

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

20.10.21

Govt names countries that mutually recognise COVID vaccine certificate with India



- The government on Wednesday released a list of countries India has agreement for mutual recognition of COVID-19 vaccination certificate for individuals fully vaccinated with nationally recognised or WHO recognised COVID-19 vaccines.
- The countries included in the list are the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Nepal, Belarus, Lebanon, Armenia, Ukraine, Belgium, Hungary and Serbia.

NEBRA SKY DISC



- The British Museum in London will display an ancient object called the Nebra Sky Disc, which is thought to be the world's oldest concrete depiction of stars.
- The object is being loaned to the museum by Germany's State Museum of Prehistory in Halle that owns it and will be showcased as part of an exhibition on Stonehenge, which will open in February 2022.
- About 3,600 years ago, the disc was ritually buried along with two swords, axes, two spiral arm-rings and one bronze chisel near Nebra in Germany. The burial of these objects is thought to be made as a dedication to gods.
- While the exact purpose of the disc cannot be determined, hypotheses about its existence have imagined it as an astronomical clock, a work of art and a religious symbol.

MARTAND SUN TEMPLE



- Union Minister Piyush Goyal visited the Sun temple at Martand. Located atop a hillock, the temple is one of the earliest known sun temples much older than Konark and Modhera.

- The Martand Sun Temple, also known as Pandou Laidan is a Hindu temple dedicated to Surya (the chief solar deity in Hinduism) and built during the 8th century CE.
- The Martand Sun Temple was built by the third ruler of the Karkota Dynasty, Lalitaditya Muktapida, in the 8th century CE. It is said to have been built during 725-756 CE.
- Martand is another Sanskrit synonym for Surya.
- It is now in ruins, as it was destroyed by the orders of Muslim ruler Sikandar Shah Miri.
- The temple is located five miles from Anantnag in the Indian union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

IDUKKI DAM



- With predictions by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) of a fresh bout of heavy rainfall in Kerala starting Wednesday
- This is the second time in three years that water has been released from the reservoir, the largest in the state and one of the highest arch dams in Asia.
- Since the reservoir itself does not have shutters, two sluice gates of the Cheruthoni dam, part of the reservoir, were opened by 50 cm to release 100 cumecs of water.

- **When the shutters are opened, water will first reach the Cheruthoni river through the spillway and join the Periyar river at Vellakayam.**
- **Subsequently, the water will travel through areas like Thadiyambad and Karimban, followed by Chelachuvadu, Keerithodu and Pambla forest areas to reach the Lower Periyar dam.**
- **In anticipation of the opening of the Idukki reservoir, shutters of the Bhoothathankettu and Idamalayar dams had already been opened for smooth flow of water.**

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Northeast will be developed as India's Bio-Economic Hub.



- The Eastern Himalayan Region is one of the mega-biodiversity rich zones and is among the 34 biodiversity Hotspots of the world. There is a need to put these invaluable genetic resources to use for the economic growth of the region through biotechnological interventions.
- He was speaking after visit to the Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development in Imphal.
- Dr Jitendra Singh said, due to consistent and renewed focus of NDA Government, India will be recognized as a Global Bio-manufacturing Hub by 2025 and will figure among the top 5 countries of the world.
- He said, India's Bio-Economy is on its way to achieve 150-billion-dollar target from the current 70 billion-dollar by 2025 and will contribute effectively to vision of a 5 trillion-dollar economy by 2024-25.

IndiaFirst Life Introduces 'Saral Bachat Bima' Insurance Plan



- **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited (IndiaFirst Life), a joint venture of Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India introduced "IndiaFirst Life Saral Bachat Bima Plan".**
- **It is a savings and protection cover plan for the entire family.**
- **The plan includes paying for the short term and enjoying long term benefits and it will provide consistent protection through insurance cover.**
- **An amount equal to the Sum Assured on Death (SAD) will be paid in case of accidental death during the first policy year.**

- **In case of death of the life insured, an advanced payment by way of funeral cover. Flexibility to receive the death benefit as a lump sum or regular income for 5 years.**
- **Boost savings with guaranteed additional benefits of 4.75% to 6% per annum. Option to opt for Waiver of Premium Rider.**
- **No medical test and short application form.**

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