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**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS
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Center plans to take caste count during census

The Union government is yet to take a call on caste census but active discussion is going on to include caste enumeration in the Census to be conducted, as said by government sources.

The move comes after demands of Congress and other political parties are pressuring the government for a caste census.

Generally caste is not recorded in the Census. Only count of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Schedule Tribe (ST) is done during census.

This will be the first time after the 1931 census when Caste counting will be part of the census.

Earlier, the UPA government had conducted caste counting separate from the census, but the findings were never made public. Center later said that there were a lot of discrepancies in the data of caste counting under the UPA government.

Bihar became one of the first states to conduct a caste census and publish its date in 2023.

Growth of e-commerce a matter of concern: Goyal

Commerce minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday red flagged predatory pricing by policies of e-commerce platforms, he even questioned strategies and practices of major e-commerce platforms such as Amazon.

“Are predatory price policies good for the country? I don't see it as a matter of pride that half our markets can be driven by e-commerce 10 years from now. It is a matter of concern.”

“Are we going to cause huge social disruption with this massive growth of e-commerce?”
He referred to detrimental effects of online retailers eating into the business prospects of 100 Million small retailers across the country.

He stressed that ‘He was speaking at the inauguration of a report on the employment effect of e-commerce. He completely dissociated himself with the finding of the report.’

WHO investigating suspected new polio strain in Meghalaya

Meghalaya health minister A.M. Lyngdoh on Saturday said that Police were investigating the recently detected polio in a two year old child at Tikrikilla in Garo district.

The state govt is waiting for the results of sample testing on Kolkata and Mumbai.

Earlier, the Union health ministry had said that the child's case was not that of wild polio but a vaccine derived infection that presents in some people with low immunity.

PM begins Poland visit, says it will help forge more vibrant relations

PM Narendra Modi arrived at Warsaw on Wednesday. This is the first visit of an Indian PM in 45 years.

The PM called Poland a major partner in Europe. The PM laid a wreath at the memorial of Jam Saheb Digvijaysihji Ranjitsinhji Jadeja of Nawab Garh, Gujrat who provided sanctuary to 1000 Polish students in the 1940s. In his honour a square in Warsaw has been named as “Dobrego Maharadza” or “Good Maharaja square”.

PM Modi later paid homage at the Battle of Mounted Casino. The monument honours Indian and Polish soldiers, who fought the battle that took place in Italy in 1944, and was one of the defining battles of World War 2.

PM Modi also laid a wreath at Kolhapur Memorial in Warsaw.





Champai Soren says he will form a new political party , raise voice for Dalits

Former Jharkhand CM Champai Soren announced on Wednesday that he will form a new political party . He said this in front of a gathering of his supporters . Earlier it was being speculated that he may join BJP. He became CM of Jharkhand when ED arrested Hemant Soren . He later alleged that he had felt insulted with JMM (Jharkhand Mukti Morcha) .

17 workers killed and 20 sustained burns in a fire that break out

17 workers were killed and 20 sustained burns in a major fire broke out reportedly after a reactor blast in a plant that manufactures intermediate chemical and pharmaceutical ingredients in SEZ Atchutapuram in Anakapalli of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday .

Dalit , tribal organisation protest against SC's sub quota decision

21 Dalit and Adivasi Coalition groups on Monday held protest marches and rail and road blockades against the Supreme Court's August 1 judgement of sub classification of quota of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes .

They demanded the Center to clear its stand on SC judgement , and " nullify" the judgement .

The Bandh was supported by Congress and its allies . From the NDA side , Chirag Paswan of LJP supported it and took part in the protest .

In August 1 judgement , SC with 6:1 verdict had given judgement that states can subclassify SCs and STs in order to give reservation . SC had further suggested states to implement " creamy layer " criteria in SCs and STs .

Center had said that it is not going to subclassify SCs or ST s . Center has also said that " creamy layer " criteria will not be implemented in SCs and STs .



World : _____

Obama endorses Harris at democrats party meeting

The Bangladesh interim government revoked diplomatic passports issued during the Hasina era .

Bangladesh interim government has decided to revoke all diplomatic passports issued to Member of Parliament's during Sheikh Hasina government's tenure .Bangladesh Home ministry informed in the evening a formal order in this regard will be passed later .

It will mean that the passport of Sheikh Hasina will also be cancelled . This is being seen as a measure against her to stay in India .

China opens investigation into EU dairy exports as trade tension flares .

The Chinese trade ministry said on Wednesday that it would launch an investigation into subsidies given by the European Union (EU) and its member countries for dairy products that could lead to an increase in tariff on their exports to China .

The announcement comes a day after the EU released a draft decision to finalise tariffs on electric vehicles made in China .

China previously opened an investigation into China's brandy and pork imports from EU countries .

This can lead to a full scale trade war between the EU and China .

China's ' growing authoritarianism ' will not stop with Taiwan : President Lai

Taiwanese President Lai said Chang Te warned that Chinese expansion will not stop over taking Taiwan . He cited joint military exercises by China and Russia in the South China Sea , Western Pacific and Sea of Japan .

He urged democratic countries to unite and curb its expansion .

China has claimed complete reunification of Taiwanese islands .

UAE accepts Afghanistan envoy in a major diplomatic win for Afghanistan

UAE on Wednesday accepted the credentials of Taliban's ambassador Badruddin Haqqani .

This is considered a major diplomatic victory for the Taliban .

China was the first country to accept credentials from an ambassador appointed by the Taliban .

Currently no country officially recognised the Taliban as Afghanistan's legitimate government. .

Editorial : _____

Power play

Hydropower projects must factor in the environment cost too

A landslide in Sikkim on Tuesday caused damage to six houses of Teesta 5 (510 MW) hydropower station . No casualties were reported .

A deluge from South Lhonak glacier in North Sikkim last October washed away the Chungthang dam that was critical for Teesta 3 (1200 MW) Hydro project .

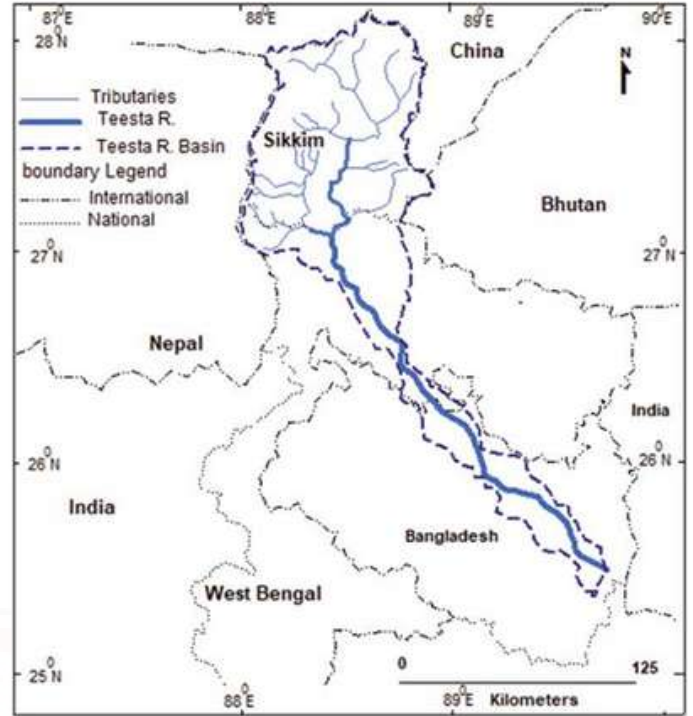
The Teesta river originates from Tso Lhamo Lake in North Sikkim at a height of 5280 metres .

The river travels for about 150 km in Sikkim , 123 km in West Bengal , before entering Bangladesh where it flows for 140 km before joining Brahmaputra .

The river is very good for Hydropower projects because of the terrain it follows . Currently only five projects exist and about 16 Hydroelectric projects are under consideration in India .

Environmental concerns must be kept in focus before finalising the projects .





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