

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 dark car. The road has white dashed lines in the center and solid lines on the edges. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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# DAILY NEWS DECODE

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# India's first indigenous cruise liner launched by IRCTC



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- The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has joined hands and signed the agreement with Cordelia Cruises being operated by M/s Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt. Ltd for promotion and marketing of the first indigenous luxury cruise in India.

- This is another incredible luxury travel offering under IRCTC's umbrella of tourism services to the public.
- The luxury travel offering in the form of the indigenous cruise will take guests on-boards to some of the most popular Indian and international tourist destinations – such as Goa, Diu, Kochi, the Lakshadweep islands, and Sri Lanka.
- About the Cordelia Cruises:
- Cordelia Cruises is one of India's premium cruise liners and aspires to promote and drive the cruise culture in India through experiences that are "stylish, luxurious, and most importantly, inherently Indian."

# 'Katley' declared as state fish of Sikkim



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- The Government of Sikkim has declared 'Cooper Mahseer' locally named as 'Katley' as the state fish.
- *Neolissochilus hexagonolepis* is the scientific name of the Cooper Mahseer.
- The decision has been taken to highlight the importance of the Katley fish and to give emphasis to its conservation measures.
- The fish has high market value and is highly preferred by the public in the State.
- The Sikkim government has also declared the reservoirs of the State to be open for fishing activities.
- License shall be issued by the Directorate of Fisheries to the interested individual fishermen or fishermen co-operative societies or SHGs for fishing in the reservoirs in accordance with the existing provisions under the Sikkim Fisheries Rules, 1990.

- The reservoirs are in Chungthang in North Sikkim, Legshep in West Sikkim along with Dikchu and Rorathang in East Sikkim.

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# Manipur's Sirarakhong Chilli and Tamenglong Orange gets GI tag



- Two famous products of Manipur, Hathei chilli, which is found in Manipur's Ukhrul district and is known for its unique flavour, and Tamenglong mandarin orange have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- This is a historic milestone in the history of Manipur and it will increase the income of farmers in Manipur.

## Hathei chilly:

- The Hathei chilly works as a good anti-oxidant and possesses high calcium and Vitamin C levels. It has an extremely high American Spice Trade Association (ASTA) colour value of 164.
- The extractable colour of chilli is usually expressed using ASTA values.

## **Tamenglong mandarin orange:**

- **The Tamenglong mandarin orange is bigger in size, weighing 232.76 grams on average. It is a unique sweet and sour flavour.**
- **It has high juice content (around 45 per cent) and is rich in ascorbic acid (48.12 mg/100ml).**
- **These oranges are grown over areas spanning 1,800 hectares in the hills of Tamenglong, out of which 400 hectares are certified as organic by MOMA.**

# Hyd-based firm develops 'companion robots' for senior citizens



- A Hyderabad-based firm, Achala IT Solutions, has come up with the concept of 'companion robots' for senior citizens that will engage them in conversation and relay information to caregivers in times of emergencies.
- The robots will also check health vitals like sugar, BP, body temperature and oxygen saturation levels of the elderly persons regularly.



# **Volcano erupts for 1st time since 1971 on Spanish Canary Island after 22,000 earthquakes**



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- **A volcano erupted on the Spanish Canary Island of La Palma on Sunday, spewing fountains of lava and a plume of smoke and ash into the sky.**
- **The Cumbre Vieja chain of volcanoes, which last saw a major eruption in 1971, experienced more than 22,000 tremors this week.**
- **Authorities began evacuating people from nearby villages before the eruption**



# Device to generate electricity from raindrops made: IIT Delhi



- IIT Delhi researchers have developed a device that can generate electricity from water drops, raindrops, water streams, and ocean waves.
- Called the 'Liquid-solid Interface Triboelectric Nanogenerator', it's made of specially designed nanocomposite polymers and contact electrodes.
- It can generate a few milliwatt of power, which can power small electronic devices like watches, healthcare sensors.

# SEA CUCUMBERS



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- In a swift operation, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) team at Mandapam, Tamil Nadu seized two tonnes of sea cucumber, a banned marine species.
- Sea cucumbers are in high demand in China and Southeast Asia.
- Sea cucumber in India is treated as an endangered species listed under schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.
- It is primarily smuggled from Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka in fishing vessels from Ramanathapuram and Tuticorin districts.



# HUMBOLDTS



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- Last week, Mumbai's Byculla Zoo announced the addition of two new Humboldt penguin chicks this year.
- The two join seven adult Humboldt penguins at Byculla Zoo — Popeye, Flipper, Bubble, and the new parents.
- Humboldt penguins are a medium-sized species among at least 17 species.
- The largest, the Emperor penguin, stands at over 4 ft tall while the Little penguin has a maximum height of 1 ft. Humboldt penguins have an average height of just over 2 ft.
- Penguins are divided into six genera (see table). The Humboldt penguin (*Spheniscus humboldti*) belongs to a genus that is commonly known as the 'banded' group. Humboldt penguins are endemic to the Pacific coasts of Chile and Peru.

- They are so named because their habitat is located near the Humboldt Current, a large oceanic upwelling characterised by cold waters.
- Humboldt penguins have large, bare skin patches around their eyes, an adaptation to help keep them cool.
- The Humboldt is one of the most popular zoo penguins due to its ability to withstand warmer climates.



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# PLANET NINE



- In the continued search for the hypothetical ninth planet in our Solar System, Michael Brown, the CalTech astronomer who led the demotion of Pluto to a dwarf planet in 2006, has co-written a new study that claims to have narrowed the region the potential new planet could be located.
- The study proposes "Planet Nine" exists beyond Neptune and is six times the mass of Earth, according to reports.
- The scientists first proposed Pluto had a replacement in a controversial study that came out in 2016 that said the clustering of asteroids and comets and other objects that orbit the sun in the Kuiper Belt suggests the existence of a large planet.

- **The new study also includes a "treasure map" of the planet's likely orbit that the scientists said lasts around 7,400 Earth years and is closer to the Sun than the 2016 study found.**
- **A closer orbit to the Sun would make the planet brighter and easier to see.**
- **Planet Nine would probably be cold gas giant like Neptune, the farthest known planet in a Solar System from the Sun.**
- **Neptune has a nonsolid surface made up mostly of hydrogen, helium, and methane, according to NASA.**



# GORDIAN KNOT



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- A couple of hours before Capt Amarinder Singh tendered his resignation as chief minister of Punjab, former Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar made a tweet: “Kudos to Shri Rahul Gandhi for adopting Alexandrian solution to this Punjabi version of Gordian knot”.
- Often used as a metaphor, a ‘Gordian knot’ refers to a very complex problem, which is apparently nearly impossible to resolve.
- The origin of the phrase is traced to the ancient Greece, 333 BC, and is ascribed to Midas, the son of King Gordius of Phrygia, a kingdom in the west central part of Anatolia — the present day Asian Turkey — and to the south of Black Sea.
- Phrygia was centred on the Sangarios River.

# LOW-C BRICKS



- Researchers have developed a technology to produce energy-efficient walling materials using construction and demolition waste and alkali-activated binders.
- Called as low-C bricks, they do not require high-temperature firing and avoid the use of high-energy material such as Portland cement.
- The technology will also solve the disposal problems associated with construction and demolition waste mitigation.
- Scientists of the Indian Institute of Science developed a technology for producing alkali-activated bricks/blocks by utilizing fly ash and furnace slag.



- **The researchers developed low embodied carbon bricks from construction and demolition waste through an alkali activation process using fly ash and ground slag and characterizing the thermal, structural, and durability characteristics of Low-C bricks and their masonry.**
- **Conventionally, building envelopes consist of masonry walls built with burnt clay bricks, concrete blocks, hollow clay blocks, fly ash bricks and lightweight blocks.**