

# DAILY PT POINTERS

7 January, 2025



The Hindu-GS2(Health)Page1

## HMPV infection not new, no cause for alarm: Centre

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) has been in circulation globally, even in India, the Health Ministry said on Monday, while stating that none of those infected in India have any travel history and all are recovering well. “The virus

**The virus has been circulating in the world for many years; it spreads through air**

in the world for many years. HMPV spreads through air, by way of respiration. This can affect

Medical Research and the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme network indicated no unusual surge in influenza-like illness or severe acute respiratory illness in India.

In a social media post, Soumya Swaminathan, former Chief Scientist, WHO, said HMPV was not a cause for panic. “It’s a

- The Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) has been in circulation globally, even in India, the Health Ministry said on Monday, while stating that none of those infected in India have any travel history and all are recovering well. “The virus occurrence in India is not new.
- It was first identified in 2001 and it has been circulating in the entire world for many years. Human metapneumovirus (HMPV) is a respiratory virus that causes mild infections similar to that caused by a common cold; children, the elderly and those with weakened immune systems are more susceptible to contracting it

The Hindu –GS2(Governance)-Page 3

## Jharkhand women receive first instalment of ₹2,500 under ‘Maiya Samman’

CM Hemant Soren transfers financial aid to the tune of ₹1,415.44 cr. to bank accounts of 56.61 lakh beneficiaries, says efforts are being made to turn the wheel of State's economy through women

Amit Bhelari  
PATNA

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Monday transferred financial assistance to the tune of ₹1,415.44 crore to the bank accounts of 56.61 lakh women beneficiaries under the ‘Maiya Samman Yojana’.

Ahead of the Assembly election, the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-led alliance had pledged to increase the monthly honorarium under the scheme from ₹1,000 to ₹2,500 for women between 18 and 50 years, starting December 2024.



CM Hemant Soren and wife Kalpana hand over a cheque to one of the beneficiaries in Ranchi on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

won 56 out of 81 Assembly seats.

It was the first instalment of ₹2,500 transferred to the beneficiaries for the month of December 2024.

Mr. Soren transferred the amount by pressing a button at a State-level programme organised at the training ground of Khojato in Nandurbar, Ranchi.

₹30,000 annually to women in a household represents a transformative boost to household income, particularly in rural areas where women's financial autonomy has traditionally been severely limited.

Mr. Soren added that extensive research from global economic studies demonstrated that women-directed cash transfers consistently led to improved outcomes in family health, education and nutrition.

The Chief Minister expressed happiness that the scheme was being “discussed all over India, and other States were also...

- Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren transferred financial assistance to the tune of ₹1,415.44 crore to the bank accounts of 56.61 lakh women beneficiaries under the ‘Maiya Samman Yojana’.
- direct transfer of ₹2,500 monthly and ₹30,000 annually to women in a household represents a transformative boost to household income, particularly in rural areas where women’s financial autonomy has traditionally been severely limited.

## The Hindu –GS2(Governance)-Page 8

# Decoding the National Anthem controversy

What is the practice followed in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly during and after the Governor's address? Why did Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi leave the Assembly without delivering his address? Is the singing of the National Anthem during certain occasions mandatory?

### EXPLAINER

D. Suresh Kumar

#### The story so far:

On January 6, Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi left the Legislative Assembly without delivering the customary address on the opening day of the first session of the year complaining that the National Anthem was not played before his scheduled address. Last year too, he had refused to read out his address.

**What did the T.N. Raj Bhavan say?**  
The Raj Bhavan has alleged "the



President at formal State functions and other functions organised by the Government and on his departure from such functions; immediately before and after the President addresses the nation over All India Radio; on arrival of the Governor/Lieutenant Governor at formal State functions within his State/Union Territory and on his departure from such functions; when the National Flag is brought on parade; when the regimental colours are presented; and for the hoisting of colours in the Navy.

#### When is mass singing of the national anthem required?

The full version of the anthem shall be played accompanied by mass singing on

### THE GIST

Each House follows its own convention. For instance, in Nagaland, the national anthem was not played at all for several decades.

In Tamil Nadu, as per convention, the State anthem — 'Tamil Thai Vazhthu' — is played at the beginning of the Governor's address. The National Anthem is played at the end of the address.

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- In Tamil Nadu, as per convention, the State anthem — 'Tamil Thai Vazhthu' — is played at the beginning of the Governor's address. The National Anthem is played at the end of the address.
- Section 51 (A) (a) of the Constitution of India dealing with fundamental duties, says, "It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the national flag and the national anthem."

## The Hindu-Governance (GSII)-Page 12

### UGC revises guidelines for appointment of V-Cs

Draft has given powers to Chancellors or Visitors to constitute three-member panel to appoint V-Cs; commission has given 30 days for stakeholders and public to offer comments on proposals

A.M. Jigeesh  
NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission has revised the selection process for Vice-Chancellors, according to the draft UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment and Promotion of Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2025, released here on Monday by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Clearing the ambiguity, the UGC has given the powers to Chancellors or Visitors to constitute the three-member search-cum-selection committee to appoint Vice-Chancellors.

Non-implementation of the guidelines may result in debarring an institution from participating in UGC schemes or from offering



Major move: Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan releases the draft UGC Regulations, 2025 in New Delhi on Monday. 491

The governments in several non-BJP-ruled States such as Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Kerala were on a conflict path with the Governors – also Chancellors of several State-run universities – over appointment of Vice-Chancellors. So far, the governments used to constitute the search committees for appointing Vice-Chancellors, and if approved, the draft allows Governors (if they are Chancellors) to appoint the

and public notification. Applications can also be sought through nomination or a talent search process by a search-cum-selection committee," the draft regulations say.

A nominee of the Visitor/Chancellor will be the Chairperson of the search-cum-selection Committee. A nominee of the Chairman, UGC, and a nominee of the apex body of the university such as Syndicate, Senate, Executive Council,

this committee, but in many States the Governors changed this norm and started nominating their person for the committee, leading to conflicts with the States.

Releasing the draft, Mr. Pradhan said the guidelines would infuse innovation, inclusivity, flexibility and dynamism in every aspect of higher education, empower teachers and academic staff, strengthen academic standards and pave the way for achieving educational excellence.

Explaining the provision, UGC Charman Jagadeesh Kumar said individuals could qualify for faculty positions based on their performance in a subject of their choice in UGC-National Eligibility Test. "Also, the subject of the Ph.D. degree precedes the disciplines studied in undergraduate and postgraduate degrees for faculty selections. This is an

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- Non-implementation of the guidelines may result in debarring an institution from participating in UGC schemes or from offering degree programmes, the draft says.

## Indian Express-Geography(GSI)-Page 11

### ARTESIAN WELL

When water is confined under pressure between layers of impermeable rock, and gushes forth on its own

#### EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

JAIPUR, JANUARY 6

THE RESIDENTS of Taranagar village in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district witnessed an unusual phenomenon last month — large amounts of water began to gush out of the ground. The flow began on December 27, and stopped without any external intervention in the night of December 29.

Some on social media claimed the flow was from the underground Saraswati river, mentioned in ancient Vedic texts. Scientists have pointed to a geological event instead.

#### What happened in Jaisalmer?

A local farmer had contracted a firm to dig a tube well on his land to extract groundwater. On the morning of December 27, when the well had reached a depth of 850 feet, water began spouting from the ground.

In about an hour, it began to flow at high pressure — so much so that a truck and a drilling machine were stuck in it. Around 25 bighas of land was submerged by the water, which created a large depression in the ground. A small amount of non-inflammable gas was released along with the water.



Gushing subterranean water flooded a large area. Screenshot from video

drilling) happens, the underground pressure forces the water upward.

The word "artesian" is specifically used when water is "confined under pressure below layers of relatively impermeable rock". It comes from the town of

Residents of Taranagar village in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district witnessed a unique phenomenon last month when large amounts of water began gushing out from underground on December 27.

an artesian aquifer refers to water stored under pressure, between layers of sediments and soil below the earth's surface. It is also described as "confined" water because of hardy materials above and below it.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## PIB-Science and Tech(GSIII)

Ministry of Science & Technology



Nascent galaxy discovered in formation at the end of the longest tidal tail of NGC 3785 galaxy

Posted On: 06 JAN 2025 4:23PM by PIB Delhi

- About 430 million light years from Earth, in the Leo constellation, a new ultra-diffuse galaxy has been discovered to be under formation at the end of the tidal tail, a long, thin stream of stars and interstellar gas, of galaxy NGC 3785. The discovery of the galaxy formation, driven probably by the gravitational interaction between NGC 3785 and a neighbouring galaxy, marks a major milestone in understanding galaxy evolution.
- NGC 3785 galaxy is known to possess the longest tidal tail discovered so far. The tail extends from the galaxy and is formed due to gravitational forces ("tidal forces") when two galaxies interact closely, essentially pulling material away from each other during a close encounter or merger process.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## Air-Governance (GSII)

### HM Amit Shah To Launch BHARATPOL For Streamlining Red Corner Notices Through INTERPOL



The poster features the text: "Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation **Shri Amit Shah** will launch the **BHARATPOL** | 07<sup>th</sup> January 2025 | Time: 10:30 AM Venue: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi". It includes the logos of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and a circular portrait of Shri Amit Shah.

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah will launch the BHARATPOL portal developed by the Central Bureau of Investigation in New Delhi today. The BHARATPOL portal will streamline the processing of all requests for international assistance through INTERPOL, including the issuance of Red Notices and other colour-coded INTERPOL notices.
- it would give a new edge to Indian investigation agencies by enhancing their global reach to fulfil the Modi government's vision to build a secure Bharat for all.



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## Air-Governance(GSII)

### Punjab Opens Scholarship Portal For OBC, EBC, DNT Students Under PM YASASVI Scheme



सत्यमेव जयते

MINISTRY OF  
SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

- **PM YASASVI** is a Scholarship scheme for Other Backward Class (OBCs), Economically Backward Class (EBC) and Denotified Nomadic Tribes (DNT) Students. Under this Scheme students can avail Pre-Matric Scholarship from Class 9 to 10 and Post Matric Scholarship for their higher studies at post-matriculation or post-secondary stage.
- Students who excel in their studies also get an opportunity of Scholarship to study in Top Class Schools and Colleges under the Scheme of 'Top Class School Education' and 'Top Class College Education'.
- Hostel facilities are also provided to OBC students under the 'Scheme of Construction of Hostels for OBC boys' and girls'