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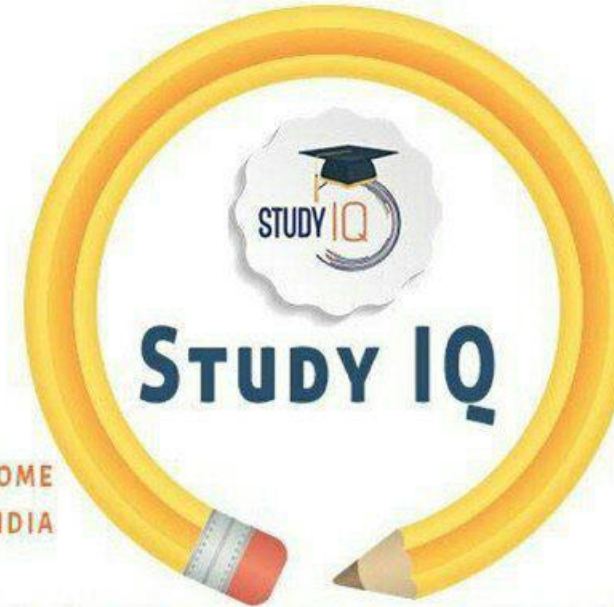
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Source: Central Intelligence Agency (CIA),

The road to Mt. Kailash

A comparison of the two routes used by pilgrims from India

OLD ROUTE
NEW ROUTE

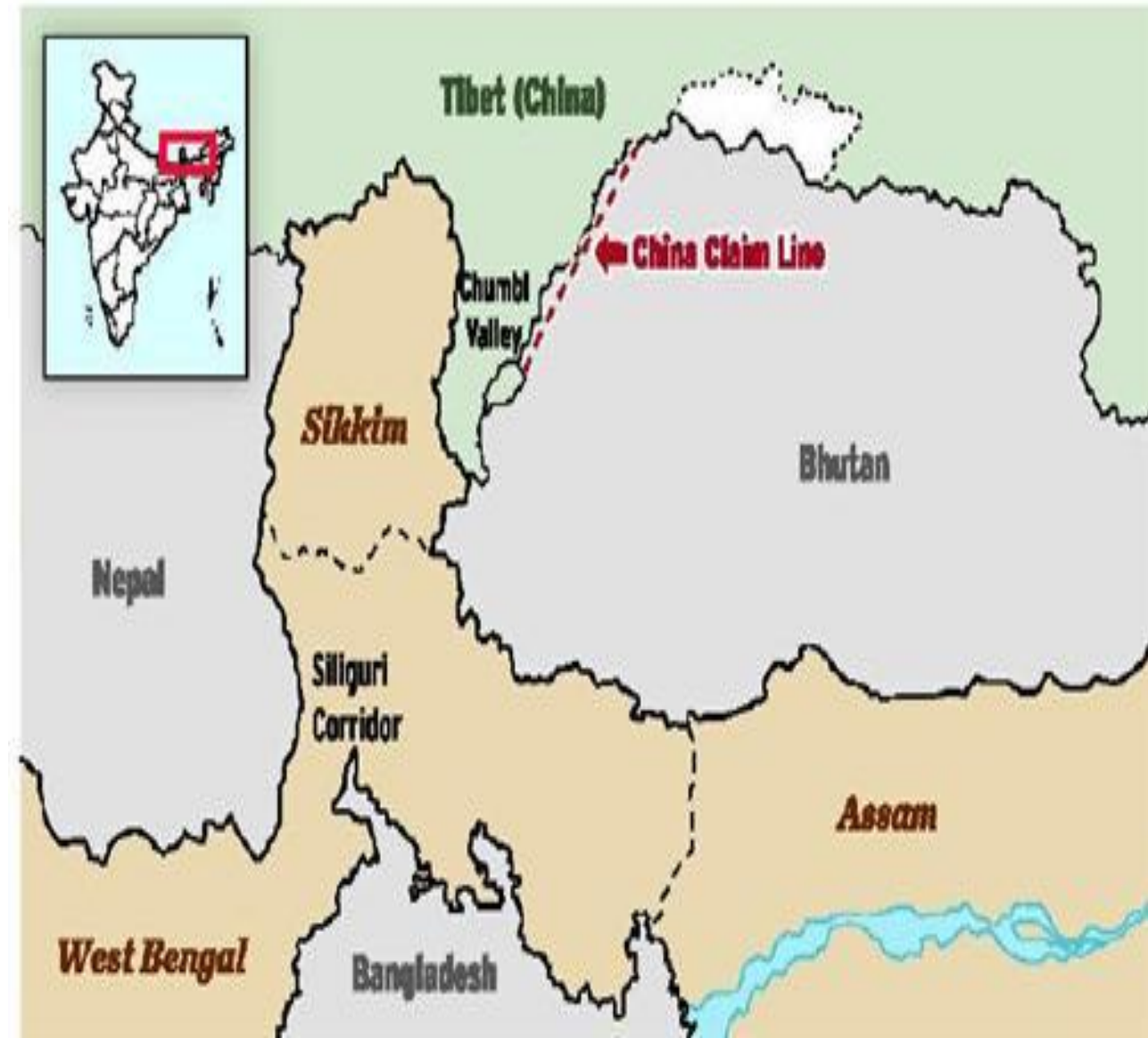
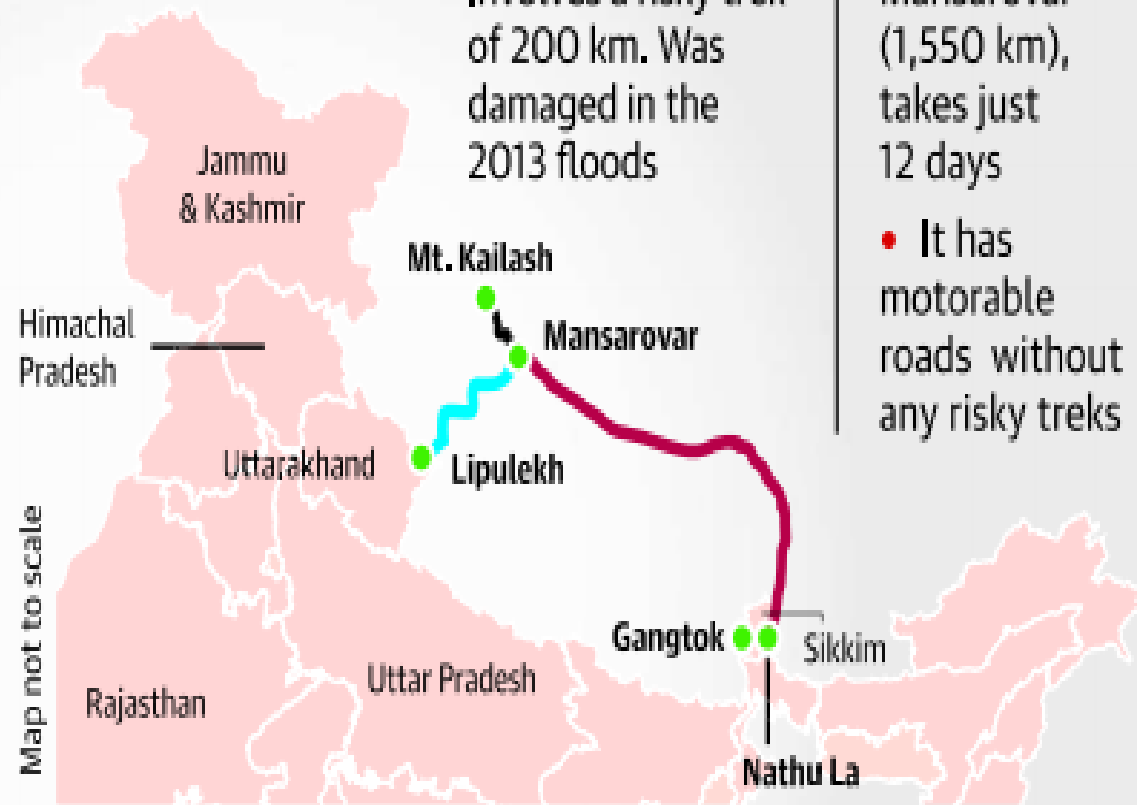
OLD ROUTE:

Takes 19 days.
Involves a risky trek of 200 km. Was damaged in the 2013 floods

NEW ROUTE:

Gangtok to Mansarovar (1,550 km), takes just 12 days

- It has motorable roads without any risky treks



India

States and Union Territories

○ State Capital

● Union Territory Capital







PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

After globalisation's promise

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- ❑ 'Hyperglobalisation'- describe dramatic increase in international trade witnessed for about a decade and a half from early 1990s up to the global financial crisis of 2008.
- ❑ Increasing connectedness among nations leading to a cycle of economic expansion.
- ❑ Occurred an unprecedented movement of capital and of people.
- ❑ Immigrants moved from Europe to the United States and Asian labour was moved to the sites of deployment of western capital.
- ❑ End of a phase
- ❑ Precise, the phase of high trade starting 1870 came to an end with the First World War and was to revive, slowly, only after the Second.
- ❑ Following the collapse of East European communism in the early 1990s, there was a resurgence(पुनरुत्थान) in global trade.
- ❑ Now even this phase has somewhat abruptly ended with the global financial crisis.

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❑ Role of technology

- ❑ Especially 19th century globalisation was underpinned by technological advances that facilitated trade.
- ❑ Former enabled the communications infrastructure intrinsic(स्वाभाविक) to trade-(telegraph)
- ❑ The latter enabled the fast, reliable and cheap transportation of goods across seas- Including the Internet, in terms of their capacity to expand trade.

❑ The slowdown and India

- ❑ Economic policy in India since 1991 would have to be replaced- Now, however, we need to recognise that the game may have changed substantially even if not irrevocably(अपरिवर्तनीय), as the experts claim.
- ❑ India's economic policymakers must address the growth of the home market
- ❑ When the global economy is sluggish(सुस्त), only domestic investment can move demand.
- ❑ In India, we have been witnessing slowing or depressed private investment for close to five years by now- this has to do with tight monetary policy- non-performing assets.

Conclusion

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❑ On public investment

- ❑ Independently of the ‘twin balance sheet problem’, Keynesian economics has long recognised that lowering the rate of interest may not do much for private investment if the expected rate of return is depressed.
- ❑ Slowing of both global trade and domestic manufacturing may have had precisely this effect by lowering the long-term expectations held by private investors.
- ❑ You do this through public investment.
- ❑ Infrastructure is unique in that spending on it raises aggregate demand
- ❑ It raises the productivity of investment elsewhere in the economy.
- ❑ ‘Roads and bridges’ are a metaphor for the public infrastructure that the Indian economy can fruitfully absorb today.
- ❑ For the country’s political leadership, the task is no longer to find trading partners to hug but to buckle down to the heavy lifting of expanding physical infrastructure.

1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development

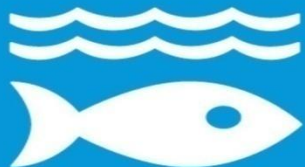
12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW
WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



16 PEACE AND JUSTICE
STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Masking the Flaws(खामियों)

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- ❑ The government's review report on the SDGs presents an inaccurate picture
- ❑ Government claims to have made substantial progress in achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❑ In its Voluntary National Review (VNR) report, to be presented at the ongoing UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York, it portrays a picture of 'all is well'.
- ❑ However, the ground reality is in contrast to these claims.
- ❑ A total of 44 nations, including India, have volunteered for review on various SDGs relating to issues like poverty, hunger, health and gender inequality.
- ❑ India's report, prepared by the NITI Aayog, attributes the sharp reduction of poverty from 45.3% in 1993-94 to 22% in 2011-12 to the economic growth after liberalisation.
- ❑ However, a shadow report on SDGs prepared by civil society organisations in India, led by the Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA), states that India's growth story of the last two decades has accentuated inequalities, perpetuated poverty and limited the choices of historically marginalised communities.

- ❑ To ensure transparency, 77% of the ration cards have been linked to Aadhaar.
- ❑ “But field evidence suggests that mandatory linkage with Aadhaar is excluding the most-needy in interior tribal areas,” points out Rajkishor Mishra of Right to Food Campaign
- ❑ Helping the farmers- Government, through its National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, provision of soil health cards and crop insurance, claims to have helped small and marginal farmers, who form 80% of our farmer population.
- ❑ Claim falls at in view of nearly 3,00,000 farmers committing suicide in last two decades.
- ❑ Double farmers’ income, but the increase in MSP is strikingly meagre(अल्प).
- ❑ Shanta Kumar committee’s recommendation of replacing PDS by cash transfer which will dispense(बांटना) with the procurement system, if it materialises, will sound the death knell to small-scale farming.

- ❑ India has made significant progress over the years on basic health indicators like
 - ✓ 1)-Infant Mortality Rate (IMR),
 - ✓ 2)-Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR),
 - ✓ 3)-institutional deliveries and vaccination coverage.
- ❑ However, 62.4% of the total health expenditure is still out of pocket, putting a huge burden on the poor and the middle class, says the civil society report.
- ❑ In this regard, the aim of the National Health Policy, 2017 of providing affordable health care is welcome.
- ❑ Performance reviews will go a long way towards the attainment of the SDGs.

News Analysis...

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❑ Page-1,11- Highest voter turnout ever for presidential election



External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj with BJP veteran L.K. Advani and Farooq Abdullah after casting her vote in the presidential election at the Parliament House on Monday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

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- ❑ Page-1- Centre's 'no' to SC appeal on old notes
- ❑ Centre told the Supreme Court on Monday that it took a conscious decision to not give any grace period for citizens to deposit their demonetised notes after the cut-off date of December 30, 2016.
- ❑ Page-1,10-Venkaiah Naidu is NDA pick for VP



BJP president Amit Shah and other leaders greet Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi on Monday. ■SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

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□ Page-1-

A feast for the giants



Annual spectacle: Elephants are being fed at the annual 'anayoottu', or the feeding of elephants ceremony, held as part of the Ashta Dravya Maha Ganapathy Homam at the Sree Vadakkunnathan Temple in Thrissur, Kerala, on Monday. ■ K. K. NAJEEB

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❑ Page-1- Eco-bridges for the movement of tigers

- ❑ In a first of its kind, Telangana will have eco friendly bridges over a canal cutting across the tiger corridor linking the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra with the forests in Telangana's Kumram Bheem Asifabad district.
- ❑ The intervention requires the laying of fertile soil to grow grass and plants over the structure so that fragmentation of the reserve forest is camouflaged

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- ❑ **Page-5- Largest Neolithic axe gets a new lease of life**
- ❑ A 3,000-year-old axe, purportedly the largest from the Neolithic period so far discovered in Kerala, has got a new lease of life.
- ❑ 22-cm-long granite axe, weighing 1.48 kg, which has been lying unattended at a village office in Kasaragod district for the past two years, has been finally shifted to the Pazhassi Raja Archaeological Museum at East Hill in Kozhikode.



Granite marvel: The axe, exhibited at the Pazhassi Raja Museum in Kozhikode, is 22 cm long. ■ S. RAMESH KURUP

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- ❑ Page-6- Centre wants debate on J&K's special status
- ❑ The Centre on Monday asked the Supreme Court for a detailed hearing on the special status granted to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, saying it is both a sensitive and a constitutional matter.
- ❑ "It is a very sensitive matter. It is a constitutional issue. A debate is required," Attorney General K.K. Venugopal submitted before a bench led by Chief Justice J.S. Khehar.
- ❑ PIL filed by a Delhi-based NGO, We the Citizens, contending that the J&K government, given the State's special autonomous status under Articles 35A and 370, was discriminatory against non-residents as far as government jobs and real estate purchases are concerned.
- ❑ "Article 370 though titled as 'Temporary Provision' and included in Para XXI titled 'Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions' has assumed place of permanence in the Constitution,"
- ❑ Page-6-Exempt langars from GST, says Amarinder

Last Day- Q's- Ans...


- ❑ Under the provisions of the National Food Security Act-2013,
 - ✓ beneficiaries of the Public Distribution System (or, PDS) are entitled to 5 kilograms (11 lb) per person per month of cereals at the following prices:
 - ✓ Rice at ₹3 per kg
 - ✓ Wheat at ₹2 per kg
 - ✓ Coarse grains (millet) at ₹1 per kg
- ❑ 2. Grand Slam tournaments, also called majors, are the four most-important annual tennis events.
- ❑ The Grand Slam itinerary consists of
 - ✓ Australian Open in mid January(played on hard courts),
 - ✓ French Open in May and June (played on clay),
 - ✓ Wimbledon in June and July (played on grass),
 - ✓ US Open in August and September (played on hard courts).

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हम सब का एक ही नारा,
साफ सुथरा हो देश हमारा.



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🧠 "A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle" 🧠