

## ***West Bengal Day***

Gopal Krishna Gokhale once famously said, "What Bengal thinks today India thinks tomorrow." This comment alone highlights the prominent and unique role Bengalis once played in the building of modern India. In many ways modernity arrived in India under the auspices of Bengali Renaissance. The pre independent Bengal boasted of a constellation of visionary social reformers, authors, educators, artists and scientists including Raja Rammohan Roy, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Rabindranath Tagore, Swami Vivekananda, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Jagadish Chandra Bose, Satyendranath Bose and the list goes on. They transformed Indian society through radical liberalism, scientific education, anticolonial stance and passionate nationalism. Bengal then always played a pioneering role in every aspect of political, social and cultural panorama of India.

The idea of the state of West Bengal emerged on June 20, 1947 as members of Bengal Legislative Assembly voted in favour of partitioning Bengal so that the western districts can join the secular country India. West Bengal officially came into existence as a province of the Dominion of India on August 15, 1947. Over the years though the former radiant glory of West Bengal has been somewhat eclipsed by the rapid rise of other Indian States to the fore. Now it's time for West Bengal to reclaim its spot on national as well as international podium. This can only be achieved by instilling in us a sense of pride in its art, literature, varied landscape, multilingualism, inclusive culture and vibrant social ambience. The observance of West Bengal Day in educational institutions on June 20 is an initiative in this direction as it aims to create awareness in future citizens of West Bengal. By passionately embracing our identity as a Bengali we can move towards a developed and prosperous West Bengal as no society can advance without a high self-esteem. On this auspicious day all students must pledge to know everything about their beloved state by heart and do their bit as conscious and responsible citizens to make West Bengal great again.