



16 May 2024

West Bengal News

<p><b>Revival of Patachitra of the Sunderbans</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Indian Postal Service, Kolkata Region, recently unveiled a special cover to honor the <b>revival of Patachitra of the Sunderbans by the Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (KSCH)</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The KSCH received recognition from the Indian Postal Department for <b>restoring the Sunderban's Patachitra art, with the publication of a special commemorative postal cover and stamp.</b></li><li><b>Bengal Patachitra holds GI tag.</b></li></ul> <p><b>Patachitra:</b></p> <p><b>Patachitra, also known as Pattachitra, refers to a traditional form of scroll painting found in the eastern Indian states of Odisha and West Bengal.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Origin:</b> Believed to have originated around the 12th century.</li><li><b>Meaning:</b> In Sanskrit, "Patta" means "cloth" and "Chitra" means "picture."</li><li><b>Features:</b> Known for intricate details and depiction of mythological narratives and folktales.</li><li><b>Themes:</b> Primarily depicts stories of Hindu deities.</li><li><b>Purpose:</b> Originally created for ritual use and as souvenirs for pilgrims to Puri and other temples in Odisha.</li><li><b>Bengali Connection:</b> Part of ancient Bengali narrative art, used as a visual aid during song performances.</li></ul>
<p><b>Sunderbans Honey Gets International Recognition</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>'<b>Sunderban Honey</b>' received a GI tag and was featured at a conference in Switzerland by the <b>World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)</b> on genetic property knowledge.</li><li>The conference, with 1,200 delegates from various countries, focused on the genetic properties of several nations.</li></ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>This honey, unique to Bengal, was the only product from the state represented at the conference.</li><li>The State Forest Department sent the product to Geneva, highlighting the risks taken by honey collectors ('maula') who venture deep into the Sunderbans for collection, leading to its GI tag recognition.</li></ul>



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The GI application for Sunderban Honey began in 2020, with the WBFDC eventually recognized as the original applicant in December 2022.</li></ul>
<b>Sunderbans Crocodile Population Census</b>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Sunderbans, the world's largest mangrove delta, hosts a significant population of saltwater crocodiles, estimated between <b>204 and 234 individuals</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Saltwater crocodiles, also known as <b>estuarine crocodiles</b>, exhibit large sizes, with males reaching lengths of up to <b>20ft and weighing 1,000kg</b>.</li><li>In the Sunderbans, the average length of saltwater crocodiles is approximately 12ft, with occasional sightings of males up to 15ft.</li><li>Saltwater crocodiles are distinguished by <b>their remarkable tolerance for salinity</b>, setting them apart from other crocodile species like gharials, muggers, and caimans.</li><li><b>IUCN Status: Least Concern</b></li><li><b>CITES Status: Appendix I</b>, except for populations in Australia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea, which are in Appendix II.</li><li><b>WPA, 1972 Status: Schedule I</b></li></ul>

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