

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 at the top, a blue car, and a white car further down. The road has white dashed lines marking the lanes. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

www.upschacks.com

DAILY NEWS DECODE

09.07.21

Kerala govt. to have its own OTT platform



- Kerala government has proposed to have its own over-the-top (OTT) platform.
- The state government has planned to launch it by November 1.

- The State government's proposed foray into the online content streaming space with the launch of an over-the-top (OTT) platform is a cultural intervention, rather than something prompted by the market or revenues.

Why Kerala will launch a new OTT platform?

- OTT players like Netflix and Amazon have been showing more interest in Malayalam cinema.
- But they are mostly limited to films from which they can get revenue.
- In the last one year, less than 15 Malayalam films, featuring big stars, have been taken up these platforms.
- Furthermore, smaller & home-grown OTT platforms such as Neestream and Mainstream TV do not have much of finance to match bigger players.

- Thus, the state government proposed this OTT platform which will ensure space and make some sort of revenue share for lower budget & independent films that are struggling to find space among the public.



www.upschacks.com

Antarctica hits record temperature of 18.3 degrees Celsius



 **UPSCHACKS**

- The United Nations' World Meteorological Organization, recognised a new record high temperature for Antarctica.
- On February 6, 2020, the Esperanza station (the Argentine research station in Trinity Peninsula) experienced 18.3 degrees Celsius.
- According to the UN agency, the high temperatures in Antarctica are a result of a large high-pressure system creating "fohn conditions", which are downslope winds creating significant surface warming.
- The previous record for high temperature was 17.5 degrees Celsius, recorded on March 24, 2015, at the same station.

Gol sets up 25-member development council for cement industry



 **UPSCHACKS**

- The central government has set up a 25-member development council for the cement industry under Dalmia Bharat Group CMD, Puneet Dalmia.
- The council will suggest ways to eliminate waste, obtain maximum production, improve quality, reduce costs and promote standardization of products.
- Dalmia is the chairman of the council. Its members include Shree Cement Ltd MD HM Bangur, The India Cements Ltd Executive President Rakesh Singh; Birla Corporation Limited CEO Pracheta Majumdar; J.K. Cement Ltd Deputy Managing Director Madhavkrishna Singhanian, and JSW Cement Ltd CEO Nilesh Narwekar.
- The functions of the council include recommending measures for securing the full utilization of the installed capacity and for improving the working of the industry, particularly of the less efficient units; promote the training of persons; and promoting or undertaking scientific and industrial research.

- It would also work for standardization of accounting and costing methods and practice; and promoting the adoption of measures for increasing the productivity of labour, including measures for securing safer and better working conditions.
- The council's functions also include promoting or undertaking inquiry as to materials and equipment and as to methods of production, management and labour utilization, including the discovery and development of new materials, equipment and methods.

INS Tabar conducts military exercise with Italian Navy



 **UPSCHACKS**

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar recently participated in military exercises with the frontline frigate of the Italian Navy.
- INS Tabar joined Italian Navy and entered Port of Naples on July 3 as part of the ongoing deployment in the Mediterranean.
- Commanding officer Captain Mahesh Mangipudi called on senior officers of Prefect of Naples Authority, regional Italian navy headquarters and coast guard headquarters during the stay.
- This exercise covered several naval operations such as air defence procedures, communication drills, replenishment at sea, and cross deck helo operations by day and night.
- The exercise was mutually beneficial for enhancing interoperability and consolidating combined operations against maritime threats.

World's tallest sandcastle constructed in Denmark



 **UPSCHACKS**

- A sandcastle in Denmark has entered into new Guinness World Record for being the tallest sandcastle in the world.
- The triangular-shaped sandcastle has been built in the town of Blokhus in Denmark.
- It stands at a height of 21.16 metres (69.4 feet).
- This new structure is 3.5m taller than the previous record held by sandcastle measuring 17.66 m in Germany in 2019.
- Dutch creator, Wilfred Stijger, was assisted by 30 of the world's best sand sculptors.
- The structure is built in the shape of a triangle to avoid collapsing like many others have.
- A wooden structure was built around it to allow the artist to carve the incredible figures in the sand.
- This highly decorated monument in the small seaside village of Blokhus, which is reminiscent of a pyramid, is made up of 4,860 tonnes of sand. To ensure the sand sticks on, it was mixed with around 10% clay.

India's first maritime arbitration centre to be set up in Gandhinagar



- The Gujarat Maritime University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) in GIFT City to set up the Gujarat International Maritime Arbitration Centre (GIMAC).

- GIMAC will be the first of its kind centre in India to manage arbitration and mediation proceedings for disputes related to the maritime and shipping sector.
- It will be part of a maritime cluster that is being set up by the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) at GIFT City in Gandhinagar.
- There are over 35 arbitration centres in India. However, none of them exclusively deals with the maritime sector.
- The arbitration involving Indian players is now heard at the Singapore Arbitration Centre. The idea is to create a world-class arbitration centre focused on maritime and shipping disputes that can help resolve commercial and financial conflicts between entities having operations in India.



ENVÓLIO

- DBT-BIRAC supported startup Blackfrog Technologies has developed Envolio.

 UPSCHACKS

- Envólio is a portable, battery-powered medical-grade refrigeration device that improves the efficiency of the immunization by strictly maintaining preset temperature for up to 12 hours, thus enabling the safe and efficient transportation of vaccines to the last mile.
- Envólio has a 2-litre capacity, enabling it to carry 30-50 vials, the standard for a daylong immunization campaign.
- The device also includes continuous temperature monitoring, location tracking, state-of-charge indication, communication with headquarters via live-tracking, and vital statistics for improved coverage.
- Blackfrog is an ISO-13485 certified manufacturer of medical devices, and Envólio has been designed in accordance with WHO-PQS E003 standards.
- About BIRAC: Set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), is a not-for-profit Section 8, Schedule B, Public Sector Enterprise.

NARGOL VILLAGE

- Public protests have rekindled in South Gujarat, nearly 21 years after the state government decided to float global bids for a second time to develop an all-weather, multipurpose port at Nargol village in Umargam taluka of Valsad district.



UPSCHACKS

- Being positioned as a future alternative to Jawaharlal Nehru Port or JNPT in Mumbai, the Gujarat government has been planning to develop a port in Valsad since 1997.
- The present location identified for building the port is at Nargol, located 140 kilometres north of Mumbai and 120 kilometres south of Surat.
- Recently Chief Minister Vijay Rupani gave the go-ahead to Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) to float global bids for a second time to build a multi-functional port at a cost of Rs 3,800 crore that will be capable of handling solid, liquid and container cargo.
- A port in Nargol has been in the pipeline to help divert port traffic from JNPT which is operating close to its full capacity.

COCONUT DEVELOPMENT BOARD



- The Union Cabinet has approved amendment in the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979 to make the post of Chairman, Coconut Development Board as Non-Executive one.
- Coconut Development Board (CDB) is a statutory body established under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.
- Its mandate is the integrated development of coconut cultivation and industry in the country with focus on productivity increase and product diversification.
- Its headquarters is located at Kochi in Kerala.
- The Board came into existence in 1981.

AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND



 UPSCHACKS

- The Union Cabinet gave its approval to the various modifications in Central Sector Scheme of Financing Facility under 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund'.

- Eligibility has now been extended to State Agencies/APMCs, National & State Federations of Cooperatives, Federations of Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) and Federations of Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- For APMCs, interest subvention for a loan upto Rs. 2 crore will be provided for each project of different infrastructure types e.g. cold storage, sorting, grading and assaying units, silos, et within the same market yard.
- The power has been delegated to Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare to make necessary changes with regard to addition or deletion of beneficiary in such a manner so that basic spirit of the scheme is not altere
- The period of financial facility has been extended from 4 to 6 years upto 2025-26 and overall period of the scheme has been extended from 10 to 13 upto 2032-33.

Saturn's moon Enceladus



- NASA's Cassini spacecraft has detected an unusually high concentration of methane, along with carbon dioxide and dihydrogen, in the moons of Saturn.
- The spacecraft has found that Titan has methane in its atmosphere and Enceladus has a liquid ocean with erupting plumes of gas and water.
- An international research team has used new statistical methods to understand if methanogenesis or methane production by microbes could explain the molecular hydrogen and methane.
- The team gave a set of conditions, including dihydrogen concentration and different temperatures to understand if microbes would grow.
- It has opined that methane could be formed by the chemical breakdown of organic matter present in Enceladus' core.
- On Earth, hydrothermal vents on seafloors are known to release methane, but this happens at a very slow rate.

- However, this hypothesis is plausible but only if Enceladus was formed through the accretion of organic-rich material from comets.
- The results have suggested that methane production from hydrothermal vents is not sufficient to explain the high methane concentration detected by Cassini.



Enceladus:

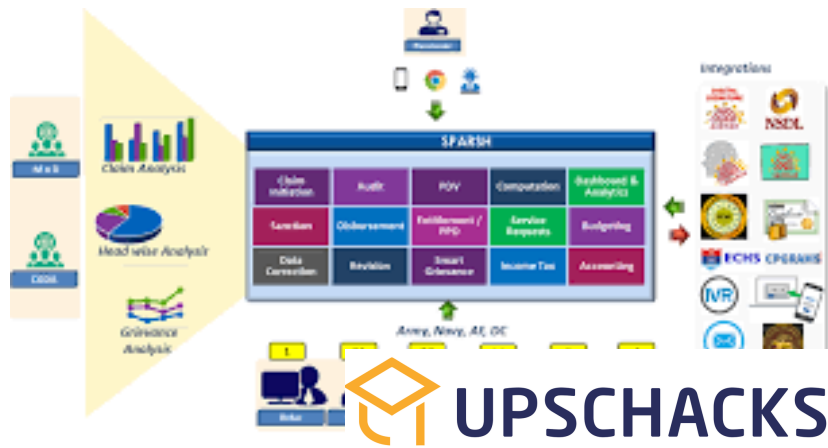
- Enceladus is the sixth-largest moon of Saturn.
- It is mostly covered by fresh, clean ice, making it one of the most reflective bodies of the Solar System.
- It has a wide range of surface features, ranging from old, heavily cratered regions to young, tectonically deformed terrains.
- It was discovered on August 28, 1789, by William Herschel,

Titan moon-

- Titan is larger than the planet Mercury and is the second largest moon in our solar system.
- It is the only one moon in the solar system with a substantial atmosphere.
- Titan's atmosphere is made mostly of nitrogen, like Earth's, but with a surface pressure 50 percent higher than Earth's.

- It is the only place besides Earth known to have liquids in the form of rivers, lakes and seas on its surface.
- The largest seas are hundreds of feet deep and hundreds of miles wide.
- Beneath Titan's thick crust of water ice is more liquid, an ocean primarily of water rather than methane.
- Titan has no known moon, but it's possible for a moon to have moons.
- Titan has no rings, while some of Saturn's moons create rings around the planet.
- Titan's air is dense enough that one could walk around without a spacesuit but an oxygen mask is needed.

SPARSH (System for Pension Administration Raksha)



- The Ministry of Defence has implemented SPARSH (System for Pension Administration Raksha), an integrated system for automation of sanction and disbursement of defence pension.
- A pensioner portal is available for pensioners to view their pension-related information, access services and register complaints about redressal of grievances.
- SPARSH envisages the establishment of service centres to provide last-mile connectivity to pensioners who may be unable to directly access the SPARSH portal for any reason.
- This web-based system processes pension claims and credits pension directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners without relying on any external intermediary.
- The two largest banks dealing with defence pensioners – State Bank of India (SBI) and Punjab National Bank (PNB), have been co-opted as service centres along with several offices of the Defence Accounts Department, which are already functioning as Service Centres for pensioners.

- The pensioners can approach various branches of these two banks for obtaining any service relating to their pension issues.



www.upschacks.com

What is Zika virus, reported in Kerala, and what are its symptoms?



 **UPSCHACKS**

- **Kerala on Thursday reported its first case of Zika virus. Zika virus spreads mostly by the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito, which bites during the day.**
- **Symptoms for the disease include mild fever, rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise or headache.**
- **The incubation period of Zika virus disease is estimated to be 3-14 days.**

NASA discovers 'weird' new exoplanet that may have conditions ripe for water clouds



- The discovery was made using data from NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), an all-sky survey project that's been key to identifying exoplanets orbiting nearby stars since 2018. TOI-1231 b, despite being eight times closer to its star than Earth, may have an equilibrium temperature of around 57 degrees Celsius – similar to that of Earth. The astronomers found that TOI-1231 b was moving rapidly away from Earth.
- In fact, it was doing so so quickly that researchers can detect hydrogen atoms escaping its atmosphere, leaving a trail behind the fleeing exoplanet.

