

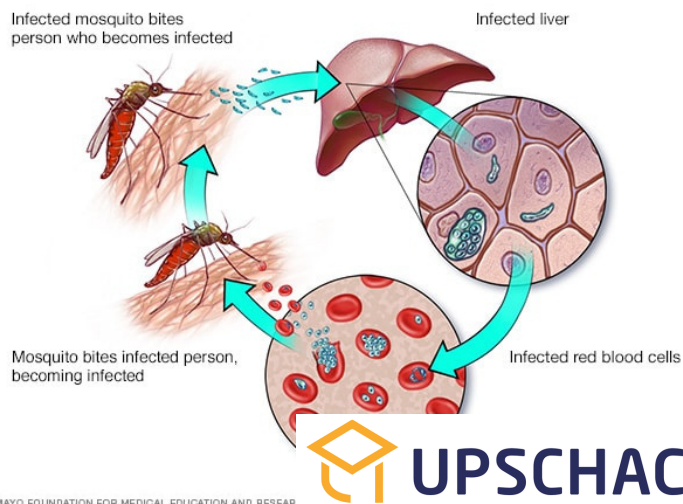
An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that curves through a dense, lush green forest. Several cars are visible on the road, including a white car, a blue car, and a white van. The road has white dashed lines for lane markings. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down on the road and the surrounding trees.

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DAILY NEWS DECODE

03.07.21

China is certified malaria-free by WHO



- Following a 70-year effort, China has been awarded a malaria-free certification from WHO - a notable feat for a country that reported 30 million cases of the disease annually in the 1940s.

- China is the first country in the WHO Western Pacific Region to be awarded a malaria-free certification in more than 3 decades.
- Other countries in the region that have achieved this status include Australia (1981), Singapore (1982) and Brunei Darussalam (1987).
- Globally, 40 countries and territories have been granted a malaria-free certification from WHO - including, most recently, El Salvador (2021), Algeria (2019), Argentina (2019), Paraguay (2018) and Uzbekistan (2018).
- China provides a basic public health service package for its residents free of charge.
- As part of this package, all people in China have access to affordable services for the diagnosis and treatment of malaria, regardless of legal or financial status.

- **Effective multi-sector collaboration was also key to success.**
- **In 2010, 13 ministries in China - including those representing health, education, finance, research and science, development, public security, the army, police, commerce, industry and information technology, customs, media and tourism - joined forces to end malaria nationwide.**
- **In recent years, the country further reduced its malaria caseload through strict adherence to the timelines of the "1-3-7" strategy.**
- **The "1" signifies the one-day deadline for health facilities to report a malaria diagnosis; by the end of day 3, health authorities are required to confirm a case and determine the risk of spread; and, within 7 days, appropriate measures must be taken to prevent further spread of the disease.**

New jumping spider species named after 26/11 martyr Tukaram Omble



- A group of scientists who discovered two new species of jumping spiders from the Thane-Kalyan region named one of them after the brave police constable Tukaram Omble who lost his life in the 26/11 terror attacks. The species is called 'Icius Tukarami.'
- The paper citing the discovery of the new species was published in the Russian science journal *Anthropoda Selecta* by scientists Dhruv A. Prajapati, John Caleb, Somnath B. Kumbhar and Rajesh Sanap.

International Day of Cooperatives: 3 July

UNIQUE NEWS ONLINE
WORTH YOUR TIME



- The United Nations celebrates the International Day of Cooperatives every year on the first Saturday of July to increase awareness of cooperatives.
- In the year 2021, the International Day of Cooperatives will be celebrated on 3rd July with a focus on the contribution of cooperatives to combating climate change.
- This July 3rd, the International Day of Cooperatives (#CoopsDay) will be celebrated as “Rebuild better together”.
- Cooperatives around the world will showcase how they are meeting the COVID-19 pandemic crisis with solidarity and resilience and offering communities a people-centred and environmentally just recovery.

7th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium

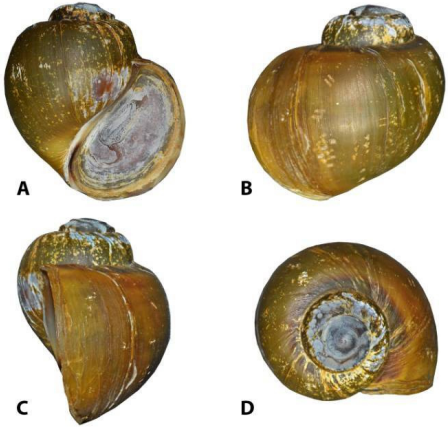
Concludes in France



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- The biennial event was hosted by the French Navy at La Réunion from 28 June to 01 July 2021.
- From India, Admiral Karambir Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy, participated in the inaugural session of the event virtually.
- France is the current chair of the Symposium, which assumed the Chairmanship on 29 June for a two-year tenure.
- The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) is a series of biennial meetings, held between the littoral states of the Indian Ocean region, to enhance maritime cooperation among Navies of the member states, by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues such as maritime security cooperation, discuss regional maritime issues, and promote friendly relationships.
- First such symposium was held in 2008 with India as host.
- The chairmanship and location of the Symposium rotates between the various member states.

Mizoram apple snail



- A team of researchers from Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bangalore, have discovered a new type of Apple snail.
- *Pila mizoramensis* is the sixth member of the *Pila* genus from India and the second species to inhabit hill streams.
- *Pila* is commonly known as Apple Snails.
- It is currently found in only two localities in Mizoram.
- It is right coiled and is a close relative of the Southeast Asian species, *Pila virescens*.
- It has a shell height and diameter of about 2.5 cm.
- Its habitat has perennial waterfalls and the snail was found among algae and semi-aquatic plants in the spray or splash zones of the waterfalls.
- Its locality has a temperature not exceeding 25 degrees Celsius and receives an annual rainfall of over 2500 mm.
- There are only two species of *Pila* from India which are restricted to streams and the other one *Pila saxea* is found in the northern Western Ghats.

Apple snail-

- **Ampullariidae, commonly named the apple snail, is a family of large freshwater snails.**
- **They are unusual because they have both a gill and a lung and are amphibious.**
- **They are probably of Gondwanan origin.**
- **They are exceptionally well adapted to tropical regions characterized by periods of drought alternating with periods of high rainfall.**

EUs 'Right to Repair'



EUROPE,
LET'S REUSE

REFURBISH

REPAIR



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- European Parliament recently voted in favour of establishing stronger “right to repair” rules.

- Under the new EU rules, manufacturers will have to ensure spare parts are available for up to a decade, though some will only be provided to professional repair companies to ensure they are installed correctly.
- Hence companies that sell consumer electronics in the European Union and in the UK will need to ensure those goods can be repaired for up to 10 years.
- These rules help reduce electrical waste, which has been increasing due to greater manufacturing.
- New devices will also have to come with repair manuals and be made in such a way that they can be dismantled using conventional tools when they really can't be fixed anymore, to improve recycling.
- The next step is to extend the ambit of the law to cover IT hardware — cellphones, laptops and the like which are responsible for a large amount of e-waste.

- **Sweden has made repairs and spare parts subject to lower value-added tax.**
- **The new seven-step scale from A to G will be complemented by a QR code that provides consumers with further information, such as how loud the devices are.**



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LEAF coalition



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- At the recently concluded Leaders' Summit on Climate, the LEAF coalition came up with a \$1 billion fund plan that shall be offered to countries committed to arrest the decline of their tropical forests by 2030.
- The LEAF Coalition was launched on April 22nd by an initial group of governments and leading companies.
- LEAF is a collective of the United States, United Kingdom, Norway governments & others
- The coalition aims to mobilize at least \$1 billion in financing, kicking off what is expected to become one of the largest ever public-private efforts to protect tropical forests.
- It would also be to the benefit of billions of people depending on them, and to support sustainable development.
- LEAF was supported by transnational corporations (TNCs) like Unilever plc, Amazon.com, Inc, Nestle, Airbnb, Inc as well as Emergent, a US-based non-profit.

- **The LEAF coalition initiative is a step towards concretising the aims and objectives of the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) mechanism.**
- **A country willing to participate would need to fulfil certain predetermined conditions laid down by the Coalition.**
- **It is a unique initiative as it seeks to help developing countries in battling the double-edged sword of development versus ecological commitment.**
- **Emergent, a US non-profit, is providing a platform to facilitate the transactions to provide finance to these programs, and will serve as LEAF's administrative coordinator.**
- **Performance will be measured against the TREES standard.**
- **TREES is a high-integrity standard building on over a decade of progress in international support for reducing deforestation and ensuring social and environmental integrity.**
- **TREES is managed by ART, a voluntary global initiative hosted by Winrock International.**
- **ART also maintains the registry on which Emissions Reductions are issued, transferred and retired.**

- **ART will issue verified Emissions Reductions (called “TREES credits” under the TREES standard) to participating jurisdictions that reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.**
- **Each of these represent one tonne of CO2.**
- **Companies are invited to participate in the LEAF Coalition by purchasing high-quality emissions reductions as part of broader voluntary commitments to global climate action.**



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New source of gravitational waves discovered



- Recently, the scientists have for the first time detected gravitational waves ripples in the fabric of space-time produced by the collision of a neutron star and a black hole
- The discovery of gravitational waves from a pair of neutron star-black hole (NS-BH) mergers was published in the *Astrophysical Journal*.
- Until now, the LIGO-Virgo collaboration (LVC) of gravitational waves detectors has only been able to observe collisions between pairs of black holes or neutron stars.
- For the first time, in January 2020, the network of detectors made the discovery of gravitational waves from a pair of NS-BH mergers.
- There is a lot of interesting science that can be learnt from this. For instance, a neutron star has a surface and black hole does not.
- A neutron star is about 1.4-2 times the mass of the sun while the other black hole is much more massive.

- **Widely unequal mergers have very interesting effects that can be detected.**
- **Inferring from data as to how often they merge will also give us clues about their origin and how they were formed.**
- **This increases the chance of observation of these distant sources using electromagnetic telescopes, which will, in turn, give us a more precise measurement of how fast the universe is expanding.**
- **These observations help us understand the formation and relative abundance of such binaries. Neutron stars are the densest objects in the Universe, so these findings can also help us understand the behaviour of matter at extreme densities.**
- **Neutron stars are also the most precise 'clocks' in the Universe, if they emit extremely periodic pulses.**
- **The discovery of pulsars going around Black Holes could help scientists probe effects under extreme gravity.**
- **Both of these events occurred 1 billion light years away.**
- **As the gravitational waves also travel with the speed of light, this means that they observed mergers that happened ~1 billion years ago well before life appeared on earth!**

Human Stem Cell Research Guidelines



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- Human Stem Cell Research Guidelines have been updated recently.
- The International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR) in May 2021 released an updated version of its guidelines for basic and clinical research involving human stem cells and embryos.
- The ISSCR's changes include recommendations for using human embryo models, lab-derived gametes, and human-animal chimeras as well as an end to the widely accepted two-week maximum for growing human embryos in culture.
- As per the old guideline, after 14 days, an embryo should not be used for research and must be destroyed.
- ISSCR has removed this rule.
- The 14-day rule has served as an international standard since 1990 when it was included in the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act in the United Kingdom.
- The new rule makes it possible to conduct research on human embryos that are at more advanced stages of development.

- **Drawbacks of the new guidelines is that there is no longer any limit on the time frame for research.**
- **The longer a human embryo is allowed to grow, the more recognisably human it becomes.**



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KICKBOXING



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- The Ministry of Youth affairs & Sports has decided to grant recognition to WAKO India Kickboxing Federation as National Sports Federation (NSF) for promotion and development of the Kickboxing sport in India.
- WAKO India Kickboxing Federation is affiliated to World Association of Kickboxing Organizations (WAKO), which is the International Federation for the sport of Kickboxing.
- International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board at its meeting on 10th June 2021 has approved the recommendation for WAKO to become fully recognized member of the Olympic family of sport.
- WAKO have been provisionally recognized member of the IOC Since 30 November 2018.
- The full recognition of WAKO will be finally decided by the IOC Session in Tokyo in July 2021.
- To be fully included and accepted in the Olympic movement is important for the recognition and development of the sport of kickboxing.

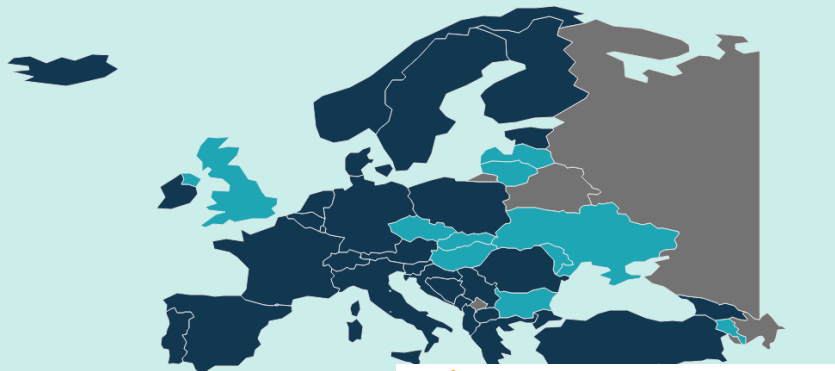
- It is expected that with government recognition of WAKO India Kickboxing Federation as NSF, the sport of kickboxing will develop at a faster pace in the country.



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ISTANBUL CONVENTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention on violence against women



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- Turkey's controversial exit from Istanbul Convention on Violence Against Women on July 1 has received severe criticism from various quarters and has led to protests across the country.
- The Council of Europe established the Istanbul Convention, a human rights treaty, with the aim to prevent and prosecute all forms of violence against women, promote gender equality and ensure protection and rehabilitation of women who are victims of violence.
- The treaty was opened for ratification in May 2011. From the European Union, 34 countries signed this treaty.
- On November 24, 2011, Turkey became the first country to ratify the Istanbul convention and, on March 8, 2012, it incorporated the Istanbul Convention into domestic law.

What are the reasons for Turkey's withdrawal?

- **some officials of Erdogan's nationalist party claimed that the convention demeans traditional family structure, promotes divorces and encourages acceptance of LGBTQ in the society.**



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SARDAR PATEL NATIONAL UNITY AWARD-2021



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- The online nominations/recommendations process for the Sardar Patel National Unity Award is on and the last date for nominations/recommendations is 15th August 2021.

- The Government of India has instituted the highest civilian award in the field of contribution to the unity and integrity of India, in the name of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- The Award seeks to recognize notable and inspiring contributions to promote the cause of national unity and integrity and to reinforce the value of a strong and united India.
- Any citizen of India without distinction of religion, race, caste, gender, place of birth, age or occupation, and any institution/organization would be eligible for the Award.
- Any Indian national or institution or organization based in India may nominate an individual or institution or organization for consideration for this Award.

Why swimming caps designed for natural Black hair have been banned at Olympics?



- **Swimming caps designed by Soul Cap for natural Black hair that's thicker and voluminous aren't allowed at Tokyo Olympics as International Swimming Federation said they're "unsuitable" and don't fit "natural form of head".**
- **FINA said to its "best knowledge, athletes competing at international events never used, neither require...caps of such...configuration".**
- **Many black athletes condemned the move.**

Google Doodle Honours Ludwig Guttman, Who Founded Paralympic Movement



- In 1948, he organised an archery competition for wheelchair users, which later came to be known as the "Stoke Mandeville Games" that evolved into the Paralympic Games.
- The doodle "celebrates the 122nd birthday of Jewish, German-born British neurologist Professor Sir Ludwig "Poppa" Guttman, founder of the Paralympic movement," the Google Doodle website said.