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1 December 2023

West Bengal News

Indochinese Roller Bird: A new Distinct species



Recent Discovery:

- The Indochinese Roller, previously thought to be a type of **Indian Roller**, is now recognized as a **separate species** due to its unique characteristics.

Study by BNHS:

- The Bombay Natural History Society conducted a detailed study on this bird's behavior, focusing on its movements, breeding, conservation, and potential threats in **North-East India and the Buxa Tiger Reserve**.

International Recognition:

- The study's findings have been published in the journal **'Threatened Taxa,'** highlighting the importance of this bird on a global scale.

Habitat and Behavior:

- These birds are not only found in India but also in **Southeast Asia**, residing in deep forests on tall tree trunks.
- They are known as **'farmer's friends,'** helping control crop-damaging insects during harvest seasons.

Name Change:

- Formerly known as the **'Indian Roller,'** they are now called **'Indochinese Roller'** to reflect their global presence.
- Their distinct features, such as an **'unstreaked smoky-purplish brown face and breast,'** set them apart from the Indian Roller.

Hottest November ever in 22 years

Context:

Kolkata experienced its hottest November in 22 years, with an average lowest temperature above 21 degrees Celsius.

Key Points:

- In 1883, during a pre-global warming phase, Kolkata recorded its lowest temperature of 10.6 degrees Celsius. In the current century, the lowest November temperature was around **14 degrees Celsius in 2012**.
- **Current Scenario:** This year, the lowest temperature reached around 19 degrees Celsius, higher than the average expected temperature of 20 degrees Celsius.



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World AIDS Day



Context:

- **World AIDS Day** is observed annually on **December 1st**.
- It is a **global health awareness day** dedicated to **raising awareness** of the **human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)** and **acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)**, as well as honoring those who have lost their lives to the disease.
- It was initiated in **1988** by WHO
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)**, alongside communities and partners, will mark World AIDS Day 2023, under the **theme "Let communities lead"**.

Significance:

1. **Raising Awareness:**
2. **Preventing New Infections:**
3. **Combating Stigma and Discrimination**

Cage culturing of fishes

Context:

- The state Fisheries department will soon introduce cage culture of fishes at two water bodies — one in **New Town** and another at **Kumari area in Kangsabati River in Bankura district**.

Cage Culturing:

- Cage culture, also known as net-pen culture, is an aquaculture technique that involves raising fish in existing water resources.
- Fish are kept in floating net pens that allow water to pass freely between the fish and the pond.
- This allows for water exchange and waste removal.

Key Points:

- In March, the state Directorate of Fisheries partnered with **ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore**, to promote cage culture.
- The project aims to increase table fish production, strengthen the Directorate's capacity, and support resource user communities and cooperatives.

New Policy to Curb Fish Theft:

- A new policy titled **'Earn Your Wages'** is in the works to tackle fish theft by some Daily Rated Workers (DRWs).
- 1150 DRWs across 22 districts monitor fishing activities, and the policy aims to use revenue from pond pisciculture to pay them.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Cooch Behar Palace



- The Cooch Behar Palace, also known as **Rajbari**, is a grand brick structure built in **1887** by **Maharaja Nripendra Narayan**.
- The palace is known for its elegance and grandeur. It was built in the Italian Renaissance style of architecture.
- It is one of the architectural masterpieces that displays the regal era of the **Koch Dynasty in India**.

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