



30 December 2023

West Bengal News

<b>Bengal government to introduce waiver scheme for tax defaulters</b>	<b>Context</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The state government is introducing a unique '<b>Waiver Scheme 2023-24</b>' offering a <b>100 percent waiver</b> of penalty accrued on taxes due till December 31, 2023, for 60 days from January 1 till February 29, 2024.</li><li>As per estimates of the Transport Department, <b>there are around 12.5 lakh vehicles</b> that have tax pending, have not done a certificate of fitness (CF) in due time, or have not renewed their permit.</li></ul>
<b>Home Affordability Index</b>	<b>Context</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Kolkata has bagged the second spot in the home affordability index among Indian cities with a ratio of <b>24 percent in 2023</b>.</li><li>The ratio level of the city has improved by one percent from 2022 and by eight percent from the pre-pandemic year of 2019, according to <b>Knight Frank India's proprietary 'Affordability Index'</b>.</li></ul>
<b>18th World Dooars Utsav</b>	<b>Context</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The 18th World Dooars Utsav was inaugurated to <b>showcase the rich and diverse culture and heritage</b> of the region, comprising tea gardens and dense forests.</li><li>The festival highlights the unique and rich culture of the <b>26 tribal communities of the Dooars region</b> to the world.</li></ul>
<b>Migratory birds vanishing in Karala and Teesta rivers</b>	<b>Context:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Migratory bird numbers along Karala and Teesta rivers in Jalpaiguri are declining due to pollution and illegal fishing.</li><li>Oxygen levels are dropping as a consequence, impacting the food sources of migratory birds such as aquatic algae, insects, and small fish.</li></ul> <b>Key Points:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Teesta River, passing by Jalpaiguri town, houses 271 bird species, including 107 migratory birds like the <b>Golden-headed Cisticola and birds</b> of prey such as <b>Steppe Eagle, Eastern Imperial Eagle, Booted Eagle, Common Buzzard, Long-Legged Buzzard, and Short-Toed Snake Eagle</b>.</li></ul>



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

- In November 2014, the **Short Yard Owl**, a migratory owl, was spotted here for the first time in Bengal.
- However, today, that land is endangered due to chemical use, changes in the river's course and a decrease in grassland. Preserving this endangered grassland is crucial.

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