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DPIIT Partners With Stride Ventures To Accelerate Growth And Global Expansion of Indian Startups

Key Points:

- ❖ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has partnered with Stride Ventures, a venture debt firm, to catalyse the growth of Indian startups and widen their global footprint.
- ❖ The partnership will drive economic transformation and firm India's position as a leader in innovation and manufacturing.
- ❖ As part of the collaboration, Stride Ventures will focus on identifying startups with high growth potential, offering funding, market access, and policy support to Indian startups aiming to expand globally and global startups entering India.



India's Rural Poverty Down To 4.86% From 25.7% In 12 Years: SBI Report

Key Points:

- ❖ India's rural poverty ratio has registered a dramatic decline to 4.86 per cent in the financial year 2023- 24 from 25.7 per cent in 2011-12 while urban poverty has fallen to 4.09 per cent from 4.6 per cent during this period, according to an SBI Research report. At an aggregate level, we believe poverty rates in India could now be in the range of 4 per cent-4.5 per cent with almost minimal existence of extreme poverty.
- ❖ The sharp decline in the rural poverty ratio is on account of higher consumption growth in the lowest 0-5 per cent decile with

significant Government support and such support is important as we also find that change in food prices has significant impact on not just food expenditures, but overall expenditure in general.

IAS Ashutosh Agnihotri Appointed Chairman & MD of Food Corporation of India

Key Points:

- ❖ IAS officer Ashutosh Agnihotri, currently serving as the Additional Secretary in the Department of Home, Ministry of Home Affairs, has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Food Corporation of India (FCI).
- ❖ A 1999-batch IAS officer from the AssamMeghalaya cadre, Agnihotri brings a wealth of administrative experience and expertise in administrative roles.
- ❖ The Food Corporation of India, established in 1965, plays a pivotal role in the country's food security by procuring, storing, and distributing essential food grains under the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- ❖ The organization also supports farmers by ensuring minimum support prices and maintaining buffer stocks to stabilize prices in the market.

About Food Corporation of India

- ❖ Founded- 14 January 1965
- ❖ Headquarters- New Delhi
- ❖ Founder- Government of India
- ❖ CMD – Ashutosh Agnihotri
- ❖ Owner- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, GoI

Nasscom foundation names Jyoti Sharma as CEO

Key Points:

- ❖ Nasscom foundation has appointed Jyoti Sharma as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), succeeding Nidhi Bhasin. Sharma

brings over 20 years of experience in driving social impact and leading program development, resource mobilisation, and stakeholder engagement. Established in 2001, nasscom foundation is a not-for-profit organisation representing the Indian tech industry.



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced his resignation

Key Points:

- ❖ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his resignation on Monday, saying he intends to step down from the top job and as the leader of Canada's ruling Liberal Party once a new party leader is chosen.
- ❖ "I intend to resign as party leader, as prime minister, after the party selects its new leader," the 53-year-old leader told reporters at a news conference in Ottawa on Monday.

Trudeau quits as party chief, to continue as PM for now

Associated Press
TORONTO

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his resignation on Monday in the face of rising discontent over his leadership, and after the abrupt departure of his Finance Minister signaled growing turmoil within his government.

Mr. Trudeau said it had become clear to him that he cannot "be the leader during the next elections due to internal battles."

He planned to stay on as Prime Minister until a new leader of the Liberal Party is chosen.

"I don't easily back down faced with a fight, especially a very important one for our party and the country. But I do this job because the interests of Canadians and the well being of democracy is something that I hold dear," he said.



Justin Trudeau

An official familiar with the matter said parliament, which had been due to resume on January 27, will be suspended until March 24. The timing will allow for a Liberal Party leadership race.

Opposition plans

All three main opposition parties have said they plan to topple the Liberal Party in a no-confidence vote when parliament resumes,

so a spring election to pick a permanent replacement was almost assured.

Mr. Trudeau came to power in 2015 after 10 years of Conservative Party rule, and had initially been hailed for returning the country to its liberal past. But the 53-year-old became deeply unpopular with voters in recent years over a range of issues, including the soaring cost of food and housing, and surging immigration.

The political upheaval comes at a difficult moment for Canada internationally.

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has threatened to impose 25% tariffs on all Canadian goods if the government does not stem what Mr. Trump calls a flow of migrants and drugs in the U.S. — even though far fewer of each crosses into the U.S. from Canada than from Mexico.

politician who has been the 23rd prime minister of Canada since 2015 and the leader of the Liberal Party since 2013.

- ❖ He became the second-youngest prime minister in Canadian history and the first to be the child of a previous prime minister, as the eldest son of Pierre Trudeau.
- ❖ The political crisis of Trudeau deepened when he brought serious allegations against India in September 2023 for the first time, accusing the Indian government's involvement in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada.
- ❖ Further, Trudeau claimed that India was sponsoring some criminal activities on Canadian soil, a claim vehemently denied by New Delhi.

Polls show liberals steadily losing popularity

- ❖ Polls showed the Liberals only slightly trailing the Conservatives in the first half of 2023. In July, amid growing signs of voter fatigue, the gap suddenly widened, and it became increasingly clear a defeat was likely in 2025.

Key ally NDP withdraws automatic support

- ❖ The New Democrats, who had kept Trudeau in power in return for increased social spending, announced they would withdraw their automatic support. This forced Trudeau to attempt to create new alliances to govern, but did not threaten to immediately trigger an election.
- ❖ **Pierre Poilievre is the leader of Canada's Conservative Party. If opinion polls are any indication, he is odds-on favourite to be Canada's next prime minister.**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 'Bharatpol' portal

Key Points:

- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 'Bharatpol' portal on

- ❖ Justin Pierre James Trudeau (born December 25, 1971) is a Canadian

Tuesday (January 7), which aims to streamline international cooperation for law investigating agencies. Bharatpol — broadcast hub for assistance and real-time action against transnational crimes via international police cooperation — was developed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). It will allow central and state agencies to easily connect with the Interpol and speed up their investigations. What is Bharatpol, how will it work, and how will it help various investigating agencies?



What is Bharatpol and why has the CBI developed it?

- ❖ The CBI, as National Central Bureau for Interpol (NCB New Delhi) in India, connects all law enforcement agencies in India to law enforcement agencies in 195 other countries through Interpol.
- ❖ Currently, all central agencies and the police forces of various states and Union Territories coordinate with the CBI, Interpol liaison officers (ILOs), and unit officers concerned through letters, emails, and faxes, due to which they often face delays in their investigation. With Bharatpol, international police collaboration becomes more seamless.
- ❖ The decision to develop this portal was taken amid the rise in transnational crimes, including cybercrime, financial crimes, online radicalisation, organised crimes, drug trafficking, and human trafficking. In such cases, real-time international

assistance is needed for criminal investigations.

There are five key features:

- ❖ **Unified Platform:** This portal integrates the CBI as the Interpol (NCB-New Delhi) with all law enforcement authorities in India, down to Superintendents of Police (SPs) and Commissioners of Police (CPs).
- ❖ **Simplified Request Mechanism:** This portal allows frontline police officers to easily and promptly request international assistance from 195 Interpol member countries using standardised templates.
- ❖ **Rapid Information Dissemination:** This portal enables the CBI as the NCB to rapidly share criminal intelligence and inputs from 195 countries with all law enforcement agencies in India.
- ❖ **Increase utilisation of Interpol notices:** This portal will enable easy drafting of Red Corner Notice requests and other colour coded notices of Interpol. This will lead to effective tracking of crime, criminals and proceeds of crime globally.
- ❖ **Capacity Building and Training:** This portal also provides access to relevant documents, templates, and training resources, enhancing the capability of frontline officers to conduct investigations abroad and seek foreign assistance effectively through Interpol.

What are the key modules of Bharatpol?

- ❖ There are five key modules — Connect, INTERPOL Notices, References, Broadcast, and Resources.

Human metapneumovirus (HMPV)

Key Points:

- ❖ **Recent Concerns:** A rise in respiratory illnesses in China, linked to Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV), has raised pandemic fears.



- ❖ **WHO Response:** The World Health Organization has not declared a pandemic, issued emergency alerts, or categorized HMPV as a global health crisis.
- ❖ **Discovery:** Identified in 2001 by Dutch researchers, HMPV is a recognized cause of acute respiratory infections similar to influenza and COVID-19.
- ❖ **Global Presence:** HMPV is widespread, affecting populations worldwide, and is categorized among common respiratory pathogens.
- ❖ **Vaccine Status:** Currently, there is no available vaccine for HMPV.
- ❖ **Symptoms:** Typical signs include cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose, and wheezing, usually resolving within 2-5 days.
- ❖ **At-Risk Groups:** Vulnerable populations include children, the elderly, and individuals with weakened immunity, who are more susceptible to complications such as pneumonia.
- ❖ **Transmission:** Spreads via close contact with infected individuals or by touching contaminated surfaces.
- ❖ **Seasonal Pattern:** Primarily circulates during winter and spring, alongside other respiratory infections like RSV and influenza.
- ❖ **Family Classification:** HMPV is part of the Pneumoviridae family, which also includes RSV, measles, and mumps viruses.
- ❖ **Disease Severity:** While most cases are mild, 5-16% may escalate to severe conditions such as bronchiolitis or pneumonia.

HMPV occurrence not new to India, no cause for alarm: Health Ministry

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 occurrence in India is not new," it said. The clarification came after the infection was confirmed in two infants in Karnataka and one in Gujarat. Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda, in a video statement, said, "Health experts have clarified that the HMPV is not a new virus. It was first identified in 2001 and it has been circulating in the world for many years. HMPV spreads



Necessary precaution: People walk past a wall mural promoting awareness on using face masks, in Bengaluru on Monday. *AFP*

through air, by way of respiration. This can affect persons of all age groups. The health systems and surveillance networks of the country are vigilant, and there is no reason to worry." He said agencies in India were closely watching the situation in China and neighbouring coun-

tries. The World Health Organization had taken cognisance of the situation. The Ministry said current data from the India Council for 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 cause for panic. "Rather than jump at detection of every pathogen, we should all take normal precautions when we have a cold: wear a mask, wash hands, avoid crowds, consult doctor if there are severe symptoms."

Dr. Neeraj Nischal, Additional Professor, Internal Medicine, All India Institute of Medical Science, Delhi, said the HMPV could not be compared with the novel coronavirus, which was completely new and people did not have any immunity against it. *(With inputs from State Bureaus)*

Rajagopala Chidambaram, the former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, has passed away

- ❖ India's first nuclear weapon test, codenamed 'Smiling Buddha', was carried out in great secrecy as a "peaceful nuclear test" at Pokhran, Rajasthan.
- ❖ This made India the sixth country to test a nuclear device, though it invited condemnation, particularly from Canada and the U.S.
- ❖ The plutonium for the test came from the Cirus reactor at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Mumbai, which was supplied by Canada, and heavy water from the U.S.
- ❖ Rajagopala Chidambaram, 88, former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission who was involved in both of India's nuclear tests in 1974 and in 1998, died in Jaslok Hospital in Mumbai on Saturday. He was the longest serving Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Indian government with a tenure from 2002 to 2018.



India Ranked Second for Cyberattacks in 2024

Key Points:

- ❖ India has become the second most targeted nation for cyberattacks in 2024, with 95 entities affected, following the United States.
- ❖ The finance and banking sectors were the hardest hit, alongside significant data breaches in healthcare, telecom, and education.
- ❖ In 2024, India became the second most targeted nation globally for cyberattacks, with 95 entities falling victim to data theft, according to CloudSEK's ThreatLandscape Report 2024. The United States topped the list with 140 attacks, while Israel ranked third with 57 attacks.

Tibet-Nepal Earthquake

Key Points:

- ❖ Explore the comprehensive analysis of the 2025 Tibet Earthquake, its impact, rescue efforts, and long-term implications for seismic preparedness in the Tibetan Plateau.
- ❖ The 2025 Tibet Earthquake, a catastrophic seismic event, occurred on January 5, 2025, shaking the Tibetan Plateau and its neighboring regions. The earthquake measured 7.1 on the Richter scale, as per the United States Geological Survey (USGS), while the China Earthquake Networks Center (CENC) recorded a magnitude of 6.8.
- ❖ It caused widespread destruction, leaving thousands displaced and sparking international concern.
- ❖ As one of the most significant natural disasters in the region in recent years, it underscored the seismic vulnerability of the Tibetan Plateau, a geologically active area.
- ❖ The Tibetan Plateau, known as the "Roof of the World," is one of the most seismically

active regions due to the ongoing collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates. This tectonic interaction has historically resulted in numerous high-magnitude earthquakes, with the 2025 quake being the latest.

The 38th National Games Torch 'Tejaswini'

- ❖ Uttarakhand will host the 38th National Games for the first time, marking a milestone in the state's sports history. The torch, named 'Tejaswini,' has begun its journey across the state to generate excitement and awareness. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the torch rally from Haldwani.



Hanoi Declared World's Most Polluted City

Key Points:

- ❖ Hanoi has been declared the world's most polluted city, with PM2.5 levels peaking at 266 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The crisis stems from heavy traffic, industrial emissions, and trash burning, leading to severe health concerns like respiratory issues.

Severe pollution levels in other places

- ❖ Pollution is a major crisis in many parts of the world. In 2024, Bangladesh, which was recorded as the most polluted country in the world, is closely followed by Chad, Pakistan, India, and Kuwait, according to some reports.



World's Oldest Person, Tomiko Itooka, Dies at 116 Years

Key Points:

- ❖ Tomiko Itooka, the world's oldest person, passed away at 116 in January 2025. Recognized by Guinness World Records, she was born in May 1908 and witnessed significant historical events, including both World Wars and remarkable technological advancements. Tomiko Itooka, a Japanese woman recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest person, passed away at the age of 116 in January 2025.

- ❖ Born in May 1908, she experienced an extraordinary life, living through major historical events, including both World Wars, technological advancements, and societal changes. Her legacy continues to inspire through her resilience and longevity.

