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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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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maize is rich in energy, protein, and essential nutrients for animal feed.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• <b>The objective is to encourage maize cultivation in low rainfall areas and less fertile lands to benefit farmers economically.</b></li></ul>
<p><b>PM Modi to Inaugurate Howrah Maidan to Esplanade Section on March 6</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b> The inauguration includes the Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section of the Kolkata Metro, a key segment of the <b>East-West Metro corridor</b>.</p> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kolkata Metro's North-South Corridor was inaugurated on October 24, 1984, making it India's first Metro.</li><li>• East-West Metro Station at Howrah is set to be <b>India's largest and deepest Metro station</b>.</li><li>• <b>Esplanade Metro Station</b> to become a crucial interchange point of the North-South and East-West Metro corridors upon completion.</li><li>• Additionally, <b>PM Modi will inaugurate the Kavi Subhash-Hemanta Mukhopadhyay and Taratala-Majerhat metro sections</b>, contributing to the city's transportation infrastructure.</li><li>• Notably, the Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section <b>features India's first underwater transportation tunnel beneath the Hooghly River</b>, connecting Kolkata and Howrah.</li><li>• This section also boasts the deepest metro station in India, located at Howrah.</li><li>• The <b>4.80 km underwater stretch will include stations at Howrah Maidan, Howrah Station Complex, and BBD Bagh (Mahakaran)</b>.</li></ul>
<p><b>UDMA to draw up digital maps for KMC</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UDMA is set to <b>create digital maps for KMC and other municipality areas</b> to track underground water and drainage pipelines.</li></ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The initiative aims to provide detailed maps for state administration before commencing any work, <b>eliminating the need for time-consuming and resource-intensive digging to identify pipelines</b>.</li><li>• This project will include <b>mapping water supply pipelines and drainage lines using the Geographic Information System (GIS) in three phases</b>.</li></ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first two phases will cover 97 municipal bodies, including KMC, Howrah Municipal Corporation, and Siliguri Municipal Corporation, with work for about 71 municipal bodies nearing completion.</li> <li>• Mayor Firhad Hakim highlighted the necessity of these maps, citing previous difficulties faced during metro projects due to unidentified pipelines, which caused delays and potential water crises.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Four-day Handicrafts and Weaving Fair Commences in Raiganj</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The '<b>Hasta Shilpa, Tant Bastra O Swarojgar Mela</b>' spanning four days has kicked off at Raiganj Stadium.</li> <li>• Organized by <b>Micro, Small &amp; Medium Enterprises</b>, the fair was inaugurated by Pampa Paul, Sabhadhipati of North Dinajpur Zilla Parishad.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artisans from various blocks including <b>Raiganj, Kaliyaganj, Hemtabad, Itahar, Karandighi, Goalpokhar-I, Goalpokhar-II, Islampur, and Chopra participated in the event.</b></li> <li>• Most artisans, <b>predominantly women</b>, showcased a variety of products such as jute bags, mats, carpets, hand fans (pakha), sarees, soft toys, terracotta items, and cane and bamboo products.</li> <li>• With the efforts of the state government, the sale of handcrafted items is increasing every year throughout the state of Bengal. <b>In the current financial year, handcrafted products worth Rs 150 crore have been sold across the state.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>National Safety Day</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Safety Day in India, observed <b>annually on March 4th, aims to promote safety and health at work, prevent accidents, and create safe environments.</b></li> <li>• Established by the National Safety Council in <b>1972</b>, it emphasizes awareness of safety regulations and the role of leadership in prioritizing safety.</li> <li>• <b>The theme for 2024, "Safety Leadership for ESG Excellence,"</b> underscores the importance of leadership commitment in ensuring safety across all aspects of business operations.</li> </ul>

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