



26 February 2024

West Bengal News

<p>Tagore's contribution in strengthening relations between India & Japan</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Japan Gallery at the Jorasanko campus of Rabindra Bharati University (RBU) has recently been rejuvenated, showcasing the significant role Rabindranath Tagore played in fortifying the relationship between India and Japan. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Nihonga style of Japanese painting, as seen in the works of Gaganendranath Tagore and Abanindranath Tagore, has found a place in the museum, demonstrating its impact on Thakurbari's paintings.The gallery also displays Japanese paintings of Devi Saraswati and Ma Kali, reflecting the influence of Indian painters on their Japanese counterparts. Additionally, paintings of Japanese women dressed in sarees are exhibited.The gallery, being the oldest foreign gallery at Jorasanko Thakurbari, highlights the historical and cultural aspects of Tagore's four visits to Japan in 1916, 1917, 1926, and 1929.
<p>Eat Right Schools</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has been recognized for its efforts in providing nutritious meals to students.Five of its primary schools have been certified as 'Eat Right Schools' by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Schools are monitored and evaluated using an 'Eat Right Matrix' among other initiatives.Schools are then awarded an 'Eat Right' certificate based on their performance.In addition, a new automated community kitchen is set to be operational soon.This kitchen will provide hygienic, nutritional food to the students of KMCP Schools and Shishu Siksha Kendras (SSKs).



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A memorandum of understanding for this initiative was signed between the KMC's Education department and Lions Club International in December 2023. • The SS Hogg Market (New Market), under KMC, is soon to be declared an 'Eat Right Fruits and Vegetable Market', following an audit. • The Kalikapur Purbachal Bazar has already achieved this status.
<p>Alipore Zoo to get white tigers, bears & lemurs</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Alipore Zoo is planning to enhance its breeding stock by acquiring white tigers, bears, and lemurs from other zoos. • The zoo is in discussions with the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park at Vizag and the Nandankanan Zoo in Odisha for this purpose. • The goal is to ensure the procurement of healthy animals for breeding and to enhance visitor experience. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, the zoo houses two sloth bears and two Himalayan black bears, all of which are male. • An independent third-party assessment recently ranked Alipore Zoo as one of the top three tourist attractions in Kolkata. • Alipore Zoo has successfully managed around 1.7 million visitors in the past two months without any major incidents.
<p>Bengal government to disburse Rs 2,650 crore for pending MGNREGA workers' wages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government of Bengal has announced that it will distribute Rs 2,650 crore to settle outstanding wages under the state's 100-day scheme • The panchayat and rural development department has directed the district magistrates of 21 districts and the GTA principal secretary to initiate the disbursement process.
<p>White-backed Vulture</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Buxa Tiger Reserve (BTR) in Alipurduar has witnessed a significant development. • Endangered white-backed vultures, initially bred in captivity, have begun to breed in the wild, according to state forest department officials. • In 2005, a vulture conservation and captive breeding center was established at Rajabhatkhawa within the BTR. • Vultures, as scavenger birds, play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance.



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About:

- Common Name: White-backed vultures
- Scientific Name: Gyps africanus
- Type: Birds
- Group Name: At rest: committee, venue, or volt; in flight: kettle
- Average Life Span in the Wild: Up to 20 years
- **IUCN Red List status: Endangered**

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