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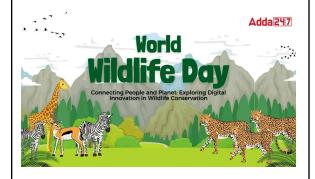


Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

4 March 2024

West Bengal News

World Wildlife Day



Context:

- United Nations World Wildlife Day (WWD) is celebrated every year on March 3.
- It is a global event dedicated to raising awareness about the diverse and magnificent wildlife on our planet.
- It highlights the critical role these animals and plants play in maintaining healthy ecosystems and supporting human well-being.

About:

 On 20 December 2013, at its 68th session, the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution UN 68/205, decided to proclaim 3 March, the international day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on the planet raise awareness and benefits fauna and flora in 1973, as World Wildlife Day.

Theme:

 This year's theme is, "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation."

Did you Know?

• The commemoration was proposed by Thailand

State's Initiative to Increase Maize Cultivation Area

Context:

- The state aims to increase maize cultivation area by 60,000 hectares.
- This is in response to the rising demand for animal feed, poultry feed, and fish feed in the state.

Key points:

- The Agriculture department is actively engaging with farmers to promote maize cultivation.
- Maize cultivation is currently observed in Nadia, Malda, Murshidabad, South Dinajpur, and Darjeeling.
- Bengal has seen significant growth in maize cultivation over the past few years.
- Maize cultivation area has increased from 2.64 lakh hectares to 4 lakh hectares in the last five years.
- Production has increased from 3.52 lakh metric tonnes in 2011-12 to 29 lakh metric tonnes in 2023-24.
- The government is collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce to establish maize processing units.



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	 Maize is rich in energy, protein, and essential nutrients for animal feed. The West Bengal Livestock Development Corporation Limited (WBLDCL) is procuring maize directly from farmers belonging to Self-Help-Groups (SHGs) or Farmers' Producer Company (FPC) for poultry feed production. The objective is to encourage maize cultivation in low rainfall areas and less fertile lands to benefit farmers economically.
PM Modi to Inaugurate Howrah Maidan to Esplanade Section on March 6	Context: The inauguration includes the Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section of the Kolkata Metro, a key segment of the East-West Metro corridor. Key points: • Kolkata Metro's North-South Corridor was inaugurated on October 24, 1984, making it India's first Metro. • East-West Metro Station at Howrah is set to be India's
	 East-West Metro Station at Howalins set to be India's largest and deepest Metro station. Esplanade Metro Station to become a crucial interchange point of the North-South and East-West Metro corridors upon completion. Additionally, PM Modi will inaugurate the Kavi Subhash-Hemanta Mukhopadhyay and Taratala-Majerhat metro sections, contributing to the city's transportation infrastructure. Notably, the Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section features India's first underwater transportation tunnel beneath the Hooghly River, connecting Kolkata and Howrah. This section also boasts the deepest metro station in India, located at Howrah. The 4.80 km underwater stretch will include stations at Howrah Maidan, Howrah Station Complex, and BBD Bagh (Mahakaran).
UDMA to draw up digital maps for KMC	Context: • UDMA is set to create digital maps for KMC and other municipality areas to track underground water and drainage pipelines.
	 Key points: The initiative aims to provide detailed maps for state administration before commencing any work, eliminating the need for time-consuming and resource-intensive digging to identify pipelines. This project will include mapping water supply pipelines and drainage lines using the Geographic Information System (GIS) in three phases.



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Four-day Handicrafts and Weaving Fair Commences in Raiganj

Context:

• The 'Hasta Shilpa, Tant Bastra O Swarojgar Mela' spanning four days has kicked off at Raiganj Stadium.

The first two phases will cover 97 municipal bodies.

 Organized by Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, the fair was inaugurated by Pampa Paul, Sabhadhipati of North Dinajpur Zilla Parishad.

Key points:

- Artisans from various blocks including Raiganj, Kaliyaganj, Hemtabad, Itahar, Karandighi, Goalpokhar-I, Goalpokhar-II, Islampur, and Chopra participated in the event.
- Most artisans, predominantly women, showcased a variety of products such as jute bags, mats, carpets, hand fans (pakha), sarees, soft toys, terracotta items, and cane and bamboo products.
- With the efforts of the state government, the sale of handcrafted items is increasing every year throughout the state of Bengal. In the current financial year, handcrafted products worth Rs 150 crore have been sold across the state.

National Safety Day



Context:

- National Safety Day in India, observed annually on March 4th, aims to promote safety and health at work, prevent accidents, and create safe environments.
- Established by the National Safety Council in **1972**, it emphasizes awareness of safety regulations and the role of leadership in prioritizing safety.
- The theme for 2024, "Safety Leadership for ESG Excellence," underscores the importance of leadership commitment in ensuring safety across all aspects of business operations.

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