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15 April 2024

West Bengal News

Poila Baisakh

Context:

- The Bengali New Year, known as "**Poila Baisakh**," is primarily celebrated by the Bengali community in **India and Bangladesh**.
- The term "**Poila**" signifies "**first**," while "**Baisakh**" refers to the **first month of the Bengali calendar**.

Key points:

This day also marks the beginning of harvest season which represents prosperity, fresh start, abundance and expressing gratitude.

State Forest Department Releases 37 Gharials to Boost Population and Conservation Efforts



Context:

- The state Forest department has recently released **37 gharials** at **Tiktikipara** under **Jalangi Block** in **Murshidabad**, in a **tributary of the Ganga/Padma River**, to augment its population.

Key points:


- This initiative **holds significance due to various human activities**, such as encroachment, depletion of food sources, commercial fishing, poaching, and riverbed siltation due to deforestation, which have accelerated the decline of gharial populations in the region.
- The gharials were bred in captivity at Rasikbeel under the Cooch Behar Division.
- **The release followed proper protocol, with a site suitability report obtained from WWF-India.**

About:

- The gharial, also known as the **fish-eating crocodile**, is currently facing **critical endangerment, with its global population dwindling to less than 1,500 in the wild**.
- Historically, gharials were abundant across major river systems in the northern Indian subcontinent, but their population sharply declined to **just 2 percent of their historical range by the mid-1970s**.
- India has launched **captive breeding programs** since the early years.
- The gharial is **renowned for its distinctive physical attributes and demeanor**.




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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Physically, it exhibits a lean, streamlined body, designed for swift aquatic movement. Their olive-green to brownish-gray skin is adorned with unique patterns and ridges, providing effective camouflage amidst riverine environments.Particularly distinctive are the prominent, elongated scales running along their dorsal surface, adding to their prehistoric allure.
<p>PM Poshan (Mid-Day Meal Programme)</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The School Education department in the state is set to rank schools based on their performance in the PM Poshan (Mid-Day Meal Programme) assessment.This assessment will cover each school, Shishu Shiksha Kendra (SSK), and Madhyamik Shiksha Kendra (MSK) across the state. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">this campaign aims to raise awareness among ground-level officers and staff of the MDM programme, as well as to evaluate the programme based on various criteria.Schools will be assessed on several parameters, including the quality of rice supplied, the storage condition of food items, food grain register, food tasting register, availability of weighing machines, and the cleanliness of the dining hall, kitchen, and utensils.The assessment format also includes a question about whether the average number of students consuming a mid-day meal during the last seven days was 85 percent of enrolled students, along with the reasons behind any discrepancies.
<p>World Art Day</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">World Art Day is celebrated annually on April 15th.It is an international celebration of the fine arts which was declared by the International Association of Art in order to promote awareness of creative activity worldwide. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The idea of celebrating World Art Day was proposed by the International Association of Art (IAA) in 2011 at the 17th General Assembly held in Guadalajara, Mexico.The first World Art Day was celebrated on April 15, 2012



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	<p>Theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The theme for World Art Day 2024 is “A Garden of Expression: Cultivating Community through Art.”• The theme encapsulates the essence of art as a vibrant and nurturing force that fosters connection, creativity, and collaboration within communities worldwide.
<p>Ambedkar Jayanti</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ambedkar Jayanti is observed every year on April 14th.• It commemorates the birthday of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a revered Indian politician and social reformer.• Also known as Bhim Jayanti or Equality Day, it honors his significant contributions to Indian society. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Ambedkar is best known as the "Father of the Indian Constitution" for his chairmanship of the drafting committee.• A champion for equality, he fought against the caste system and advocated for the upliftment of disadvantaged communities.• Ambedkar Jayanti is a national holiday in India.• People pay homage to his statues and memorials, organize educational events and seminars, and reaffirm their commitment to social justice and equality.• This day has the underlying theme of 'social justice and equality'.

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