

Daily News Decode

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Jharkhand ranks first in implementation of Smart City Mission schemes



- Jharkhand has clinched the 1st Position among the 36 States & UTs of India based on the progress of implementation of Smart City projects, Rajasthan came second in the rankings.
- The rankings were released by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- At the same time, Jharkhand's Capital Ranchi has risen to 12th position in terms of progress of the ongoing mission plans in 100 cities.
- On the other hand, Delhi is at number 11 in the list of States and Union Territories and Bihar at number 27 and New Delhi Municipal Corporation is at number 41 and Bihar Capital Patna at 68th position in the list of cities.
- Earlier, there was a system of issuing ranking in one month, fortnight, week by the Smart City Mission. But, now these rankings are updated frequently through the online process.
- In this ranking, the implementation and progress of the schemes run by the Smart City Mission are the basis and the points for various tasks are determined.

Martha Koome becomes Kenya's first woman chief justice



- Martha Karambu Koome is Kenya's first woman chief justice.
- She is the first woman to head any of the three branches of government. Koome, 61, a calm but staunch women's rights crusader, takes over the judiciary ahead of next year's general elections and would likely play a decisive role in adjudicating any eventual election disputes.

Indian Navy Designs Oxygen Recycling System to mitigate oxygen shortage



- The Indian Navy has designed an Oxygen Recycling System (ORS) to mitigate the existing Oxygen shortages.
- Indian Navy's Diving School of the Southern Naval Command has conceptualised and designed the System as they have expertise in this area because the basic concept is used in some of the diving sets used by the school.

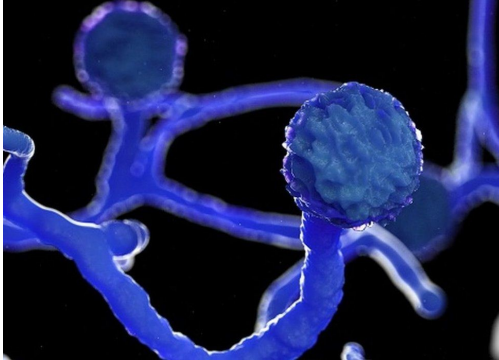
- ORS will extend the life of the existing medical oxygen cylinders by two to four times, using the fact that only a small percentage of oxygen inhaled by a patient is actually absorbed by the lungs, while the rest is exhaled along with carbon dioxide produced by the body.

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development



- World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is observed globally on 21 May every year.
- The day aims to celebrate the richness of the world's cultures and highlight the significance of its diversity as an agent of inclusion and positive change for achieving peace and sustainable development.
- In the year 2001, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted the 'Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity' as a result of the destruction of the Buddha statues of Bamiyan in Afghanistan in 2001.
- Then in December 2002, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in its resolution 57/249, declared 21 May to be World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.
- China successfully launches new ocean observation satellite Haiyang-2D
- China has successfully sent a new ocean-monitoring satellite into orbit as part of its effort to build an all-weather and round-the-clock dynamic ocean environment monitoring system that would provide early warning on marine disasters.
- The satellite was launched by a Long March-4B rocket carrying the Haiyang-2D (HY-2D) satellite from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.
- The HY-2D will form a constellation with the HY-2B and HY-2C satellites to build an all-weather and round-the-clock dynamic ocean environment monitoring system of high frequency and medium and large scale.
- The HY-2D was developed by the China Academy of Space Technology, and the carrier rocket by the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology.
- China's space programme made significant advancements last week when it landed a spacecraft on Mars, becoming the second country after the United States to have a rover on the red planet.

MUCORMYCOSIS



- The Union government has asked the States to declare mucormycosis, the fungal infection being reported in COVID-19 patients, an epidemic under Epidemic Diseases Act 1897.
- Declaring the black fungus infection seen in COVID-19 patients an epidemic would lead to health facilities screening for it and reporting all such cases to the government.
- Rajasthan, Telangana and Tamil Nadu have declared it an epidemic.
- Mucormycosis or black fungus is a complication caused by fungal infection.
- People catch mucormycosis by coming in contact with the fungal spores in the environment.
- The disease is being detected among patients who are recovering or have recovered from covid-19.

PARACEL ISLANDS



- China alleged that the USS Curtis Wilbur, a US warship had illegally entered its territorial waters near the Paracel islands in the South China Sea, an assertion the United States denied.
- The Paracel Islands archipelago is a collection of 130 islands and coral reefs and is located in the South China Sea, almost equidistant from China and Vietnam.
- Since 2012, China, Taiwan and Vietnam have attempted to reinforce their claims on the territory by engaging in construction of government administrative buildings, tourism, land reclamation initiatives and by establishing and expanding military presence on the archipelago.

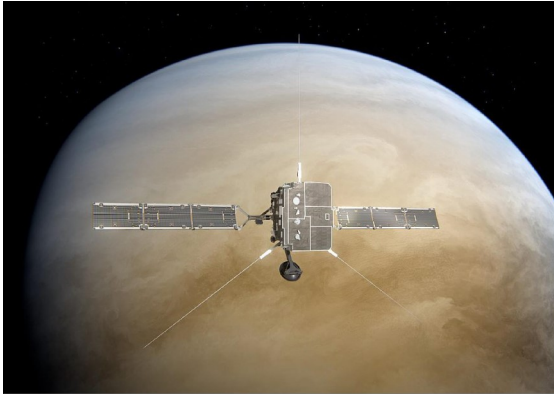
PREPAID PAYMENT INSTRUMENTS (PPIs)



- Now Money kept in various online wallets like Amazon pay, Ola money, Mobikwik, Phone pe, Delhi Metro Card etc. can be withdrawn using an ATM or Point of Sale Terminal.
- In a notification issued, Reserve bank of India permitted cash withdrawal of Rs. 2,000 per transaction with maximum limit of Rs. 10,000 per month.
- All non-bank Payment prepaid instruments can provide this service. But, for such transaction using card or wallet PIN or other additional authentication will be mandatory.

- Till date RBI has permitted 37 Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) in country.
- Now maximum two lakh rupee can be kept in various wallets after completion of full KYC.
- RBI has also asked all payment instruments providers to ensure interoperability by 31st of March next year.

NASA-ESA Solar orbiter (Solo)



- NASA and European Space Agency's Solar orbiter has captured the first solar eruption.
- The Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) was captured by NASA instrument, the Solar Orbiter Heliospheric Imager (SoloHI) onboard the spacecraft.
- SoloHI watches the solar wind, dust, and cosmic rays that fill the space between the Sun and the planets.
- Two more imagers on Solar Orbiter – ESA's Extreme Ultraviolet Imager and Metis, also captured views of the CME.
- NASA's STEREO-A spacecraft also caught a glimpse from its COR2 detector.
- The Solar Orbiter (Solo) is a Sun-observing satellite, developed by the European Space Agency (ESA).
- It is intended to perform detailed measurements of the inner heliosphere and nascent solar wind, and perform close observations of the polar regions of the Sun.
- Solar Orbiter will be able to observe the magnetic activity building up in the atmosphere that can lead to powerful solar flares or eruptions.
- It was launched on 10 February 2020 and the mission is planned to last 7 years.
- The total mission cost is US\$1.5 billion, with both ESA and NASA contributions.
- The science payload is composed of 10 instruments.
- The spacecraft has already taken the closest picture of the Sun to date.

Congo Declares End of Ebola Outbreak



- The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) officially declared the end of the 12th Ebola outbreak, which killed six people in its eastern province of North Kivu.
- Since the outbreak was declared on February 7, 2021, a total of 12 cases have been reported, including six deaths in the province.
- The outbreak was contained using Merck's Ebola vaccine, which was given to more than 1,600 of the patients' contacts, and contacts of contacts, the international medical charity Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontieres, or MSF) said.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY - 22 MAY



- The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.
- When first created by the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly in late 1993, 29 December (the date of entry into force of the Convention of Biological Diversity), was designated The International Day for Biological Diversity.
- The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is pleased to announce the Biodiversity Day 2021 slogan: “We’re part of the solution”.
- The slogan was chosen to be a continuation of the momentum generated last year under the over-arching theme, “Our solutions are in nature”, which served as a reminder that biodiversity remains the answer to several sustainable development challenges.
- From nature-based solutions to climate, health issues, food and water security, and sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity is the foundation upon which we can build back better.

What is 'Dipcovan', the COVID-19 antibody detection test kit by DRDO?



- DRDO has developed a COVID-19 antibody detection kit 'Dipcovan' that can assess whether or not a person has been exposed to SARS-CoV-2.
- It can detect spike and S&N proteins of the virus with 97% sensitivity and 99% specificity.
- It requires 75 minutes for the test, has an 18-month shelf-life and is expected to be priced at ₹75 per test.

New mammal species with 'dense fur & thick, darker tail' discovered in India



- A new mammal species has been discovered in Narcondam Island in India.
- The latest discovery from the volcanic island increases the total number of catalogued Crocidura species in the Indian checklist of mammals to 12.
- The new species, Crocidura narcondamica, is of medium size and has dark grey, dense fur and a thick darker tail along with a rounded braincase.

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