

# **Ashgabat world's most expensive city for foreign workers**



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- **Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan in Central Asia, has been named the world's most expensive city for foreign workers.**
- **The city topped the list in a 2021 cost-of-living survey by consultancy firm Mercer.**
- **Hong Kong was on the second position, followed by Beirut in Lebanon and Tokyo in Japan.**
- **The annual report ranks 209 cities based on the cost of expenses like housing, food and transport.**
- **Most of the cities in the top 10 are those where economic growth has contributed to an increase in the cost of living.**

- **Three are Swiss cities, of which Zurich dropped to fifth, followed by Shanghai and Singapore. London was placed 18th.**
- **Ashgabat is known for its magnificent marble buildings and monuments. It is also home to one of Central Asia's most colourful bazaars called Tolkuchka Bazaar. Other tourist attractions include the National Museum, White Marble, Turkmenbashi Cableway, Museum of Fine Arts, Alem Cultural and Entertainment Center, and Turkmen Carpet Museum.**
- **Mumbai remains India's most expensive city at 78th rank but has dropped 18 places in this year's ranking "due to a relatively weak Indian rupee in comparison with other cities in the ranking." Other Indian cities on the list are New Delhi (117), Chennai (158), Bengaluru (170), and Kolkata (181).**

# **Goa becomes first state to go rabies free**



- **Chief Minister announced that Goa has become the first state in the country to be Rabies free.**
- **CM informed that not a single case of rabies had been found in the state since the last three years.**
- **The team of mission rabies had been very effectively doing its job and had been also conducting vaccination for dogs.**
- **As per information, no rabies cases were reported in the state in 2018.**

- **The progress came on the heels of Mission Rabies, a statewide drive in place since 2014 which saw almost one lakh dogs given the anti-rabies vaccine yearly, and an awareness campaign that educated 5.2 lakh school children and 23,000 teachers about the virus.**
- **This included 50,316 vaccinations administered and 78,437 students reached until August 31st this year alone.**



# **Vigilance Commissioner Suresh N Patel appointed as acting CVC**



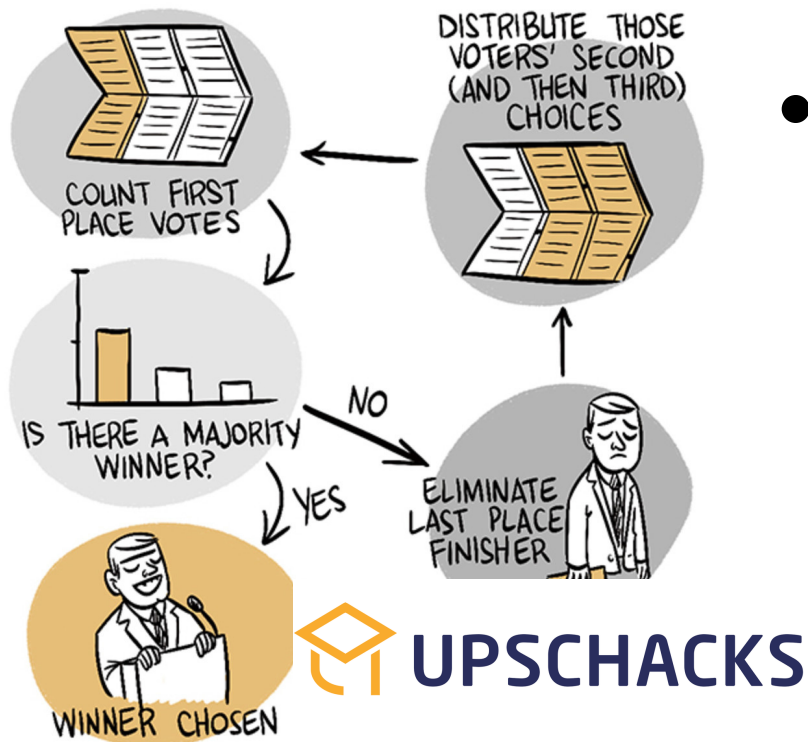
- The incumbent Vigilance Commissioner, Suresh N Patel has been appointed as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) of India in the Central Vigilance Commission with effect.
- He has been appointed in place of Sanjay Kothari, who completed his term on June 23, 2021. He will remain on the post until the appointment of the new Central Vigilance Commissioner.
- The Central Vigilance Commission is headed by the CVC and can have a maximum of two vigilance commissioners. Currently, Mr Patel is the only VC in the commission.



- **The Personnel Ministry has invited applications for the posts of CVC and a vigilance commissioner.**



# Ranked Choice Voting System



- Ranked choice voting made its debut in New York City's mayoral primary in one of the most high-profile tests yet for a system gaining use in pockets across the US.

- In this system, rather than pick just one candidate, voters get to rank several in order of preference.
- Even if a voter's top choice doesn't have enough support to win, their rankings of other candidates still play a role in determining the victor.
- The system is based on a simple premise: Democracy works better if people aren't forced to make an all-or-nothing choice with their vote.

- **In New York City's version, voters get to rank up to five candidates, from first to last, on their ballot.**
- **If one candidate is the first choice of a majority of voters — more than 50% — that person wins the race outright, just like in a traditional election.**
- **If nobody hits that threshold, ranked choice analysis kicks in.**
- **Vote tabulation is done in rounds. In each round, the candidate in last place is eliminated. Votes cast ranking that candidate first are then redistributed to those voters' second choices.**
- **That process repeats until there are only two candidates left. The one with the most votes wins.**



# Red panda



- **A red panda rescued was recently released into the wild in Arunachal Pradesh**
- **Red panda, also called lesser panda, red cat-bear, or red bear-cat is reddish brown, long-tailed, raccoon-like mammal, about the size of a large domestic cat.**
- **Its Scientific Name is *Ailurus fulgens*.**
- **It is found in the mountain forests of the Himalayas and adjacent areas of eastern Asia.**

- **Red pandas are made up of two subspecies — the Himalayan red panda (*Ailurus fulgens fulgens*), which resides in the mountains of northern India, Tibet, Bhutan, and Nepal, and the Chinese red panda (*A. fulgens styani*), which lives in China's Sichuan and Yunnan provinces.**
- **It is also the state animal of Sikkim.**
- **It subsists mainly on bamboo and other vegetation, fruits, and insects.**
- **Once classified as a relative of the giant panda, it is now usually classified as the sole member of the family Ailuridae.**
- **The head and body length of the red panda is 50–65 cm and the tail 30–50 cm long.**
- **The feet have hairy soles, and the claws are semi-retractile.**
- **It is nocturnal and may live alone, in pairs, or in family groups.**

- **The red panda has an extra thumb for feeding and climbing.**
- **Conservation issues include habitat fragmentation and degradation, predation by feral dogs and occasional hunting and poaching.**



# Miyazaki mangoes



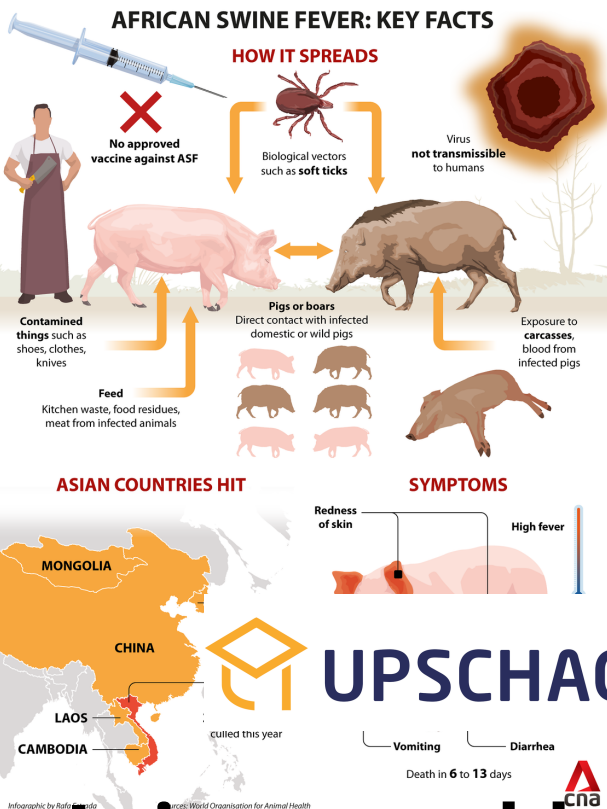
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- A couple in Madhya Pradesh is now making news as they are growing the world's costliest mango in their orchard in Jabalpur.
- The Miyazaki mango is a type of "Irwin" mangoes known for their unique ruby red colour.
- It is different from the yellow "pelican mango" that is widely grown in Southeast Asia.
- The cultivation of this variety of mangoes requires plenty of rain and was first cultivated around the Japanese city of Miyazaki in 1984.
- The Miyazaki mangoes have the second largest production in Japan after Okinawa.
- Christened Taiyo no Tamago (Egg of the Sun), the ruby-hued fruit originally grown in southern Japan's Miyazaki Prefecture.



- **The saplings require warm weather and long hours of sunshine before they grow into a full-sized tree that is also known as Taiyo-no-Tamago in Miyazaki, Japan**
- **The mango is over 350 grams in weight and has a 15% or higher sugar content.**
- **It is rich in antioxidants and contains beta-carotene and folic acid, which is great for people that need help with tired eyes.**
- **They are grown during the peak harvest between April and August.**
- **Miyazaki mangoes are said to be one of the most expensive breeds of mangoes in the world.**
- **The Miyazaki mangoes sold at Rs. 2.70 lakh per kilogram in the international market last year.**

# African Swine Fever



- Pigs in Mon, Kiphire and Phek districts of Nagaland were affected by African Swine Fever, recently
- It is a highly contagious hemorrhagic viral disease of domestic and wild pigs.
- It is caused by a large double stranded DNA virus of the Asfarviridae family, which also infects ticks of the genus Ornithodoros.
- ASF is a disease listed in the World Organisation for Animal Health's Terrestrial Animal Health Code and must be reported to it.
- The epidemiology of ASF is complex and varies depending on the environment, types of pig production systems, the presence/ absence of competent tick vectors, human behaviour, and the presence/ absence of wild pigs.



- **The virus causes a hemorrhagic fever with high mortality rates in domestic pigs; some isolates can cause death of animals as quickly as a week after infection.**
- **It persistently infects its natural hosts, warthogs, bushpigs, and soft ticks of the genus *Ornithodoros*, which likely act as a vector, with no disease signs**



# China turns on two units of world's second-biggest hydropower dam



- China on Monday turned on two generating units of the world's second-biggest hydropower dam, the Baihetan Dam on the Jinsha River, the country's government announced.
- The dam is a part of the Chinese government's efforts to reduce surging fossil fuel demand.
- The dam's plans call for 16 generating units with a capacity of 1 million kilowatts each.

# **India successfully test-fires new version of nuclear-capable Agni missile**



- **India successfully test-fired a new version of the nuclear-capable Agni ballistic missile known as Agni-Prime off the coast of Odisha, DRDO said.**
- **The missile has a range of 1,000-2,000 km and is 50% lighter than Agni-III.**
- **"The missile has followed textbook trajectory, meeting all mission objectives with a high level of accuracy," DRDO added.**

# **The international Day of the Tropics:**



- **The international Day of the Tropics was designated to raise awareness to the specific challenges faced by tropical areas, the far-reaching implications of the issues affecting the world's tropical zone and the need, at all levels, to raise awareness and to underline the important role that countries in the tropics**
- **The Tropics have just over half of the world's renewable water resources (54%), yet almost half their population is considered vulnerable to water stress.**