

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 vibrant and scenic.

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**DAILY NEWS DECODE**

07.09.21

# India's first dugong conservation reserve to come up in Tamil Nadu



- Tamil Nadu state government has announced to set up India's first dugong conservation reserve at the northern part of the Palk Bay.
- Dugong are commonly known as sea cows. According to Wildlife Institute of India (WII) estimates, only 200-250 Dugongs are left in the wild, of which 150 are found in the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu.
- The reserve will span the northern part of the Palk Bay from Adiramapattinam to Amapattinam. The reserve will cover an area of more than 500 sq km.
- Marine biologists and conservationists have long demanded a reserve as the population of dugongs, as known as sea cows, in Indian waters has been dropping to dangerous levels..

- **According to Wildlife Institute of India (WII) estimates, only 200-250 Dugongs are left in the wild, of which 150 are found in the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu, among the last surviving natural habitats for dugongs in the world**



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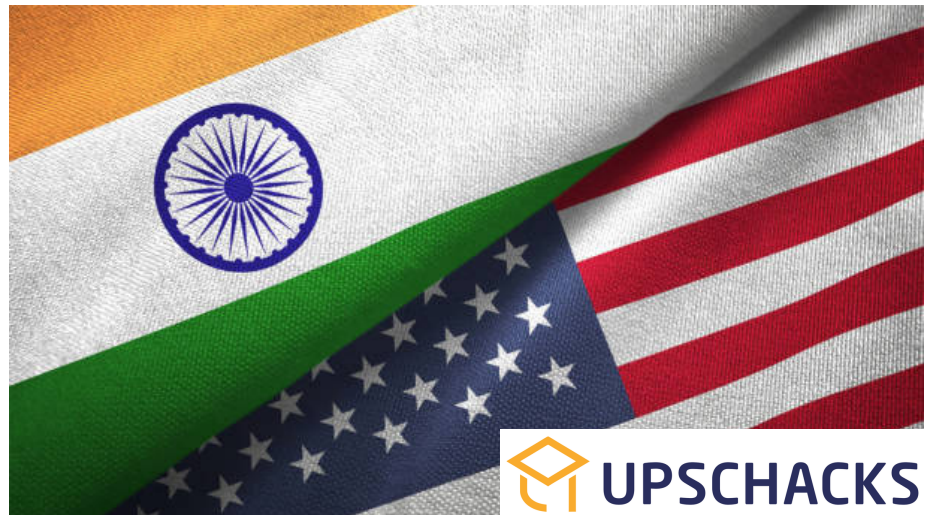
# India's first bio-brick based building opened at IIT Hyderabad



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- India's first building made of bio-bricks from agro-waste has been inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.
- The sample building is made up of bio-bricks supported by a metal framework. The roof is also made of bio-bricks over PVC sheets to reduce heat.
- It is part of the Bold Unique Idea Lead Development (BUILD) project to demonstrate the strength and versatility of the material.
- A prototype of the guard cabin was designed and set up in the space allocated by IIT-H. It is part of the Bold Unique Idea Lead Development (BUILD) project to demonstrate the strength and versatility of the material.
- The sample building is made up of bio-bricks supported by a metal framework.
- The roof is also made of bio-bricks over PVC sheets to reduce heat. Both inside and outside walls are cement-plastered to protect the bio-bricks from rain.

# India and US inks Project Agreement for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle



- The Ministry of Defence, the Government of India and US Department of Defence have signed a Project Agreement (PA) for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV).
- This agreement is signed under the Joint Working Group Air Systems in the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI).
- The PA for ALUAV is part of the Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation (RDT&E) Memorandum of Agreement, which was first signed between the Ministry of Defence and the US Department of Defence, in January 2006 and renewed in January 2015.
- The RDT&E aims at deepening defence technology collaboration between the two nations through the co-development of defence equipment.

- Under the collaboration, the two countries will work towards the design, development, demonstration, testing and evaluation of systems to co-develop an ALUAV Prototype.
- The DTTI aims to bring sustained leadership focus to promote collaborative technology exchange and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of future technologies for Indian and US military forces.



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# **El Salvador becomes world's first country to adopt Bitcoin as legal currency**



- **El Salvador on Tuesday became the first country in the world to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender.**
- **Businesses will be required to accept Bitcoin in exchange for goods and services and the government will accept it for tax payments.**
- **One day before formally adopting Bitcoin as legal tender, El Salvador President Nayib Bukele announced the country holds 400 Bitcoin.**

# What is Inspiration4, SpaceX's 1st all-civilian space mission to be launched on Sept 15?



- **Elon Musk's SpaceX will launch its first all-civilian, non-governmental space mission called Inspiration4 on September 15 in Florida, US.**
- **Inspiration4 will orbit the Earth at 575 km, higher than the International Space Station (408 km), for three days and then splash down into the Atlantic Ocean.**
- **The mission will have four people onboard, including Shift4 Payments' billionaire CEO Jared Isaacman.**



# RIGHT TO SIT



- Tamil Nadu government has introduced a Bill in the Assembly for recognising workers' 'right to sit'.

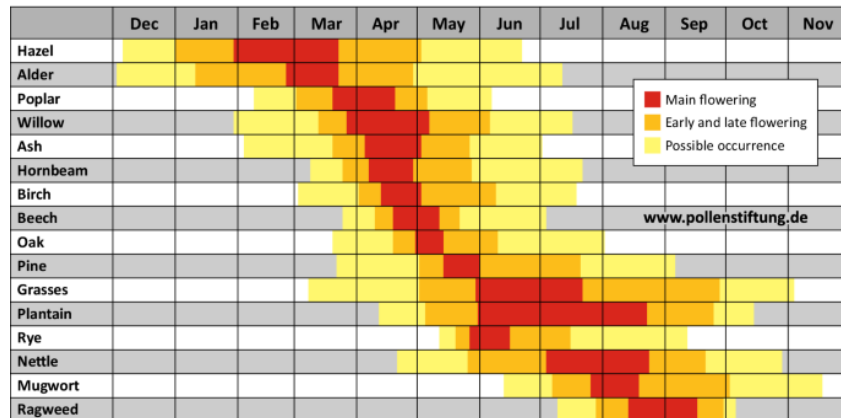
- It aims to provide a chair to each worker, and a whole lot of dignity, besides helping the employees avoid the discomfort and health issues arising from remaining on their feet throughout the day.
- The Bill will benefit thousands of employees of large and small establishments, especially those working at textile and jewellery showrooms.
- It seeks to amend the Tamil Nadu Shops and Establishments Act, 1947, by adding sub-section Section 22-A.
- Kerala is the only other State to have legislated on the 'right to sit'.

# POLLEN CALENDAR

Regional pollen calendar for  
northern Germany  
(based on 2011–2016 pollen data)



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Polleninformationsdienst  
Charitéplatz 1, 10117 Berlin



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- Chandigarh now has its first pollen calendar, which can identify potential allergy triggers and provide a clear understanding for clinicians as well as allergy sufferers about their causes to help limit their exposure during high pollen loads.

- About 20-30% of the population suffers from allergic rhinitis/hay fever in India, and approximately 15% develop asthma.
- Pollens are considered major outdoor airborne allergens responsible for allergic rhinitis, asthma, and atopic dermatitis in humans.
- Pollen calendars represent the time dynamics of airborne pollen taxa in graphical form in a particular geographical area.
- They yield readily accessible visual details about various airborne pollen taxa present throughout the year, with their seasonality in a single picture.
- Pollen calendars are location-specific, with concentrations closely related to locally distributed flora.

- **Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health, PGIMER, Chandigarh, examined the seasonal periodicities of airborne pollen spectrum and developed the first Pollen Calendar for Chandigarh city.**



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