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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

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West Bengal News

Monitoring Wildcats in North Bengal: Forest Department Initiative	Context: • The Forest Department in North Bengal is gearing up to monitor wildcat species in the region, recognizing their crucial role in maintaining forest ecosystems.
	 This initiative aims to better understand the lifestyle and contribution of various wildcat species towards the ecological balance. The project will be initiated after the monsoon season, focusing on the protected forest areas of North Bengal. To achieve this, the department plans to install camera traps to monitor the movement of these species closely. The decision to monitor wildcats comes in light of incidents where these animals, often mistaken for leopards, have faced human wrath. For instance, in Latapota village of Mathabhanga, a wildcat was mistakenly identified as a leopard and killed. The monitoring project will involve collaboration with the West Bengal Zoo Authority and will cover various protected forest areas, including Gorumara National Park, Chapramari, Neoravalli, Jaldapara, Buxa, Central Singalila, Mahananda Sanctuary, and Kurseong.
Malda Identified as Dengue Hotspot	Context: • Malda district has been identified as one of the 12 districts labeled as dengue hotspots by the state Health department.
	 Dengue: A Vector-Borne Disease (VBD) Caused by: Dengue virus (Genus Flavivirus) Transmission: Spread through the bite of infected Aedes species mosquitoes (Ae. Aegypti or Ae. Albopictus), which also transmit chikungunya, yellow fever, and Zika infection. Symptoms: Include fever, aches, pains, rashes, nausea, vomiting, severe bone, joint, and muscle pain. Treatment: No specific medicine; treated based on symptoms.



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	 Vector-Borne Diseases (VBD): Caused by parasites, viruses, and bacteria, transmitted by vectors. Vectors: Living organisms like mosquitoes, black flies, etc., transmit pathogens between humans or
Low Production of Langra Mango	from animals to humans. Context: • The Langra variety of mango, highly anticipated by Bengal's mango enthusiasts, is expected to have low availability in the retail markets this year.
	 Langra, often regarded as the 'king' of mangoes, has been the worst affected by erratic weather conditions. According to sources from the Horticulture Department, last year's Langra production stood at 45,300 metric tonnes. This year, however, production has dropped to only one-fifth of that amount. Langra mangoes are known for their green skin even when ripe, rich taste, smooth texture, and juicy pulp. Bengal cultivates around 400 varieties of mangoes, many of which are becoming extinct. Murshidabad is famous for its diverse mango varieties, while Malda produces the highest quantity of mangoes among all districts. Currently, 14-15 districts in Bengal are involved in mango cultivation.

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