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23 May 2024

West Bengal News

<p>Braille Navigation Maps</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Eastern Railway (ER) has installed Braille navigation maps at Sealdah, Howrah, and Kolkata Railway stations. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Objective: To make these stations more accessible for visually impaired passengers.Benefit: Visually impaired passengers can navigate ticket counters and other facilities independently.Installation was done with the assistance of NGO Anuprayas.
<p>State Advocates for Reduction of Chemical Fertilisers for Tea Production</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The state government is advocating for the use of bio-fertilizers and compost in tea production.The aim is to restore degraded soil in Kalimpong and Darjeeling without relying heavily on chemical fertilizers. <p>Soil Surveys and Restoration Efforts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Detailed soil surveys in Kalimpong and Darjeeling have revealed significant soil degradation.The state is working with soil scientists to restore soil health without heavy chemical use.The tea industry is encouraged to conduct soil health surveys and adopt sustainable practices. <p>Diversification Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The state government has a policy allowing tea gardens to use part of their land for other productive purposes such as tourism, healthcare, education, and horticulture.This diversification aims to provide additional income streams and reduce reliance on tea alone. <p>Examples of Successful Diversification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Some tea gardens have successfully cultivated black pepper and other spices alongside tea.Tea gardens are urged to explore the potential of their surplus land for growing vegetables, fruits, and medicinal plants to enhance income and sustainability.



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High Court Cancels OBC Certificates Issued After 2010

Constitutional Context:

- **Article 16(4) pertains to determining backwardness and representation in state services.**
- The court highlighted the **lack of a reasonable procedure for determining backwardness**, citing the need for a comprehensive survey and identification of social groups.
- No proper identification was conducted based on a survey or publication of notifications in the official gazette.

Context:

- **The Calcutta High Court canceled all OBC certificates issued in Bengal post-2010.**
- This ruling does not impact those who have already availed of reservation benefits or succeeded in any selection process.

Key points:

- **A clause in the 2012 Act allowing state government inclusion of classes for OBC reservation via notification was struck down.**
- The court **addressed PILs challenging the identification and classification of 77 classes as OBCs.**
- The 77 classes were declared OBC through seven executive orders between March 5, 2010, and May 11, 2012.
- Petitioners also questioned the constitutional validity of certain provisions in the **West Bengal Backward Classes (Reservation in Posts) Act of 2012.**
- More than 5 lakh individuals were enlisted under OBC in Bengal after 2010, according to a petitioner's lawyer.

Court's Ruling:

- **The Division Bench struck down Section 16 of the 2012 Act, which allowed state executive amendments to the Act's schedule.**
- Consequently, 37 classes included under Section 16 were removed from **Schedule-I of the 2012 Act.**
- Various other executive orders classifying communities as OBCs for public service reservations were also nullified.
- The Backward Classes Welfare Department, in consultation with the Commission, is to present a report with recommendations to the **Legislature for including or excluding classes in the State List of OBCs.**

Kolkata's First Central Business Park

Context:

- **Kolkata is set to welcome its first Central Business Park, named Intellia Business Park.**
- This project is a collaboration between Srijan Realty Group, PS Group, and Signum Group.

Key points:

- The park spans 7 lakh square feet on a nearly 6-acre land parcel, with a total project cost exceeding Rs 350 crore.
- The completion date is expected by **June 2027.**
- Intellia Business Park is a testament to our commitment to bringing world-class business infrastructure to Kolkata.



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- It will significantly contribute to the city's economic growth and set a new benchmark in corporate hospitality."
- Additionally, discussions are ongoing with the Taj Group and Oberoi Group for managing the hospitality section.
- This project aims to create a **premier business environment that combines work, networking, and relaxation, setting a new standard for corporate spaces in Kolkata.**

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