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15 March 2024

West Bengal News

Three saris from West Bengal hold the Geographical Indication (GI) tag

- **Tangail, korial, and garad saris** from West Bengal have received the GI tag, highlighting the **state's artistic legacy and craftsmanship**.
- These saris boast intricate designs and opulent silk creations, enchanting connoisseurs globally.
- **Tangail saris** are known for fine craftsmanship and are woven in the Nadia and Purba Bardhaman districts.
- **Korial saris** feature heavy gold and silver embellishments on a white or cream base, akin to Benarasi saris.
- **Garad silk saris** are plain white or off-white with unornamental colored borders, traditionally worn during pujas.

World Consumer Rights Day



Context:

- **March 15**, marks **World Consumer Rights Day**, which highlights the **significance of consumer rights in the global marketplace**.
- It underscores the **importance of transparency in goods regarding their quantity, quality, and price, as well as the need to protect consumer rights**.
- This day aims to **educate and empower consumers about their rights and responsibilities while advocating for fair business practices worldwide**.

The theme for World Consumer Rights Day 2024: 'Fair and Responsible AI for Consumers'

- **Consumers International**, the global voice for consumers, has chosen the theme **'Fair and responsible AI for consumers'** for this year's World Consumer Rights Day.
- This theme focuses on the **increasing integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI)** into our daily lives and the importance of ensuring that AI technologies respect consumer rights.

Commercial services of India's first underwater metro train commence in Calcutta

Context:

- **India's first underwater metro train's commercial services began in Calcutta**.

Key points:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section on March 6**, marking **India's first foray into underwater metro services**.



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- Special blue lighting effects in the tunnel provided a unique experience, with the under-river section being **520 meters long and taking around 45 seconds to cross.**
- The Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section, an innovative addition to Kolkata's transport network, features the deepest metro station in India at Howrah Metro Station.
- The **East-West Metro corridor, spanning 4.8 km from Howrah Maidan to Esplanade, was built for Rs 4,965 crore.**
- The project, which began in **2009**, faced delays due to various challenges, including an aquifer burst at Bowbazar in central Kolkata in 2019, leading to ground subsidence and building collapses.

State forest dept plans a tiger exchange programme

Context:

- The state forest department is planning a tiger exchange program among various zoos under the State Zoo Authority.
- The program aims to enhance genetic diversity in captive-bred tigers.

Key points:

- **Two Royal Bengal tigers were recently moved from Bengal Safari Park in Siliguri to Alipore Zoo in Kolkata. In return, a female tiger will be sent to Bengal Safari Park.**
- Similar tiger exchanges are planned for other zoos, such as **Padmaja Naidu Zoological Park in Darjeeling.**
- West Bengal currently has **12 zoos, and the forest department intends to exchange tigers among these facilities.**
- Bengal Safari Park currently houses **nine tigers, including five males and two cubs.**
- The arrival of the female tiger from Alipore Zoo aims to introduce a fresh bloodline.

World Kidney Day 2024



Key points:

- Observed on the **second Thursday of March annually i.e., on March 14th, 2024.**

Objective:

- Aimed at **educating individuals about reducing the incidence and impact of kidney diseases.**
- Healthcare professionals and nephrologists play a pivotal role in spreading awareness.



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History:

- Originated from a collaboration between the International Society of Nephrology and the International Federation of Kidney Foundation.
- First observed in 2006 with the theme '**Are your kidneys okay?**'

The theme of World Kidney Day 2024:

- '**Kidney Health for All - Advancing Equitable Access to Care and Optimal Medication Practice.**'
- Chosen in a meeting of the World Kidney Day Steering Committee in September 2023.

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