




2 November 2023

West Bengal News

<p><b>'Shinrin Yoku' to begin in North Bengal</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b> 'Shinrin Yoku' is about to begin in North Bengal, specifically in the <b>Kalchini Block</b>, situated between <b>Buxa Tiger Reserve</b> and <b>Jaldapara National Park</b> of <b>Alipurduar district</b>.</p> <p><b>About Shinrin Yoku</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The term “<b>Shinrin-yoku</b>” was coined by the Japanese <b>Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries in 1982</b>.</li><li>• It can be defined as the act of making contact with and immersing oneself in the atmosphere of the forest.</li><li>• It is a way to connect with nature through all our senses — <b>sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch</b>.</li><li>• 'Shinrin Yoku' <b>acts as a bridge</b>, opening our senses to the natural world.</li></ul>
<p><b>Eco-sensitive zone</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b> The <b>Siliguri Municipal Corporation (SMC)</b> will take up the issue of revising the area of eco-sensitive zone on the outskirts of the city with the state government</p> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• According to a gazette notification issued by the Centre in September 2020, areas that come within <b>5km of a reserve forest</b> are considered <b>eco-sensitive zones</b> with curbs on construction work in the areas.</li><li>• Because of this notification, the <b>Siliguri Jalpaiguri Development Authority</b> has stopped issuing <b>LUCCs (land use compatibility certificates)</b>, mandatory for construction work in case any proposal is submitted for construction under these areas</li></ul>
<p><b>Ghoom Festival</b></p> 	<p><b>Context</b> The <b>Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR)</b> will organize the third edition of the <b>Ghoom Festival</b> to promote the toy train service of <b>Darjeeling Himalayan Railway(DHR)</b> among railway enthusiasts and tourists.</p> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In 1999, <b>UNESCO</b> declared the DHR as a <b>world heritage site</b>.</li><li>• The mountain railway draws hundreds of enthusiasts and tourists, including from abroad, every year.</li><li>• The main objective is to <b>highlight the toy train service</b> among railway enthusiasts across the globe.</li><li>• The event will also exhibit local handicrafts, traditional cuisine, and Darjeeling tea.</li></ul>



<p><b>'Amrit Bharat' project</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b> The modernization of Jalpaiguri Town Station began under the 'Amrit Bharat' project and will be completed in two phases.</p> <p><b>About Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It was launched in <b>February 2023</b> by the <b>Ministry of Railways</b>.</li><li>• The ABSS envisages the development of stations on a continuous basis with a long-term approach.</li><li>• The scheme was launched to redevelop 1,309 stations across the country and is based on Master Planning for the long term and implementation of the same as per needs and demand of the station to station.</li></ul>
<p><b>AI-based alert system to mitigate man-elephant conflicts</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b> An artificial intelligence-based, real-time alert system is being implemented in various parts of West Bengal to minimize man-elephant conflicts</p> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Images of elephants are captured and automatically analyzed, and based on the feedback, precautionary measures are taken to ward off straying herds from human settlements</li><li>• The <b>fibre optic cable is laid</b> along rail tracks to stop elephants from coming near moving trains.</li><li>• The <b>real-time transmitted data</b> will be received by the forest department App on mobile phones.</li><li>• An <b>electric fencing project</b> in which electric shock lasting a few seconds, not endangering their health, will make elephants stick to their routes</li></ul>

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