciduous (পর্ণমোচী)	Pichaboni Rasulpur	Coconut Groundnat
Delta(ব-দ্বীপ) Region	South Part of North South Pgs	Sedimentary(পাললিক) Saline &Alkine	Mangrove (Sundari,Garan)	Matla,Piyali Bidyadhari Raimangal	Zaid Crop

Geography of West Bengal

Some Important Hills of this Region

	Hill	Peak	Districts
1.	Ayodhya	Gorgaburu(highest peak of South Bengal)	Purulia
2.	Bagmundi		Purulia
3.	Panchet	Panchet	Purulia
4.	Bhandari		Purulia
5.	Belpahari		West Midnapore
6.	Mama- Bhagne		Birbhum
7.	Mathurkali		Birbhum
8.	Susunia	Susunia	Bankura
9.	Biharinath		Bankura

Geography of West Bengal

River System in West Bengal

- The **Ganga** is the main river , which divides the West Bengal .
- One branch of this river enters **Bangladesh** as **Padma** and the other branch flows as **Bhagirathi** and **Hooghly.**
- **Tista , Jaldhaka , Mahananda** are the main rivers of **North Bengal** .
- **Damodar** a tributary of **Ganga** along with Ajay and **Kangsabati** which flow western plateau region .

1. River of North Bengal
2. Ganga and its tributaries
3. River of western Plateau
4. River of Sundarban Region

Geography of West Bengal

River of North Bengal (snow fed)

Teesta :

- **Countries:** Tibet, India, Bangladesh
- **Length:** (411 km)120 km in Sikkim , 122 km in West Bengal , 120 km in Bangladesh ,19 km in West Bengal and Sikkim .
- **Source :** Jemu Glacier in Sikkim .This is join flow of Lachen and Lechung River .
- **Outflow** : Jamuna river (Brahmaputra) in Bangladesh .
- **Tributaries** : Left : Dik Chhu, Rangpo River, Lang Lang Chu, Lachung River, Rani Khola

  Right: Ranghap Chhu, Rangeet, Ringyong Chhu

Mouth: Brahmaputra river

Others : Third Largest river of West Bengal

Geography of West Bengal

Mahananda

- **Countries:** India , Bangladesh
- **Length:** 290 km
- **Source :** Mahalidream Mountain in Darjeeling district
- **Outflow** : Padma (Ganga) in Bangladesh
- **Tributaries** : Left : Tangon River ,Nagar River (Rangpur)

  Right : Mechi River, Kankai River , Balason River , Kalindri River
- **Mouth**: Ganges
- **Others** : Mahananda Sanctuary

Geography of West Bengal

Jadhaka

- **Countries:** India, Bangladesh, Bhutan
- **Length:** 236 km
- **Source :** Bidan Lake on the border of Sikkim and Bhutan
- **Outflow** : Jamuna in Bangladesh
- **Tributaries** : Dhorola , Girdhari , Dolong , Daina
- **Mouth**: Dharla River (Bangladesh)
- **Others** : Gorumara Sanchuary (Jalpaiguri)

Geography of West Bengal

Torsha

- **Countries:** China, Bhutan, India ,Bangladesh
- **Length:** 358 km
- **Source :** Tang Pass of Chumbi Valley
- **Outflow** : Jamuna in Bangladesh
- **Tributaries** : Malengi , Cheko , Nenai
- **Mouth**: Brahmaputra River
- **Others** : Near Alipurduar the joint flow of Alaikuri and Dima is known as Kaljani

Geography of West Bengal

Kaljani

- **Countries:** Bhutan, India ,Bangladesh
- **Length:** 358 kilometres
- **Source :** Bhutan Hills
- **Outflow** : At first in sankosh river of bangladesh then the joint flow fall in Brahmaputra
- **Tributaries** : Gadadhar , Cheko , Nenai
- **Others** : Near Aliporeduar the joint flow of Alaikuri and Dima is Known as Kaljani

Geography of West Bengal

Raidhak

- **Countries:** Bhutan, India ,Bangladesh
- **Length:** 370kilometres
- **Source :** Chomalhari mountain in Tibet
- **Outflow** : Mahananda
- **Tributaries** : Rang , Bang (right side) , Ring , Tong , Ching , Khola (Left side manja dhora , Bang nala Rang Tang Nala)

Geography of West Bengal

Sankosh River

- **Countries:** Bhutan, India
- Sankoah (North Bengal's Eastern river , Western Bank of Sankosh in West Bengal and Assam's Border
- **Source :** Panakha mountain in Bhutan
- **Outflow** : Joined with second Raidak , Kaljani then fall in Brahmaputra River

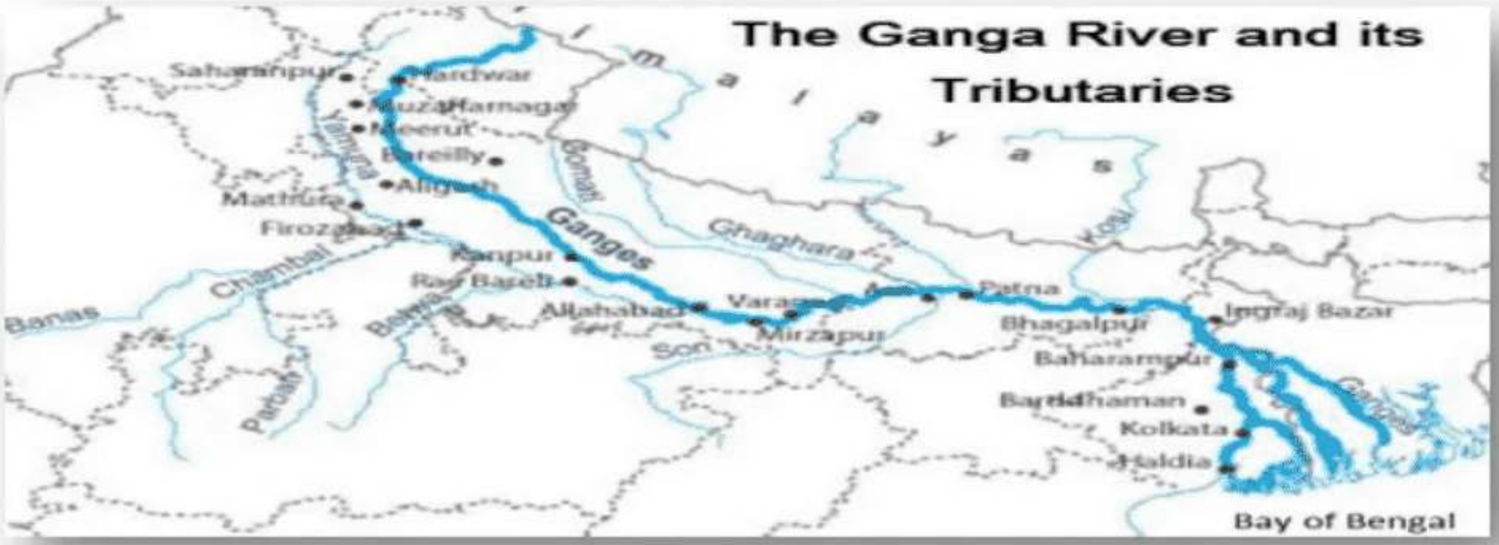
Atrai River (Atreyee)

- **Source –** After flowing through Banladesh Jaigani , Birganj , Kotwali it enters W.B in south Dinajpur district .
- **Outflow** – Barabal (Branch river of Padma) in Bangladsh
- **Tributaries** : Icchamati
- **Others** : Balughat city (South Dinajpur) situated at the bank of this river

Geography of West Bengal

Ganga and its Tributaries

- Ganga is the longest river in West Bengal with a length of 520 km in the state . Tributaries in West Bengal are Damodar , Rupnarayanpur , Mayurakshi , Kangsabati and Ajay . Distributed of this river in West Bengal are Lalangi , Hoogly , Ichehamati , Churni and Mathabhanga . This river flows by the name Bhagirathi from Murshidabad to Hooghly town and the is called Hooghly River till it flows into the Bay of Bengal .



Geography of West Bengal

Ganga and its tributaries

- The two holy rivers – **Bhagirathi and Alakananda** originating from the glaciers of the Himalayas at an altitude of 7000 M. join at Dev prayag and the combined stream is known as the Ganga.
- It emerges into the plains at Rishikesh in Uttaranchal.
- After flowing exclusivelly through Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh it receives the flow of Yamuna, the largest tributary at Allahabad.
- The Ganga forms the boundary between Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for a length of about 110 km. and the river then enters Bihar and flows more or less through the middle of the state.
- After its confluence with the Kosi, the Ganga continues its eastward flows in Bihar for about 40 km. and then it **enters West Bengal.**
- As it enters West Bengal, the river swings round the Rajmahal hill range and then starts flowing almost due south.
- The river then bifurcates into two arms about 40 km. below Farakka.

Geography of West Bengal

Ganga and its tributaries

- The left arm called the Padma flows eastwards into Bangladesh while the right arm called Bhagirathi continues to flow south through West Bengal.
- The Bhagirathi is the main river in West Bengal which flows past some of the important cities like Murshidabad, Baharampur, Nabadwip, Chinsura, Chandannagar, Srirampur, Howrah, Kolkata, Diamond Harbour and Haldia. It empties its water into Bay of Bengal near Sagar Island in the South 24 Parganas.
- The Central, Southern and the South-Western parts of the State of West Bengal constitute the Ganga Basin.
- The total length of the river Ganga from its point of origin to the point where it falls into sea is about 2575 km (measured along Bhagirathi and the Hooghly), of which 1450 km lies in Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh, 110 km along Uttar Pradesh and Bihar border, 445 km in Bihar and 520 km in West Bengal.
- The Ganga system comprises a total area of 74,732 sq.km. within the state of West Bengal.

Geography of West Bengal

Jalangi

- The river Jalangi originates from the right bank of the river Padma in Murshidabad district, 165 km. downstream of Farakka.
- Jalangi is dead for all purposes except during the periods of rain, when it receives water from Padma.
- The river ends its journey by finally outfalling into the river Hooghly near Nabadwip town in Nadia district in West Bengal.

Churni

The river Mathabhanga originates from the mouth of the Jalangi of Padma.

It is not an important river in this stage, as it flows mainly through Bangladesh. It flows only a few kilometers within the district of Nadia.

At this stage, the river bifurcates into two streams – the eastern course runs a few kilometres through the districts in a south-east direction to meet Bhagirathi by the name Churni and the other course flows by the name Ichamati.

Geography of West Bengal

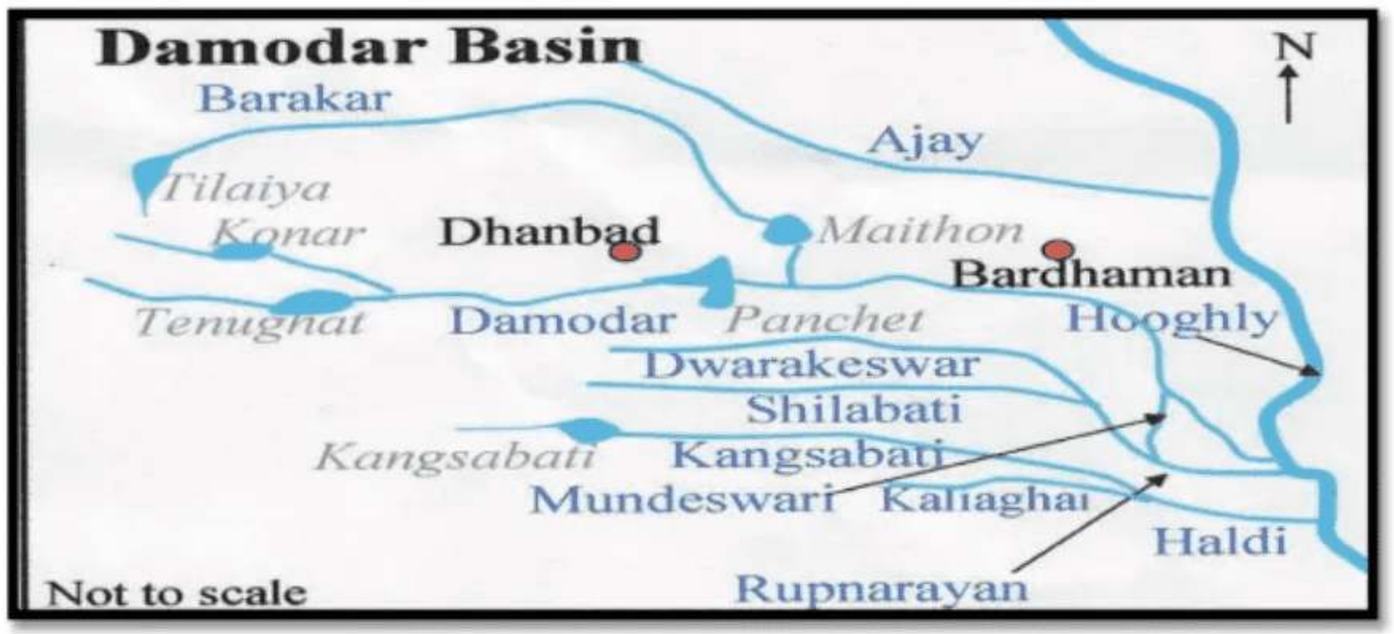
MAHANANDA

- The river Mahananda originates from Ghoom near Darjeeling town in the district of Darjeeling.
- It is bounded on the north by the Himalayas, in the east by the ridges separating it from Teesta river system, the river Ganga on the South and the Kosi river system in the east.
- The river bifurcates into two channels at Barsoi in Bihar.
- Out of the two branches one flows through Bihar by the name Fulahar and the other flows through West Bengal as Mahananda.

Geography of West Bengal

River Of Western Plateau Region

- These rivers have mainly originated from the Chotonagpur plateau and the Western plateau of West Bengal . Some of them are flood prone rivers like Damodar and Ajay . Damodar is also known as the "Sorrow of Bengal " and is the state's 3rd longest river .



Geography of West Bengal

River	Source	Out flow
1. Damodar (313 Km in WB)	Khamarpot hill in Chotonagpur Plateau	Bhagirathi at Ulubariia
2. Subarnarekha (477 Km)	Touri in Jharkhand Chota Nagpur Plateau	Bay of Bengal
3. Kangsabati (336 Km)	Jhabar forest hill Ayodhya hill	Hooghly River
4. Ajay (276 Km)	Dumka in Jharkhand	Bhagirathi River
5. Mayurakshi (255 Km)	Trikul hill in Jharkhand	Bhagirathi River
6. Rupnarayan	West plateau from Tilbi Hill	Hooghly River
7. Haldi	Kangsabati and Keleghai Join to form this river	Bhagirathi River

Geography of West Bengal

River	Tributaries
1. Damodar	**Left:** Barakar , Konar, Jamunia, Nunia **Right :**Sali River (West Bengal)
2. Subarnarekha	**Left:** Dulang River **Right :** Kanchi River, Kharkai,Karkari River Raru River,Garru River
3. Ajay	Pathro and Jayanti in Jharkhand Tumuni and Kunur in Bardhaman district of West Bengal
4. Kangsabati	Kumari , Bandu , Patlo
5. Mayurakshi	Puskani

Geography of West Bengal

River	Tributaries
6. Rupnarayan (Joint flow of Dwarakwswar and Shilabati River)	Munseswari
7. Haldi (Joint fkow of Kangsabati and Kelghai River)	

River in Sundarban Region

- Most of the rivers of this region are distributaries of Hooghly River and some of them are mainly fed by high tides . Some of the important rivers of this region are Matla , Ichamati , Raimangal , Vidyadhari , Gosaba , Thankuran .



Geography of West Bengal

	City	Districts	River
1.	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	Teesta and Torsha
2.	Siliguri	Darjeeling	Mhananda , Balason
3.	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Kaljani
4.	Coochbeher	Coochbehar	Torsha
5.	Durgapur	Pachim Barhaman	Damodar
6.	Katwa	Purba Bhrhaman	Bhagirathi and Ajay
7.	Krishnanagar	Nadia	Jalangi
8.	Bolpur	Birbhum	Kopai
9.	Kolkata	Kolkata	Hooghly
10.	Howrah	Howrah	Hooghly

Geography of West Bengal

City	Districts	River
11. Raniganj	Pashim Bardhaman	Damodar
12. Englishbazar	Malda	Mahananda
13. Suri	Birbhum	Mayurakshi
14. Kolaghat	East Midnapore	Rupnarayan
15. Midnapore	West Midnapore	Kangsabati
16. Bankura	Bankura	Gandheswarii, Dhalkishor
17. Malda	Malda	Mahananda
18. Asansol	Paschim Bardhaman	Damodar
19. Burdwan	Purba Bardhaman	Damodar
20. Barrackpore	North 24 Pgs	Hoogly

Geography of West Bengal

City	Districts	River
21. Haldia	East Midnapore	Hoogly
22. Behrampore	Murshidabad	Bhagirathi
23. Tribeni	Hoogly	Hooghly {Ganga}
24. Purulia	Purulia	Kasao or Kangsabati
25. Islampur	North Dinajpur	Mahananda
26. Itahar	North Dinajpur	Mahananda
27. Sainthia	Birbhum	Mayurakshi
28. Rampurhat	Birbhum	Dwarakeswar
29. Nabadwip	Nadia	Bhagirathi
30. Kenduli	Birbhum	Ajay

Geography of West Bengal

City	Districts	River
31. Balurghat	South Dinajpur	Atrai
32. Ranaghat	Nadia	Churni
33. Basirhat/Taki	North 24 Pgs	Ichamati (West Branch)
34. Tarapith	Birbhum	Dwarka
35. Bongaon	North 24 Pgs	Ichamati

Geography of West Bengal

Physiographic Divisions

- The **Northern Mountains** , generally known as the **Darjeeling Himalayan Region** , present in the **extreme north** of the state belongs to the **Eastern Himalaya** .
- Highest peak - **Sandakphu (3630 m).** It is the **highest peak** of **West Bengal.**
- The **Tista** river has divided the region into two parts- **Western mountain region** &

Eastern Mountain Region.

- Ancient silk- route passed through the small city **Pedong** near **kalimpong (Known as City of Orchid).**
- The whole of the Darjeeling district except the Siliguri division and a narrow part in the northern part of Jalpaiguri district constitutes the region.
- **Darjeeling Himalaya's** largest part is situated on the western side of **Teesta River** .

Geography of West Bengal

Physiographic Divisions

Western Mountain

- The two main mountain range of **Western Mountain** region is **Singalila & Darjeeling range. Singalila** separates **Sikkim from Nepal**.
- The major peaks of **Singalila range** are-

1. Sandakphu - 3630. metres
2. Phalhut - 3595 metres
3. Sabargram- 3036 metres
4. Tanglu- 3121 metres.

Geography of West Bengal



Physiographic Divisions

- Darjeeling range is also known as **Ghum range**.
- **Ghum** is the highest railway station in the world.
- The highest peak of Darjeeling range is **Tiger Hill** (3121 metres).
- **Richila** is the highest peak of **Eastern Mountain range.**
- The **Sinchula Range** forms the common boundary between **Bhutan & Jalpaiguri**.
- **Buxa**, the main mountain pass of **EasternMountain range**, joins **India and Bhutan**.
- **Occupation** – Labour of Tea garden , tourism , timber industry .
- **Kanchanjunga** can be seen easily seen from **Tiger Hill** .

Geography of West Bengal

Physiographic Divisions

Different mountain range found to western and Eastern bank of River Tista

Western Range(পর্বতশ্রেণী)	**Peaks**
Singalila	Sandakphu - 3630. meters
	Phalhut - 3595 meters
	Sabargram- 3036 meters
	Tanglu- 3121 meters
Eastern Rande	**Peaks**
Durpin Dara	Rishila (3121 Meters)
Sinchula	Renigango (1885 Meters)

Geography of West Bengal

Physiographic Divisions

Western Plateau –

- The whole part of **Purulia** western part of **Birbhum, Burdwan, Bankura** and **West Midnapore Districts.**
- This area is made of ancient igneous (আগ্নেয়) rock .The height of this plateau **(**Under – **Chottonagpur Plateau)** is over 100 mt. slope from West to East .
- **Bakreswar,** a hot water spring is in **Birbhum** district.
- Some of the important hills in the area include **Ajodhya Hills (667 m), Panchet** and **Baghmundi** of **Purulia, Biharinath** (452 m) and **Susunia** (442 m) of **Bankura**.
- **River** – **Kangshabati** is the main river. **Kumari** is the tributary of **Kangshabati** .
- The altitude in the area ranges from 500 to 100 m.
- **Gorgaburu** in the **Ayodhya Hills (677 m)** is the highest point in the region.

Geography of West Bengal

Physiographic Divisions

Western Plateau –

- **River :** Damodar , Kangshabati , Mayurakshi , Rupnarayan , Subranarekha , Ajoy , Kopai, Brahmani , Dwarakeswar , Mundeswari
- **Irrigation :** Kangshabati irrigation Project , Myurakshi irrigation Project , Damodar irrigation Project .
- **Occupation :** Agriculture , Trade
- **Resources** - Very rich Sal , Palash , Mahua , Kushum , Lac collected from Palash and Kushum is the main resource of the region .
- Limestone(চুনাপাথর) of Jhalda , Copper of Tamakhan .
- Thermal power centre of **Santhaldihi** .

Geography of West Bengal

	Hill	Peak	Districts
1.	Ayodhya	Gorgaburu(highest peak of South Bengal)	Purulia
2.	Bagmundi		Purulia
3.	Panchet	Panchet	Purulia
4.	Bhandari		Purulia
5.	Belpahari		West Midnapore
6.	Mama- Bhagne		Birbhum
7.	Mathurkali		Birbhum
8.	Susunia	Susunia	Bankura
9.	Biharinath		Bankura

Geography of West Bengal

Physiographic Divisions

Terai region

- The "Terai" ("moist land") is a belt of marshy grasslands, savannas, and forests at the base of the Himalaya range stretching southwards to about 38 km.
- The Terai and Dooars region politically constitute the plains of Darjeeling District, whole of Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar district and upper region of Cooch Behar District in West Bengal.
- Above the Terai belt lies the Bhabhar, a forested belt of rock, gravel, and soil eroded from the Himalayas.
- The entire region is made up of sand, gravel and pebbles laid down by the Himalayan rivers like the Teesta, Torsa, Raidak, Jaldhaka, Sankosh and several other small rivulets.
- The Teesta has divided the area into two parts- the western part is known as the Terai whereas the eastern part is known as the Dooars or Duars.

Geography of West Bengal

Physiographic Divisions

Dooars region

The Dooars region can be further subdivided into the Siliguri or Western Dooars, the middle or JalpaiguriDooars and the eastern or AlipurDooars.

The Dooars or Duars are the floodplains and foothills of the eastern Himalayas in North-East India around Bhutan.

Duar means 'door' in Assamese, Bengali, Nepali, Maithili, Bhojpuri, Magahi and Telugu languages, and the region forms the gateway to Bhutan from India.

The Western Dooars is known as the Bengal Dooars and the Eastern Dooars as the Assam Dooars.

Geography of West Bengal

Physiographic Divisions

Plains

- Maximum area of West Bengal are plains.
- Extension - Siliguri to the coast of Bay of Bengal.
- Divisions - 2. I. Plains of North Bengal II. Plains of South Bengal

Plains of North Bengal

- **Extension** –Siliguri to north bank of the Ganges.
- **Terai or Duars-** Tarai means wetland. The river Teesta in North Bengal has divided area in two parts. The west part is **terai** and the east part is **duars .**

Geography of West Bengal

Physiographic Divisions

- Western part of river Tista
- **Tarai:** Darjeeling district (except Siliguri subdivision) and maximum part of Jalpaiguri district (except Buxa – Jayanti)
- East part of river Tista – Duar .

Northern plain is categorized into three :

- **Barendrabhumi**- Made up of old alluvial soil .
- **Area** – Southern part of North and South Dinajpur and Eastern part of Maldah District .
- **Diara** (Area) - Western part of Malda District. Fertile plain of new alluvial soil brought in by the Kalindi river.
- **Tal-** The land area between the rivers Mahananda and Kalindi. The flood water often creates lakes or wetlands which are known as Tals .

Geography of West Bengal

Plains of South Bengal

Rarh plain

- Rarh is the region that meddle between the Vajjabhumi and the Ganges Delta.
- Parts of the districts Murshidabad, Birbhum, Bankura, Bardhaman and Medinipur constitute this region.
- The region is about 50 to 100 m above the sea level.

Delta plain

- Eastern part of Murshidabad district and the entire Nadia district (Moribund delta plain).
- Bardwan, East Midnapore, Howrah and Hooghly (Mature Delta plain).South eastern part of south 24 parganas and southern part of North 24 parganas (Active Delta plain).

Geography of West Bengal

Plains of South Bengal

Sandy coastal Plain- The costal area along the Bay of Bengal in East Midnapore district.

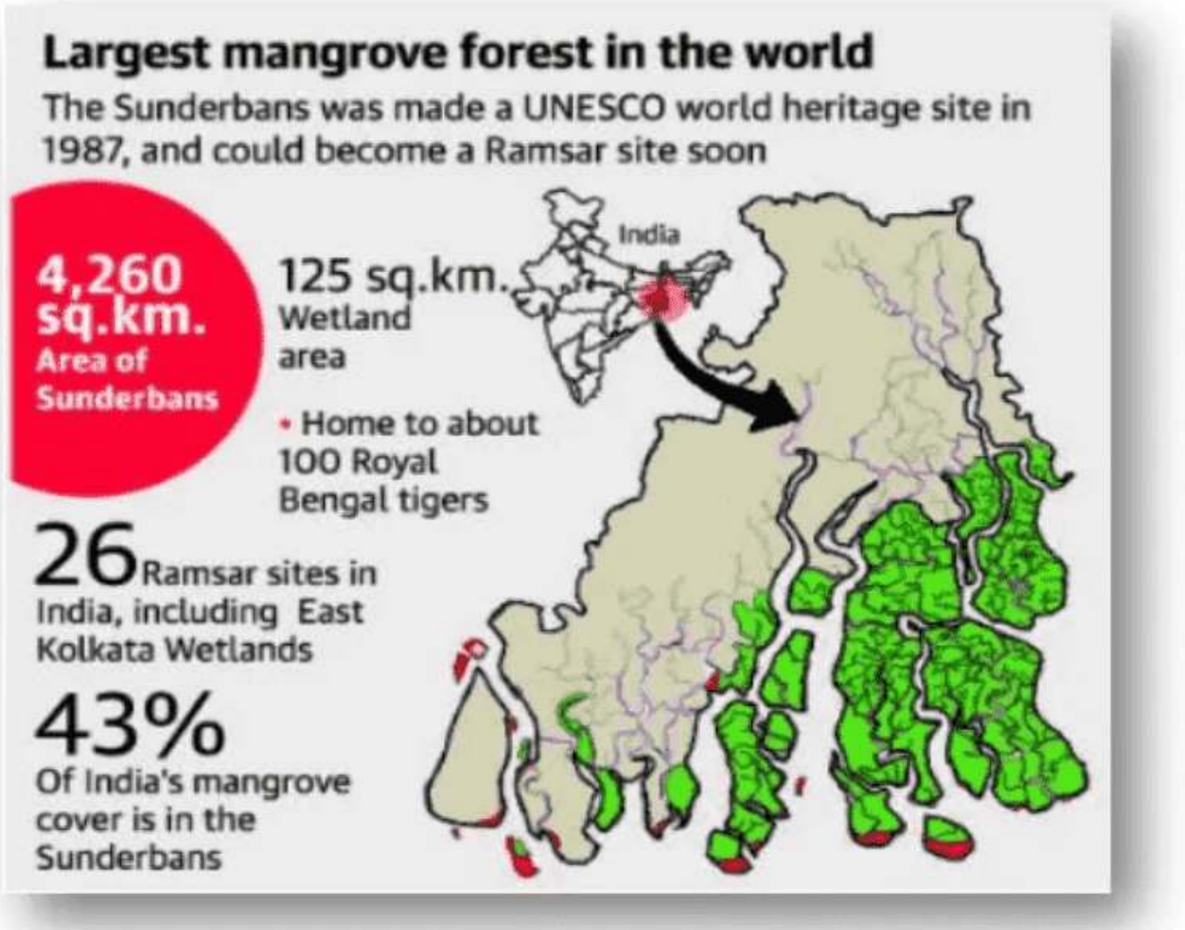
Sundarban plains :

- Southern part of North and South 24 Parganas.
- The Sundarbans delta is the largest mangrove forest in the world situated in the South 24 Parganas district.
- Sundarbans is vast contiguous mangrove forest ecosystem in the coastal region of Bay of Bengal spread across India and Bangladesh. It covers approxima 10,000 square kilometres of area of which 60% is in Bangladesh and remaining in India. It is located in delta region of Padma, Meghna and Brahmaputra river basins. **It is the largest tidal halophytic mangrove forest in the world. It was recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987**. Sundarban forests are known for its self- Royal Bengal Tiger and other numerous species of animals, including Chital Deer, Crocodile and Snakes.

Geography of West Bengal

- **Main Trees :** Gran , Hintal , Ketwa , Nalkhagra , Hogla , Golpata . This forest is also as Mangrove Forest .
- **Rivers :** Goshaba , Matla , Saptamukhi , Raimangal , Piyali , Jhilli , Vadyadhari , Thakuran .
- **Island** : Sgardweep (Largest island : Fair organised at Paush Shankranti) , Frejergunj (Bakkhali's tourst spot) , Lothin .
- **Resources** : Timber , Jute , Sugarcane
- Cities : Kolkata , Howrah , Hoogly industrial area . Kolkata , Howrah , Krishnanagar , Baharmpur , Mindapur .

Geography of West Bengal



Geography of West Bengal

Coastal plain

- A small coastal region is on the extreme south of the state.
- A part of the district of PurbaMedinipur, South 24 parganass along the Bay of Bengal constitutes the coastal plain.
- The Digha dune lies nearest to the Bay of Bengal while the Kanthi dune is the farthest from it.
- Occupation : Fishing , Tourism

Ganges delta

- The Ganges delta consists of the whole of Murshidabad district, Nadia, Kolkata, Hooghly, and Howrah and the northern part of North and South 24 Parganas.
- River Ganges passes through this vast area and divides into three distinct parts – the old delta, the mature delta and the active delta.

Geography of West Bengal

- The old delta consists of the districts of Murshidabad and Nadia.
- The districts of Kolkata, Hooghly, and Howrah and part of North 24 Parganas form mature delta region.
- The northern portion of South 24 Parganas district is known to be the active delta of the Ganges, where the formation of delta is still an ongoing process.

Geography of West Bengal

Temperature

1. **Summer (March to May)** – Average temperature - 27°c to 45° c

- In the afternoon – Northwester causes Heavy shower .
- Warm and Dry air –Loo

2. **Rainy Season** (June to September) – South western causes heavy rainfall . (120 – 400 cm)

3. **Autumn** (October to November) – Same low pressure belt and cyclone created at Bay of Bengal.

4. **Winter** (December to February) – Cold and Dry air . Average temperature (9°C – 17° C).

- West Bengal's climate varies from **tropical Savannah/monsoon** in the **southern part** and **humid sub-tropical** in the **north except** in the **northern mountainous region** of **Darjelling** and **Jalpaiguri** districts.

Geography of West Bengal

Temperature

The four factor which influence the climate of West Bengal are

1. Close proximity to Bay of Bengal
2. Influence of monsoon winds
3. Presence of Tropic of Cancer
4. Altitude

- Kalbaisakhi or Noresters are the local thunder storms of West Bengal which occur in early summer .
- In **Autumn** depression and cyclones occur because of the r**etreating** (**পশ্চাদপসরণ)** monsoon . In West Bengal these are known as **Ashiner Jhar** . Most of the rainfall in West Bengal occurs from **Bay of Bengal** branch of **Indian Monsoon** .
- **Highest Rainfall** (500cm) occur in **Buxa Duars** in **Jalpaiguri .**

Geography of West Bengal

Soils in West Bengal :

▪West Bengal in the state where one can get almost all types of Soils except **desert** type .

	Soil	**Features**
1.	**Mountainous Soil**	Black in colour Medium fertile Podzol Soil
2.	**Old Alluvial Soil**	Old in age Medium Fertile Known as Khadar

Geography of West Bengal

Soil	Features
3. New Alluvial Soil	Young in age Fertile Known as Khadar
4. Laterite Soil	Hard as brick and red in colour Barren Low water capture power

Geography of West Bengal

Soil	Features
5. Red Soil	Low water capture power Barren
6. Salaine Soil	Salty

Geography of West Bengal

	Soil Type	Region	Types of Crops
1.	**Mountain soil**	Northern mountain region	Tea , Oranges
2.	**Old Alluvial soil**	North and south part of Dinajpur East Malda and Eastern part of Birbhum.	Paddy, Wheat , Sugarcane
3.	**New Alluvial Soil**	Murshidabad, Nadia, North and South 24pgs Hooghly, Howra and East Midnapore	Paddy , Wheat and Jute

Geography of West Bengal

	Soil Type	Region	Types of Crops
4.	**Laterite soil**	Purulia, Birbhum, Bankura, Burdwan, Some part of West Midnapore.	Basically infertile but with irrigation Very vegetation is done
5.	**Red Soil**	Eastern part of Western plateau	With the help of Irrigation Agriculture is Practiced
6.	**Saline Soil**	Sundarban and coastal areas of state	Coconut, Water-Melon and betel nut

Geography of West Bengal

Crop	Production Area
6. Sugarcane	Murshidabad, Nadia and Burdwan
7. Tobacco	Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, North and South Dinajpur
8. Betel leaf	Howrah, East and West Midnapore.

Geography of West Bengal

FOREST RESERVES OF WEST BENGAL

Total recorded forest land in West Bengal is 11,879 sq.km, of which 7,054 sq.km is reserved forest , 3,772 sq.km is protected forest and 1,053 sq.km is Unclassed State Forest , thus constituting 13.38 % if the geographical area of the state .

	Name	District	Area	Animals Reserved
1.	**Senchal Wildlife Sanctuary**	Darjeeling	39.6 sq.km	Himalayan Bear , Deer
2.	**Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary**	Darjeeling	127.2 sq.km	Tiger,Wild Bear .Hornbill, Sambar
3.	**Neora Valley National Park**	Kalimpong	88 sq.km	Indian Leopard , Black Bear, Sloth Bear , Golden Cat , Wild Boar , Leopard ,Cat, Goral , Serow, Barking Deer, Red Panda

Geography of West Bengal

FOREST RESERVES OF WEST BENGAL

Name	District	Area	Animals Reserved
4. **Singalila National Reserve**	Darjeeling	78.6 sq.Km	Red Panda , Leopard Cat,Deer Yellow-Throated Marten , wild Boar Pangolin , Pika , Himalayan Black Bear , Leopard
5. **Buxa Tiger Reserve**	Alipurduar	760 sq.km	Asian Elephant , Tiger ,Gaur,Sambar
6. **Gorumra National Park**	Darjeeling , Jalpaigurii ,	8.6sq.km	Single horned Rhino , Elephant Tiger , Kakar Deer

Geography of West Bengal

FOREST RESERVES OF WEST BENGAL

Name	District	Area	Animals Reserved
7. **Jaldapara National Park**	Jalpaiguri	93.2 sq.km	Single-Horned Rhino , Elephant ,Tiger Kakar Deer
8. **Chapramari Wildlife Sanctury**	Jalpaiguri	8.8 sq.km	Single-Horned Rhino , Elephant ,Tiger Kakar Deer
9. **Haliday Island Wildlife Sanctuary**	South 24 Pgs	6sq.km	Crocodile , otter , Tiger , Peacick , Wild Bear , Pelican

Geography of West Bengal

FOREST RESERVES OF WEST BENGAL

Name	District	Area	Animals Reserved
10. Sajnekhali Wildlife Sanctury	South 24 Pgs	6 sq.km	Crocodile , otter , Tiger , Peacick , Wild Bear , Pelican
11.Lothian Island Wildlife Sanctury	South 24 Pgs	62.4 sq.km	Crocodile , otter, Pelican

Geography of West Bengal

Minerals in West Bengal

	Mineral	Place
1.	Coal (mostly bituminous)	Raniganj, Asansol, Jamuria and Ramnagar of Burdwan, Barjora, Mezia of Bankura and Nituria of Purulia.
2.	Lime Stone	Purulia and Bankura
3.	Manganese	West Midnapore, Purulia and Burdwan
4.	Dolomite	Jalpaiguri
5.	Phosphate rock	Purulia
6.	Iron ore	Purulia, Bankura, and Darjeeling
7.	Asbestos	West Midnapore

Geography of West Bengal

Minerals in West Bengal

	Mineral	Place
8.	**Apatite**	Purulia
9.	**China clay**	Purulia

Industries in West Bengal

- **India's first jute mill** - Rishra in Hooghly.
- **Tea Industry** –Darjeeling(300 Gardens), Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar districts.
- **Durgapur** is called the **Ruhr** of India.

Geography of West Bengal

- **Cotton and Textiles Industry** - Uluberia, Howra, Srirampore, Belgharia.
- **Murshidabad** is famous for **silk** industry.
- **Paper Industry** - Titagarh, Kankinara, Naihati, Raniganj, Asansol.
- **Aluminium Industry** - J.K Nagar.
- **Leather industry** - Batanagar, Tangra near Kolkata.

Chemical Industry	**Manufacturing area**
1. **Sulphuric acid**	Kolkata port
2. **Soda Ash**	Haldia
3. **Caustic Soda**	Titagarh ,Durgapur, Rishra (Coal Based) and Haldia (Petroliam Based)

Geography of West Bengal

Chemical Industry	Manufacturing area
5. Medicine Industry	Bengali Chemical at Panihati ,Slkali Chemical Corporation at Rishra

Engineering Industry

Industry	Location
1. **Railway Engine Industry**	Chittaranjan
2. **Ship Building**	Khidirpur
3. **Ambassador Car and Bedford Truck Making industry**	Hindmotor
4. **Railway Coach and Heavy Machines**	Dumdum
5. **Weapns Factory**	Ichapur ,Kashipur , Dumdum

Geography of West Bengal

Place	Light Engineering Industry
1. **Durgapur**	Mining Machinery
2. **Jadavpur**	Scientific small tools
3. **Rupnarayanpur**	Telephone wire
4. **Serampore**	Jute Industry's Machine
5. **Asansol**	Cycle Industry
6. **Salt Lake**	Electronics Complex

Geography of West Bengal

Transport in West Bengal

- Total length of roads in West Bengal is **92023 km** which is 3.06 % of the total road length of India.

National Highway - Joining Places

1. NH2- DELHI-KOLKATA
2. NH6- HAZIRA-KOLKATA
3. NH31A- SEBAK-GANGTOK
4. NH34- DALKHOLA-BARASAT-KOLKATA
5. NH35- BARASAT- BONGAONN
6. NH41- KOLAGHAT-HALDIA

Geography of West Bengal

National Highway - Joining Places

7. NH55- SILIGURI- DARJEELIN
8. NH60- BALASORE- ASANSO
9. NH60A- BANKURA- PURULIA
10. NH80- MOKAMA+ FARAKKA
11. NH-81- KORA – MALDA
12. NH117- KONA EXPRESS WAY VIA DIAMOND BARBOUR
13. NH151- KARIMGANJ- BANGLADESH BORDER

- Total Railway route - 4481 km.
- Headquarters of Easter, south -Easter and Kolkata Metro - Kolkata.

Geography of West Bengal

The State has 3 Airports -

A. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International airport - Dum Dum
B. Bagdogra Airport- Darjeeling District, Siliguri
C. Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport - Andal near Durgapur.

Geography of West Bengal

Demography of West Bengal (As per Cencus- 2011)

- **Approximate population** - 9.13 crores
- 7.54 % of the total **population** in **India.**
- **Population growth** - 13.84 %
- **Sex Ratio** - 950
- **Child sex ratio** (0-6 Years)- 956
- **Density** - 1028 / km2
- **Literary rate** - 76.26%
- **Male Literacy rate** - 81.69%, Female - 70.54%.