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10 November 2023

West Bengal News

<p><b>Bengal government greenlights proposal to grant industry status to hospitality sector</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b> The Bengal cabinet approved a proposal to grant <b>industry status to the hospitality sector</b> in a bid to draw investments in tourism and generate employment.</p> <p><b>Key points</b> The initiative would ensure several facilities for the hospitality sector.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The hotels would be able to <b>save a handsome amount on electricity bills</b> as they would have to pay power tariffs as per the industrial rate, and not the much higher commercial rate.</li><li>2. The hotels would have <b>to pay electricity duty</b> at a much-reduced rate once the hospitality sector gets industry status.</li><li>3. The hotels will be able to save on water supply bills.</li><li>4. The hospitality sector would have <b>to pay lesser license fees</b> and other taxes, including property tax.</li></ol>
<p><b>Rubber Board to spend Rs. 50 crore to develop plantations</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b> The Rubber Board under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has set an ambitious target of setting up rubber plantations on <b>10,000 hectares of land across north Bengal</b> in the next two years to augment rubber production in the country.</p> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• North Bengal land and climatic conditions favour rubber cultivation</li><li>• In India, the annual demand for rubber is around <b>12.5 lakh metric tonnes</b> while the national annual production, these days, is between <b>seven to eight lakh metric tonnes</b>.</li></ul>
<p><b>Urban forests to be created in Jalpaiguri</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b> The Department of Parks and Gardens of the Jalpaiguri Forest Division is set to create urban forests to make Jalpaiguri city greener.</p> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The State Forest Department aims to <b>enhance greenery in major cities</b> in North Bengal, prompting the launch of this initiative.</li><li>• This endeavor will not be limited to Jalpaiguri but will also extend to cities such as <b>Siliguri, Cooch Behar, and Alipurduar</b>.</li></ul>
<p><b>Tidal rivers of WB</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Tides</b> feed the tidal rivers of the Sundarban region.</li><li>• Most of the rivers in this area are <b>Hooghly River's distributaries</b>.</li><li>• Some of the prominent rivers are <b>Thakuran, Piyali, Matla, Gosaba, Raymangal and Bidyadhari</b>.</li><li>• These rivers have <b>saline water</b> and are highly influenced by <b>high and low tides</b>.</li></ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During high tides, overflowing is seen, and during low tides, the rivers become more or less dry.</li> <li>• <b>Thakuran River</b> distinguishes the Jaynagar-I and Mathurapur-I Development Blocks.</li> <li>• <b>Gosaba</b> is a combined flow of the Matla and Raymangal rivers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The folk culture of West Bengal</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jatra</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A traditional folk theatre form that holds an important place in West Bengal's cultural traditions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Baul</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A way of living found in rural Bengal. Bolpur Santiniketan is a renowned place for Baul culture.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Chhau- Purulia</b></li> <li>• <b>Gambhira- Malda</b></li> <li>• <b>Raibenshe</b>-Originated from the Baghmundi area of Purulia</li> <li>• <b>Bhanjo Dance</b>- Birbhum, East Burdwan and Murshidabad</li> </ul>



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