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21 March 2024

West Bengal News

<p>6 Bengal seats get 'financially sensitive' tag</p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In a historic move, the <b>Election Commission (EC)</b> has identified six Bengal Lok Sabha seats as "financially sensitive."</li><li>• These seats are <b>Darjeeling, Asansol, Malda South, Bongaon, Kolkata North, and Kolkata South.</b></li></ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A huge amount of <b>money was seized</b> from these <b>constituencies</b> during previous elections.</li><li>• <b>A large quantity of liquor was also confiscated</b> from here.</li><li>• Going by these records, these constituencies have been declared financially sensitive</li></ul>
<p>Bengal Governor Clears 3 Pending Bills, Providing Fiscal Relief</p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bengal Governor <b>C V Ananda Bose</b> approved three crucial bills on Tuesday, easing the state's fiscal situation.</li></ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill 2024</b> was cleared, allowing the state government to increase the maximum fiscal deficit from 3% to 3.5% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Amendment Act allows for additional annual borrowing <b>space of 0.5% of GSDP for 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25</b>, as recommended by the <b>15th Finance Commission</b> to enhance the operational and economic efficiency of the power sector.</li><li>○ These approvals <b>will facilitate the smooth operation of various social security schemes like Lakshmir Bhandar and Karma Sathi</b>, which previously faced financial constraints due to exceeding the allocated budget.</li></ul></li></ul>



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

- Additionally, the **West Bengal Appropriation (No 1) Bill 2024** was approved, enabling the state to withdraw funds from the consolidated fund to cover expenses incurred without budgetary allocation during the financial year.
- The Howrah Municipal Corporation Amendment Bill was also given the green light.

### World Sparrow Day 2024

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#### Context:

World Sparrow Day is an annual observance held every year on **March 20th** to raise global awareness about the household sparrow and its alarming population decline.

#### Key points:

- The idea of World Sparrow Day was conceived by the **Nature Forever Society (NFS) of India** and the **Eco-Sys Action Foundation based in France**.
- The first World Sparrow Day was marked in **2010** with the goal of highlighting the tragic disappearance of the house sparrow and inspire coordinated efforts to protect them.
- In **2024**, the theme for World Sparrow Day is "Sparrows: Give them a tweet-chance!", "I Love Sparrows" and "We Love Sparrows".

### World Forestry Day 2024



#### Context:

The International Day of Forests was established on the **21st day of March**, by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on November 28, 2013.

#### Key points:

- The day aims to **respect and promote the value of a wide range of forests**.
- The **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** and the **United Nations Forum on Forests** are the coordinators of the International Day of Forests.
- The theme for International Day of Forests 2024 is "Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World."

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