



13 February 2024

West Bengal News

### Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana



#### Context:

- Minister of State for Health Chandrima Bhattacharya revealed in the **Assembly a concerning issue regarding PMMVY funding.**
- The Centre has withheld **Rs 2000 crore** due to the state under PMMVY for the year 2023-24.
- **State government bears 40%, Centre bears 60% of the scheme's cost.**

#### About:

- PMMVY is a maternity benefit program initiated by the Government of India in **2017.**

#### Eligibility and Benefits

- Pregnant women aged 19 or above are eligible.
- Rs 5,000 provided for the first child.
- For the second child, Rs 5,000 is given if it's a girl.
- Includes pre- and post-pregnancy treatment, free medicines, and testing facilities.
- The Centre has ceased providing its **25% share of funds for ICDS.**
- State government now bears the **entire cost, impacting salaries for supervisors and officials involved in food supervision.**

### Mamata Banerjee to Deliver Lecture at Oxford University

#### Context:

- Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister, announced her upcoming lecture at Oxford University in June.
- Invited due to her prominence, the lecture signifies a significant recognition of her political stature.
- She will also interact with Students from the London School of Economics.

### Bengal Farmers' Financial Landscape

#### Context:

- Farmers in **Bengal** take the least amount of loans compared to other states.
- The loan per farmer's family is **50.4 percent in comparison to states such as Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan** where the loan per farmer's family in percentage is 93.2, 67.6, 69.9, 54, 54 and 65 percent respectively.



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

### State Government Agricultural Initiatives Bangla Shasya Bima (BSB)

- Unique **insurance scheme in Bengal** covering preventive sowing.
- Provided substantial insurance coverage during the Kharif season.
- Over 98 lakh farmers have enrolled since inception.
- **All 13 commercial crops, including potatoes, are covered under BSB.**
- State government bears a 100% premium for all crops.

### Comparison with Central Scheme

- The Central scheme (**Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana**) **was** not implemented in several states due to stringent terms.
- Bengal's BSB offers more flexible terms, leading to higher adoption.

### King of the Jungle Arrives at Bengal Safari Park

#### Context:

After much anticipation, the Bengal Safari Park in Siliguri welcomed the arrival of several new animals, including the "king of the jungle."

#### Key points:

- Animals, including a pair of lions, spectacled langurs, leopard cats, and black bucks, were transferred from the **Sepahijala Zoological Park in Tripura to Bengal Safari Park.**
- A green corridor was created for their safe passage as part of the **animal exchange program facilitated by the Central Zoo Authority.**

#### Details:

- The animals arrived at Bengal Safari Park, including a 7-year-old lion named Akbar and a 5-year-old lioness named Sita.
- Both lions were zoo-bred and had previously lived together, ensuring compatibility
- Bengal Safari Park has dedicated **20 hectares for a lion safari** within its 297-hectare expanse.
- In exchange, Bengal Safari Park has sent a pair of **Royal Bengal Tigers, leopards, and exotic birds to the Sepahijala Zoological Park in Tripura.**

### National Women's Day in India

#### Context:

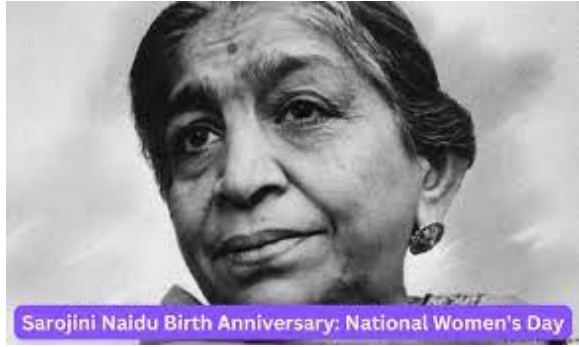
- In India, **Sarojini Naidu's birth anniversary, on February 13,** is marked as **National Women's Day** in honour of a woman who represented the spirit of **female empowerment** throughout her life and championed equality.



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Sarojini Naidu Birth Anniversary: National Women's Day

- She was a prominent freedom fighter and poet known as the "Nightingale of India".

This day serves as a national observance to:

1. **Recognize the significant contributions of women in various fields**
2. **Highlight their crucial role in shaping the nation's progress**
3. **Raise awareness about persisting gender disparities and challenges faced by women in India**

### World Radio Day

#### Context:

- **February 13th, 2024, marks the 12th Annual World Radio Day, established by UNESCO**
- **The theme for World Radio Day 2024 is 'Radio: A century informing, entertaining and educating.**
- **This year's celebration reflects on the past 100 years of radio's remarkable journey, its present relevance, and its promising future.**

#### About:

- **In 2011, the member states of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared February 13 World Radio Day**
- **It was then adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013 as an international event.**
- **Radio remains the most widely consumed media platform globally, reaching billions of people, especially in remote areas and those with limited internet access.**

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