

Daily Current Affairs

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Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate **Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025** in New Delhi tomorrow. The Mahotsav aims to enhance rural infrastructure, create self-reliant economies, and **foster innovation within rural communities**.
- The theme of the six-day Mahotsav is Building a Resilient Rural India for a **Viksit Bharat 2047** & motto “गांव बढ़े, तो देश बढ़े”.



- The objective of this event includes promoting **economic stability and financial security among rural populations**, with a special focus on North-East India. A significant focus of the Mahotsav will be to empower rural women through entrepreneurship.
- This will bring together **government officials, rural entrepreneurs, artisans**, and stakeholders from diverse sectors to build a roadmap for collaborative and collective rural transformation. **The Mahotsav will showcase India's rich cultural heritage through** vibrant performances and exhibitions.

‘BAANKNET’ For e-auction Of Properties

- Government launched the revamped portal ‘BAANKNET’ for the e-auction of **properties**. The platform consolidates information on e-auction properties from **all public sector banks and offers a one-stop destination** for buyers and investors to discover a wide range of assets.



- Launching the portal, the secretary of the Department of Financial Services, M. Nagaraju, emphasised that the introduction of the platform will **aid the recovery process of PSBs**, improve the balance sheets of banks, and enhance credit availability to businesses and individuals.
- The listings in the portal include **residential properties such as flats, independent houses, and open plots**, as well as commercial properties, industrial land and buildings, shops, vehicles, plant and machinery, and agricultural and non-agricultural land.

India’s 1st ‘Coastline-Waders Bird Census’

- Country’s first-ever ‘Coastline-Waders Bird Census’ will begin at **Marine National Park and Sanctuary** in Jamnagar.
- The three-day census which has been jointly organized by the **Department of Forest and the Bird Conservation Society** will also host significant events focusing on counting wader and coastal bird species.



- A **wading bird** is a **long-legged bird**, such as a crane, heron, or stork, that frequents shallow water, especially in search of food. Also called wader.

Human Metapneumovirus Outbreak In China

- China is currently experiencing a significant increase in **human metapneumovirus** (HMPV) cases, leading to concerns about a potential health crisis reminiscent of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Reports indicate that **hospitals are becoming overcrowded**, with suggestions of multiple viruses, including **HMPV, influenza A, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, and COVID-19**, contributing to the situation.



- Despite some claims of a state of emergency, there has been no official confirmation from Chinese authorities. **HMPV is a respiratory virus** responsible for both upper and lower respiratory infections.
- **Identified in 2001, it affects individuals across** all age groups, with young children, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems being particularly vulnerable.



- The virus presents **symptoms similar to the flu and other respiratory infections**, including: Cough, Fever, Nasal congestion, Shortness of breath. In severe cases, HMPV can lead to complications such as bronchitis or pneumonia.
- The **incubation period typically ranges from three to six days**, with symptom duration varying based on infection severity.
- **HMPV spreads through mechanisms common to other respiratory viruses:** Respiratory secretions from coughing and sneezing, Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands, Contact with contaminated surfaces followed by touching the mouth, nose, or eyes.

Project VISTAAR

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** has partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to launch **Project VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources)**.
- This initiative aims to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of India's agricultural **extension system through digitalization**, providing farmers with improved access to innovative technologies and advisory services. **Project VISTAAR seeks to empower farmers** by integrating innovative technologies and

solutions into the agricultural sector. By digitalizing the extension system, the project aims to provide high-quality advisory services on crop production, marketing, value addition, and supply chain management.



- **Additionally, it will offer comprehensive information** about government schemes related to agriculture, rural development, and allied sectors, ensuring farmers can fully benefit from these initiatives.
- **Start-ups play a critical role in addressing challenges** in agriculture by providing solutions that improve productivity, supply chain management, and market access.
- The **Centre for Research on Start-ups and Risk Financing at IIT Madras**, along with its **incubated start-up YNOS Venture Engine**, has developed an extensive database of over **12,000 agriculture-focused start-ups**.



- This database will be integrated into the **VISTAAR platform, enabling farmers and other stakeholders to explore innovative solutions**, adopt new technologies, and improve agricultural practices.
- Through this collaboration, farmers will gain access to high-quality advisory services, including insights on crop production, supply chain management, and market intelligence.
- The **digitalization of the existing agricultural extension system** will significantly expand its reach, allowing every farmer—regardless of their location—to access timely, contextual, and accurate information. This includes updates on best **farming practices, weather forecasts, pest control methods**, and sustainable agriculture techniques.



- The partnership between **IIT Madras and the Ministry of Agriculture** marks a significant milestone in India's journey towards a resilient, digitally empowered, and sustainable agricultural sector.
- By creating a seamless connection between start-ups and farmers, **Project VISTAAR aims to reduce information gaps, improve decision-making**, and enhance overall productivity.
- Additionally, the project will **focus on training and capacity-building initiatives** to equip farmers with the necessary knowledge and skills to adopt these

innovative solutions effectively, ensuring the long-term sustainability and scalability of digital agricultural extension services.

Ramesh Chand Committee

- Government of India has established a committee to update the base year for the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)**, aiming to enhance the accuracy of factory-gate inflation measures.
- This initiative reflects structural changes in the economy since the last update in 2011-12. The 18-member panel, led by **Ramesh Chand of NITI Aayog**, is **tasked with advising** on transitioning the base year to 2022-23. This move is expected to improve the estimation of economic output adjusted for inflation.



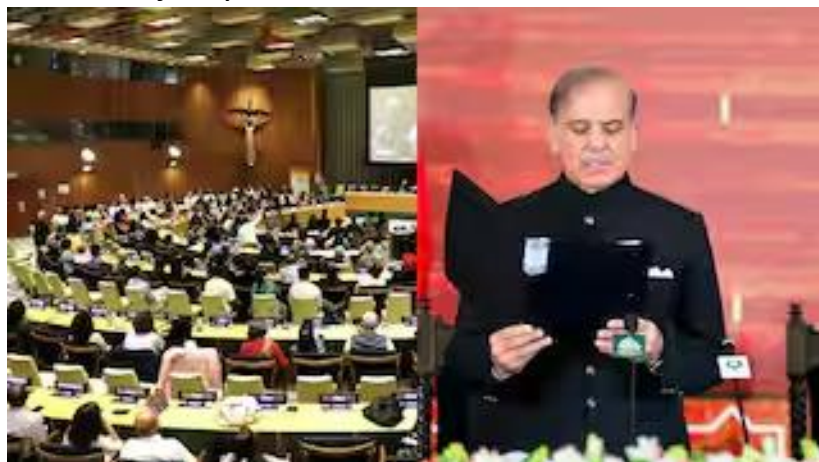
- The primary goal of updating the WPI is to provide a more precise measure of inflation at the producer level. The **current WPI only accounts for goods, neglecting the service sector**, which constitutes over half of India's economic output. By shifting to a more comprehensive Producer Price Index (PPI), the government aims to capture a broader spectrum of economic activity.
- The committee **comprises 18 experts from various sectors**, including economics and finance. Notable members include Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Dharmakirti Joshi, and Indranil Sengupta. The diverse expertise within the panel is expected to facilitate a thorough review of the existing price collection system and propose necessary improvements.



- The WPI has undergone revisions in the past, with the last update occurring in **2015** when the base year was changed from **2004-05** to **2011-12**. This new update aims to reflect the current economic landscape and improve the accuracy of national income calculations. The previous base year has become outdated, necessitating this review.

Pakistan 2 Year Term Non-Permanent UNSC Member

- Pakistan commenced its **two-year tenure** as a **non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**. This marks Pakistan's eighth term on the 15-member council, succeeding Japan as the Asian representative.
- Ambassador **Munir Akram emphasized Pakistan's commitment** to playing an "active and constructive" role in addressing global challenges. Pakistan secured its seat with **182 votes in the 193-member General Assembly**, surpassing the required two-thirds majority.



- The **term commenced on January 1, 2025**, and will conclude on December 31, 2026. In July 2025, Pakistan will preside over the UNSC, setting the council's agenda. Additionally, **Pakistan will serve on the Islamic State (ISIS) and Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee**, responsible for designating terrorist entities and imposing sanctions.
- This is **Pakistan's eighth term on the UNSC**, with previous terms in 2012-13, 2003-04, 1993-94, 1983-84, 1976-77, 1968-69, and 1952-53. Ambassador Akram highlighted the current geopolitical turbulence, including intense competition between major powers, ongoing conflicts in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, and a rising arms race. He emphasized Pakistan's role in promoting peace, resolving disputes, and combating terrorism.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Project VISTAAR Is Launched By

- A. IIT DELHI
- B. IIT BOMBAY
- C. IIT MADRAS
- D. IIT ROPAR

ANSWER: C

2. Ramesh Chand Committee Set Up For

- A. Tax Reforms
- B. WPI Reforms
- C. CPI Reforms
- D. Health Reforms

ANSWER: B

3. Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State

- A. Kerala
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: A

4. Which Union Ministry Is Associated With The Nutrient-based Subsidy Scheme

- A. Ministry of Science and Technology
- B. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- C. Ministry of Agriculture
- D. Ministry of Rural Development

ANSWER: B

5. Which State Is The Host Of National SARAS Mela 2025

- A. Karnataka
- B. Kerala
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: B

6. What is “INS Surat”

- A. Fleet tanker
- B. Kamorta -class corvettes
- C. Nuclear powered aircraft carrier
- D. Stealth Destroyer

ANSWER: D

7. Scrub Typhus, Is Caused By Which Agent

- A. Virus
- B. Fungus
- C. Bacteria
- D. Protozoa

ANSWER: C

8. Who Assumed Charge As CEO Of The Unique Identification Authority Of India

- A. Amit Agrawal
- B. Bhuvnesh Kumar
- C. Rajesh Kumar
- D. Arvind Kumar

ANSWER: B

9. By What Percentage Did India's Coffee Exports Increase From The Same Period Last Year

- A. 20%
- B. 25%
- C. 29%
- D. 35%

ANSWER: C

10. Who Has Been Appointed As The New Secretary General Of ASSOCHAM

- A. Deepak Sood
- B. Manish Singhal
- C. Ramesh Kumar
- D. Arvind Kumar

ANSWER: B

11. What Types Of Coffee Does India Produce

- A. Arabica and Robusta
- B. Robusta and Liberica
- C. Arabica and Canephora
- D. Arabica and Java

ANSWER: A

12. What New Tax Was Introduced In Russia Starting January 1, 2025

- A. Luxury Tax
- B. Tourist Tax
- C. Resort Fee
- D. Infrastructure Development Tax

ANSWER: B

13. When Is Global Family Day Celebrated Annually

- A. December 31
- B. January 1
- C. February 14
- D. April 22

ANSWER: B

14. Which Country Launched The 'Child Marriage Free' Campaign To End Child Marriage

- A. India
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Bhutan
- D. Nepal

ANSWER: D

15. Who Shared The 2024 World Blitz Chess Championship Title

- A. Magnus Carlsen and Ju Wenjun
- B. Magnus Carlsen and Ian Nepomniachtchi
- C. Ian Nepomniachtchi and Ju Wenjun
- D. Magnus Carlsen and Lei Tingjie

ANSWER: B

16. What Has The Defence Ministry Designated 2025 As

- A. Year of Innovation
- B. Year of Modernization
- C. Year of Reforms
- D. Year of Integration

ANSWER: C

17. What Type Of Planet Is K2-18 b Considered To Be

- A. Terrestrial
- B. Hycean
- C. Kepler
- D. Draugr

ANSWER: B

18. Which Country Is Enforcing A Ban On Facial Coverings And Implementing Pension Increases Starting January 1, 2025

- A. France
- B. Austria
- C. Germany
- D. Switzerland

ANSWER: D

19. In 2024, What Was India's Global Rank In Terms Of Foreign Exchange Reserves

- A. 4th
- B. 2nd
- C. 12th
- D. 9th

ANSWER: A

20. Which Of Following Mughal Rulers Banned Engraving Kalma On Coins

- A. Jahangir
- B. Aurangzeb
- C. Shahjahan
- D. Muhammad Shah

ANSWER: B

