



31 January 2024

West Bengal News

<p>Exercise Devil Strike -Army and Air Force Joint Training Drill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training drill named 'Exercise Devil Strike' conducted by the Army in North Bengal.• It oversaw the joint participation of over 1000 paratroopers from the Eastern Command and IAF's GARUDs.• They were supported by aircraft such as Rafale, C-130 Hercules, AN-32 and advanced light helicopters of both the IAF and the army.• The exercise showcased the integrated employment of the latest weapons & equipment in a networked battlefield under an intense Electronic Warfare environment & Indian Armed Forces' capability to employ an airborne force swiftly in a dynamic situation.
<p>Government appoints Members of 16th Finance Commission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The government recently appointed members to the Sixteenth Finance Commission.• The appointments received the official approval of the President of India. <p>Full-Time Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ajay Narayan Jha: Former Secretary, appointed as a full-time member.• Annie George Mathew: Former Special Secretary, Expenditure, appointed as a full-time member.• Dr. Niranjan Rajadhyaksha: Executive Director, Artha Global, appointed as a full-time member. <p>Part-Time Member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Soumya Kanti Ghosh: Group Chief Economic Advisor of State Bank of India, was appointed part-time member. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Sixteenth Finance Commission was constituted on December 31, 2023.• Arvind Panagariya, former Vice-Chairman, of NITI Aayog, is the Chairman of the Sixteenth Finance Commission. <p>Timeline and Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Sixteenth Finance Commission is tasked with making recommendations by October 31, 2025.• The recommendations will cover a 5-year award period commencing from April 1, 2026.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

World Leprosy Day



Context:

- World Leprosy Day is celebrated in India annually on 30 January.
- World Leprosy Day helps to create awareness about the disease and eliminate the stigma and discrimination faced by those who suffer from the disease.
- The theme for World Leprosy Day 2024 is “Beat Leprosy”

About:

- World Leprosy Day is observed on the last Sunday of January across the globe.

Interim Budget

- The Interim Budget is a temporary financial plan announced before a new government is set to come in after general elections.
- It can be understood as a provisional arrangement to meet the expenditure of the government for a short period till the new government comes in and makes the new full budget.

Ramsar Sites Tally Reaches 80

- Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announces the addition of five new wetlands to India's Ramsar Sites.
- The total number of Ramsar Sites in India now stands at 80.
- Minister Yadav reveals the news just two days before World Wetlands Day(2nd February).

Newly added Ramsar sites:

- Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve- Karnataka
- Aghanashini Estuary- Karnataka
- Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve- Karnataka
- Karaivetti Bird sanctuary - Tamil Nadu
- Longwood Shola Reserve Forest- Tamil Nadu

Wetlands in West Bengal

- Sundarbans Wetland
- East Kolkata Wetlands

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