



drishti

Important Facts for Prelims (17th November 2018)

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Matua Community

- Recently the Chief Minister of West Bengal conferred **Bengal's highest civilian award, the "Banga Bibhushan"** to **Binapani Devi** popularly known as **'Baro-Maa'** within the **Matua community**.
- Matuas are an **influential lower caste Hindu community** which had mostly migrated from East Pakistan (Bangladesh) to settle in West Bengal.
- In the beginning Matua-mahasangha followed simplified rituals, but **later adopted Vaishnavism**.
- It was founded in the **mid-1800s** by **Harichand Thakur**, at **Gopalganj in the Faridpur province of present-day Bangladesh**. He preached love, tolerance, gender equality and non-distinction irrespective of caste, class and creed.