

Bird Flu Outbreak Reported in Pipili Town of Odisha



Key Points:

- ❖ An outbreak of bird flu or avian influenza has been reported from Odisha, where the authorities have killed more than 26,000 chickens after detecting the H5N1 strain of avian influenza.
- ❖ In April 2024, bird flu was reported in the Alappuzha district of Kerala, leading to the mass culling of ducks.
- ❖ The first case of an avian influenza virus A (H5N1) outbreak in India was reported in February 2006 in a poultry farm in Navapur tehsil in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra.
- ❖ The recent case of bird flu was reported from a poultry farm in Pipili town, located in the Puri district of Odisha.
- ❖ After the report of the mass death of chickens in the poultry farm, the local authorities sent the infected chicken carcasses to the National Institute of High-Security Animal Disease, Bhopal, for testing, which confirmed the presence of the H5N1 virus in the bird carcasses.

- ❖ After confirmation from the Bhopal laboratory, the district authorities started culling the chickens in the poultry farm, nearby homes, and the village area.

What is Avian Influenza or Bird Flu?



- ❖ Avian influenza, commonly called "bird flu," is a viral infection that spreads in birds but can sometimes spread to humans.
- ❖ Avian influenza A virus subtype H5N1 Influenza A(H5N1) is the most common cause of bird flu in humans. However, recently, bird flu in humans has been found due to H7N7 and H7N9 strains of the influenza.
- ❖ The first case of bird flu in humans was identified in 1997 in Hong Kong amongst poultry workers. The first human case of avian Influenza A(H5N1) in India was reported from Haryana in June 2021.
- ❖ An 18-year-old boy died due to avian Influenza A(H5N1) infection.
- ❖ Wild birds are the natural carriers of the virus, and from them, they spread to domestic poultry and other bird and animal species.

- ❖ Infected birds shed avian influenza viruses through their faeces, saliva and mucus.
- ❖ A person can get infected by the virus when the virus is inhaled by the person or through the person's eyes, nose or mouth. The disease may cause severe pneumonia in a person, leading to death.

Himachal Govt. approves Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana



Key Points:

- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet, in a meeting at Shimla chaired by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, has approved a new scheme, "Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana".
- ❖ The scheme aims to provide financial support to identified socially and economically vulnerable women and parents of disabled children so as to enable the education and wellbeing of their children.
- ❖ Allocation for the Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana, The Himachal Pradesh cabinet has approved Rs 53.21 crore for the Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana for the financial year 2024-25.

Eligibility for the Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana

- ❖ The following persons of the state are eligible for the benefits under the Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana : Children of widows, destitute women, divorced women, parents of disabled children, The income of the eligible women and parents of disabled children shall not be more than Rs 1 lakh per year,

Benefit under the Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana

- ❖ Parents of children under 18 years will receive monthly financial assistance of Rs 1000 per month from the state government to cover the child's educational, nutritional, and health expenses.
- ❖ State government assistance will be provided to children pursuing undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma, or vocational courses to meet tuition fees and hostel costs.

Aim of the Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana

- ❖ According to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the scheme aims to; provide a supportive environment to the vulnerable section of society to empower them to live dignified lives.

- ❖ Enable the vulnerable section of society to pursue education by strengthening their financial condition, To prevent social evils like teenage marriages, child abuse, child trafficking, and drug abuse by strengthening child protection at the family level.
- ❖ The Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Government has recently launched several social welfare schemes. One of them is the Mukhyamantri Bal Paushtik Aahar Yojana, which provides nutritious foods to schoolchildren in the state.

Labour ministry launches centralised portal for construction workers



Key Points:

- ❖ The government launched a portal where construction workers can register themselves to avail benefits of various schemes. The portal, named Building and other Construction Workers (BoCW) Management Information System (MIS).
- ❖ Labour ministry launches centralised portal for construction workers. The portal will function as the centralised

data management system for compilation and analysis of the data obtained from BoCW welfare boards of the states.

- ❖ The states and UTs were also requested to expedite the integration of BoC workers' data with the E-Shram portal of the Ministry to enable access to various schemes as a one-stop-solution for unorganized sector workers.

Petronet LNG inks MoU with Sri Lanka's LTL Holdings



Key Points:

- ❖ Petronet LNG (PLL) has entered into an MoU with LTL Holdings of Sri Lanka, for supply of LNG to LTL's dual fuelled power plants in Kerawalapitiya, Colombo.
- ❖ The proposed supply of LNG from PLL's Kochi LNG Terminal would be through LNG ISO tank containers involving multi-modal transport system.
- ❖ The initial term of LNG supply would be 5 years, which is extendable subject to mutual agreement. Both parties, through this MoU, have

agreed for development of LNG supply chain from PLLs LNG terminal, Kochi to LTLs power plant in Kerawalapitiya, Colombo.

Mumbai ranks 2nd, New Delhi 3rd in Global Property Price Index; Manila tops the list



Key Points:

- ❖ Mumbai and New Delhi have recorded an annual increase in their real estate prices at 13% and 10.6% respectively, while Bengaluru has witnessed a modest 3.7% rise.
- ❖ Globally, Manila has topped the Knight Frank's Prime Global Cities Index with an increase of 26%.
- ❖ The Prime Global Cities Index is a valuation-based index tracking the movement of prime residential prices across 44 cities worldwide. The index tracks nominal prices in local currency.
- ❖ Across the 44 cities world-wide surveyed for this report, annual price growth slowed from 4.1% in Q1 to 2.6% in Q2 2024, remaining below the long-term average of 5.3%. Manila topped the charts with a 26%

annual rise in Q2 2024. Dubai, after a 124% increase since 2020, saw slight moderation declining by 0.3% YoY, while Miami, up 77% since 2020, climbed 8% in the last year.

- ❖ Europe has also gained momentum, with six of the ten fastest-improving markets, led by Stockholm. Meanwhile, markets like Madrid, Dubai, and New Zealand (Christchurch, Wellington, and Auckland) are experiencing a slowdown in growth, the report showed.

World Water Week 2024: 25-29 August



Key Points:

- ❖ The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) is organising the next World Water Week on 25-29 August 2024.
- ❖ World Water Week is the leading conference on global water issues, held every year since 1991.
- ❖ The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) has announced that

World Water Week 2024 will center around the theme “Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future”.

- ❖ This powerful theme encapsulates the urgent need for global cooperation in addressing water-related challenges that transcend national boundaries.

Bangladesh floods not due to release of water from Tripura dam

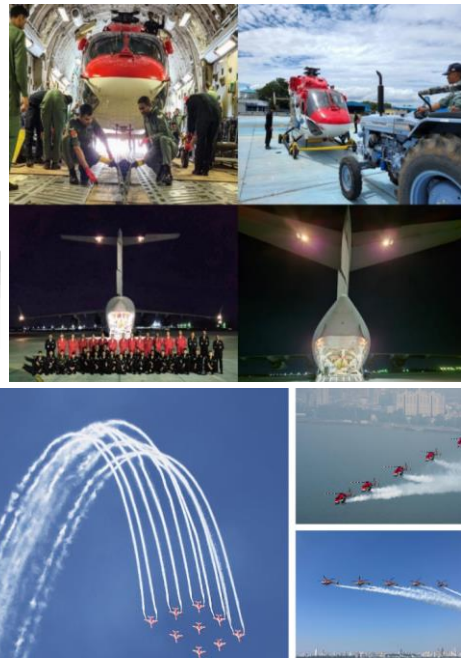


Key Points:

- ❖ Allaying concerns that the current flood situation in Bangladesh was caused by the release of waters from Tripura’s Dumbur dam, India said on Thursday that this was factually incorrect.
- ❖ “We have seen concerns being expressed in Bangladesh that the current situation of flood in districts on the eastern borders of Bangladesh has been caused by opening of the Dumbur dam upstream of the Gumti River in Tripura. This is factually not correct,” the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

- ❖ “We would like to point out that the catchment areas of Gumti river that flows through India and Bangladesh have witnessed heaviest rains of this year over the last few days,” the statement added. It further said the flood was “primarily due to waters from these large catchments downstream of the dam”.

IAF’s Sarang Team Showcases India’s Aviation Prowess at Egypt Airshow



Key Points:

- ❖ The IAF dispatched its Sarang Helicopter Display Team to participate in the inaugural edition of the Egypt International Airshow.
- ❖ The event is scheduled to take place from September 3 to 5, 2024, at the strategically located Al-Alamein International Airport in Egypt’s El Dabaa.

- ❖ The airport, situated along the Mediterranean, serves as a major hub for global air, commercial, and logistical transport, making it an apt location for an event of this magnitude.
- ❖ The Sarang team, renowned for their precision and impressive aerial displays, will be showcasing the indigenous 'Dhruv' Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH Mk-I).
- ❖ These helicopters, built by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), are multi-role and multi-mission, featuring a hinge-less composite main rotor, and are designed for both military and civilian applications.
- ❖ The contingent will be carrying five Sarang helicopters, which are being airlifted by C17 Globemaster aircraft for the event.
- ❖ The Egypt International Airshow is spearheaded by the Egyptian Ministry of Defence, Egyptian Air Force, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Egyptian Space Agency, and EgyptAir.

Telegram CEO Pavel Durov's arrest



Key Points:

- ❖ Pavel Durov, the founder and CEO of Telegram, was arrested in France over alleged offences in connection with the messaging app.
- ❖ Reacting to the detention of the Russian-born founder of Telegram, former advisor to Russian President Vladimir Putin made a major claim against the United States.
- ❖ The French government announced on Monday that the 39-year-old billionaire was taken into custody on August 24 in France as a result of an investigation into offenses involving child pornographic content, trafficking in illicit drugs, and forged transactions on the platform.
- ❖ He is charged with failing to prevent the dissemination of illicit material on Telegram, a platform with close to a billion users globally.
- ❖ Vyacheslav Volodin, the head of Russia's State Duma, which functions similarly to the Speaker of the US House of Representatives, held the United States responsible over his arrest, alleging that the US tried to seize control of Telegram through France.
- ❖ "Telegram is one of the few and, at the same time, the largest Internet platforms over which the United States has no influence," Volodin wrote on social media, without providing any evidence.

- ❖ “On the eve of the US presidential election, it is important for President Joe Biden to take Telegram under control.
- ❖ The arrest comes as part of a preliminary investigation headed by France's OFMIN (Office for Preventing Violence Against Minors).
- ❖ The office had issued a warrant for Mr Durov's arrest, citing allegations that include money laundering, drug trafficking and the sharing of child sexual abuse content on Telegram. The platform's lack of moderation and its alleged use by criminal groups have been central to the investigation.

'Russia's Mark Zuckerberg



- ❖ Pavel Durov, often referred to as "Russia's Mark Zuckerberg", has a long history of defying government demands. Before founding Telegram, he created Vkontakte (VK), Russia's largest social network, but was forced to leave the country in 2014 after refusing to comply with government orders to hand over data on Ukrainian protesters.
- ❖ Since then, Mr Durov has lived in various countries, eventually settling in Dubai, where Telegram is headquartered.



PW Web/App: <https://smart.link/7wwosivoicqd4>