

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

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Russia-China holds naval drill “Joint Sea 2021” in Sea of Japan



- The Russia and China joint naval exercises “Joint Sea 2021” has kicked off at Russia’s Peter the Great Gulf, in the Sea of Japan, on October 14, 2021.

- The exercises will culminate on October 17, 2021. During the war game, the combined force would practice shooting at targets designed to imitate enemy surface ships and hold air-defence drills.
- The drill is being carried out as part of ‘Joint Sea’ 2021, the series of bilateral naval exercises that have been taking place between the two services since 2012.
- The exercise is being held from 14–17 October, Russian state news agency TASS reported.
- The PLAN is participating in the exercise with the Type 052D destroyer Kunming

Jonas Gahr Store becomes Norway's new PM



- Jonas Gahr Store, the Leader of the Labour Party in Norway, has assumed the charge of the Prime Minister of Norway with effect from October 14, 2021



- In September 2021, Store's Labour Party won the parliamentary elections, following which incumbent Prime Minister Erna Solberg and her government stepped down.
- Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store, the leader of Norway's centre-left Labor Party, stood outside the royal palace with his 19-member team — 10 women and nine men — that includes the leader of the euroskeptic Center Party, Trygve Slagsvold Vedum, who becomes finance minister.
- Emilie Enger Mehl became Norway's youngest-ever justice minister at age 28, while the foreign minister portfolio went to another woman — Anniken Scharring Huitfeldt.

HYPERSONIC GLIDE VEHICLES



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- **China's military has carried out its first-ever test of a "nuclear capable hypersonic missile", according to a report on October 17.**
- **The missile in August "circled the globe before speeding towards its target, demonstrating an advanced space capability that caught U.S. intelligence by surprise."**
- **The Chinese military launched a rocket that carried a hypersonic glide vehicle "which flew through low-orbit space before cruising down towards its target."**
- **The missile "missed its target by about two-dozen miles", but it "showed that China had made astounding progress on hypersonic weapons and was far more advanced than U.S. officials realised."**

- **Only the U.S., Russia and China were developing hypersonic glide vehicles, that are launched on rockets and then orbit the earth on their own speed. They are difficult to track because unlike ballistic missiles, they “do not follow the fixed parabolic trajectory”.**
- **The test would post a big challenge to U.S. missile defence systems because “the weapon could, in theory, fly over the South Pole.” “That would pose a big challenge for the U.S. military because its missiles defence systems are focused on the northern polar route,” the report said.**

SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE PORT



- For the first time in the history of major ports, Ship-to-Ship operation of LPG undertaken at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port.
- Port of Kolkata or Kolkata Port, officially known as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust (Formerly Kolkata Port Trust), is the only riverine major port of India, located in the city of Kolkata, West Bengal, around 203 kilometres from the sea.
- It is the oldest operating port in India and was constructed by the British East India Company in 1870.
- Kolkata is a freshwater port with no variation in salinity.
- The port has two distinct dock systems — Kolkata Docks at Kolkata and a deep water dock at Haldia Dock Complex, Haldia.

Indian agri waste recycling project wins Prince William's £1 million Earthshot Prize



- **Delhi-based entrepreneur Vidyut Mohan's Takachar, an agricultural waste recycling project, was named among the five worldwide winners of Prince William's inaugural Earthshot Prize, dubbed the "Eco Oscars", at a ceremony in London on Sunday.**
- **Takachar won the £1 million prize for its cheap technology innovation that converts crop residues into sellable bio-products in the "clean our air" category.**

Flower scorpionfish



- A rare, lesser-known fish species (Flower scorpionfish) previously thought to be found in the Pacific Ocean only has been discovered in the Indian Ocean.

- The flower scorpionfish belongs (Hoplosebastes Armatus) to the order of ray-finned fish that are also known as Scorpaeniforme.
- The Hoplosebastes Armatus was discovered in the Pacific Ocean off Japan almost a century ago in 1929.
- The species had not been found in the Indian Ocean. That is till two specimens of Hoplosebastes were collected by scientists from the harbour of Digha in West Bengal's Purba Medinipur February 12, 2019.
- Two years after that discovery, scientists collected 22 other specimens from the waters off Paradip in Odisha's Jagatsinghpur district October 13, 2021.

- It was the first sighting of the fish in the Bay of Bengal. Its range now extends from the Northwest Pacific to the Indian Ocean.
- The fish which was found in the Indian Ocean has a length ranging from 75-127 mm, while its body width was from 14-22 mm.
- The head of the species was comparatively large and greater than the body.
- Its colour was faint red.
- Hoplosebastes Armatus was earlier reported on the basis of a single old specimen from Japan. It was mentioned in various checklists, with samples collected from the East China Sea or Japan.
- The specimen found from the Indian Ocean resembles P.J. Schmidt's specimen that was found in 1929.
- But it differs in the presence of tentacles on the head, extensive spots on the fins, scale-less maxilla, number of spines on sub-orbital stray, etc.
- It is believed that the rise in the temperature of sea water due to global warming might induce the migration of this species from different regions.