



5 February 2024

West Bengal News

<p>Boost in Demand for Biswa Bangla Products after GI Tag Acquisition</p>	<p>Context: After securing the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Bengal, there has been a notable surge in demand for various Biswa Bangla products, including Dokra, Santiniketan leather, Nakshi kantha, and other handicrafts.</p> <p>A recent addition from West Bengal to the GI list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The coveted GI tag has been granted to Sunderbans honey, locally known as 'Mouban,' collected by the 'Mouli' community.• Hailing from Jalpaiguri district, Black Nunia rice, known as the 'Prince of Rice,' has earned its GI tag• GI tag for Tangail, Gorod, and Kadiyal sarees, reflecting the rich textile heritage of the region. Mirzapur in Murshidabad district is renowned for producing exclusive Kadiyal sarees.
<p>Classroom Transformation with Bengali Fiction Murals</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The walls of Jadavpur Vidyapith, a state government-sponsored school, have undergone a captivating transformation by a painter and students.• This initiative aims to instill a sense of culture among students by featuring murals of iconic characters from Bengali classic novels, such as Apu and Durga from "Pather Panchali" and Shankar from "Chander Pahar." <p>Mural Paintings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A mural encompasses any form of artwork created by painting or directly applying it onto a wall.• In a broader sense, mural art can extend to ceilings or other expansive and enduring surfaces.• Typically, mural paintings exhibit a distinctive feature where the architectural elements of the surrounding space are seamlessly integrated into the overall composition.• Various techniques are employed in mural painting, with fresco being just one example.• Hence, while a mural serves as a broad term for wall paintings, fresco specifically denotes a particular technique.

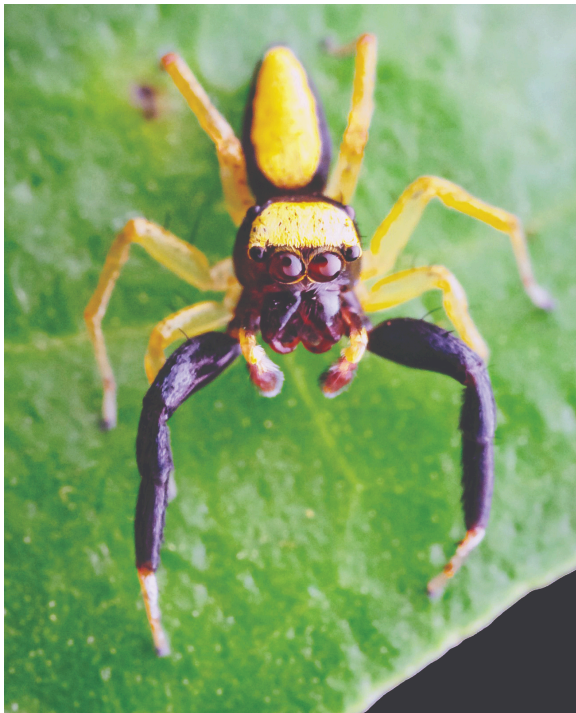


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Discovery of New Jumping Spider Species by ZSI



Context:

- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) researchers have recently identified four previously unknown **species of jumping spiders**.
- These discoveries span various locations across the country, with **one being found in Bengal**.

About:

- The newly identified species belong to the genus *Phintella* and are named **P. dentis**, **P. handersoni**, **P. luna**, and **P. Rajbharathi**.
- **Phintella luna**, found in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, is particularly noteworthy. It has been named 'luna' due to its copulatory ducts resembling the moon.
- The species **Phintella dentis**, discovered in Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka, earned its name because of distinctive cheliceral teeth.
- **Phintella rajbharathi** is named after the specimen collector from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- **Phintella handersoni**, located in the Anderson Tea Estate of Meghalaya, is named in honor of the late Handerson Syiemlieh, the owner of the estate.

Diversity of Genus Phintella

- The genus *Phintella*, part of the jumping spider family '**Salticidae**,' is known for its diversity.
- It currently includes 76 described species, with 18 originating from India.
- These small spiders are adorned with colorful, iridescent scales and are commonly found in the Old World and Australia.

World Cancer Day



Context:

- **World Cancer Day** is observed **annually on February 4th**
- It was **initiated on February 4, 2000**, at the **World Summit Against Cancer for the New Millennium in Paris**.
- It **aims to unite the world** in the fight against cancer.
- **Between 2022 and 2024**, the **focus of World Cancer Day is to help "Close the cancer gap."**
- The **theme** for this year is **"Together, we challenge those in power"**.
- This theme encompasses the global demand for leaders to **prioritize and invest in cancer prevention and care** and to do more to achieve a just and cancer-free world

About:

- Cancer is a complex group of diseases characterized by **uncontrolled cell growth** that can **invade and damage surrounding tissues**.



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- It often arises from genetic mutations within cells, leading to abnormal proliferation and disruptions in the body's natural regulatory mechanisms.
- While cancer can affect any part of the body, various factors influence individual risk and specific types.

Crocodile Census in Sunderbans



Context:

- An extensive exercise is underway in the Sunderbans, a delta region, to assess the population of the estuarine crocodile (**Crocodylus porosus**), **the largest living reptile globally, which dominates the brackish waters.**
- This survey, occurring after a 12-year gap since the last one in 2012, aims to provide insights into the top predator's population dynamics.

Crocodile Characteristics and Importance

- The estuarine crocodile, inhabiting **eastern India, Southeast Asia, and northern Australia**, is recognized for its size, with males reaching up to 20 feet and weighing over 1,000kg.
- In the Sunderbans, their average length is approximately **12 feet.**
- These crocodiles exhibit high **salinity tolerance, making them well-suited for brackish waters, the ideal habitat.**
- **IUCN Conservation status: Least Concern**
- **Covered under Schedule I of Wildlife Act, 1972**

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