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23 February 2024

West Bengal News

<p>Sea Shrimp Export to the US from Bengal is Expected Soon</p>	<p>Context: The export of sea shrimp from Bengal to the US, which has been stalled since 2018-19, is likely to resume soon.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An expert team from the US is currently in Cochin inspecting fishing nets to ensure the installation of TED (turtle excluder devices).• The US had previously banned sea shrimp exports from India due to concerns that these shrimps were caught using nets without TED.• To address this, ICAR-CIFT has designed fishing nets with TED as per US requirements.• 80% of India's shrimp exports are cultivated, while 20% are sea-caught.• The US is not only one of the largest importers but also pays high prices for Indian shrimp.• Coastal states like Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat are also involved in seafood export alongside Bengal.• It is estimated that seafood export earnings will increase by at least 15% if the export window reopens.• In Bengal, 85% of shrimp are exported, with only 15% consumed domestically.
<p>Calcutta High Court Orders Renaming of Lions 'Akbar' and 'Sita'</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Calcutta High Court has asked the West Bengal government to rename the lions 'Akbar' and 'Sita' following a plea by Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) objecting to naming a lioness as Sita. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The state government stated that the lions were named by the Tripura Zoo authorities before being transferred to West Bengal.• The VHP had objected to keeping the lions together and demanded the lioness's name be changed, arguing that it was disrespectful to Hindus.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Indian zoos have also named animals after Indian gods and goddesses, such as a white tigress named Sita in Delhi Zoological Park and a cheetah named Agni in Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.
<p>Alipurduar to Illuminate Buxa Hills and Tea Gardens</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alipurduar has secured Rs 4.5 crore from the Tribal Development Department for the development of remote areas, including the scenic Buxa Hills, tea plantations, and tribal-inhabited regions. Chunavati village, located at 2,500 feet in the Buxa Hills under the Buxa Tiger Reserve, is one of the district's remotest villages.
<p>Bengal Leads India in Great Backyard Bird Count for Second Consecutive Year</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bengal has once again recorded the highest number of species during the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) in India, marking the second consecutive year. The event, one of the largest globally, took place from Feb 16 to 19, with Bengal topping the list with 529 species out of the 1,029 recorded in India. Last year, the state had recorded 492 species. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following Bengal, Uttarakhand (418), Assam (415), Arunachal Pradesh (396), Maharashtra (383), and Karnataka (382) recorded the most species during the exercise. This year, a new species, the spur-winged lapwing, was reportedly sighted in India for the first time during the exercise in Telangana. Darjeeling topped the list with the most number of species at 305, followed by 24 Parganas (189), Purulia (162), East Burdwan (155), and Bankura (153). Last year, Darjeeling recorded 203 species. India ranked third in terms of species observed (1,029) after Colombia and Ecuador, and second in terms of checklists, after the US, which uploaded 162,130 checklists.
<p>World Peace and Understanding Day</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Peace and Understanding Day is observed on February 23 every year, promoting harmony and goodwill among individuals from different religions, cultures and geography.



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- The day commemorates the first meeting of Rotary International, an NGO dedicated to humanitarian service, peace, and goodwill across the world that took place in Chicago, US.
- Every year, this Special Day is observed to remind people of the ways that they can bring peace, harmony and goodwill to the world and contribute positively.
- This year, the theme is "Actions for Peace: Our Commitment to the #GlobalGoals"

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