

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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RETROSPECTIVE TAX



- The Central government has notified rules for implementing the 'Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021'.
- Accordingly, the amendment bill notified on October 1, 2021, will enable the scrapping of the contentious retrospective tax demand provisions.
- It was passed by the Parliament in the Monsoon Session. Significantly, the notification of the bill is expected to end the much stretched tax disputes with UK's Cairn Energy, and Vodafone Plc.
- The Bill has amended the Income Tax Act, 1961 so as to provide that no tax demand shall be raised in future on the basis of the said retrospective amendment for any indirect transfer of Indian assets if the transaction was undertaken before May 28, 2012 - when the finance bill was passed by the Parliament in 2012.

- **The 2021 Act also provides that the demand raised for offshore indirect transfer of Indian assets made before May 28, 2012 shall be nullified on fulfillment of specified conditions.**
- **Besides, the amount paid or collected in these cases shall be refunded, without any interest.**
- **This Bill would give Cairn Energy and Vodafone Plc a window to do away with the arbitrations and settle their long-drawn tax disputes with the government.**

LANGA-MANGANİYAR COMMUNITIES



- Considered the repository of the Thar region's rich history and traditional knowledge, the ballads, folklore and songs of the Langa-Manganiyar artistes are being preserved through an initiative for documentation and digitisation.
- The project is aimed at saving the rapidly disappearing narrative traditions of these communities.
- The Jodhpur-based Rupayan Sansthan has extended support to the initiative taken by the Archives and Research Centre for Ethnomusicology at the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) in the research project.
- The Langas and Manganiyars are hereditary communities of Muslim musicians residing mostly in western Rajasthan's Jaisalmer and Barmer districts and in Pakistan's Tharparkar and Sanghar districts in Sindh.

- **The music of the two marginalised communities, who were supported by wealthy landlords and merchants before Independence, forms a vital part of Thar desert's cultural landscape.**

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'WETLANDS OF INDIA' PORTAL



- **Union Minister of Environment launched a web portal – ‘Wetlands of India Portal’ (<http://indianwetlands.in/>), giving details on wetlands of the country.**
- **The portal is a single point access to all information relating to wetlands.**
- **The portal has been developed under a Technical Cooperation project “Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection” (Wetlands Project) of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.**
- **The project is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) under the International Climate Initiative (IKI).**

EXERCISE MITRA SHAKTI



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- **The 8th Edition of India Sri Lanka bilateral joint Exercise Mitra Shakti will be conducted at Combat Training School, Ampara in Sri Lanka from 4 to 15 October 2021.**
- **An all arms contingent of 120 personnel of the Indian Army will participate in the exercise along with a battalion of the Sri Lankan Army.**
- **The aim of the exercise is to promote close relations between Armies of both countries and enhance interoperability and sharing best practices in counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations.**
- **The 7th Edition of Exercise Mitra Shakti was conducted at Foreign Training Node (FTN), Pune, Maharashtra (India) in 2019.**

HYDROGEN FROM AGRICULTURAL RESIDUE



- Indian researchers have developed a unique technology for direct generation of Hydrogen from agricultural residue.
- A team of researchers from Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), GOI, in collaboration with Sentient labs of KPIT Technologies, have developed this technology at lab-scale to extract hydrogen from agricultural residues.
- The technology is 25% more efficient as compared to conventional anaerobic digestion processes used today.

- **The two-stage process eliminates the pretreatment of biomass, thus making the process economical and environment friendly. This process generates a digestate that is rich in nutrients which can be used as an organic fertilizer.**
- **The process generates Hydrogen in the first stage and Methane in the second. The methane generated in the process can also be used to generate additional hydrogen.**
- **This innovation by Indian researchers can promote eco-friendly hydrogen fuel-cell electric vehicles by overcoming the challenge of hydrogen availability.**

HANUTHANG-HANDANBROKE- ZUNGPAL-TURTUK ROAD



- **Construction on 05 major road infrastructure development projects was launched by Governor of Ladakh from Turtuk, the northernmost village of India.**
- **Following the MoU, signed on 03 Sep 2021, between the Ladakh Administration and the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), projects involving construction/improvement of roads and tunnels were assigned to BRO for development of connectivity in the hilly region.**

- **Construction of road Hanuthang-Handanbroke-Zungpal-Turtuk, the 26.6 Km long greenfield road is planned to provide inter valley connectivity between Hanuthang-Handanbroke (Indus Valley) and Zungpal-Turtuk (Shyok Valley) across the Stakpuchan Range.**
- **This will also reduce the travel time to Three and Half Hours from existing Nine Hours to Turtuk via Leh without crossing the treacherous Khardungla pass.**
- **Upgradation of 4 major single lane roads has also commenced.**
- **These roads are, 78 Km road Khalse to Batallik, 50 Km road Kargil to Dumgil which will also include construction of a tunnel at Hambotingla to ensure seamless connectivity from Kargil to Batallik, 70 km road Khalsar to Shyok via Agham and 31 Km Tangtse to Lukung.**
- **All these roads are used extensively by travellers to reach sought after tourist destinations such as Hundar (Nubra Valley), Turtuk village, Shyok, Pangon-Tso lake and Aryan villages of Dah, Garkone Darchik etc.**

Mumbai blind eel



- A new species of swamp eel was discovered from a well in Mumbai by Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray's son Tejas Thackeray and the team at Thackeray Wildlife Foundation.
- The eel is called *Rakthamichthys Mumba*, the Mumbai blind eel.
- It belongs to the genus *Rakthamichthys* that is endemic to India.
- This is the fifth species from the genus to be described from India.
- Unlike other species of its genus, the mumba lacks eyes, fins and scales, has jaws equal in forward extent, different gill aperture, crescentic-shaped cephalic.
- This is the first completely blind subterranean freshwater fish species to be described from Maharashtra and the Northern western Ghats.

Researchers may have found 1st planet to orbit 3 stars: Study



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- University of Nevada has claimed that its researchers may have discovered the first known planet to orbit three stars.
- The novel phenomenon was observed in the GW Ori system, which consists of multiple stars that are gravitationally bound to each other.
- UNLV astronomers analysed the three observed dust rings around the three stars, which are critical to forming planets.