



8 February 2024

West Bengal News

**Reintroduction of Spotted Deer in Buxa Tiger Reserve**



**Context:**

- To enhance the biodiversity of the Buxa Tiger Reserve (BTR), a **group of 52 spotted deer was recently introduced into the reserve.**
- This effort is part of a long-standing project that has seen over **1000 deer** reintroduced into the reserve over the past decade.
- The deer were sourced from the **Bethuadahari Wildlife Sanctuary** and **successfully released into the core zone of BTR.**

**Buxa Tiger Reserve**

- Buxa Tiger Reserve (BTR) lies in the **Alipurduar sub-division of the Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal.**
- 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.
- The **Phipsu 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 elephant migration between India and Bhutan.**
- The reserve encompasses as many as **eight forest types.**
- The main flora species constitute trees like **Sal, Champ, Gamar, Simul, and Chikrasi.**
- The main fauna species include **Asian elephants, Tiger, Gaur, Wild boar, Sambar, and wild dogs (Dhole).**

**Person in news: Bhabani Prasad Majumdar**

**Context:**

- **Bhabani Prasad Majumdar**, a revered poet known for his dedication to the Bengali language, passed away at the age of 74
- His poem '**Banglata Thik Ashe Na**' exemplifies his profound affection for the language.



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### Life and Contributions

- Majumdar, born on April 9, 1950, in Howrah, served as a school teacher at Shanpur Kalitala Primary School.
- Throughout his life, he authored over **20,000 poems**, showcasing his unwavering commitment to his mother tongue.
- His notable works include 'Mojar Chhora', 'Shonali Chhora', 'Kolkata Tor Khol Khata', and 'Howrah Bhpra Horek Chhora', with a special emphasis on children's literature.
- Majumdar was honored with prestigious awards such as the **Sukumar Ray Centenary Award** and the **Upendrakishore Ray Chowdhury Award**, recognizing his significant contributions to Bengali literature.

### Extension of 'Yogyashree' Project

#### Context:

- Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has expanded the scope of the 'Yogyashree' project to include **general category students**, offering them access to free coaching for competitive examinations.
- Originally targeted towards **SC and ST students**, the project now encompasses a broader demographic.
- Banerjee has directed the **establishment of 50 additional centres across the state** to facilitate this extension, emphasizing inclusivity in educational opportunities.

### Budgetary Allocation 2024-25

- The Bengal government plans to **raise budget allocations significantly for social schemes like MGNREGA and Awas Yojana** to offset fund shortages caused by delayed clearance from the Centre.
- Sources indicate a potential increase in budget allocation for the Awas Yojana scheme, which has been affected by withheld funds from the Centre, causing a backlog of around Rs 6,600 crore in dues for 11 lakh beneficiaries.



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### Environmental Organizations Advocate for NGT Circuit Bench in Siliguri

- Environmental organizations are pushing for the establishment of a **circuit bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in Siliguri** to safeguard the wildlife and environment of **North Bengal**.

#### Key points:

- Kaustav Chowdhury, secretary of **Solitary Nature and Animal Protection Foundation (SNAP)**, highlighted the necessity for a **local forum for lodging environmental complaints**, emphasizing the natural and wildlife-rich landscape of North Bengal.
- Case study reports have been compiled on **environmental situations in Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, flash-flood incidents in the Teesta River, and the condition of the Mahananda River in Siliguri**.

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