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30 April 2024

West Bengal News

<p><b>South Khairbari Tiger Rehabilitation Centre</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• South Khairbari Tiger Rehabilitation Centre is transforming a <b>mini zoo, with plans in progress since 2019.</b></li></ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The South Khairbari Zoo's master plans include <b>wildlife security, protection of the wildlife's food chain, and the water system's importance for the animals.</b></li><li>• The zoo will feature an animal hospital, a postmortem room, and a leopard safari, housing various wildlife species such as <b>rhinoceroses, bison, leopards, tigers, deer, bears, and birds.</b></li><li>• This initiative aims to make South Khairbari a significant tourism landmark, following the <b>Bengal Safari's pattern.</b></li></ul>
<p><b>Lakshmi Bhandar: A Lifeline for Murshidabad's River Island Residents</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Life in Murshidabad's river islands is challenging due to the lack of basic facilities like roads, electricity, hospitals, and schools.</li><li>• <b>Lakshmir Bhandar, a state government scheme,</b> provides financial support to over 100,000 residents living in isolated river islands in Murshidabad.</li><li>• More than 25,000 women in various river islands receive benefits under <b>Lakshmir Bhandar, initially ₹500 per month, now increased to ₹1,000 per month.</b></li></ul> <p><b>Scheme details:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The West Bengal Government launched the Lakshmir Bhandar Scheme in <b>February 2021 as a flagship program.</b></li><li>• It aims to empower women from economically weaker sections, specifically those aged 25-60 and enrolled in 'Swasthya Sathi'.</li><li>• <b>The scheme provides ₹1000 per month to women from SC/ST households and ₹500 per month to others.</b></li><li>• With over 1.5 crore applications received and processed, the scheme seeks to make women financially independent by offering a one-time grant for purchasing essential goods and services.</li></ul>



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

### Darjeeling Himalayan Railway

#### Context:

- The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) saw an increase in revenue and passenger numbers during the 2023-2024 fiscal year compared to the previous year.
- **The iconic toy trains of this UNESCO-recognized world heritage site continued to be a popular choice among tourists.**

#### Key points:

- Revenue for DHR in 2023-2024 was Rs 22.17 crore, an increase of around Rs 3 crore from the previous year's Rs 19.24 crore.
- In 2022-2023, 1.56 lakh passengers rode the toy trains, while in 2023-2024, this number increased to 1.81 lakh.
- The scenic journey on the toy train, with its sharp bends offering panoramic views of mountains and lush green tea estates, remains a major attraction for tourists.
- Most opt for Joy Rides between Darjeeling and Ghoom stations, which are 12 km apart.
- Currently, DHR operates eight Joy Rides and two regular services between New Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling.

### CBI visits Sandeshkali

#### Context:

- In the land-grab case, a CBI team visited Sandeshkhali, West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district.

#### Background:

- **The Calcutta High Court had ordered the CBI investigation earlier this month due to protests over crimes against women and land grabbing in Sandeshkhali.**
- The CBI has been instructed to provide a comprehensive report on the matter to the court.

Read about the Sandeshkali Violence in West Bengal.

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