

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road through a dense green forest. Several cars are visible on the road, including a white car, a blue car, and a white van. The road curves through the trees, and the overall scene is lush and green.

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DAILY NEWS DECODE

07.07.21

Govt launches mobile app 'Matsya Setu' for Indian aqua farmers



- **Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Giriraj Singh has launched the Online Course Mobile App "Matsya Setu".**

- **The app was developed by the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar, with the funding support of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad.**
- **The online course app aims to disseminate the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the aqua farmers of the country.**
- **Matsya Setu app has species-wise/ subject-wise self-learning online course modules, where renowned aquaculture experts explain the basic concepts and practical demonstrations on breeding, seed production and grow-out culture of commercially important fishes like carp, catfish, scampi, murrel, ornamental fish, pearl farming etc.**

- **Better Management Practices to be followed in maintaining the soil & water quality, feeding and health management in aquaculture operations were also provided in the course platform.**
- **The modules are divided into small video chapters for the convenience of the learners, along with additional learning materials.**
- **In order to motivate the learners and provide a lively learning experience, Quiz/Test options were also provided for self-assessment.**
- **Upon successful completion of each course module, an e-Certificate can be auto-generated.**
- **Farmers can also ask their doubts through the app and get specific advisories from experts.**

MINISTRY OF CO-OPERATION



- In a historic move, a separate 'Ministry of Co-operation' has been created by the NDA Government for realizing the vision of 'Sahkar se Samriddhi'.
- This ministry will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country.
- It will help deepen Co-operatives as a true people based movement reaching upto the grassroots.
- The Ministry will work to streamline processes for 'Ease of doing business' for co-operatives and enable development of Multi-State Co-operatives (MSCS).
- Creation of a separate Ministry for Co-operation also fulfils the budget announcement made by the Finance Minister.

MISHRI VARIETY OF CHERRIES



- A first commercial shipment of Mishri variety of cherries from Kashmir valley has been exported to Dubai from Srinagar.
- Mishri variety of Cherries are not only taste delicious but also contain vitamins, minerals and plant compound with health benefits.
- The union territory of Jammu and Kashmir produces more than 95% of the total country's production of commercial varieties of cherries in the country.
- It produces four varieties of cherry — Double, Makhmali, Mishri and Italy.
- APEDA-National Referral Laboratory at National Research Centre for Grapes, Pune provided support for ensuring food safety and quality in the shipment, which would help create brand for cherries especially in the middle east countries.

COMMON ELIGIBILITY TEST (CET) FOR JOB ASPIRANTS



NATIONAL RECRUITMENT AGENCY
COMMON ELIGIBILITY TEST

- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said that a Common Eligibility Test, CET for job aspirants will be conducted across the country from early 2022.
- This unique initiative is being undertaken with the personal intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to screen and shortlist candidates for recruitment to Central Government jobs.
- The Common Entrance Test is a path-breaking reform carried out by Department of Personnel & Training to bring about “Ease of Recruitment” for young job aspirants.
- The National Recruitment Agency (NRA) has been constituted with the approval of the Union Cabinet for conducting CET to screen and shortlist candidates for Group-‘B’ and ‘C’ (non-technical) posts.

- **NRA will conduct CET to screen and shortlist candidates for jobs in Government sector for which recruitment is presently carried out through the Staff Selection Commission, Railway Recruitment Boards and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection.**
- **The most significant feature of this reform is that every district in the country will have at least one Examination Centre.**



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LAMBDA



- Even as the Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus continues to drive the rise in infections around the world, another variant, Lambda, is increasingly being seen by scientists and health experts as a new emerging threat.
- On June 14, the World Health Organization designated the Lambda variant, previously known by its formal scientific name C.37, as the seventh and newest “variant of interest”, meaning it was something to watch out for.
- Like the Delta variant, the Lambda variant, which has now been detected in more than 25 countries, is feared to be more transmissible than the original virus.
- It has been the dominant variant in Peru and other countries of South America.

WHITE FLAG MOVEMENT



- In Malaysia, some residents of low-income families have started waving white flags as part of the so-called “White Flag Campaign”, or the #benderaputi (white flag) movement

- They are doing this to convey distress about the financial crunch they have had to deal with amid the lockdowns due to Covid-19.
- Malaysia enforced another lockdown on June 1 in order to control another surge of Covid infections.
- As part of the movement that was initiated last week, families that are facing hunger or need any other kind of assistance are encouraged to wave a white flag or put a piece of white cloth outside their homes to signal that they need help.
- The idea is that by spotting the white flag, neighbours and good samaritans can reach them.

Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project

Uttarakhand



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- SJVN, a CPSE under Ministry of Power has completed the Tunnel Excavation work of its Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project in Uttarakhand.

- Naitwar Mori HEP has the potential to generate 265.5 million units of electricity every year and the State of Uttarakhand will get 12% free Power as a Royalty.
- The project will also lead to the achievement of the Shared vision of SJVN, for becoming a 25000 MW Company by 2040.
- The Project which is targeted to be completed by April 2022.

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MAITREE POWER PROJECT



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- Secretary (Power) Govt of India met Secretary (Power) Govt of Bangladesh for the issues related to 1320MW Maitree Power project.
- The Maitree super thermal power project is a 1,320MW coal-fired power station under construction in Rampal, Bangladesh.
- It is located at Moithara, Rampal, in the Bagerhat district, approximately 23km south-east of the Khulna city, Bangladesh.
- The coal-fired facility is being developed on a 1,834acre-site on the bank of Passur River in south-west Bangladesh.
- The power plant is being developed by Bangladesh India Friendship Power Company (BIFPCL), a 50:50 joint venture between India's state-run National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).
- Construction on the Rampal power plant was started in 2017. The first unit of this project would be commissioned in December' 2021

TELE-LAW



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- Justice Department commemorates the milestone of crossing 9 lakh beneficiaries under its Tele-Law programme.
- The programme connects the disadvantaged and needy seeking legal advice from Panel Lawyers through e-interface platform available in Common Service Centres(CSC).
- It began its humble journey in 2017 by covering 170 districts in 11 States through 1800 CSCs. In 2019, 115 Aspirational Districts were added taking the number of CSCs to 29,860.
- Tele-Law programme is presently operational in 633 districts (including 115 Aspirational Districts) across 34 States/UTs through a network of 50,000 CSCs.
- Tele-Law saw a surge of 369% growth in number of beneficiaries seeking legal advice during last one year during the Covid Pandemic.
- Even though Tele-law programme is technology driven, its success is dependent on the working of field functionaries comprising of Village Level Entrepreneurs(VLEs), Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), State Coordinators and Panel Lawyers.

Lushai hills dragon snake



- The researchers from Mizoram University have discovered a new species of the *Stoliczka* genus of snakes.
- This is the third species of *Stoliczka* from India.
- The team has named it *Stoliczka vanhnuailianai*, in honour of Vanhnuailiana, a famous Mizo warrior.
- The team has given it a common name, 'Lushai hills dragon snake' and in the local Mizo language it will be called *rulphusin*, meaning 'snake with small scales'.
- The snake is about 50 cm in length, non-venomous, and has a dark brown shade above with a few dorsal scale rows bright yellow in colour.
- The head scales are uniformly dark brown and have bright pinkish sutures.
- Though some members of the family *Xenodermidae* exhibit fluorescence under ultraviolet light, this snake did not exhibit any significant sign of fluorescence.
- Its sister species *Stoliczka khasiensis* was found more than a century ago in 1904.

- **The new species is known only from a single specimen at a point locality and further studies are needed to know its distributional range.**

Stoliczka –

- **It is a genus of snakes in the family Xenodermidae.**
- **The genus contains only two species, one from Northeast India and the other from Borneo.**
- **Stoliczka borneensis (1899) – Borneo red snake**
- **Stoliczka khasiensis Jerdon, (1870) – Khasi earth snake, Khase red snake**
- **The genus is named after Ferdinand Stoliczka, Moravian-born zoologist who later worked for the Geological Survey of India.**

Palm civet sighted in Satkosia tiger reserve



- An albino common palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphrodites*) was sighted in Satkosia Tiger Reserve (STR) in Odisha after 129 years. It was last sighted in 1891.

- The common palm civet is a small mammal belonging to the family Viverridae.
- It can be found in Southern and Southeastern Asia.
- Their long, stocky body is covered with coarse, shaggy hair that is usually grey in colour.
- It is both terrestrial and arboreal, and shows nocturnal activity.
- IUCN status- Least Concern
- It is listed on CITES Appendix III.
- Asian palm civets are claimed to be the carrier that transmitted SARS from horseshoe bats to humans.
- It is an omnivore feeding foremost on fruits such as berries and pulpy fruits.

- It thus helps to maintain tropical forest ecosystems via seed dispersal.
- It also feeds on palm flower sap, which when fermented becomes palm wine, a sweet liquor ("toddy"), hence it is called the toddy cat.
- In Indonesia, it is threatened by poaching and illegal wildlife trade for the increasing production of 'Kopi luwak', a form of coffee that involves ingestion and excretion of the beans by the animal.

Satkosia Tiger Reserve- UPSCHACKS

- It is a tiger reserve located in the Angul district of Odisha, India.
- Satkosia Tiger Reserve was designated in 2007, and comprises the Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary and the adjacent Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Mahanadi River passes through it in the Eastern Highlands moist deciduous forests ecoregion.
- The major plant communities are mixed deciduous forests including Sal and riverine forest.
- Mammals found include the leopard, indian wild dog or the (dhole), wild boars , striped hyena, sloth bear, leopard cat and the jungle cat, Asian elephant, Spotted deer, sambar deer, barking deer and langurs.

Shumang Leela theatre form



- The Manipur government has planned to use the popular 'Shumang Leela' form of theatre to reach out to people and spread awareness against Covid-19.

- Plans are underway to stage a play titled 'Keidoubagi Kidoino' (There is no need to fear) directed by Sougrakpam Hemanta.
- Shumang Leela is also called Shumang Kumhei.
- It is a traditional form of theatre in Manipur.
- 'Shumang' means courtyard and 'Leela' means play.
- The theatre is arranged in the form of open air from four sides.
- All the characters, including women, are played by male actors.
- It was officially recorded for the first time in the state with the Harischandra leela in 1918.
- However, the form is much older and is believed to have existed during the reign of King Chandrakriti (1851-1886).

- In 2017, Sougrakpam Hemanta was conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in recognition of his contribution in Shumang Leela, thus became the first person to receive the award for this art form.
- The theatre form remains a popular medium to spread awareness on social issues.



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World's first solo motorcycle expedition in Northern Himalayan passes culminates



- The world's first solo motorcycle expedition undertaken by Miss Kanchan Ugusandi, covering 18 treacherous passes in Northern Himalayan ranges culminated on Wednesday (July 07, 2021) at Seema Sadak Bhawan in New Delhi
- The expedition was flagged off by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on June 11, 2021 from New Delhi.
- The month-long expedition witnessed many firsts by a solo woman rider.
- Miss Ugusandi has become the first solo woman biker to scale the Umlingla Pass, the first woman to cover the 18 passes and also the first woman to traverse a distance of 3,187 kilometre from New Delhi-Manali-Leh -Umlingla-Delhi in one go.

- **The solo motorcycle expedition also played a pivotal role in promoting road and COVID safety awareness in border areas.**
- **The DGBR added that this unique motor cycle expedition demonstrates the strong resolve of Indian women, who are breaking stereotypes and taking the challenges which were hitherto not undertaken.**
- **It will also signify women empowerment, he said.**



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Bhalia wheat



- In a major boost to wheat exports, the first shipment of Geographical Indication (GI) certified Bhalia variety of wheat was exported today to Kenya and Sri Lanka from Gujarat.
- The GI certified wheat has high protein content and is sweet in taste.
- The crop is grown mostly across Bhal region of Gujarat which includes Ahmadabad, Anand, Kheda, Bhavanagar, Surendranagar, Bharuch districts.
- The unique characteristic of the wheat variety is that grown in the rainfed condition without irrigation and cultivated in around two lakh hectares of agricultural land in Gujarat. The Bhalia variety of wheat received GI certification in July, 2011. The registered proprietor of GI certification is Anand Agricultural University, Gujarat.
- Bhalia Wheat are rich in Gluten, a type of amino acid. It is also rich in protein. It has high amount of carotene and has low absorption of water