



2 May 2024

West Bengal News

<p>Calcutta Records Highest Temperature in 50 Years</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calcutta witnessed its highest temperature in 50 years, reaching 43 degrees Celsius, according to the Met Department.• The Alipore observatory recorded the highest temperature in 50 years at 43 degrees Celsius. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paschim Medinipur's Kalaikunda recorded the state's highest temperature at 47.2 degrees Celsius, while Panagarh in Paschim Bardhaman district recorded 45.6 degrees Celsius.• The severe weather is attributed to dry westerly winds and strong solar radiation. <p>About Color-coded Alerts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IMD uses a color-coded alert system to indicate the severity of heat conditions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Green Alert: the weather is normal.○ Yellow Alert (Be Aware): Indicates severe heat but not extreme conditions. Public awareness is advised.○ Orange Alert (Be Prepared): Warns of hot weather that could impact significantly, requiring preparations for potential health risks.○ Red Alert (Take Action): Issued when extremely hot conditions are expected, posing a risk of health emergencies. Immediate action and intervention are necessary.
<p>Neora Valley National Park</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The state forest department has decided to introduce adventure sports such as cycling and mountain biking in the outskirts of Neora Valley National Park, which lies on the border of Jalpaiguri and Kalimpong districts.• This move aims to attract more tourists and adventure enthusiasts to the region. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neora Valley National Park, situated in the Kalimpong district of West Bengal, stands as a significant biological hub in the Northeast.



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Location:

- Found in the Kalimpong district of West Bengal.
- Rich biodiversity makes it a crucial zone in the Northeast.

Boundaries:

- Northern and northeastern boundaries contiguous with Sikkim and Bhutan respectively.
- Links Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary in Sikkim and Toorsa Strict Reserve in Bhutan.
- Southern boundaries connect with Jalpaiguri district forests, joining Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary and Gorumara National Park.

Geographical Features:

- Rachel Pass marks the highest point.
- Incorporates traits of Himalayan Montane System, Indian Peninsular Sub-region, and Malayan sub-region.

Habitat Types:

- Subtropical Mixed Broadleaf Forest.
- Lower Temperate Evergreen Forest.
- Upper Temperate Mixed Broadleaf Forest.
- Rhododendron Forest.

Vegetation:

Includes Dry Mixed Forest, Wet Mixed Forest, Lauraceous Forest, Bak-Oak Forest, High-Level Oak Forest, Coniferous Forest, and Himalayan Moist Temperate Forest.

Flora:

Diverse vegetation such as rhododendron, bamboo, oak, ferns, and sal.

Fauna:

Home to various species like the Red Panda, Himalayan Tahr, Himalayan Black Bear, Sambar, Barking Deer, Serow, Goral, Dhole, and Gaur.

Article 131

Context:

- The Centre informed the Supreme Court that the CBI is not under the control of the Union of India.

Key points:

- This statement was made in response to West Bengal's lawsuit over CBI investigations after the state withdrew its consent in November 2018.



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- Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, highlighted the misuse of Article 131 in the lawsuit filed by West Bengal.
- The Centre raised objections to the lawsuit, arguing that Article 131 should not be misused or abused.
- The Centre clarified that the cases mentioned in the state's suit were not filed by the Union of India but by the CBI, which operates independently.

Article 131:

Jurisdiction:

- Supreme Court (SC) has exclusive and original jurisdiction over legal issues between States or between States and the Union.

Original Jurisdiction:

- The power of the court to hear and determine a dispute in the first instance.

Article 131 Highlights:

SC has original jurisdiction in disputes:

- Between the Government of India and one or more States.
- Between the Government of India and any State or States on one side and one or more other States on the other.
- Between two or more States, if the dispute involves a question on which the existence or extent of a legal right depends.

Nature of Article 131:

- Limited to disputes involving legal rights, not political nature, unless legal rights are at stake.
- SC's Interpretation:
- **'State' under Article 131 does not include private citizens, companies, or government departments, even if they file a complaint with State Governments.**

Restrictions:

- Original jurisdiction of the SC does not extend to disputes arising from treaties, agreements, covenants, etc., before the Constitution's commencement.
- **Parliament may exclude SC's jurisdiction in disputes related to inter-state river water use, distribution, or control.**
- Suits brought by private individuals against the Government of India are not under SC's original jurisdiction.



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Sri Sarada Math

Context:

- Pravrajika Anandaprana, the fifth president of Sri Sarada Math and Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, passed away at 97 due to age-related ailments.
- PM Narendra Modi praised her monumental service to society and inculcating spiritual values among people. He also mentioned her efforts in healthcare, education, and empowering Nari Shakti.
- CM Mamata Banerjee expressed her sadness and offered her condolences to the millions of devotees across the world.

Key points:

- Born in 1927 in Bihar, she joined the order as a monk in 1957, receiving brahmacharya vows in 1962 and monk ordination in 1967.
- She was known for her teaching at Sister Nivedita School and later took charge of Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Nivedita Vidyapith.
- She was appointed as a trustee of Sri Sarada Math and a member of the governing body of the Ramakrishna Sarada Mission in April 2017 and was elected president from Jan 14, 2023, onwards.

Read about the History of the establishment of Sarada Math

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