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16 November 2023

West Bengal News

Kolkata Police arranges 'green corridor' to transport organs required for surgery

Context

- Kolkata Police arranged two consecutive **green corridors** during peak hours for transportation of organs required for transplantation.
- This was done on an urgent basis for the transportation of the organs (**heart and kidney**).

Himalayan Black Bear census underway in North Bengal

Context

The Himalayan Black Bear census is currently underway, covering the hilly areas along the India-Bhutan border in the **Buxa Tiger Reserve** and **Jaldapara National Park**.



About Himalayan Black Bear

- The Asiatic black bear is known as the **Moon bear**.
- The Asiatic black bear has 7 subspecies, out of which we find the Himalayan Black Bear subspecies in India.
- The **Asiatic Black Bear has a coat of smooth black fur** and can be distinguished by a V of white fur on its chest.
- The Asiatic black bear lives in a narrow band stretching from south-eastern Iran to Myanmar, across the **Himalayan foothills**.
- In India, it is found in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, and the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Asiatic black bear is omnivorous.
- IUCN Red List: **Vulnerable**
- CITES: **Appendix I**
- Wild Life Protection Act 1972: **Schedule II**

Buxa tiger reserve

- It is a tiger reserve in **Alipurduar district, West Bengal**.
- Created in 1983 as the **15th Tiger Reserve**
- Its northern boundary runs along the international border with Bhutan.
- The **Sinchula hill range** lies all along the northern side of BTR and the eastern boundary touches that of the Assam state.
- It represents the highly endemic **Indo-Malayan region**.
- The fragile "**Terai Ecosystem**" constitutes a part of this reserve.
- The Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary of Bhutan is contiguous to the north of BTR. Manas National Park lies east of BTR.
- BTR, thus, serves as an international corridor for Asian elephant migration between India and Bhutan.
- Some of the rivers flowing through this reserve are **Jayanti, Sankosh, Raidak, Churnia, Turturi, Dima, Nonani, and Phashkhawa**.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The forest of the reserve is classified as the Moist Tropical forest.• Rajabhatkhawa Vulture Breeding Center at Buxa Tiger Reserve for the breeding and conservation of endangered Indian vultures was established as the second such center with the help of the Bombay Natural History Society and the British charity Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.
Jaldapara National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is located on the banks of the Torsa River at the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas.• It has the largest population of the Indian one-horned rhinoceros after Kaziranga National Park in Assam. The nearby Chilapata Forests is an elephant corridor between Jaldapara and Buxa Tiger Reserve while Gorumara National Park is known for its population of Indian rhinoceros.• Vegetation: Mainly savannah with tall elephant grasses.• Major Fauna: Indian rhinoceros, leopards, elephants, sambar, barking deer, spotted deer, hog deer, gaur.
State forms committee to boost the development of tea industry	<p>Context A new committee has been established to foster the development of the tea industry in the state</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The state government formed this committee to ensure smooth and efficient tea production, promote production, provide proper guidance to tea plantation authorities and safeguarding the interests of tea workers• The primary issues faced by tea workers revolve around not receiving their entitled benefits under the Plantation Labour Act from the tea estate owners.

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