



### Most Important Points for Daily News

#### ➤ **Government Considers Honorary Senior Ranks for Retiring Paramilitary Personnel**

The Indian government is contemplating the introduction of honorary senior ranks for retiring Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel who have not been promoted due to organizational constraints. This initiative aims to enhance morale among retiring personnel and acknowledge their service.

He said that if a person was retiring on a Constable's rank and was eligible to be promoted as Head Constable (HC), he or she may use the HC's rank. Similarly, if an HC is eligible to be promoted as Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI), he or she may use the insignia for ASI.



#### ➤ **Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) Outbreak in China**

China is currently experiencing a significant increase in human metapneumovirus (HMPV) cases, leading to concerns about a potential health crisis reminiscent of the COVID-19 pandemic. Reports indicate that hospitals are becoming overcrowded, with suggestions of multiple viruses, including HMPV, influenza A, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, and COVID-19, contributing to the situation. Despite some claims of a state of emergency, there has been no official confirmation from Chinese authorities.



#### ➤ **Blinkit Launches 10-Minute Ambulance Service in Gurgaon**

Blinkit CEO Albinder Dhindsa announced the launch of an instant ambulance service, where residents of Gurgaon can book an ambulance through the Blinkit app and have it arrive within 10 minutes. This initiative aims to address the critical need for quick emergency medical transport in urban areas. The service, which includes Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulances, marks a significant step toward providing fast and reliable medical aid.





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#### ➤ SBI Enhances NRI Account Opening with TAB-Based Digital Onboarding

The State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced a TAB-based end-to-end digital onboarding process for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to streamline the opening of Non-Resident External (NRE) and Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) accounts.

This initiative, launched on January, 2025, aims to eliminate physical paperwork and expedite account setup through digital document verification.



#### ➤ Project VISTAAR: A Digital Revolution in Indian Agriculture

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to launch Project VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources). This initiative aims to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of India's agricultural extension system through digitalization, providing farmers with improved access to innovative technologies and advisory services.



#### ➤ Sai Paranjpye to Receive Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award

Sai Paranjpye, a legendary director and writer in Indian cinema, is set to be honored with the Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at the upcoming Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival (AIFF) 2025. Known for her impactful slice-of-life films such as Sparsh, Chashme Buddoor, Katha, and Saaz, Paranjpye is regarded as a pillar of India's parallel cinema movement, which gained prominence in the 1970s and 1980s.





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#### ➤ Odia Poet Prativa Satpathy to Receive Gangadhar National Award

The Gangadhar National Award for Poetry 2023 will be conferred upon the renowned Odia poet Prativa Satpathy by Sambalpur University on its 58th foundation day on January 5. The award, instituted in 1989, recognizes excellence in the field of poetry and is named after the eminent Odia poet Gangadhar Meher. Over the years, many distinguished poets have received the award, and Prativa Satpathy is the latest recipient. This award aims to honor poets who have made significant contributions to the literary world.

