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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

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West Bengal News

Darjeeling Zoo



Context

- Darj Zoo has been declared zoo with the **'highest captive snow leopard population in the world'**
- It has the largest captive population of snow leopards in the world.
- The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZA) in Darjeeling has added another feather to its cap, this time for having the largest captive population of "Ghost of the mountains".
- The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) has declared this.

Key points

- Snow leopards reside in the high rugged mountains of Central and South Asia.
- They are so elusive that it has earned them the title **"Ghost of the mountain"**.

Darjeeling Zoo:

- Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (also called the Darjeeling Zoo) is a 67.56-acre (27.3 ha) zoo in the town of Darjeeling in the Indian state of West Bengal.
- The zoo was opened in **1958**, and with an **average elevation of 7,000 feet (2,134 m)**, is the **largest high altitude zoo in India**.
- The zoo is set to get **high-altitude single-end aquarium in India**.
- It also specializes in **captive breeding of red pandas**.
- In **2022** it was ranked **first among all zoo's in India**.

Buxa Tiger Reserve



Context

The seventh **Buxa Bird Festival** commenced at the Buxa Tiger Reserve.

About Buxa Tiger Reserve (BTR)

- It lies in the **Alipurduar sub-division of the Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal**.
- Its northern boundary runs along the international border with Bhutan.
- The **Sinchula hill range** lies all along the northern side of BTR, and the eastern boundary touches that of Assam State.
- It got its name from **Buxa Fort**, which is located on the Sinchula Range at an altitude of 867 metres.
- The fragile **"Terai Ecosystem"** constitutes a part of this



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reserve.

- It serves as an international corridor for elephant migration between India and Bhutan.
- Two rivers, namely the **River Raidak** and the **River Jayanti**, flow through the forest of Buxa.
- **Vegetation:** The forests of the reserve can be broadly classified as the '**Moist Tropical Forest**' of Champion and Seth's (1968) recent classification.
- **Flora:** Some of the important species are Sal, Champa, Gamar, Simul, and Chikrasi.
- **Fauna:** The main species include the Tiger, elephant, leopard cat, gaur, wild boar, sambar, hog deer, Chinese pangolin, etc.

Land bank project

Context

- **North Bengal State Transport Corporation (NBSTC)** has undertaken the initiative to **establish a land bank by consolidating vacant land** and reclaiming encroached land belonging to the corporation.
- The process of identifying these lands has commenced, with the total land size estimated to be more than 100 acres.

Duare Sarkar Scheme



Context

- Ranaghat sub-division in Nadia district has undertaken a special initiative to ensure that the benefits of the state's flagship scheme **Duare Sarkar (Government at Doorstep)**
- They have taken up a special drive to reach the far-flung tribal habitations of all 4 blocks of the Ranaghat sub-division.

About:

- Started on **1st December, 2020** by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Duare Sarkar is an initiative of the Government of West Bengal, for delivery of services and welfare schemes at the doorsteps of the people through outreach camps.
- These camps are organized at the level of **gram panchayat and municipal ward level**.
- These camps act as service providers of specific services and nodes for issuance and collection of applications for welfare schemes.
- **Paray Samadhan** – a community component of the Duare Sarkar campaign - conceptualized to respond to the numerous petitions and applications received from citizens seeking solutions to small local problems due to gaps in infrastructure, supply and services and



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manpower in public institutions. Through Paray Samadhan, the Government seeks to address neighborhood needs through small interventions and community participation, aiming to solve community level issues locally.