

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.

www.upschacks.com

DAILY NEWS DECODE

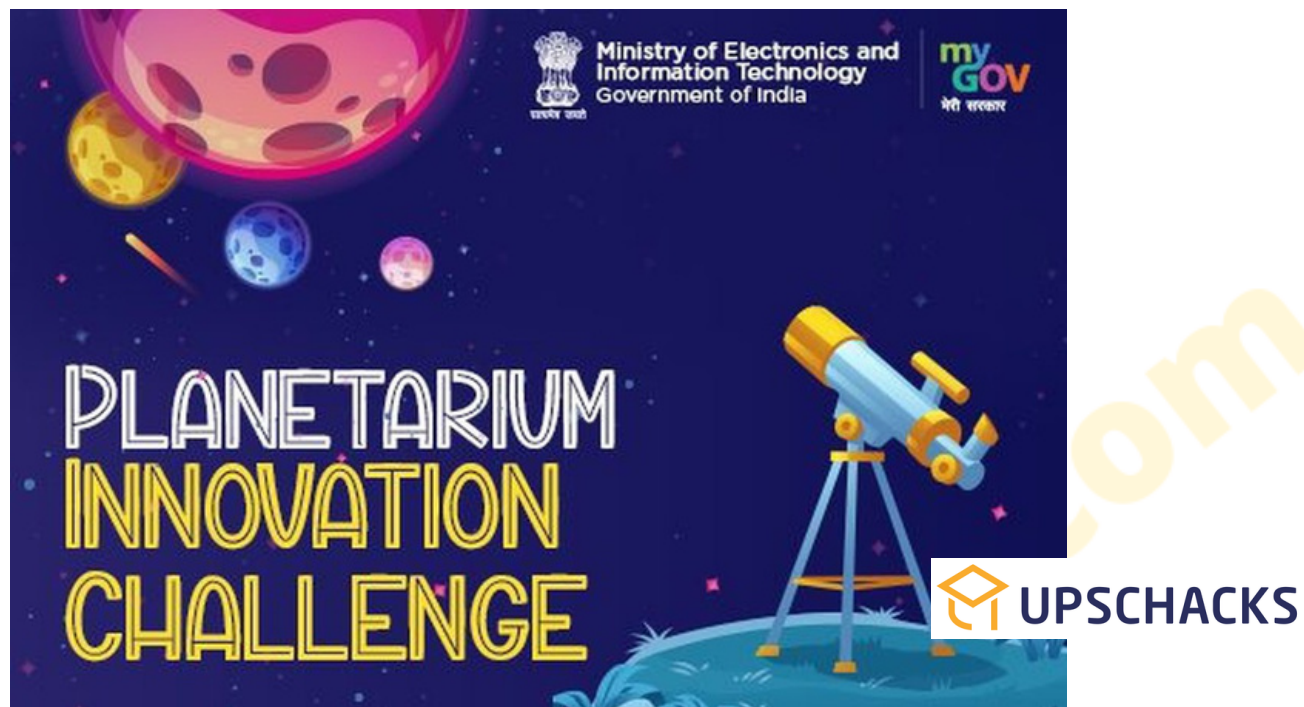
18.09.21

India's 61st Software Technology park centre opened in Nagaland



- Nagaland's first and India's 61st Software Technology Park of India (STPI) centre was inaugurated at Kohima.
- The inauguration of the STPI centre in Kohima is a fulfilment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of creating a technology ecosystem in the northeast to create opportunities for future generations in the region.
- The MoS urged the need to create real change in the technology ecosystem. In order to create job opportunities, he said, the state government must work towards creating an interconnection of institutions to create awareness about various opportunities available for the youth.

PLANETARIUM INNOVATION CHALLENGE



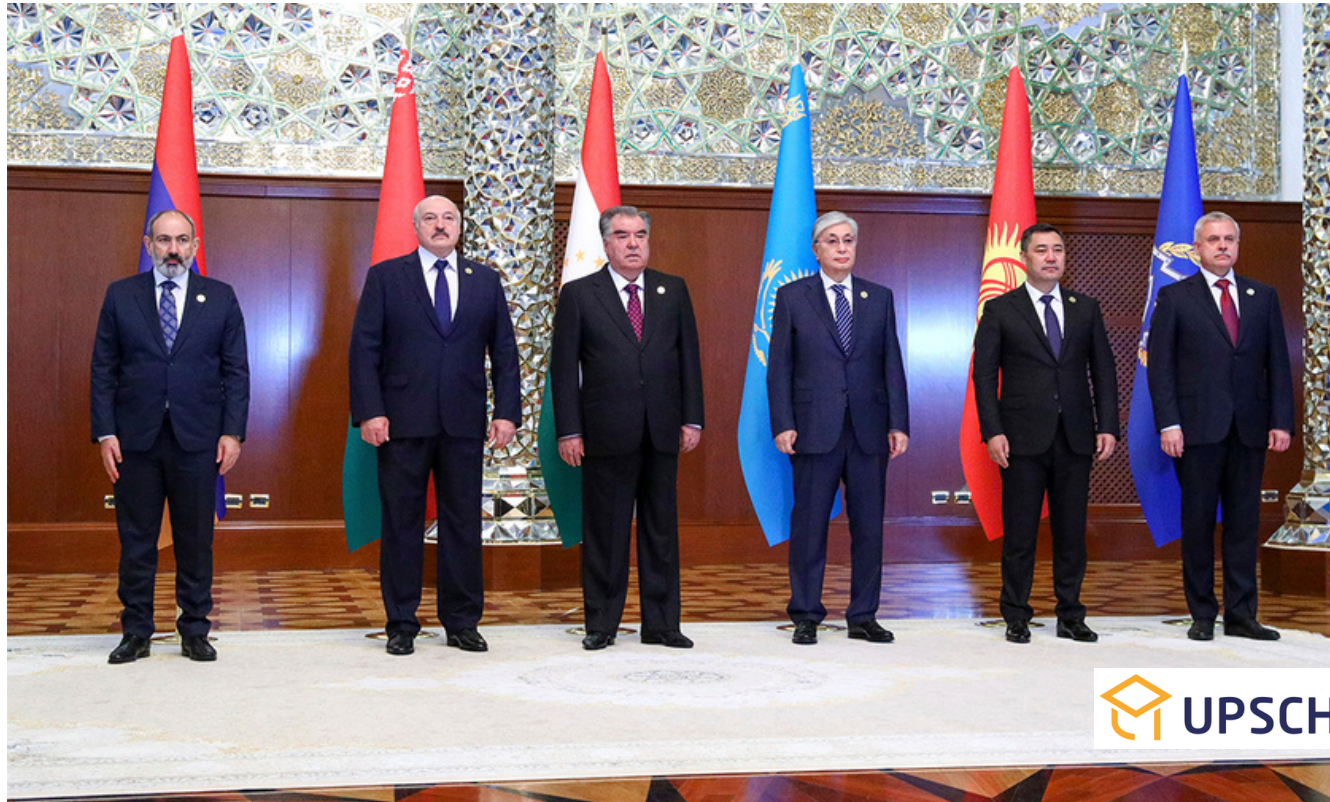
- MyGov India, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), has launched the Planetarium Innovation Challenge for Indian start-ups and tech entrepreneurs.
- The challenge invites applications from start-ups and tech entrepreneurs to develop state-of-the-art technology for our Planetariums.
- The challenge aims to bring together the tech firms and Start-ups (based out of India) with the potential to build an indigenous planetariums system software using latest technologies including Augmented Reality (A.R.), Virtual Reality (V.R.) and Merged Reality (M.R.).

- **The Innovation Challenge is open to experts from all domains of Planetarium Technology.**
- **The applicants may include Start-ups, Indian Legal Entities; even Individuals (or Teams) are welcome to submit ideas.**
- **The first winner, second winner and third winner under the contest will get the cash prizes of Rs.5 lakh, Rs.3 lakh and Rs.2 lakh respectively.**



www.upschacks.com

SCO / CSTO



- Prime Minister Modi participated virtually in the 21st Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), and through video-message in the Joint SCO-CSTO Outreach Session on Afghanistan.
- The 21st meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State was held on 17 September 2021 in Dushanbe in hybrid format.
- The meeting was chaired by H.E. Emomali Rahmon, the President of Tajikistan.
- Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO)
- The SCO Summit was followed by an Outreach session on Afghanistan between SCO and the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO).

- **Prime Minister participated in the outreach session through a video-message.**
- **The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) is an intergovernmental military alliance in Eurasia that consists of selected post-Soviet states.**
- **It was formed in 1992 and has 6 members: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan.**

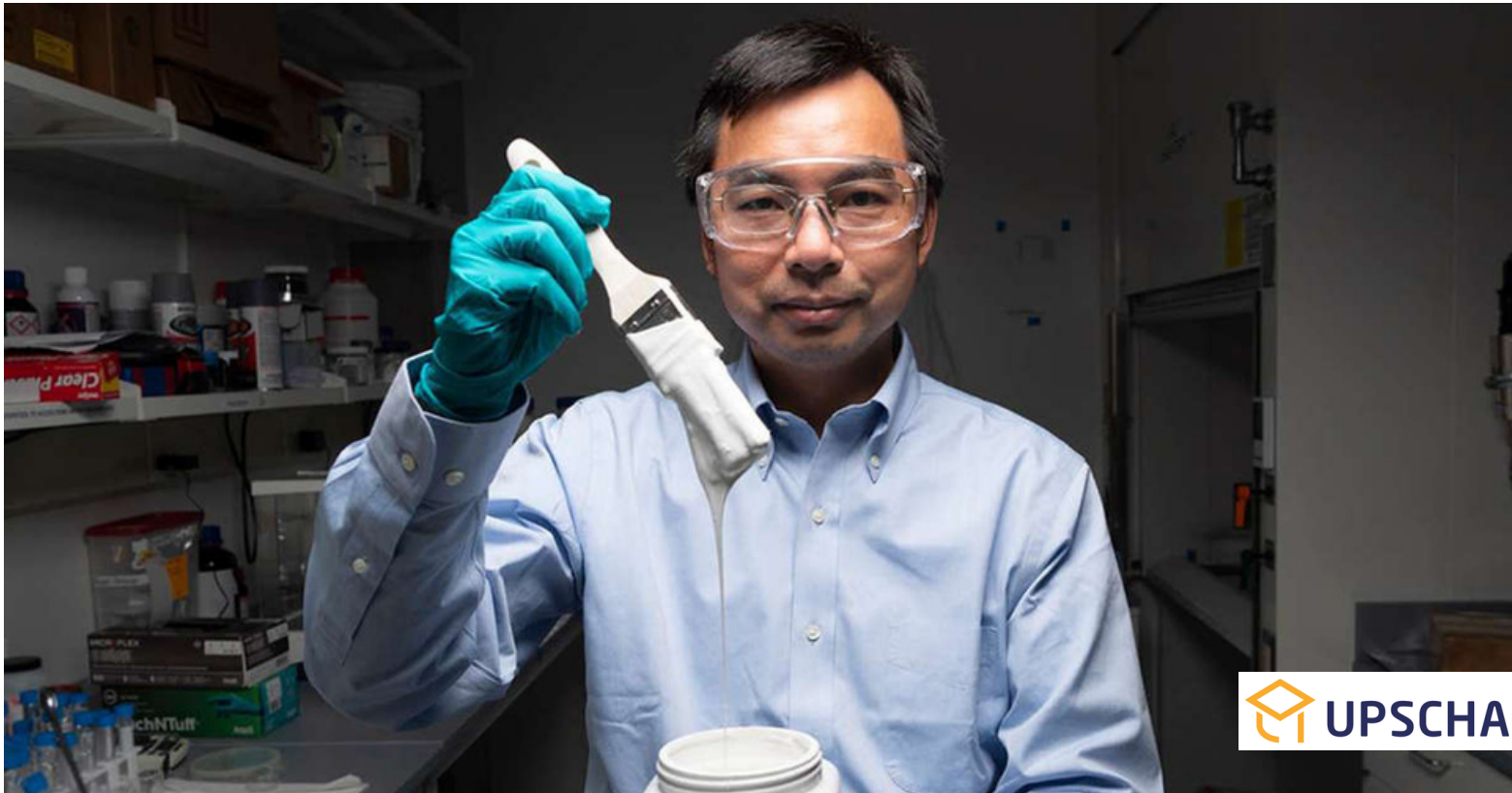
www.upschacks.com

GENERAL SHERMAN



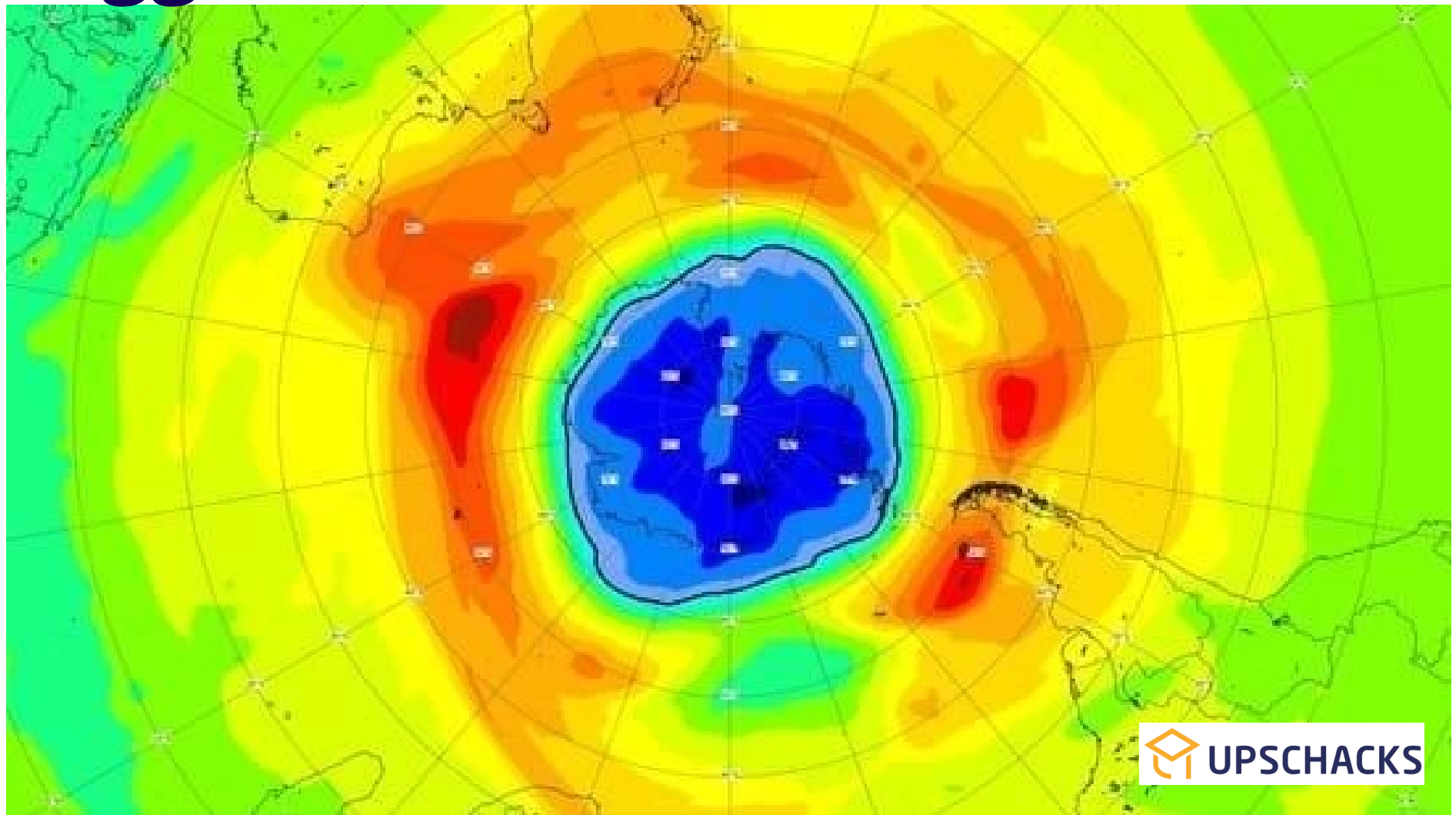
- **Two wildfires in California - one called the Colony fire and the other called Paradise - are burning through the Sequoia National Park in the Sierra Nevada that is home to some of the largest trees in the world.**
- **Among these trees is the world's largest tree popularly known as General Sherman, which firefighters are now trying to protect from the blaze.**
- **The General Sherman tree is the world's largest in terms of volume and exists in the Giant Forest sequoia grove of the national park. As per recent estimates, General Sherman is about 2,200 years old.**
- **It stands at a height of 275 feet (taller than the leaning tower of Pisa) and has a diameter of 36 feet at the base. Even 60 feet above the base, the tree has a diameter of 17.5 feet.**

World's whitest paint created by US researchers earns Guinness World Record title



- **A team of scientists at US' Purdue University has created the world's whitest paint, which could help the fight against global warming.**
- **The paint has now entered the Guinness World Records book as the whitest-ever made.**
- **The white acrylic paint reflects 98.1% of sunlight and deflects infrared heat, allowing buildings to cool below surrounding air temperature.**

Ozone hole over the South Pole now bigger than Antarctica: Scientists



- **The ozone hole over the South Pole is now larger than Antarctica, scientists from the European Union's Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service said.**
- **The hole forms over the Antarctic in the Southern Hemisphere's spring, which is from August to October.**
- **The hole in the ozone layer, which sits between 9 and 22 miles above the Earth, is typically caused by chemicals.**

Kolkata safest among 19 Indian metro cities



- With the lowest rate of cognizable offences recorded as per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) crime report 2020, Kolkata yet again ranks number one as the country's safest city to live in the year 2020.
- It has a total score of 129.5 followed by Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Bengaluru. Kolkata has secured the top position both in terms of IPC cases and other state law (SLL crimes)
- Kolkata has maintained its high score for three successive years now, with an exception in 2019 when the state's records reached the bureau late, as per the bureau's claims.