

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

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107 languages spoken in Bengaluru district, highest in India: Study



- An analysis of the 2011 Census by two academicians has revealed that Bengaluru is the only district in India where most languages are spoken.
- With 107 languages, 44.5% of people speak Kannada, 15% Tamil, 14% Telugu, 12% Urdu, 6% Hindi and 3% Malayalam.
- Nagaland's Dimapur and Assam's Sonitpur are the other districts where over 100 languages are spoken.

What's the Nipah virus infection that led to death of a 12-yr-old boy in Kerala?



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- **A 12-year-old boy died of Nipah virus in Kerala on Sunday.**
- **Nipah is a 'zoonotic' virus, which means it can jump from animals to humans and its animal host is 'flying fox' (fruit bat) which, when infected, can spread it to humans and animals.**
- **The infection's symptoms include fever, headache, difficulty in breathing and encephalitis (in case of severe infection).**

Device that can prevent cyberattacks from USB drives made in UK



- UK-based Liverpool Hope University's scientists have created a device that can prevent cyberattacks from malicious USB drives.
- The 'external scanning device' sits between the USB drive and the laptop or computer.
- It is capable of scanning the drive for malicious software and potentially stopping a cyberattack in its tracks.
- The device has been granted a patent by the Indian government.

India becomes first Asian nation to launch 'Plastics Pact'



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- India has become the first country in Asia to launch a Plastics Pact, a new platform to promote a circular system for plastics.

- The India Plastic Pact platform was launched on September 03, 2021, by the British High Commissioner to India, Alexander Ellis, at the 16th Sustainability Summit hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- The new platform 'India Plastic Pact' is a joint effort of the World-Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and envisions to create a world where plastic is valued and does not pollute the environment
- The Pact targets the businesses to transition towards a circular economy for plastics by 2030.
- The initiative is supported by UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) and WRAP, a global NGO based in the UK, and endorsed by the British High Commission in India.

NASA shares pic of wind impact on surface of Mars; says it looks like a 'painting'



- American space agency NASA has shared pictures of the impact of the wind on the surface of Mars, captured by its Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter.
- "Beauty is everywhere," said NASA in its post on Instagram, adding, "The lines and colours in this photo...are almost reminiscent of an abstract painting!" A user commented on the post and said, "Painting of God."

37% of world's sharks & rays now threatened with extinction: IUCN



- The IUCN Red List update has revealed that 37% of the world's sharks and rays are now threatened with extinction primarily due to overfishing, compounded by loss and degradation of habitat and climate change.
- Besides this, the Komodo dragon has moved from Vulnerable to Endangered. The IUCN list now includes 1.38 lakh species of which 38,543 are threatened with extinction.

DINOSAURS IN INDIA



- Footprints of three species of dinosaurs have been found in the Thar desert in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district, proving the presence of the giant reptiles in the western part of the State, which formed the seashore to the Tethys Ocean during the Mesozoic era.
- The footprints, made in the sediment or silt of the seashore, later became permanently stone-like. They belong to three species of dinosaurs —
- Eubrontes cf. giganteus,
- Eubrontes glenrosensis and
- Grallator tenuis.
- While the giganteus and glenrosensis species have 35 cm footprints, the footprint of the third species was found to be 5.5 cm.
- The footprints were 200 million years old. They were found near Jaisalmer's Thaiat village.

- **The dinosaur species are considered to be of the theropod type, with the distinguishing features of hollow bones and feet with three digits.**
- **All the three species, belonging to the early Jurassic period, were carnivorous.**

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HYCEAN WORLDS



- A study published in *The Astrophysical Journal* identifies a new class of exoplanets – Hycean worlds – that could support life different from that on Earth.
- These planets are about 2.6 times the size of Earth, have temperatures about 200 degrees Celsius and planet-wide oceans. These could support microbial underwater life.
- An exoplanet is any planet beyond our solar system. Most orbit other stars, but free-floating exoplanets, called rogue planets, orbit the galactic center and are untethered to any star.