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4 May 2024

West Bengal News

<p><b>CBI Rebuked Over Sanctioning Authority in Scam Cases</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The <b>Calcutta High Court</b> took a firm stance against the <b>CBI's procedural misstep</b>, emphasizing the importance of proper sanctioning authority in legal matters.</li></ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Under various laws, sanctions are required to investigate and prosecute public officials.</li><li>The requirement of sanction to <b>investigate certain public servants of the union government</b> was introduced through a government notification.</li><li>The <b>Criminal Procedure Code 1973</b> and the <b>Prevention of Corruption Act 1988</b> provide that to prosecute a public servant, permission or sanction has to be secured from the <b>government (central or state) for which the official works</b>.</li><li><b>Government in this context can be read as head of the government</b> such as Governor for the state and President at the central.</li></ul>
<p><b>State Upgrades Technology for Online Forest Fire Alerts</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The state government is upgrading technology to provide online forest fire alerts to prevent damage to natural resources.</li></ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The <b>Forest Survey of India (FSI)</b> uses a powerful satellite to capture images of fires, which are then relayed to the department's fire cell.</li><li>A nodal officer in the fire cell posts alerts in a WhatsApp group of divisional forest officers (DFOs) and JFMC members for immediate intervention.</li><li>The department is working with FSI to improve technological interventions for faster and more accurate alerts.</li></ul>
<p><b>Reserve Bank of India</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has <b>proposed stricter regulations for lending to projects under implementation</b>, aiming to address issues observed in the last credit cycle.</li></ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Projects under implementation will be classified based on their phase.</li></ul>



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

- During the construction phase, higher provisioning of up to 5% will be required, even if the asset is considered standard.
- This is a response to the stress observed in bank books due to project loans in the previous credit cycle.
- **The standard asset provisioning currently stands at 0.40%.**
- Initially announced in **September 2023**, the draft rules **were detailed on 03 May 2024.**
- During the construction phase, banks must set aside **5% of the exposure**, which decreases as the project becomes operational.
- Once a project reaches the '**Operational phase**', **provisions can be reduced to 2.5% of the funded outstanding, and further to 1% under certain conditions.**
- These conditions include the project having a positive net operating cash flow sufficient to cover repayment obligations to all lenders and a reduction of at least **20% in the project's long-term debt with lenders.**
- The proposed guidelines outline stress resolution, criteria for upgrading accounts, and recognition invocation.
- Lenders are expected to maintain project-specific data electronically and in an accessible format, updating any changes within 15 days.
- The necessary systems should be in place within 3 months of the release of these directives.

### Bengal Safari Park

#### Context:

- **Bengal Safari Park introduces five newborn Royal Bengal Tiger cubs to visitors.**
- The cubs, born to Tigress Sheela, made their debut in the display area after nearly two months.

#### Key points:

- Bengal Safari Park, situated within the verdant forested area of Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary is the first animal safari park of North Bengal region.
- Bengal Safari Park was inaugurated by the CM Mamata Banerjee on 21st Jan 2016 to boost the tourism of North Bengal.

#### Royal Bengal Tiger:

- **Habitat:** Found primarily in India, with small populations in Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and China.
- **Unique Habitat:** Only tiger species living in mangrove forests, notably in the Sundarbans mangroves in West Bengal.
- **Senses:** Exceptional night vision, six times better than humans, and five times superior hearing.



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- **Scientific Name:** Panthera Tigris.
- **Physical Characteristics:** Male tigers weigh 200-300 kg, females weigh 100-181 kg. Males stand 8-10 feet tall, females 8-9 feet.
- **Preferred Terrains:** Often found in mangroves, marshes, and grasslands, adept at swimming and hunting in water.
- **Social Behavior:** Unlike lions, male tigers allow females and cubs to eat first.
- **Reproduction:** Tigresses give birth to 4-5 cubs after a gestation period of 3 months.
- **Conservation Status:** Classified as an endangered subspecies by the IUCN.
- **Threats:** Poaching and habitat loss due to agriculture, roads, and human settlements pose significant threats to Bengal tigers.

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