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8 June 2024

West Bengal News

<p>Kolkata Port</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kolkata's Haldia Dock Complex (HDC) at the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMP) has initiated a direct container vessel service linking Malaysia, Haldia, and Myanmar. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This new service, announced in a statement by the port, will establish a direct weekly connection between the Haldia Dock Complex and the ports of Port Klang and Yangon, offering a first-of-its-kind weekly express service. ● The collaboration for this project involves SITC, a leading Intra Asia operator. ● This new service will connect Far East ports, including China and Japan, to SMP Kolkata via Port Kelang <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Port of Kolkata, also known as Kolkata Port or officially as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust (previously Kolkata Port Trust), stands as India's sole riverine major port, situated in Kolkata, West Bengal, approximately 203 kilometers inland from the sea. ● Established by the British East India Company in 1870, it holds the distinction of being India's oldest operational port. ● Kolkata Port operates as a freshwater port, devoid of any salinity fluctuations. ● It encompasses two distinct dock systems: the Kolkata Docks situated in Kolkata itself and a deep water dock located at Haldia Dock Complex in Haldia.
<p>Raiganj Kulik Bird Sanctuary</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The absence of migratory birds in the Kulik Bird Sanctuary in Raiganj, North Dinajpur, has caused concern among birders and environmentalists. ● Typically, migratory birds begin arriving at the sanctuary by the last week of May. ● Each year, between 80,000 to 100,000 migratory birds, including species like Egrets, Open-billed Storks, Black Crowned Night Herons, Pond Herons, and Cormorants, travel from coastal areas and South Asian countries to this sanctuary, which is the second largest in Asia.



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About:

- **Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary**, popularly known as **Kulik Bird Sanctuary** is no less than heaven to bird watchers.
- This haven of a huge variety of birds is located near Raiganj in the **Uttar Dinajpur district of West Bengal**.
- The sanctuary offers shelter to almost 164 species of birds and every year around 70,000 to 80,000 migratory birds visit the sanctuary.
- **The Kulik Bird Sanctuary has the shape of the English alphabet "U" and is connected to River Kulik with an intricate network of artificial canals.**
- The resident birds include flycatchers, kites, owls, woodpeckers, kingfishers, drongoes and many more.
- The major migratory species include egrets, open-bill storks, black-crowned night herons, pond herons, Indian Shag, little cormorants and most importantly Asian Openbill. Apart from birds, the exotic collection of flora and the wildlife of the sanctuary is also fascinating.

RBI Revises GDP Growth Forecast to 7.2% for Current Fiscal

Context:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased its GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal year to **7.2%, up from the earlier projection of 7%**.
- This revision is driven by rising private consumption and a revival in rural demand.

Key points:

- **Private consumption**, which is a key component of aggregate demand, is on the rise with steady discretionary spending in urban areas.
- **Rural demand** is also recovering, fueled by improving farm sector activity. Investment activity is gaining traction, driven by the expansion in non-food bank credit.
- Additionally, the **India Meteorological Department's (IMD) forecast of an above-normal southwest monsoon** is expected to boost kharif production and replenish reservoir levels.
- Considering these factors, the **RBI projects real GDP growth for 2024-25 at 7.2%, with quarterly growth rates of 7.3% in Q1, 7.2% in Q2, 7.3% in Q3, and 7.2% in Q4.**
- Governor Das emphasized that the balanced risks and healthy balance sheets of banks and corporates, along with the government's continued focus on capital expenditure, high capacity utilization, and business optimism, bode well for investment activity.
- Improving global trade prospects are also expected to enhance external demand.



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Buxa's First Bird Guide Inspires Local Youths to Embrace Bird-Watching

Context:

Keza Jacho Dukpa, a resident of Buxa, has turned his passion for birds into a profession by **becoming the first and only 'bird guide' in Buxa.**

About:

- Located in the Buxa Hills under the Buxa Tiger Reserve, Keza is sought after by tourists interested in bird-watching.
- Initially, he worked as a general tour guide, but his career trajectory shifted after meeting bird enthusiast Biswapriya Rauth from Jalpaiguri.
- Under Biswapriya's guidance, Keza delved deeper into bird watching, learning intricate details about each species, their names, and their significance. This newfound knowledge, coupled with his familiarity with the jungle, gave Keza an edge in his profession.
- Animesh Basu, the coordinator of the Himalayan Nature and Adventure Foundation (HNAF), lauds Keza's initiative, highlighting Buxa as a bird watchers' paradise. He urges the Forest Department to provide special training in bird watching to youths like Keza, enabling them to earn a living while promoting biodiversity conservation.

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