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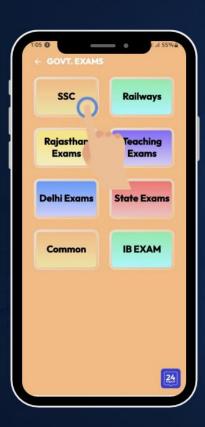
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- Simon Sinek, Leaders Eat Last

"Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in your charge."





SC directs UGC to collate complaints NEWS » PAGE 5



neis," he said.

The protest from the Indian side came after Chinese news agency Xinhua reported on December 27, 2024 that the authorities in northwest Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region had



Ministry notifies draft rules, seeks feedback

Mining for tungsten and trouble Centre's project sets off protests in Madurai



India's batting comes a cropper again

INSIDE



SC chastises ED for 15-hour interrogation

NEW DELHI The SC has seconded the observation that the zeal shown by the ED to interroga former Congress MLA Surend Partwar at a stretch for nearly 15 hours was a blow to huma dignity. 30 PAGE 3

Mob attacks with police station in Kangpokpi

the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police in Manipur's Kuki-majority Kangpokpi district on Friday. Tensions had been escalating in the district for the past 48

hours. » PAGE 3 Congress urges Centre to focus

NEW DELHI
The Congress on Friday urged
the government to focus on
complexities of economy,
stating that the last quarter of
the current fiscal year
witnessed the "second-slowest
pace" of 65T collection in the
past three years as PMGE 3 NEW DELHI

AAP a 'disaster' that needs to be removed: Modi

NEW DELHI Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday attacked the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) saying that over the last 10 years, an "aga"da (disaster) had befaller Delhi. The remark drew a sharp reaction from AAP chief Arvind

India 'protests' new Chinese counties in Ladakh Beijing forms 2 new counties in Hotan prefecture

that incorporate territory of India's Ladakh

India has 'never accepted' illegal Chinese occupation in this area, says the Ministry of External Affairs

name of Brahmaputra, that flows through Aruna-chal Pradesh and Assam. "We have never accept-ed the illegal Chinese occu-pation of Indian territory in this area. Creation of the countries will neither be countries will neither have countries will neither towest and the area of the countries. ndia has lodged a "so-lemn protest" with China over the formation of two counties in the Hotan prefecture that in-corporates territory of In-dia's Ladakh. long-standing and consis-Speaking to reporters during the weekly briefing on Friday, Ministry of Extent position regarding our sovereignty over the area nor lend legitimacy to Chiternal Affairs (MEA) spo-kesperson Randhir Jaiswal reminded China that India na's illegal and forcible oc-cupation of the same," said Mr. Jaiswal. "We have lodged a solemn protest "never accepted" Beijing's "illegal occupation of In-dian territory in this area". with the Chinese side through diplomatic chan-nels," he said.

Concerns conveyed
He further stated categorically that India has also
conveyed its "concerns"
about the building a mega
hydro power project in the
upstream Yarlung Tsangros which is the Theren po, which is the Tibetan



County, in the Hotan pre-fecture. The Hotan prefec-ture contains parts of Aksai ture contains parts of Aksai Chin that India accuses China of occupying and formation of the two new counties appears like Beijing firming up administra-

He'an County and Hekang tive measures in

India-China meet
The protest from the Indian side is significant as it comes against the backdrop of the December 18, 2024 meeting between the

Special Representatives for the border mechanism – National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Fo-

reign Minister Wang Yi. The meeting is to resolve the tension that erupted in eastern Ladakh in June 2020 that has since been termed the 'Galwan mated at \$137 billion on the

clashes'.

In another significant turn, Mr. Jaiswal categoric turn, Mr. Jaiswal categoric cern on the announced mega dam project over stratung Tsangpo in the arbitant project in the lower chinese control. As a low-glied to be the largost in-fluence control. As a low-glied to be the largost in-fluence control. As a low-glied to be the largost in-fluence control. As a low-glied to be the largost in-fluence control. As a low-glied to be the largost in-fluence control of the largost in-fluence control on the largos Chinese control. "As a low-er riparian state with esta-blished user rights to the waters of the river, we have consistently expressed, through expert-level as well as diplomatic chan-nels, our views and con-

■ MEA raises 'concerns' over announcement of mega dam project over Yarlung Tsangpo

over mega projects on riv-ers in their territory," said Mr. Jaiswal.

World's largest dam World's largest dam Chinese news agency Xin-hua had earlier announced that Beijing has approved the construction of the world's largest dam, esti-

close to the Indian border.

The Chinese authorities
have approved the conrelation approved the consigned to be the largest in
frastructure project in the
world. Once constructed,
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communicated to India through official channels as is the norm in the case of neighbours sharing ma-jor rivers and said the Ministry of External Affairs got to know the informa-tion through a news report by Xinhua on December 25, 2024. India's view, Mr. Jaiswal said, was "reiterat-ed, along with need for transparency and consul-tation with downstream

"The Chinese side has been urged to ensure that the interests of down-

Scare in the air



Tragedy averted: Officials working to arrest a gas leak in Coimbatore after the pressure gauge of an LPG tanker broke following an accident on a flyover on Friday. Traffic was diverted and educational institutes were shut in the city centre as a precautionary measure, w. PERINSAMY

Protests erupt in Pithampur over arrival of Bhopal waste

Mehul Malpani

Two men suffered bu on Friday after they tried to immolate themselves as protests erupted during a call for bandh in Madhya Pradesh's Pithampur, a day after the toxic waste from the Bhopal gas tragedy in-cident was moved from the defunct Union Carbide fac-tory to the industrial town. tory to the industrial town. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said the government would not take any step that put any person's life in danger and that the waste

would be incinerated under the guidance of scien-He urged people not to

than previous laws'

New draft policy on

agriculture is worse +

at the Khanauri protest site in Punjab on Friday. PTI

Framework on Agricultu-ral Marketing (NPFAM), rerai Marketing (NPFAM), re-leased recently for public comments by the Union Agriculture Ministry, is more dangerous than the three farm laws repealed in 2021, the Samvukt Kisan

ganisation of farmers' out-itis, said on Friday.

The SKM has called Ki-san Mahapanchayats to be held at Tohana in Haryana and Moga in Punjab on Sa-turday, with the intention of launching a fresh agita-tion on January 9, demand-ing the withdrawal of the NPFAM. The meetings are expected to pass resoluexpected to pass resolu

tions against the policy fra-mework. The SKM was formed in 2020, and spearheaded a year-long agitation against three contentious legislation deregulating agricultural trade passed by Parliament in the midst of the nandemic. Thousands of farmers camped along Del-hi's boundary before the government agreed to re-peal the three laws.

peal the three laws.

If the new draft policy is implemented, the SKM said, it will erode the federal rights of State governments and destroy the interests of the farmers, agricultural workers, petty producers and small traders as it does not have any

The Hindu Bureau provision to ensure mini-NEW DELHI provision to ensure mini-mum support prices for crops or minimum wages for agriculture workers.

Congratulating Punjab Chief Minister Bagwant Mann for rejecting the NPFAM, the SKM appealed to all other State govern-ments and Chief Ministers to reject the framework as well. The SKM demanded a democratic discourse in-volving all stakeholders to

ers. It fears that the draft existing agricultural mar-keting system and proposunified national market linked to a value chain-centric infrastructure.

as digital public infrastruc processing, and market-ing.

Health Ministry monitoring HMPV outbreak in China

The Union Health Ministry said on Friday that it was closely monitoring the al-leged outbreak of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) in China. The Ministry maintained that while Chi-na had reported a rise in respiratory illness, particularly HMPV. India had not registered any unusua spike in winter respiratory

diseases.

Five years after the COVID pandemic, China is experiencing a surge in
HMPV cases, particularly
in children under 14 years
of age. Symptoms include
cough, fever, and shortness of breath, with potential compilications like
bronchitis and pneumonia. The country has seen

rope.
The Ministry's National Centre for Disease Control is closely monitoring respi-ratory and seasonal in-fluenza cases in the country and is in touch with international agencies, international agencies, noted a senior official.

No cause of alarm

eral of Health Services Atul Goel told presspersons or Friday that no case of the respiratory liness – HMPV – has been reported in the country yet. Stating that the Union government was closely monitoring news about the possible HMPV outbreak in China, he added that as of now, there was no cause for alarm. The TMPV is like any other respiratory virus that caus-

es fiu-like symptoms, most-ly in the elderly and chil-dren," said Dr. Goel, adding that respiratory ill-nesses are common during winters and that hospitals in India are equipped to deal with them. "Special

ters for Disease Control and Prevention, the public health agency of the Unit-ed States, HMPV can cause upper and lower respiratomay progress to bronchitis or pneumonia and are si-milar to other viral infec-tions that cause upper and lower respiratory infections. The estimated incu-bation period is three to six days, and the median dura-tion of illness can vary dery disease in people of all ages, especially among young children, older adults, and people with weakened immune syspending upon severity but is like other respiratory in-fections caused by viruses. Discovered in 2001, the The HMPV is most likely to spread from an infected

HMPV belongs to the Pneu-moviridae family along with respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). person to others through secretions from coughing Broader use of molecu-lar diagnostic testing has increased identification and awareness of HMPV as

secretions from coughing and sneezing, and close personal contact such as touching of shaking hands, touching objects or surfac-them before touching the mouth, nose, or eyes. In the U.S., the HMPV circulates in distinct an-mual seasons. HMPV circu-lats until or through spring. and awareness of HMPV as an important cause of up-per and lower respiratory infection.

Symptoms commonly associated with the virus include cough, fever, nasal congestion, and shortness of breath. Clinical symp-toms of HMPV infection

India 'protests' new Chinese counties in Ladakh

Beijing forms 2 new counties in Hotan prefecture that incorporate territory of India's Ladakh

India has 'never accepted' illegal Chinese occupation in this area, says the Ministry of External Affairs

MEA raises 'concerns' over announcement of mega dam project over Yarlung Tsangpo

Kallol Bhattacherjee

NEW DELHI

ndia has lodged a "solemn protest" with China over the formation of two counties in the Hotan prefecture that incorporates territory of India's Ladakh.

Speaking to reporters during the weekly briefing on Friday, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reminded China that India "never accepted" Beijing's "illegal occupation of Indian territory in this area".

Concerns conveyed

He further stated categorically that India has also conveyed its "concerns" about the building a mega hydro power project in the upstream Yarlung Tsangpo, which is the Tibetan

name of Brahmaputra, that flows through Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

"We have never accepted the illegal Chinese occupation of Indian territory in this area. Creation of new counties will neither have a bearing on India's long-standing and consistent position regarding our sovereignty over the area nor lend legitimacy to China's illegal and forcible occupation of the same," said Mr. Jaiswal. "We have lodged a solemn protest with the Chinese side through diplomatic channels," he said.

The protest from the Indian side came after Chinese news agency Xinhua reported on December 27, 2024 that the authorities in northwest Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region had declared the formation of in



Fresh row: New counties in Hotan will have no bearing on India's sovereignty over the area, says MEA spokesperson. GETTY IMAGES

He'an County and Hekang County, in the Hotan prefecture. The Hotan prefecture contains parts of Aksai Chin that India accuses China of occupying and formation of the two new counties appears like Beijing firming up administrative measures in the region.

India-China meet

The protest from the Indian side is significant as it comes against the backdrop of the December 18, 2024 meeting between the

Special Representatives for the border mechanism – National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

The meeting is to resolve the tension that erupted in eastern Ladakh in June 2020 that has since been termed the 'Galwan clashes'.

In another significant turn, Mr. Jaiswal categorically spelt out India's concern on the announced mega dam project over Yarlung Tsangpo in the deep gorges of the eastern Himalayas that fall under Chinese control. "As a lower riparian state with established user rights to the waters of the river, we have consistently expressed. through expert-level as well as diplomatic channels, our views and concerns to the Chinese side over mega projects on rivers in their territory," said Mr. Jaiswal.

World's largest dam

Chinese news agency Xinhua had earlier announced that Beijing has approved the construction of the world's largest dam, estimated at \$137 billion on the Brahmaputra river in Tibet close to the Indian border.

The Chinese authorities have approved the construction of the hydel power project in the lower reaches of Yarlung Tsangpo. The mega dam is designed to be the largest infrastructure project in the world. Once constructed, the gigantic dam would dwarf even the Three Gorges Dam, which is now considered to be the largest. The MEA spokesperson hinted that the announce-

ment of the dam was not communicated to India through official channels as is the norm in the case of neighbours sharing maior rivers and said the Ministry of External Affairs got to know the information through a news report by Xinhua on December 25, 2024. India's view, Mr. Jaiswal said, was "reiterated, along with need for transparency and consultation with downstream countries, following the latest report."

"The Chinese side has been urged to ensure that the interests of downstream states of the Brahmaputra are not harmed by activities in upstream areas. We will continue to monitor and take necessary measures to protect our interests," said Mr. Jaiswal.

- Protest Against New Chinese Counties:
- भारत ने चीन के होटन प्रिफेक्चर में दो नए जिलों के निर्माण को लेकर कड़ा विरोध दर्ज कराया है, जो भारत के लद्दाख क्षेत्र को शामिल करते हैं।
- These new counties, He'an और Hekang, ऐसे क्षेत्र में आते हैं, जिसे भारत अक्साई चिन के रूप में अपना मानता है। यह क्षेत्र 1962 के युद्ध के बाद से चीन के नियंत्रण में है।
- Historical Context: अक्साई चिन का क्षेत्र 1962 के भारत-चीन युद्ध के बाद से दोनों देशों के बीच सीमा विवाद का मुख्य बिंदु रहा है।
- Political Impact: नए जिलों का गठन चीन की प्रशासनिक पकड़ को मजबूत करता है, जिससे क्षेत्र में तनाव और बढ़ सकता है।

- Summary in Both Languages (Seamless Integration with Historical, Geographical, Political, and Economic Contexts):
- Protest Against New Chinese Counties:
- भारत ने चीन के होटन प्रिफेक्चर में दो नए जिलों के निर्माण को लेकर कड़ा विरोध दर्ज कराया है, जो भारत के लद्दाख क्षेत्र को शामिल करते हैं।
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- Political Impact: नए जिलों का गठन चीन की प्रशासनिक पकड़ को मजबूत करता है, जिससे क्षेत्र में तनाव और बढ़ सकता है।
- Illegal Occupation Issue:
- भारत ने स्पष्ट किया है कि उसने कभी भी इस क्षेत्र में चीन के "अवैध कब्जे" को मान्यता नहीं दी है।
- Creation of new counties does not legitimize China's claims on the disputed area.
- Geographical Significance: अक्साई चिन लद्दाख और तिब्बत के बीच स्थित है और सामरिक दृष्टि से अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।
- Political Context: यह मुद्दा भारत की क्षेत्रीय संप्रभुता और अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमाओं के उल्लंघन से जुड़ा हुआ है।

- Concerns Over Mega Dam Project:
- भारत ने यारलुंग त्सांगपो नदी (जो भारत में ब्रहमपुत्र के नाम से जानी जाती है) पर चीन के मेंगा हाइड्रोइलेक्ट्रिक डैम परियोजना को लेकर चिंता जताई।
- This dam, estimated at \$137 billion, is designed to be the largest infrastructure project globally.
- Geographical Impact: ब्रहमपुत्र नदी तिब्बत से निकलती है और भारत के अरुणाचल प्रदेश और असम से होकर बहती है, जो इसे भारत और बांग्लादेश के लिए जल सुरक्षा का प्रमुख स्रोत बनाती है।
- Political and Economic Concerns: यह परियोजना न केवल जल प्रवाह को प्रभावित कर सकती है, बल्कि भारत के निचले इलाकों में कृषि और बिजली उत्पादन पर भी असर डाल सकती है।

- World's Largest Dam:
- चीन ने दुनिया के सबसे बड़े बांध के निर्माण को मंजूरी दी है, जिसकी लागत
 \$137 बिलियन है।
- Once completed, the dam will surpass the Three Gorges Dam and generate significant energy.
- Environmental Concerns: यह परियोजना नदी के पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को बदल सकती है और नीचे के क्षेत्रों में रहने वाले लोगों की आजीविका को खतरे में डाल सकती है।
- Economic Context: इस परियोजना को चीन की वैश्विक ढांचागत महत्त्वाकांक्षाओं और बेल्ट एंड रोड पहल के हिस्से के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।

- India-China Meeting:
- यह विरोध 18 दिसंबर, 2024 को भारत के राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार अजीत डोभाल और चीनी विदेश मंत्री वांग यी के बीच बैठक के साथ हुआ।
- The meeting aimed to address the long-standing tensions following the 2020 Galwan clashes.
- Historical Significance: गलवान झड़पें भारत-चीन संबंधों में एक महत्वपूर्ण मोड़ थीं, जिसने सीमा पर सैन्य निर्माण और राजनयिक संबंधों में तनावे पैदा किया।
- Political Context: बैठक का उद्देश्य पूर्वी लद्दाख में शांति बहाल करना था, जहां दोनों देशों के बीच लंबे समय से तनाव है।

- Concerns on Water Rights:
- भारत ने एक निचले तटीय राज्य के रूप में अपने अधिकारों पर जोर दिया और चीन से यह सुनिश्चित करने का आग्रह किया कि नदी के निचले इलाकों को नुकसान न हो।
- India emphasized the need for transparency and consultation over such projects that impact shared water resources.
- Geopolitical Significance: ब्रहमपुत्र जैसे साझा जल संसाधनों पर नियंत्रण का मुद्दा भारत और चीन के बीच जल संबंधों में एक प्रमुख चुनौती है।
- Economic Impact: अगर जल प्रवाह में बदलाव होता है, तो यह पूर्वीतर भारत की कृषि, जलविद्युत और पेयजल आपूर्ति को बाधित कर सकता है।

Health Ministry monitoring HMPV outbreak in China

Bindu Shajan Perappadan NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry said on Friday that it was closely monitoring the alleged outbreak of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) in China. The Ministry maintained that while China had reported a rise in respiratory illness, particularly HMPV, India had not registered any unusual spike in winter respiratory diseases.

Five years after the CO-VID pandemic, China is experiencing a surge in HMPV cases, particularly in children under 14 years of age. Symptoms include cough, fever, and shortness of breath, with potential complications like bronchitis and pneumonia. The country has seen cases rise in its northern provinces, *Reuters* had reported. Cases of HMPV had been reported in 2011-12 in the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

The Ministry's National Centre for Disease Control is closely monitoring respiratory and seasonal influenza cases in the country and is in touch with international agencies, noted a senior official.

No cause of alarm

Meanwhile, Director-General of Health Services Atul Goel told presspersons on Friday that no case of the respiratory illness – HMPV – has been reported in the country yet. Stating that the Union government was closely monitoring news about the possible HMPV outbreak in China, he added that as of now, there was no cause for alarm.

"HMPV is like any other respiratory virus that caus-



Under watch: The Ministry said it is closely monitoring respiratory and seasonal influenza cases in the country. FILE PHOTO

es flu-like symptoms, mostly in the elderly and children," said Dr. Goel, adding that respiratory illnesses are common during winters and that hospitals in India are equipped to deal with them. "Special medicines are not needed because there are no antiviral drugs against this. There are no major cases, in hospitals or as per Indian Council of Medical Research data," he added.

According to the Cen-

ters for Disease Control and Prevention, the public health agency of the United States, HMPV can cause upper and lower respiratory disease in people of all ages, especially among young children, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems.

Discovered in 2001, the HMPV belongs to the Pneumoviridae family along with respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

Broader use of molecular diagnostic testing has increased identification and awareness of HMPV as an important cause of upper and lower respiratory infection.

Symptoms commonly associated with the virus include cough, fever, nasal congestion, and shortness of breath. Clinical symptoms of HMPV infection may progress to bronchitis or pneumonia and are similar to other viral infections that cause upper and lower respiratory infections. The estimated incubation period is three to six days, and the median duration of illness can vary depending upon severity but is like other respiratory infections caused by viruses.

The HMPV is most likely to spread from an infected person to others through secretions from coughing and sneezing, and close personal contact such as touching or shaking hands, touching objects or surfaces that have the viruses on them before touching the mouth, nose, or eyes.

In the U.S., the HMPV circulates in distinct annual seasons. HMPV circulation begins in winter and lasts until or through spring.

- Monitoring of HMPV Outbreak in China
- केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने कहा है कि चीन में ह्यूमन मेटाप्रोनोमवायरस (HMPV) के प्रकोप की निगरानी की जा रही है।
- The Ministry reported that China has seen a rise in respiratory illnesses, particularly HMPV, especially in children under 14 years of age.
- Symptoms and Impact
- लक्षणों में खांसी, बुखार, सांस लेने में तकलीफ, और कभी-कभी ब्रोंकाइटिस और निमोनिया शामिल हैं।
- Symptoms include flu-like conditions, fever, nasal congestion, and shortness of breath.
- यह वायरस कमजोर इम्यून सिस्टम वाले लोगों, बच्चों और बुजुर्गों को अधिक प्रभावित करता है।

- Spread and Characteristics
- HMPV मुख्य रूप से संक्रमित व्यक्ति के खांसने, छींकने या निकट संपर्क से फैलता है।
- It spreads through secretions from infected individuals, close contact, or touching contaminated surfaces.
- No Cause for Alarm
- अभी भारत में HMPV के किसी भी मामले की पुष्टि नहीं हुई है।
- The Director-General of Health Services, Dr. Atul Goel, assured that there is no cause for alarm in India.

- Scientific Context
- 2001 में खोजा गया HMPV वायरस Pneumoviridae परिवार का हिस्सा है।
- Discovered in 2001, HMPV belongs to the same family as respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).



Historical, Geographical, Political, and Economic Points:

1. Historical Context:

- 1. HMPV पहली बार 2001 में पहचाना गया था, और यह श्वसन संक्रमण का एक महत्वपूर्ण कारण बन गया है।
- 2. The virus was identified as a significant respiratory pathogen, similar to RSV, over two decades ago.

2. Geographical Impact:

- 1. चीन में HMPV का प्रकोप उत्तरी प्रांतों में अधिक देखा गया है, खासकर ठंड के मौसम में।
- 2. The outbreak is more prevalent in northern provinces of China, typically during the winter season.

Political Dimensions:

- यह स्थिति COVID-19 महामारी के बाद वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों की सतर्कता और सहयोग का हिस्सा है।
- Post-COVID, this highlights the importance of international monitoring systems and transparency in managing infectious diseases.
- Economic Implications:
- अगर यह प्रकोप बड़ा होता है, तो यह स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं और दवाओं की मांग बढ़ा सकता है, जिससे आर्थिक दबाव पड़ सकता है।
- A large-scale outbreak could strain healthcare systems and increase economic pressure on affected regions.

At the inauguration of Union govt. sponsored projects, the PM accused the Delhi govt. of corruption; Kejriwal retorts that the AAP govt, is 'not the one that lays foundation stones only before the election' but focuses on continuous development

rime Minister Na-rendra Modi on Fri-day attacked the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) saying that over the last 10 minds to vote for the BJP in the Delhi Assembly elec-tion scheduled next month so that this "aap"da could be removed, Mr. Modi said.

The remark drew a sharp reaction from AAP only disaster that had befallen Delhi was the law and order situation, which ame under the purview of

Mr. Modi, speaking at an augurate a host of Central vernment-sponsored infrastructure projects, raised the slogan "Aapada ko nahi sahenge, badal kar



ate disaster, we will re-move it)", drawing the bat-tlelines for the high-stakes election. He hit out at the AAP-led Delhi government – which often refers to it-self as kattar imandar (staunchly honest) - as a kattar beiman (dishonest to the core) government

vist Anna Hazare's anti-cor-He accused the AAP of making false promises and indulging in corruption in numerous sectors ranging fighting pollution and liqu-or trade. "These people

'BJP has no vision' Addressing a press confe-rence after Mr. Modi's address, Mr. Kejriwal said that in 2015, two govern-ments came to power, the BJP at the Centre and the AAP in Delhi with both having control over the af-fairs of the capital. "If the BJP had done any work in the capital, Mr. Modi would not have had to spend 39 minutes of his 43-minute speech cursing the people of the capital and the government they elect-ed with the largest man-date," Mr. Kejriwal said. He added that he could list a host of development to water and sanitation in ople of Delhi would finally be able to benefit from good national schemes such as Pradhanmantri Susuch as Pradhanmantri Su-ryaghar Muft Bijli Yojana and Ayushman Bharat Yo-jana that would provide the poor and middle class. Commenting on the Prime Minister laying the foundation stone of a col-lem and two new campus

o water and sanitation in Delhi but the Centre was lege and two new campus-es for the Delhi University in 10 years, Mr. Kejriwal that has befallen the BJP. They have no CM face, no said: "In these 10 years, I built more than 22,000 vision and no agenda to fight this election. They onnew classrooms, three new universities, 11 vocational ly have the disastrous law colleges and six university and order situation to show," Mr. Kejriwal said. campuses. Our govern-ment is a working govern-Mr. Modi promised that 2025 would usher in a new ment, not the one that only lays foundation stones be-

fore elections."
In a veiled attack at the former Chief Minister, Mr. Modi said he could also have built a sheesh mahal (glass palace) for himself but his dream was to ensure homes for everyone in the country.

rules on data protection law. seeks feedback by Feb. 18

The Union government on Friday released the draft Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, 2025, which will enforce provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. While the Act was passed more than a year ago, the rules that will result in its enforcement result in its enforcement have thus far been under development, and are only now being floated for pu-blic consultation. The blic consultation. The DPDP Act provides a legal framework for "data fiduci-aries" – entities that col-lect personal data from "data principals" or users

- in order to protect that data against misuse and penalise firms that violate data protection principles. It is open for public feedback until February 18. The draft specifies the nature of the notice that data fiduciaries must pro-vide users when collecting their data: what data

if a user is not social media platform for an extended period of time, say rules

they're collecting, why they're collecting it, and "a fair account of the details necessary to enable the Da-ta Principal to give specific they're collecting, and informed consent for the processing of her per-sonal data".

Consent managers The draft also provides for the registration of so-called consent managers, which work with data fiduciaries for collecting consent un der the specified format from users. Subject to cer tain 'standards', the go-vernment and its 'instrumentalities" can collect data for the purpose of providing subsidies and benefits, the draft says. Da-ta collected for "statistical"

breach, the Data Protec-tion Board of India, which is yet to be set up, should be informed, the rules say.

In certain cases where a user is not using an e-com-merce provider, social media platform, or online data must be deleted, after providing 48 hours of ad-

Children's data

For minors, "appropriate technical and organisation-al measures [shall be verifiable consent of the parent is obtained before

Prashant Kishor draws support for **BPSC** protest

Amit Bhelari

Jan Suraj Party (JSP) four der Prashant Kishor on Fri-day continued his indefi-nite fast-unto-death for the Patna seeking cancellation of 70th Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) Combined (Preliminary) Competitive Examination CCE) held on December 13 ollowing an alleged paper

Fasting in severe cold, Mr. Kishor got support from BPSC candidates and nany others who gathered at the spot under Gandhi Statue in Gandhi Maidan here.The protesting candi-dates shouted the slogan dates shouted the slogan 'Jo Sarkar re-exam na Kar-wa Sake, Wo Sarkar Ni-kammi Hai' (The govern-ment which cannot conduct re-exam is

eless). The ISP leader sat on a gation into the irregulari-ties in the conduct of the examination, re-examina-tion, and allowance for un-employed youth in the 18 35 age group as promised by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar under Saat Nischay

Yojna in 2015. Other demands include a white paper on the inves tigation of irregularities and paper leaks in competlast 10 years along with the action taken against cul-prits, and the action taken gainst officers responsible for lathi -charge on stu-dents in Patna on Decem-

Resides there is also s demand for implementa-tion of a domicile policy to ensure that at least two-

EPFO completes rollout of centralised system for pensioners

The Hindu Bureau

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has completed full-scale implementation of the new Centralised Pension Pay-ments System (CPPS) to provide PF pensions under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS). Pension worth ₹1,570 crore, for De-cember 2024, was dis-bursed to more than 68 lakh pensioners in 122 penefficiency for our pension sion disbursing regional of-fices, the Union Labour Miers," Mr. Mandaviya said.

fices, the Union Labour Ministry said on Friday.

The pilot of the CPPS was completed in October 2024 in Karnal, Jammu and Srinagar regional offices. The second pilot was taken up in November 2024 in 24 regional offices. Announcing the successful rollout, Union Labour Minister Manaukh Mandayiya

any bank, any branch in the country. It eliminates the need for physical verifi-cation visits and simplifies the pension disbursemen process. CPPS is a testa-ment to our commitment to modernising EPFO ser-vices and ensuring conve-nience, transparency, and

termed the move a historic milestone. "This transfor-mative initiative empowers pensioners to access their pension seamlessly from

gal document and its fram-er Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. The BJP's "Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyan" is clearly aimed at positing itself as a political force that truly un-Paradigm shift
The EPFO has been mainparadigm shift from the existing pension disbursement system that is decenregional office of the EPFO
maintaining separate
agreements with only
three to four banks.

Political force that truly understands the importance of the Constitution, followtent to the constitution, followtent in the constitution, followtent is the phase attempted to
weaken the values of the
laminationing separate
laminched its "Ial Bapu, Jai
Blini, Jai Samvidham" campaign on Friday.

Sources said its nation-

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

launched a campaign on Constitution, the BJP on Friday announced that it would launch its own two-

week campaign on January 11 to spread awareness of the country's supreme le-

era of good governance in Delhi. "The year 2025 will

strengthen the spirit of 'na-tion first, countrymen

first,' and mark the launch

of a new politics focused on nation-building and pu-blic welfare," Mr. Modi said. He added that the pe-

wide campaign will run from January II till Repu-blic Day on January 26, and will focus on districts with

BJP to launch two-week

campaign on Constitution,

Ambedkar from January 11

a significant population of Scheduled Castes (SCs). Three BJP leaders — Vi-nod Tawde, Tarun Chugh, and Dushyant Kumar Gau-tam – will supervise the campaign, with Mr. Tawde named as its convener. The BJP will organise

programmes in at least 50 cities, including all State capitals, apart from nume-rous local-level exercises, the sources said. Different the sources said. Different wings of the party will also reach out to students to highlight constitutional va-lues, they added.

The issue of the Consti-tution has become particu-larly sensitive for the BJP following the Opposition's campaign during last year's Lok Sabba election

ty wanted a brute majority in the Lok Sabha in order to effect radical constitu tional changes, including

ending reservations.

This resulted in a sub par electoral performance by the BIP though it secured a comfortable ma-jority along with its allies.

Shah's speech The Winter Session saw a

debate on India's constitu tional journey, during which the Congress and other Opposition parties seized on a part of Union Home Minister Amit Shah? Home Minister Amit Shah's speech to accuse him of in-sulting Dr. Ambedkar. Mr. Shah accused the Opposi-tion parties of distorting his speech, with the BJP as-serting that it is the Con-gress that has repeatedly insulted Dr. Ambedkar.

Senior bureaucrat Faiz Ahmed Kidwai is new chief of DGCA

Jagriti Chandra NEW DELHI

Director-General (D-G) of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Currently an additional

secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Mr. Kidwai is a 1996-batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre.
The Appointments
Committee of the Cabinet

approved his appointment on Friday. The posting was neces-

sitated after his predeces-sor Vikram Dev Dutt was elevated from the additional secretary rank to the rank of secretary and later al secretary rank to the rank of secretary and later transferred to the Ministry of Coal where he took charge on October 21. In the interim, a joint-DG le-vel official at the DGCA,



D.C. Sharma, was assigned the additional charge of the D-G. The top official has the

task before him of resolv ing the stalemate between airlines and pilots over the latter's duty and rest soakly rost for pilots from 36 hours to 48 hours as well as curtailed night fly ing following concern-from the cockpit crew over

Hazy mornings



'Constructive criticism of SC verdicts vital for growth'

The Hindu Bureau

preme Court judgments of public significance must be encouraged, while noting

that the people of India are, after all, the guardians of the judiciary. He said public discussion of SC judgments of sig-nificance was vital for the development of the law. "I am of the firm view that

a public discussion and it should follow constructive criticism on it," he said at his farewell.

The judge said if the jud-iciary was the guardian of the Constitution, who

1960, in Kerala's Peerma-du, Justice Ravikumar graduated in zoology from Bishop Moore College, Ma-velikara, and obtained an LLB degree from Govern-ment Law College, Calicut.

and commenced his prac-tice at Mavelikara courts, before moving it to the Ker-ala High Court. He was appointed as an additional judge of Kerala High Court on January 5, 2000, and because per-

should keep an eye on the judges but the public.

Born on January 6, Kerala on July 12, 1986, ber 15, 2010.

Vande Bharat sleeper trains see top speed of 180 kmph after multiple trials in 3 days

The Vande Bharat sleeper train has achieved a peak speed of 180 kilometres per hour following multi-ple trials in the last three "The trials will continue

the facility is made availa ble to the rail commuters," the Ministry of Railways said in a statement. A video shared by Union Railway shared by Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on X shows a nearly full to-cent to a mobile on a plain surface inside a Vande Bha-rat sleeper trail. The water moving train achieves near constant peak speed of 180 km per hour. The post constant peak, ju which the train in its loaded condi-speed. Minister Ashwini Vashnaw
on X shows a nearly full to
cent to a mobile on a plain
surface inside a Vande Bharat sleeper train. The water
moving train achieves near
constant peak speed of 180
km per hour. The post
said, referring to the Recestful trials, in which the
train in its loaded condition touched the
peak
A day earlier on january
1, the sleeper train on Wedneeday went through a 40.
Rohal Khurd to Kota and
Rohal Khurd to Kota and

...



features like automatic doors and WiFi services. FUE PHO

touched the peak speed of 180 km per hour. On the same day, peaks of 170 km/hr and 160 km/hr were With these successful

of 180 km/hour.
With these successful trials, commuters can

trials, commuters can hope for a comfortable tra-wel experience in long dis-tance like Kashmir to Kan-niyakumari, Delhi to Mumbai, Howah to Chen-nai and other routes. "They will benefit as travel time will come down con-siderably. The current av-erage speed of 20 Implir with maximum permissiwith maximum permissi-ble speed of 140 km/h for Tejas Rajdhani Express, which is the fastest among all Rajdhani train services," officials said.

Vande Bharat sleeper trains see top speed of 180 kmph after multiple trials in 3 days

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Vande Bharat sleeper train has achieved a peak speed of 180 kilometres per hour following multiple trials in the last three days.

"The trials will continue till this month end before the facility is made available to the rail commuters," the Ministry of Railways said in a statement. A video shared by Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on X shows a nearly full to brim glass of water adjacent to a mobile on a plain surface inside a Vande Bharat sleeper train. The water level remains static as the moving train achieves near constant peak speed of 180 km per hour. The post came after third day of successful trials, in which the train in its loaded condition touched the peak speed.

A day earlier on January 1, the sleeper train on Wednesday went through a 40km long trial run between Rohal Khurd to Kota and



Scaling up: The Vande Bharat sleeper trains are designed with features like automatic doors and WiFi services. FILE PHOTO

touched the peak speed of 180 km per hour. On the same day, peaks of 170 km/ hr and 160 km/hr were achieved on Kota-Nagda and Rohal Khurd-Chau Mahla sections. "These trials will continue for the month of January under the supervision of RDSO, Lucknow," railway officials said, referring to the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO).

Officials said the real challenge for the Railways was to add berths and test the trains for full passenger and luggage load conditions in order to convert them into Vande Bharat sleeper coaches while achieving the peak speed of 180 km/hour.

With these successful trials, commuters can hope for a comfortable travel experience in long-distance like Kashmir to Kanniyakumari, Delhi to Mumbai, Howrah to Chennai and other routes. "They will benefit as travel time will come down considerably. The current average speed of Mumbai-Delhi travel is 90 km/hr with maximum permissible speed of 140 km/h for Tejas Rajdhani Express, which is the fastest among all Raidhani train services," officials said.

- Here's the summary in both languages seamlessly from the article along with historical, geographical, political, and economic perspectives:
- Vande Bharat Sleeper Trains Achieve 180 km/h Speed
- वंदे भारत स्लीपर ट्रेन ने 180 किलोमीटर प्रति घंटा की शीर्ष गति हासिल की, जो लगातार तीन दिनों के कई परीक्षणों के बाद हुआ।
- The trials, conducted under the supervision of the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), showcased the train's ability to maintain stability even at high speeds.

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- The trials, conducted under the supervision of the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), showcased the train's ability to maintain stability even at high speeds.
- Key Features and Trials:
- एक वीडियो में दिखाया गया कि वंदे भारत ट्रेन में पानी से भरा ग्लास स्थिर रहा, जबकि ट्रेन 180 किमी/घंटा की गति से चल रही थी।
- The train also achieved speeds of 170 km/h on the Kota-Nagda route and 160 km/h on the Rohal Khurd-Chau Mahla section during trials.
- These tests were conducted on fully loaded conditions, ensuring the train can handle both passenger and luggage weight effectively.

- Benefits for Passengers:
- सफल परीक्षणों के साथ, यात्रियों को लंबी दूरी की यात्रा जैसे कश्मीर से कन्याकुमारी, दिल्ली से मुंबई और हावड़ा से चेन्नई में आरामदायक अनुभव मिलेगा।
- Travelers can expect reduced travel time, with current speeds for Mumbai-Delhi routes (90 km/h average) expected to improve significantly.

- Challenges for Railways:
- रेलवे के लिए मुख्य चुनौती स्लीपर कोचों में बर्थ और सामान रखने की व्यवस्था को समायोजित करना था।
- The goal is to transform these trains into efficient long-distance options, surpassing the speeds of Tejas and Rajdhani Express trains.

Historical, Geographical, Political, and Economic Points:

1. Historical Context:

- 1. वंदे भारत एक्सप्रेस को भारत की पहली स्वदेशी सेमी-हाई-स्पीड ट्रेन के रूप में डिजाइन किया गया था।
- 2. This initiative is a continuation of India's efforts to modernize its rail infrastructure since independence.

2. Geographical Impact:

- 1. These trains aim to connect major metropolitan cities and remote regions, improving accessibility across the country.
- 2. देश के विभिन्न हिस्सों को जोड़ने के लिए यह प्रोजेक्ट राष्ट्रीय एकता को मजबूत करेगा।

Political Significance:

- This development aligns with the government's 'Make in India' initiative and emphasizes self-reliance in critical sectors.
- यह रेलवे परियोजना भारत की अधोसंरचना और चुनावी लाभ के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि है।

Economic Implications:

- Faster trains will boost tourism, reduce logistical costs, and improve business connectivity.
- तेज़ गति वाली ट्रेनें व्यापार और पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देंगी, जिससे आर्थिक विकास होगा। • With reduced travel times, industries can better connect with urban and rural markets.

MHA: India's recalculated coastline up 48% in 53 yrs

Umamaheswara.Rao @timesofindia.com

Visakhapatnam: India's coastline expanded by 47.6% in just over five decades — from 7,516km in 1970 to 11,098km in 2023-24 — with states like West Bengal, Gujarat and Goa adding significantly to their shoreline, according to an MHA report based on new terms of reference for measuring coastal accretion and erosion.

Gujarat's recalculated coastline contributed the most to this growth—from 1,214km in 1970 to 2,340km in the past

NEW PARAMETERS

- ➤ While earlier method relied on straight-line distance, new one factors in complex coastal formations such as bays, estuaries and inlets
- Tamil Nadu's coast, with a revised length of 1,068km, has overtaken Andhra (1,053km)
- > Puducherry's coastline shrinks 4.9km, a departure from general upward revision

53 years. West Bengal's was the highest rise in percentage terms—up 357% to 721km.

▶Continued on P 9

संपत्तियों की ई-नीलामी के लिए नया पोर्टल 'बैंकनेट' पेश

नई दिल्ली, 3 जनवरी (भाषा)।

वित्तीय सेवा सिचव एम नागराजू ने शुक्रवार को वाणिज्यिक संपत्तियों, औद्योगिक भूमि, दुकानों, वाहनों और कृषि एवं गैर-कृषि भूमि की ई-नीलामी के लिए नया पोर्टल पेश किया।

वित्त मंत्रालय ने एक बयान में कहा कि 'बैंकनेट' नाम का यह पोर्टल ई-नीलामी वाली संपत्तियों के बारे में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के सभी बैंकों से जानकारी को इकट्ठा करता है और खरीदारों एवं निवेशकों को संपत्तियों की जानकारी तलाशने का एक मंच मुहैया कराता है। बैंकनेट पर सूचीबद्ध होने वाली संपत्तियों में फ्लैट, स्वतंत्र घर और भूखंड, वाणिज्यिक संपत्तियां, एवं भवन, दुकानें, वाहन और कृषि एवं गैर-कृषि भूमि शामिल हैं। इन सभी संपत्तियों के विवरणों को एक ही स्थान पर एकत्र कर यह पोर्टल संपत्तियों की ई-नीलामी के बारे में जानकारी जुटाने और उसमें भाग लेने की प्रक्रिया को आसान बनाता है।

नेपाल के पर्वतारोही मिंगमा जी शेरपा हुए सम्मानित

काठमांडो, ३ जनवरी (भाषा)।

जाने-माने नेपाली पर्वतारोही मिंगमा जी शेरपा को शुक्रवार को सम्मानित किया गया, जिन्होंने अतिरिक्त आक्सीजन का उपयोग किए बिना 8,000 मीटर से अधिक ऊंची सभी 14 चोटियों पर चढ़ने वाला पहला नेपाली पर्वतारोही बनकर इतिहास रचा था।

मिंगमा (38) अक्तूबर में तिब्बत में शीशा पंगमा (8,027 मीटर ऊंची) चोटी पर अपराह्न लगभग चार बज कर छह मिनट पर पहुंचे और अतिरिक्त आक्सीजन के उपयोग के बिना 8,000 मीटर की 14 चोटियों पर चढ़ने वाले नेपाल के पहले पर्वतारोही बन गए।

पर्यटन, संस्कृति एवं नागरिक उड्डयन राज्य मंत्री अरुण कुमार चौधरी ने शुक्रवार को काठमांडो में नेपाल पर्वतारोहण संघ द्वारा



मिंगमा (38) अक्तूबर में तिब्बत में शीशा पंगमा (8,027 मीटर ऊंची) चोटी पर अपराह्म लगभग चार बज कर छह मिनट पर पहुंचे और अतिरिक्त आक्सीजन के उपयोग के बिना 8,000 मीटर की 14 चोटियों पर चढ़ने वाले नेपाल के पहले पर्वतारोही बन गए।

आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में मिंगमा को सम्मानित किया। डोलखा जिले के रोलवालिंग ग्रामीण नगर पालिका में जन्मे मिंगमा ने पहली बार 2007 में दुनिया की सबसे ऊंची चोटी एवरेस्ट (8,848.86 मीटर) पर चढ़ाई की और चार अक्तूबर, 2024 को माउंट शीशा पंगमा (8,027 मीटर) पर चढ़कर अपना मिशन पुरा किया। पेशे से 'माउंटेन गाइड' मिंगमा छह बार माउंट एवरेस्ट पर चढ़ चुके हैं। वह नेपाल में पर्वतारोहण एजंसी 'इमैजिन नेपाल' के मालिक भी हैं। उन्होंने कहा, 'पहाड़ी देश नेपाल का नागरिक होने के नाते, मैंने अंतरराष्ट्रीय क्षेत्र में अपने देश की प्रतिष्ठा बढ़ाने के लिए बिना आक्सीजन सिलेंडर के 14 ऊंची चोटियों पर चढ़ने का साहस किया।' उन्होंने सरकार से आपात स्थित का सामना करने वाले पर्वतारोहियों को बचाने के लिए सुविधाओं से लैस एक स्थायी बचाव दल बनाने का अनुरोध किया ताकि देश में पर्वतीय पर्यटन को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके। उन्होंने कहा कि सुविधाओं से लैस बचाव दल की अनुपस्थिति में कई शेरपाओं की जान खतरे में पड़ जाती है।

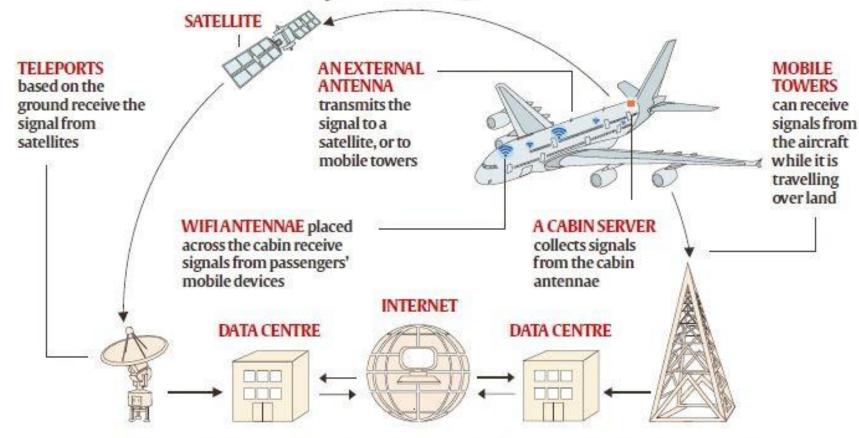
वहीं घर पहुंचने के बाद भव्य स्वागत होने के बाद मिंगमा जी शेरपा ने बताया कि मैं बहुत खुश हूं, कि मैं दुनिया भर के सात महाद्वीपों की सभी सबसे ऊंची चोटियों पर चढ़ सका। मेरा सपना था कि मैं नेपाल का नाम दुनिया के शीर्ष पर ले जाऊं और एक विशेषज्ञ बनूं। 4 अक्तूबर, 2024 को, मैंने पूरक आक्सीजन के बिना 8,000 मीटर की ऊंचाई से ऊपर सभी 14 चोटियों पर चढ़ने की अपनी क्षमता पूरी कर ली।



 Air India, part of the Tata Group, has become the first Indian airline to offer in-flight Internet on domestic flights.



From the sky to the ground and back



On the ground data is routed through standard channels. The response then travels the process in reverse, explaining the typically slow Internet speeds typical on aircraft

CAN YOU MAKE CALLS FROM THE SKY?

WHILE technically possible, it depends on airlines and country-specific civil aviation regulations. Lufthansa has said that Internet telephony applications such as Skype, too, are "not allowed out of consideration for other passengers".

AIR INDIA has not said whether Internet-based voice calls will be allowed, but it is learnt that such calls are not permitted. Voice notes using instant messaging applications like WhatsApp can be sent.

About In-Flight Internet:

• What it is: In-flight Wi-Fi provides passengers with Internet connectivity during flights, enabling access to online services like browsing, streaming, and messaging.

How it works:

- <u>Technology used:</u> Two primary systems <u>Air-to-Ground (ATG)</u> and <u>Satellite-Based Connectivity</u>.
 - <u>ATG:</u> Uses antennae under the aircraft to connect with ground cellular towers. Suitable
 for regions with dense tower networks.

- Satellite-Based:
- Uses antennae on top of the aircraft to communicate with satellites, ensuring wider coverage, especially over oceans and remote areas.
- Signal Transmission: Devices connect to in-cabin Wi-Fi antennae.
- Signals pass through an onboard server. For satellite systems, signals move from the server to satellites, then to ground stations, and back via the same route.
- For ATG systems, signals travel directly between the aircraft and ground cellular towers.

Features and Benefits:

- **Enhanced Passenger Experience:** Browsing, streaming, and connecting with the world mid-air.
- <u>Convenience</u>: Integration with existing airline portals for seamless connectivity.
- Flexibility: Compatibility with multiple devices.

- <u>Limitations of In-Flight Wi-Fi:Slower Speeds:</u> Typically, slower than ground-based Internet due to technological constraints.
- <u>High Costs:</u> Expensive equipment installation and maintenance for airlines, with potential charges for passengers.
- <u>Limited Coverage:</u> ATG technology struggles over large water bodies or remote areas



 IIT Madras has partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare to launch Project **VISTAAR** (Virtually Integrated **System to Access Agricultural Resources**)

About Project VISTAAR:

What it is: A digital platform designed to enhance agricultural extension services, making critical information and start-up innovations accessible to farmers.

Ministry involved: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare in collaboration with IIT Madras.

Objectives:

- Digitalise the agricultural extension system to improve efficiency and outreach.
- Provide farmers access to **start-up-driven innovations and technologies** in agriculture and allied sectors.
- Enhance adoption of **sustainable and climate-resilient** farming practices

Key Features:

Integration of data on over 12,000 Agri-startups through IIT Madras' startup information platform and it incubate, YNOS Venture Engine. Advisory services covering crop production, marketing, value addition, and supply chain management.

Easy access to government schemes related to agriculture and rural development.

Delivery of accurate, timely, and contextual information to farmers to improve decision-making

Ramesh Chand Committee

• The Indian government has formed an 18-member expert panel, led by NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand, to revise the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and explore a transition to a Producers' Price Index (PPI).

About Wholesale Price Index (WPI):

What it is: WPI measures changes in the prices of goods sold and traded in bulk at the wholesale level. It is a key indicator of inflationary trends in the economy.

Released by: The Office of Economic Advisor,
Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion,
Ministry of Commerce and Industry.



Aim:



Track supply and demand dynamics in industries.

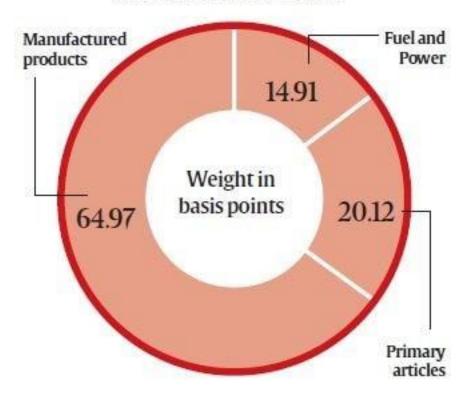


Provide a measure of wholesale inflation in the economy. Align with other economic indicators like GDP.

Key Features:

- Base Year: Updated to 2011-12 in the current series, under revision to 2022-23.
- <u>Number of Items:</u> Tracks prices of 697 items, including 117 primary items, 16 fuel and power items, and 564 manufactured products.
- <u>Excludes:</u> Services sector (unlike CPI, which includes both goods and services).

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX



Advantages of PPI Over WPI:

- Industry-Centric Inflation Measurement: Captures price changes from the perspective of producers, providing an early signal of inflation trends.
- <u>Focus on Production Stages:</u> Reflects price shifts before goods and services reach consumers, aiding better policy decisions.
- International Alignment: Adheres to the System of National Accounts (SNA), making it more suitable for global economic comparisons.
- Broader Scope: Includes services, unlike WPI, which is restricted to goods.
- <u>Global Adoption:</u> Has replaced WPI in many countries as a more precise tool for measuring economic activity.

Mubarak Manzil Palace

 The 17th-century Mubarak Manzil, or Aurangzeb's Haveli, a Mughal heritage site in Agra, was largely demolished, allegedly by a builder with official collusion, despite state archaeological protection.



About Mubarak Manzil Palace

Located in: Agra, near the Yamuna River.

Built by: Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb after his victory at the **Battle of Samugarh.**



The 17th-century Mubarak Manzil, or Aurangzeb's Haveli, a Mughal heritage site



History: Initially served as a residence for key Mughal figures, including Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb. Renamed by Aurangzeb to commemorate his triumph.



Modified during British rule, functioning as a customs house and salt office. Later became a goods depot for the East Indian Railway.



Agra, was largely demolished, allegedly by a builder with official collusion, despite state archaeological protection.

Architectural Features:

- Red sandstone base with arched lower floors and Mughal minarets.
- Reflects a blend of Mughal and British architectural styles.
- Known for its intricate detailing, as documented in Archibald Carlyle's 1871 report.

Norovirus

Recently a surge in the outbreak of Norovirus has been detected in parts of the United States.
About

highly contagious virus causing vomiting and diarrhea.

• Norovirus, often called the stomach flu or stomach bug, is a

It leads to inflammation in the stomach or intestines, a condition known as acute gastroenteritis.

First identified in Norwalk, Ohio, during the 1970s, it is a leading cause of foodborne illnesses globally.

The norovirus belongs to a family of small RNA viruses called Caliciviridae.

Transmission: Norovirus spreads rapidly through multiple routes; direct contact, by consumption of contaminated food or liquids & aerosolised particles released by an infected person.

Symptoms: vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach pain and nausea

Banana Cultivation

 India has seen a tenfold increase in banana exports over the past decade, aiming for \$1 billion in exports within the next five years.

•

Banana Cultivation

About: Bananas are a major horticultural crop.

Geographical Condition: It evolved in the humid tropical regions of Southeast Asia, with India being one of its centers of origin.

Today, bananas are grown in warm tropical regions worldwide, between 30°N and 30°S of the equator. It needed deep, rich loamy soil.



Major varieties: Dwarf Cavendish, Robusta, Monthan, Poovan, Nendran, etc.



Cultivated areas: Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh.



- What is the key objective of Project VISTAAR launched by IIT Madras and the Ministry of Agriculture? आईआईटी मद्रास और कृषि मंत्रालय द्वारा शुरू की गई परियोजना विस्तारित का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?
- A. Promote digital education for farmers / किसानों के लिए डिजिटल शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देना
 - B. Digitize the agricultural extension system / कृषि विस्तार प्रणाली का डिजिटलीकरण करना
 - C. Enhance exports of agricultural products / कृषि उत्पादों के निर्यात को बढ़ावा देना
 - D. Develop high-yield crop varieties / उच्च उपज वाली फसल किस्मों का विकास करना

- What is the base year for the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) revision planned by the Ramesh Chand Committee? रमेश चंद समिति द्वारा योजना के तहत थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (WPI) के लिए आधार वर्ष क्या है?
- A. 2004-05
 - B. 2011-12
 - C. 2022-23
 - D. 2025-26

- What is the architectural significance of the Mubarak Manzil Palace? मुबारक मंजिल महल की वास्तुशिल्पीय विशेषता क्या है?
- A. Built entirely with white marble / पूरी तरह से सफेद संगमरमर से निर्मित
 - B. Reflects a blend of Mughal and British architectural styles / मुगल और ब्रिटिश वास्तुशिल्पीय शैलियों का मिश्रण दर्शाता है C. Contains the largest dome in India / भारत में सबसे बड़ा गुंबद शामिल है
 - D. Known for its underground tunnels / अपनी भूमिगत सुरंगों के लिए प्रसिद्ध

- What is the projected target for India's banana exports over the next five years? अगले पांच वर्षों में भारत के केले के निर्यात का अनुमानित लक्ष्य क्या है?
- A. \$500 million
 - B. \$750 million
 - C. \$1 billion
 - D. \$2 billion

- Which virus is known as the stomach flu and has caused recent outbreaks in the United States? कौन सा वायरस पेट फ्लू के रूप में जाना जाता है और हाल ही में संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में इसके प्रकोप देखे गए हैं?
- A. Norovirus / नोरोवायरस
 - B. HMPV / एचएमपीवी
 - C. RSV / आरएसवी
 - D. Rotavirus / रोटावायरस

- What myth is debunked about adding salt to water? पानी में नमक डालने से संबंधित कौन सी मिथक को खारिज किया गया है?
- A. It makes water freeze faster / यह पानी को तेजी से जमाता है B. It makes water boil faster / यह पानी को तेजी से उबालता है C. It prevents water from boiling / यह पानी को उबलने से रोकता है D. It decreases the boiling temperature / यह उबाल के तापमान को कम करता है

- What is the estimated cost of China's mega dam project on the Yarlung Tsangpo River? यारलुंग त्सांगपो नदी पर चीन की मेगा डैम परियोजना की अनुमानित लागत क्या है?
- A. \$50 billion
 - B. \$100 billion
 - C. \$137 billion
 - D. \$200 billion

- Which type of Internet connectivity does Air India now offer on domestic flights?
 एयर इंडिया अब घरेलू उड़ानों पर कौन सी प्रकार की इंटरनेट कनेक्टिविटी प्रदान करता है?
- A. Fiber-based Internet / फाइबर आधारित इंटरनेट B. Air-to-Ground and Satellite-Based Connectivity / एअर-टू-ग्राउंड और सैटेलाइट आधारित कनेक्टिविटी
 - C. Cellular Tower Networks Only / केवल सेल्युलर टॉवर नेटवर्क D. High-Speed Fiber Optics / उच्च गति फाइबर ऑप्टिक्स

- What major challenge was identified for Vande Bharat sleeper trains during trials?
 परीक्षणों के दौरान वंदे भारत स्लीपर ट्रेनों के लिए मुख्य चुनौती क्या पहचानी गई?
- A. Passenger comfort at high speeds / उच्च गति पर यात्रियों की स्विधा
 - B. Stability of the train / ट्रेन की स्थिरता
 - C. Arrangement of berths and luggage storage / बर्थ और सामान भंडारण की व्यवस्था
 - D. Connectivity issues on long-distance routes / लंबी दूरी के मार्गीं पर कनेक्टिविटी समस्याएं

- What technology is primarily used in satellite-based in-flight Internet systems? सैटेलाइट आधारित इन-फ्लाइट इंटरनेट सिस्टम में मुख्य रूप से कौन सी तकनीक का उपयोग किया जाता है?
- A. Cellular Towers / सेल्युलर टॉवर B. Ground Stations and Satellites / ग्राउंड स्टेशन और सेटेलाइट्स C. Fiber Optics / फाइबर ऑप्टिक्स
 - D. Microwave Transmission / माइक्रोवेव ट्रांसिमशन

• Importance: Bananas are a popular, nutritious fruit rich in carbohydrates, vitamins (especially B vitamins), and minerals like potassium, phosphorus, calcium, and magnesium. They are easy to digest, fat-free, and cholesterol-free.

•

Myth: The Mona Lisa was famous from the start.

Truth: The Mona Lisa gained fame after it was stolen from the Louvre in 1911, sparking global media attention.



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