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12 February 2024

West Bengal News

National Productivity Day



Context:

- **National Productivity Day is celebrated in India every year on February 12th.**
- It marks the **foundation day of the National Productivity Council (NPC)**, an autonomous organization established in **1958** to **promote productivity consciousness and culture in the country.**
- The day is recognized as part of a **week-long National Productivity Week**, observed from **February 12th to 18th.**
- This year's **theme is "Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Productivity Engine for Economic Growth."**
- It highlights the crucial role of AI in driving a country's economic growth and productivity.

About:

- This date **marks the anniversary of the foundation of the International Labour Organization (ILO).**
- The **first NPD was celebrated in 1962**

Ban on single-use plastic carry bags

Context:

- The **West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB)** has already completed the inventorisation of plastic waste in 15 districts in Bengal and identified means for manufacturing alternatives to **single-use plastic carry bags**, less than **120 micron**, which is banned following notification of **April 2022.**

Key points:

- Following the notification prohibiting the **production, distribution, sales, and use of single-use plastic items** within Bengal, the state has issued a total ban on it in all **ecologically sensitive areas like major tourist places, hill areas, and the Sunderbans.**
- A **joint study by the WBPCB and Jadavpur University** has pointed out that **1680 metric tonnes** of plastic are produced in the state daily while the total amount of solid waste generated daily is **13850 metric tonnes.**



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<p>Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2024</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival, India's only literary Festival created by a bookstore and Kolkata's first literary festival, reflects our city's vibrancy of thought, its engagement with the literary world at large and explores literature as part of our tangible and intangible heritage. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2024 is the 15th edition involving 100+ speakers.• The three-day Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2024 will be held at the Majestic Museum Ground and the Heritage Oxford Bookstore, Kolkata.• The former Finance minister of India and a senior Congress Parliamentarian P Chidambaram launched his book, "The Watershed Year: Which Way Will India Go?"
<p>6 BJP MLAs suspended from West Bengal assembly over Sandeshkhali unrest</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Six BJP MLAs, including Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari, were suspended from the West Bengal assembly over staging protests in the House because of unrest in Sandeshkhali. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The BJP legislators squatted on the floor of the House, shouting slogans which led to a ruckus inside the assembly.• Speaker Biman Banerjee then allowed Trinamool Congress MLA Sobhandeb Chatterjee to move a motion for the suspension of the BJP legislators.• They demanded the arrest of Shajahan who has been absconding since last month after a team of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) that went to raid his house in an alleged ration scam was attacked by a mob.
<p>'State to launch SOP to run closed tea gardens temporarily'</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The state government is coming up with a standard operating procedure (SOP) to ensure responsibility of a tea garden after its sudden closure can be temporarily assigned to a party so that the workers do not have to suffer.



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Key points:

- Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has constituted a GOM (group of ministers) for the formulation of the **SOP in consultation with the state Advocate General**.
- Labour department sources said presently **16 tea gardens are closed in North Bengal** out of which 10 were being run by **Darjeeling Organic Tea Estates Pvt Ltd (DOTPL)**. The owners of these 10 tea gardens suddenly left, abandoning the tea gardens and a case is pending with the National Company Law Tribunal.
- Another four tea gardens, including **Red Bank, Dharampur are under liquidation**. One tea garden has been closed since 2002. "All the closed tea gardens are involved in litigation,"

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