

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

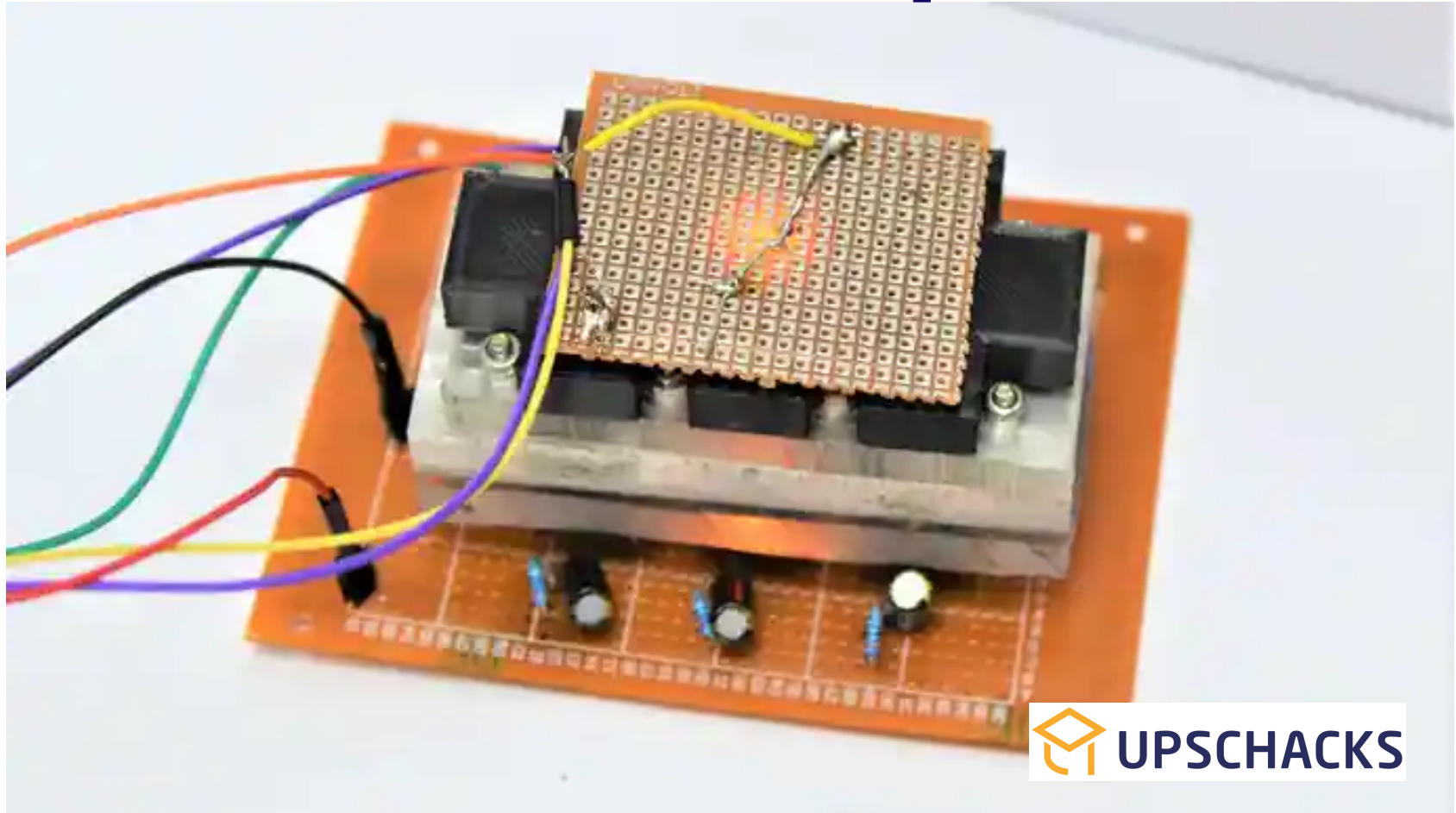
04.09.21

NASA tests all-electric air taxi for the first time in US



- **NASA conducted a test of an all-electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft with Joby Aviation in the US this week. The aircraft could serve as an "air taxi" and become another mode of transportation for moving people and goods, NASA said.**
- **This is the first time that NASA tested an eVTOL aircraft under its Advanced Air Mobility National Campaign.**

Device to conduct biological experiments in outer space made: IISc



- ISRO and IISc, Bengaluru, researchers have developed a modular, self-contained device to cultivate microorganisms to enable scientists to carry out biological experiments in outer space.
- It uses an LED and photodiode sensor combination to track bacterial growth, and has separate compartments or 'cassettes' for different experiments.
- Data from each cassette is collected and stored independently.

GLUE GRANT SCHEME



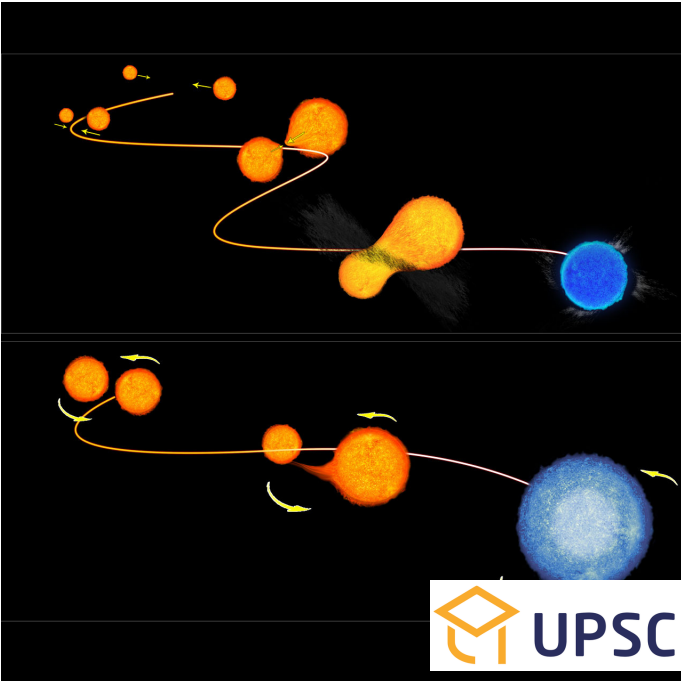
- Forty Central universities in India will kick off implementation of innovative measures such as the academic credit bank and the glue grant meant to encourage multidisciplinary.
- Under the glue grant, announced in this year's budget, institutions in the same city would be encouraged to share resources, equipment and even allow their students to take classes from each other.
- This is the first step for multidisciplinary.
- Ultimately, faculty will be able to design joint courses, and you could see a Delhi University (DU) student able to take a few classes at IIT-Delhi, or vice versa.

BAIRA SIUL POWER STATION



- The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Ltd, has indigenously renovated & modernized its 180 MW Baira Siul Power Station and commenced commercial operations.
- The project is in Chamba in Himachal Pradesh.
- The Baira Siul Power Station is NHPC's first power station which was under commercial operation since 1st April 1982 and had completed its useful life of 35 years.
- The life of Baira Siul Power Station has now been extended by another 25 years.

BLUE STRAGGLERS



- Blue stragglers, a class of stars on open or globular clusters that stand out as they are bigger and bluer than the rest of the stars, have intrigued scientists who have for long probed their origin.

- Carrying out the first-ever comprehensive analysis of blue stragglers, Indian researchers found that
- half of the blue stragglers in their sample are formed through mass transfer from a close binary companion star,
- one third are likely formed through collisions of 2 stars, and
- the remaining are formed through interactions of more than 2 stars.
- This first-ever comprehensive analysis of blue stragglers is published in the journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.
- The researchers compared the mass of the blue stragglers to the mass of the turnoff stars (which are the most massive 'normal' stars in the cluster) and predicted the formation mechanisms.

LADAKH APRICOTS



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- **First commercial shipment of Apricot sourced from region of Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh has been exported to Dubai.**
- **Ladakh Apricots have a unique soothing taste and texture with high sugar contents and total soluble solids.**
- **UT of Ladakh produces several varieties of Apricots out of which four to five varieties are taken up for commercial cultivation and export opportunities exist for these varieties.**

VANNIYAR MOVEMENT



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- With local body polls round the corner, the DMK government in Tamil Nadu has announced the construction of a memorial in Villupuram to people killed in police firing and clashes in 1987, during a movement demanding reservation for the Vanniyar community.
- Vanniyars are one of the largest and most consolidated backward communities in the state. They had raised massive protests in the mid-1980s demanding 20% reservation in the state, and 2% in central services.

- **The Vanniyars declared an agitation from September 17 to 23, 1987, which turned violent.**
- **At least 21 protesters were killed, mostly in police firing, and also in clashes with members of Scheduled Caste communities.**
- **After the DMK government of M Karunanidhi came to power in 1989, the OBC quota was split into two: Backward Castes and Most Backward Castes.**
- **Vanniyars were categorised among the MBCs with 107 other communities, with 20% reservation.**
- **Three decades later, the then AIADMK government passed a Bill, and the current DMK government has implemented it with a Government Order ensuring 10.5% reservation for Vanniyars within the 20% MBC quota.**