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8 April 2024

West Bengal News

Himalayan Griffon Vultures



Context:

The state Forest Department successfully released **five Himalayan Griffon Vultures** into the wild from the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre at **Rajabhatkhawa in the Buxa Tiger Reserve (BTR)** in the Alipurduar district.

About:

- The **Himalayan Griffon Vultures** are primarily found along the Himalayas and the adjoining Tibetan Plateau.
- **Conservation Status:** Classified as a **Near Threatened species** by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- **Threats:** These vultures are at **risk from diclofenac toxicity, a drug present in the carcasses of domestic animals.**
- Despite this threat, their population has not exhibited a rapid decline seen in other **Gyps vulture populations across Asia.**

State to seek help of Dutch govt to boost its horticulture sector

Context:

- The Food Processing Industries and Horticulture (FPI&H) department in the state is seeking assistance from the **Dutch government to enhance its horticulture sector.**
- They plan to establish a **Centre of Excellence (CoE) for vegetable and fruit cultivation, with technical guidance from the Netherlands.**

Key points:

- A 30-acre plot in Pancha Block, approximately 42 kilometers from **Purulia town**, has been identified for the CoE.
- The DPR is expected to be completed by **April-May.**
- The **objective of the CoE is to establish a standard for agriculture in arid regions with limited rainfall and water scarcity.**
- The CoE will focus on teaching farmers water conservation techniques for agriculture.
- The initiative aims to address issues such as farmers producing their own saplings with unsatisfactory results and the use of inferior quality seeds.



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<p>DRDO Initiates Construction of New Test Centre</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to the saturation of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has commenced the development of a new test center in Junput, West Bengal. This initiative mirrors the infrastructure and purpose of the ITR in Chandipur. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junput, much like Chandipur, is situated along the Bay of Bengal, approximately 70 kilometers away. Recognizing the necessity for an additional testing facility, DRDO officials announced the initiation of the Junput project. Spanning across 8.73 acres of land, the Junput test center has garnered approvals from both the Central and West Bengal governments, as well as the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
<p>Eastern Railway's Creative Campaign: Leveraging Memes and Social Media for Passenger Awareness</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eastern Railway (ER) has adopted a creative approach to raise awareness among passengers by utilizing memes and social media platforms. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One example of their innovative approach involved using characters from the 1969 Bengali comic strip "Nonte Phonte" by Narayan Debnath. In a meme shared by ER, the characters discuss the Rail Madad Helpline number 139, which passengers can use to report distressing situations during train journeys. By using memes, ER aims to address this issue and ensure that passengers are aware of the services available to them. Through these creative campaigns, ER is effectively leveraging memes and social media to educate passengers and enhance their overall experience with the railways.
<p>World Health Day</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Health Day is celebrated annually on April 7th. It was established by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948.



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About:

- In 1948, the WHO held the **First World Health Assembly**.
- The Assembly decided to celebrate 7 April of each year, **with effect from 1950**, as World Health Day.

Theme:

- The theme for World Health Day 2024 is "**My health, my right**".
- This theme emphasizes the importance of ensuring everyone, everywhere has access to healthcare services, information, and education to live a healthy life.

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