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12 June 2024

West Bengal News

<p><b>Sunderbans: State Initiates 3-Pronged Strategy to Combat Salinity Threat</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The state Irrigation and Waterways Department in West Bengal has implemented a comprehensive strategy to address the salinity issue in the Sunderbans, which adversely affects agriculture and pisciculture.</li></ul> <p><b>Three-Pronged Strategy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Prabhat Kumar Mishra</b>, the additional chief secretary of the state Irrigation and Waterways department, outlined the initiatives during a program marking the <b>50th anniversary of the West Bengal State Pollution Control Board</b>.</li><li>The strategy includes:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Water Harvesting:</b> Collecting and storing water to mitigate the impact of salinity.</li><li><b>Constructing Embankments:</b> Building barriers to prevent the ingress of saline water.</li><li><b>River Rejuvenation:</b> Restoring rivers from the north to the Sunderbans to facilitate the flow of fresh water, thus reducing salinity.</li></ul></li></ul>
<p><b>Expansion of Yogyashree Scheme</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced an <b>expansion of the Yogyashree scheme to include students from OBC, General, and Minority categories</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>This initiative will provide <b>free training to these students for admission into medical and engineering courses, as well as for various competitive examinations</b>.</li><li>The primary objective is to empower economically disadvantaged individuals, enabling them to achieve their dreams of becoming doctors and engineers and to excel in competitive exams.</li><li>Earlier this year, the Bengal government launched <b>Yogyashree, an extensive social welfare initiative aimed at offering free training programs to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in Bengal</b>.</li><li>This scheme focuses on preparing students for entrance and competitive examinations, reflecting the state government's commitment to educational empowerment.</li><li>The launch of this initiative came ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.</li></ul>



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

<p>'Ghatal Master Plan'</p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The state government is prioritizing the implementation of the 'Ghatal Master Plan' in western districts of Bengal.</li> </ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The plan, conceived in <b>1959</b>, aims to protect <b>low-lying areas in and around Ghatal from annual floods</b>.</li> <li>In 2012, the state government sent a detailed project report to the Centre, estimating a total cost of nearly Rs 1200 crore.</li> <li>However, the BJP-led Union government later changed the funding ratio, leading to a delay in the project's initiation due to the lack of allocated funds.</li> </ul>
<p>Bengal govt to finalize state action plan for tackling climate change</p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bengal government is close to finalizing its <b>State Action Plan (SAP) for addressing climate change</b>.</li> <li>This initiative comes in response to rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, rising sea levels, and frequent cyclones affecting the coastal regions of Bengal.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The state has been divided into <b>seven agro-climatic zones for a thorough analysis of meteorological data from 1901 to 2022</b>.</li> <li>With the assistance of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), the Environment Department has studied climate trends, focusing on temperature and rainfall changes in these zones.</li> <li>The SAP aims to promote renewable energy, increase forest cover, and manage water resources sustainably.</li> <li>It also focuses on climate-smart agriculture by encouraging climate-resilient crops, efficient irrigation systems, and sustainable practices to ensure food security.</li> <li><b>Bengal hosts two Ramsar sites: the East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW) and the Sunderbans.</b></li> <li>A detailed plan for the Sunderbans is being developed with World Bank assistance. For EKW, which can naturally treat up to 910 million liters of wastewater daily, the department has implemented an integrated management plan.</li> </ul>

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