

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

21.09.21

NASA's ice-hunting rover to land near Moon's Nobile Crater in 2023



- **NASA's ice-hunting rover VIPER will land near the western edge of Nobile Crater at the Moon's South Pole in 2023.**
- **The area was chosen for landing due to its rover-accessible terrain and array of nearby sites of scientific interest, including permanently shadowed areas.**
- **Nobile Crater is an impact crater that was formed through a collision with another smaller celestial body.**

Iran becomes 9th member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation



- Iran was officially admitted as a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

- The decision to admit Iran as a full member was declared in the 21st summit of the SCO leaders in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- At the end of the 21st Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the leaders of the eight main members of the organisation agreed to change the membership of the Islamic Republic of Iran from an observer member to a full member and signed the relevant documents.
- Accordingly, the technical process of Iran becoming one of the main members of the organisation has begun and Iran will henceforth cooperate and interact with member countries as the main member of the important regional organisation.

India jumps 2 positions to 46 on latest Global Innovation Index



- **India has moved two spots up and has been ranked 46th by the World Intellectual Property Organisation in the Global Innovation Index 2021 rankings.**
- **India has shot up from a rank of 81 in 2015 to 46 in 2021.**
- **Switzerland topped the league table, followed by Sweden, the US and the UK, while China stood at the 12th position.**

NATIONAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE AWARD 2020



- **Deputy Director General of Military Nursing Service (MNS) Brig S V Saraswati has been bestowed with the National Florence Nightingale Award 2020.**
- **National Florence Nightingale Award is the highest national distinction a nurse can achieve for selfless devotion and exceptional professionalism.**
- **President Shri Ram Nath Kovind conferred the award for her immense contribution to the MNS as nurse administrator.**

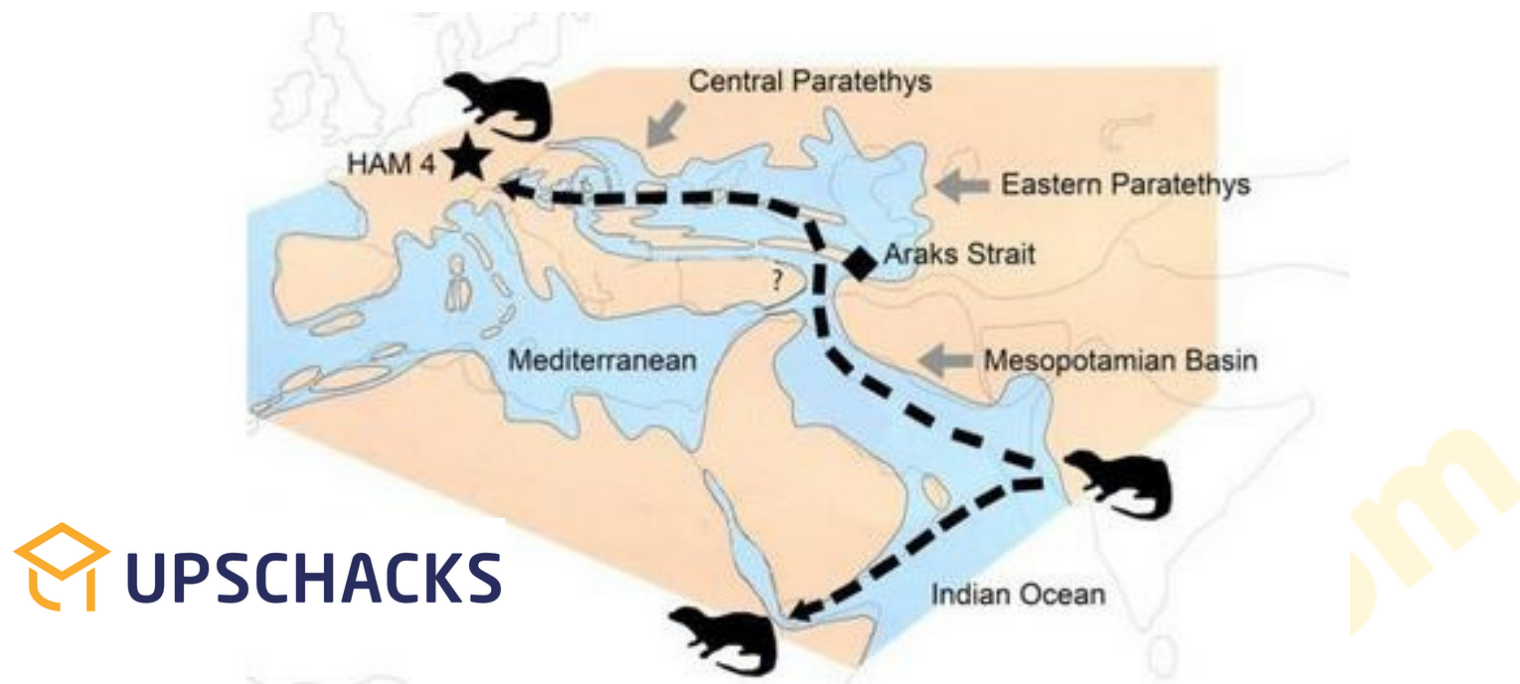
EXERCISE 'SAMUDRA SHAKTI'



- **Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmatt arrived at Jakarta, Indonesia on 18 September 2021 to participate in the 3rd edition of Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' with the Indonesian Navy scheduled off the approaches to Sunda Strait from 20 Sep to 22 September, 2021.**
- **The exercise aims to strengthen the bilateral relationship, enhance mutual understanding and interoperability in maritime operations between the two navies.**
- **The exercise will also provide an appropriate platform to share best practices and develop a common understanding of Maritime Security Operations.**

- In pursuance of India's Act East Policy, Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' was conceived in 2018 as a bilateral IN-IDN exercise.
- The exercise has matured in complexity over the last two editions and will involve conduct of complex maritime operations including Military Interdiction Operations (MIO), Cross Deck Landings, Air Defence serials, Practice Weapon Firings, Replenishment Approaches and Tactical Manoeuvres.

VISHNUONYX



- **Between 12.5 million and 14 million years ago, members of a genus of otters called Vishnuonyx lived in the major rivers of southern Asia.**
- **Fossils of these now extinct otters were first discovered in sediments found in the foothills of the Himalayas.**
- **Now, a newly found fossil indicates it had travelled as far as Germany.**
- **The discovery has been described in the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology.**
- **Researchers from the Universities of Tübingen and Zaragoza have discovered the fossil of a previously unknown species, which they have named Vishnuonyx neptuni, meaning 'Neptune's Vishnu'.**

- **The species was discovered from a 11.4-million-year-old strata in the area of Hammerschmiede, which is a fossil site in Bavaria, Germany that has been studied for about 50 years.**
- **This is the first discovery of any member of the Vishnuonyx genus in Europe; it is also its most northern and western record till date.**
- **Vishnuonyx were mid-sized predators that weighed, on average, 10-15 kg. Before this, the genus was known only in Asia and Africa (recent findings show that Vishnuonyx reached East Africa about 12 million years ago.**

NUN-KUN MOUNTAIN



- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh flagged-in, in New Delhi on September 20, 2021, a team of National Institute of Mountaineering & Allied Sports (NIMAS) Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh, which completed a mountaineering expedition to Mount Kun (7,077 metres).**
- **The team, led by Institute Director Colonel Sarfraz Singh, conducted the expedition to the Nun-Kun Mountain Massif which is the highest feature of Zaskar ranges located in Kargil.**
- **The Nun Kun mountain massif consists of a pair of Himalayan peaks: Nun, 7,135 m (23,409 ft) and its neighbor peak Kun Peak, 7,077 m (23,218 ft).**
- **Nun is one of the highest peaks in the part of the Himalayan range lying on the Indian side of the Line of Control in Ladakh. The massif is located near Sankoo in the Suru valley, Kargil district**

- The Nun Kun massif is bounded to the north by the Suru valley and the Zaskar range.
- To the South lies the Kishtwar National Park and the Kishanai river.
- Kun Peak is located north of Nun Peak and is separated from it by a snowy plateau.

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Mura-Drava-Danube as the world's first 'five-country biosphere reserve'



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- Recently, UNESCO designated Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD) as the world's first 'five-country biosphere reserve'.
- Stretching across Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia, the biosphere reserve covers 700km of the Mura, Drava and Danube rivers.
- The total area of the reserve, a million hectares in the so-called 'Amazon of Europe', makes it the largest riverine protected area on the continent.
- The strategy's aim is to revitalise 25,000 km of rivers and protect 30 percent of the European Union's land area by 2030.
- The reserve is home to floodplain forests, gravel and sand banks, river islands, oxbows and meadows.

- It is home to continental Europe's highest density of breeding white-tailed eagle (more than 150 pairs), as well as endangered species such as the little tern, black stork, otters, beavers and sturgeons.



- **Mura river-**

- It is a river in Central Europe rising in the Hohe Tauern national park of the Central Eastern Alps in Austria.
- It is a tributary of the Drava and subsequently the Danube.

Drava river-

- It is a river in southern Central Europe.
- It is the fifth or sixth longest tributary of the Danube.
- Its source is near the market town of Innichen (San Candido), in the Puster Valley of South Tyrol, Italy.

- **Danube river-**

- It is the second-longest river in Europe, after the Volga in Russia.
- It flows through much of Central and Southeastern Europe, from the Black Forest into the Black Sea.
- The largest cities on the river are Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade and Bratislava