



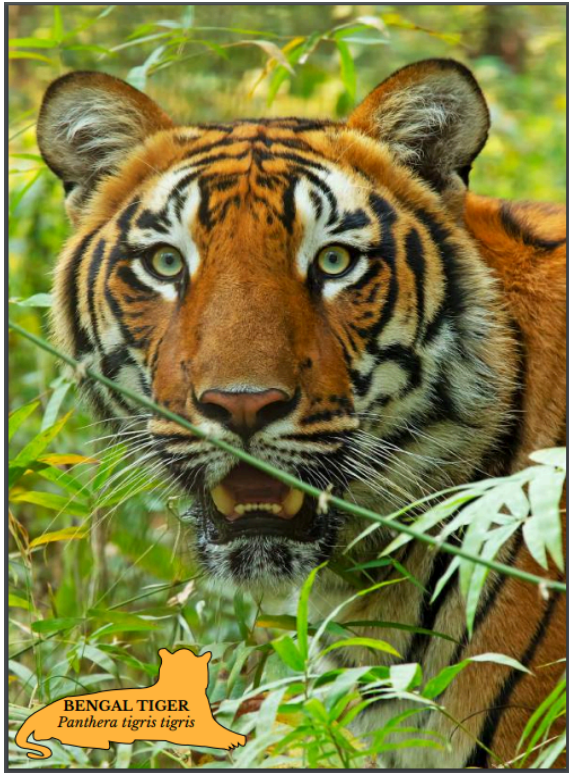
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3 February 2024

West Bengal News

Animal Exchange Program - Bengal to Tripura



Context:

- A pair of **Royal Bengal Tigers**, along with leopards and birds, has been sent from **Bengal Safari Park to Tripura** as part of an animal exchange program.

Key points:

- The Bengal Forest Department plans to introduce a **lion safari at the park** in collaboration with **Sepahijala Zoological Park in Tripura**.
- In exchange, Bengal will receive a **pair of lions, a pair of leopard cats, and three spectacled langurs**.
- With two tigers sent to Tripura, there are now nine tigers left in the park.

North Bengal Wild Animals Park(Bengal Safari), Siliguri

- Bengal Safari Park, situated within the verdant forested area of **Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary** is the first animal safari park of North Bengal region.
- It is located at a distance of **8km from Siliguri**.
- Bengal Safari Park was inaugurated by the CM Mamata Banerjee on 21st Jan 2016 to boost the tourism of **North Bengal**.
- North Bengal Wild Animals Park (Bengal Safari), Siliguri is spread over an area of **297 hectares**.
- The Park is developed in its natural habitat of **Sal & its associated species**.
- The Park presently has 3 nos. large safaris i.e. Mixed Herbivore Safari (91 ha), Tiger Safari (20 ha), Asiatic Black Bear Safari(20ha). & Zoo parts.

High-Level Committee (HLC) on One Nation One Election

Context:

- Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, is set to visit Delhi on February 5 to attend a meeting called by the One Nation, One Election committee headed by former President **Ram Nath Kovind**.

About:

- The "**One nation, one election**" proposal seeks to coordinate the election schedules for different levels of government in India, focusing primarily on **aligning the timing of elections for the Lok Sabha (national parliament) and state legislative assemblies**.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This concept aims to simplify the electoral procedures, minimize costs associated with elections, and promote a consistent governance continuity. <p>Significance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced election costs Continuous governance Efficient use of resources
<p>Missile Launch at Junput</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) plans to launch missiles from Junput near Haripur at the end of February or the beginning of March. The missile launch center is being built near the dry fish farm in Junput. DRDO aims to study how two missiles collide and separate, and the district administration is cooperating with the initiative. <p>Local Concerns and Fear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local residents, particularly fishermen, express fear and concern about the missile launch. There are worries about increased pollution, endangerment of livelihoods, and the potential impact on the fishing industry.
<p>First electric passenger loco of NF Railway</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The North East Frontier Railways (NF) has inaugurated its first electric passenger locomotive in Siliguri. This marks a significant milestone as it allows NF to operate its own electric locos instead of borrowing from others. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The electric passenger loco was manufactured for Rs. 11.5 crore by the Banaras Locomotive Workshop. Additionally, the Railway authorities aim to launch six more electric passenger locos within the current year.
<p>Exercise Vayushakti-2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian Air Force is set to conduct Exercise Vayu Shakti-24 on 17 February 2024 at the Pokhran Air to Ground Range, near Jaisalmer. This exercise serves as a comprehensive display of the IAF's offensive and defensive capabilities, spanning both day and night operations. Additionally, joint operations with the Indian Army will be showcased.



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The objective of Vayu Shakti:

- To demonstrate the IAF's ability to deliver weapons with long-range precision, as well as accurately using conventional weapons, on time and with devastating effects.
- Operations will be conducted from multiple air bases.

Participating Aircraft (121 in Total):

- Indigenous: Tejas, Prachand, Dhruv
- Others: Rafale, Mirage-2000, Sukhoi-30 MKI, Jaguar, Hawk, C-130J, Chinook, Apache, Mi-17.

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