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21 November 2023

West Bengal News

### Matir Srishti' Scheme



#### Context

- A total of 300 acres of agricultural land in 3 developmental blocks of Malda is being made fertile under the **Matir Srishti scheme** of the state government.
- **Habibpur, Bamangola and Gazole** are the 3 blocks of Barind Tract that have been picked up by the district agriculture department for the scheme in the first phase.

#### About

- The scheme consists of commercially exploiting the fallow land in these six districts through **horticulture, fishery and animal husbandry**.
- Those engaging in these activities would also get the benefits of other existing government benefits applicable to such activities.
- These would lead to additional income generation, which would greatly help farmers in dry regions.
- Matir Srishti envisages making **50,000 acres of fallow land commercially useful** and through it, bringing benefits to about 2.5 lakh people.
- The lead administrator of the scheme would be the **Water Resources Investigation & Development Department**.

### Two Red Pandas to be sent to Pafos Zoo in Cyprus from Darjeeling

#### Context

In an exchange programme, the **Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (Pnhzp) popularly known as the Darjeeling Zoo** will be sending a pair of Red Pandas to the Pafos Zoo in Paphos, Cyprus and receiving a pair of Siberian tigers from there.

#### About Pafos Zoo

Pafos Zoo is set in a lush and unspoiled natural environment of more than **100,000 sqm**, it is home to an extensive variety of birds, mammals and reptiles.

### Red Panda

- There are only two different panda species in the world, the **Giant Pandas and the Red Pandas**.
- It is also the **state animal of Sikkim**.
- Red Pandas are **shy, solitary and arboreal animals** and are considered an indicator species for ecological change.
- India is home to both the (sub) species: Himalayan red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) and Chinese red panda (*Ailurus styani*)
- **Siang River** in Arunachal Pradesh splits the two phylogenetic species.
- It is found in the forests of India, Nepal, Bhutan and the northern mountains of Myanmar and southern China.



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia



- The number of Red Pandas has been declining in the wild, even in the Singalila and Neora Valley National Parks, the two protected areas where the endangered mammal is found in the wild in West Bengal.
- IUCN Red List: **Endangered**
- CITES: **Appendix I**
- **Wildlife Protection Act 1972: Schedule I**

### Siberian Tiger



- The **Siberian tiger, or Amur tiger**, is a population of the tiger subspecies *Panthera tigris* native to the **Russian Far East, Northeast China and possibly North Korea**.
- It once ranged throughout the **Korean Peninsula** but currently inhabits mainly the Sikhote-Alin mountain region in southwest Primorye Province in the Russian Far East.
- The Siberian tiger is **genetically close to the now-extinct Caspian tiger**.
- Results of a phylogeographic study comparing mitochondrial DNA from Caspian tigers and living tiger populations indicate that the **common ancestor of the Siberian and Caspian tigers colonized Central Asia from eastern China**, via the Gansu–Silk Road corridor, and then subsequently traversed Siberia eastward to establish the Siberian tiger population in the Russian Far East.
- The Siberian tiger was also called the "**Amur tiger**", "**Manchurian tiger**", "**Korean tiger**", and "**Ussurian tiger**", depending on the region where individuals were observed.
- **IUCN Red list status:** Endangered.
- **CITES:** Appendix II

### Siliguri duo's movie 'Bijayar Pare' makes it to KIFF, Dhaka International Film Festival

#### Context

- Bengali feature film **Bijayar Pare (After Bijoya Dashami)**, produced and directed by two Siliguri residents, will be screened at the **Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF)** and the **Dhaka International Film Festival**.
- Bijayar Pare is perhaps the first mainstream full-length feature film, directed and produced by Siliguri residents and chosen for screening at two back-to-back international movie festivals.

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