

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 at the top, a blue car, and another white car. The road has white dashed lines and a solid white edge line. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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# DAILY NEWS DECODE

21.10.21

# India, Israel, UAE, U.S. decide to launch quadrilateral economic forum



- India, Israel, United Arab Emirates and the United States have decided to launch a new quadrilateral economic forum. Quadrilateral builds on ongoing cooperation between U.S., Israel and UAE after the Abraham Accords last year.
- This QUAD grouping had decided to establish an international forum for economic cooperation and discussed possibilities for joint infrastructure projects expanding economic and political cooperation in the Middle East and Asia.

- **India, the United States, Israel and the UAE have decided to form a forum for future economic cooperation and to explore possibilities of joint infrastructure projects in the fields of Transportation, Technology, Maritime security, Economics, Trade as well as for additional joint projects.**

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# KUSHINAGAR



- According to the Census of India 2011, out of the 35.64 lakh population of Kushinagar district, the majority were Hindu (29.28 lakh), followed by Muslim (6.20 lakh), and Christian (5,006).
- The Buddhist population of the district was just 4,619, or 0.12 per cent of the total.
- Ten other districts of UP — Kheri, Maharajganj, Siddharthnagar, Sultanpur, Basti, Mainpuri, Jaunpur, Pratapgarh, Hardoi, and Azamgarh — have larger Buddhist populations than Kushinagar.
- Kheri, which has been in the news for the deaths of eight people including four protesting farmers on October 3, had the largest Buddhist population (18,454) across all districts of UP in 2011.

- Among the most important of Buddhist pilgrimages, Kushinagar was where The Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana (ultimate salvation) in c. 483 BC.
- Today's Kushinagar is identified with Kushinara, capital of the ancient Malla republic, which was one of the 16 mahajanapadas of the 6th-4th centuries BC.
- The area went on to be part of the kingdoms of the Mauryas, Shungas, Kushanas, Guptas, Harshavardhana, and the Palas. Kushinara is believed to have been inhabited until at least the 12th century.
- The first excavations in Kushinagar were carried out by Alexander Cunningham and ACL Carlleyle, who unearthed the main stupa and the 6-metre-long statue of the Reclining Buddha in 1876.
- Kushinagar is among the very few places in India where The Buddha is depicted in reclining form.



- **He has campaigned consistently against the corruption of Vladimir Putin's regime**
- **The recognition of Mr. Navalny will further sour relations between the 27-nation bloc and Russia.**
- **These ties have been on the decline for years, especially following Moscow's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and its support for a separatist insurgency in eastern Ukraine.**
- **It comes days after Russia suspended its mission at NATO and ordered the closure of the alliance's office in Moscow in retaliation for NATO's expulsion of Russian diplomats.**

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# Ecuador declares state of emergency over crime wave



- Ecuador's President Guillermo Lasso has declared a 60-day state of emergency in the South American country, due to the rise in violent drug crimes.
- President Lasso has pointed to drug trafficking and consumption as the main drivers behind an increase in murders, home burglary, thefts of vehicles and goods, and muggings.
- Under the emergency measures, the armed forces and police would work together to carry out "arms checks, inspections, 24-hour patrols, and drug searches, among other actions.
- Ecuador is a transit country for cocaine smuggled from neighbouring Peru and Colombia and much of the crime wave is thought to be drug-related.



# India ranks 71st on 2021 Global Food Security Index



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- India has achieved the 71st position in the Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021 from among a list of 113 countries.
- The GFS Index is designed and constructed by London-based Economist Impact and is sponsored by Corteva Agriscience.
- The overall score of India is 57.2 points on the GFS Index 2021.
- According to the report, India held 71st position with an overall score of 57.2 points on the GFS Index 2021 of 113 countries, fared better than Pakistan (75th position), Sri Lanka (77th Position), Nepal (79th position) and Bangladesh (84th position). But the country was way behind China (34th position).

- However, over the past 10 years, India's incremental gains in overall food security score were lagging behind that of Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh.

### **Globally:**

- Ireland, Australia, the UK, Finland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Canada, Japan, France and the US shared the top rank.
- Their overall GFS score were in the range of 77.8 and 80 points on the index.
- The GFS Index measures the factors affecting food insecurity around the world based on 4 main factors and 58 unique food security indicators.
- The factors include affordability, availability, quality and safety, and natural resources and resilience.

# MOUNT MANIPUR



- The Union government rechristened Mount Harriet, a historical tourist spot in the Andaman and Nicobar islands, as 'Mount Manipur'.
- The announcement was made during Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Port Blair, where he referred to the "significant contribution" the North-eastern state had made in resisting the British, especially during the historic 1891 Anglo-Manipur war.
- After the Anglo-Manipur War of 1891, several Manipuris who had fought the British in the war, including Maharaja Kulachandra Dhwaja Singh, were exiled to the British penal colony in the Andaman Islands.

- **Since the cellular jail (Kalapani) was yet to be built, Kulachandra and the prisoners were kept on Mount Harriet, a hillock in what is now the Ferragunj tehsil of South Andaman district.**
- **23 men, including King Kulachandra and his brothers, were “transported for life” to the Andamans. The 23 are considered war heroes in Manipur. That is why Mount Harriet is an important symbol of the Anglo-Manipur War of 1891**

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# BHASKARABDA



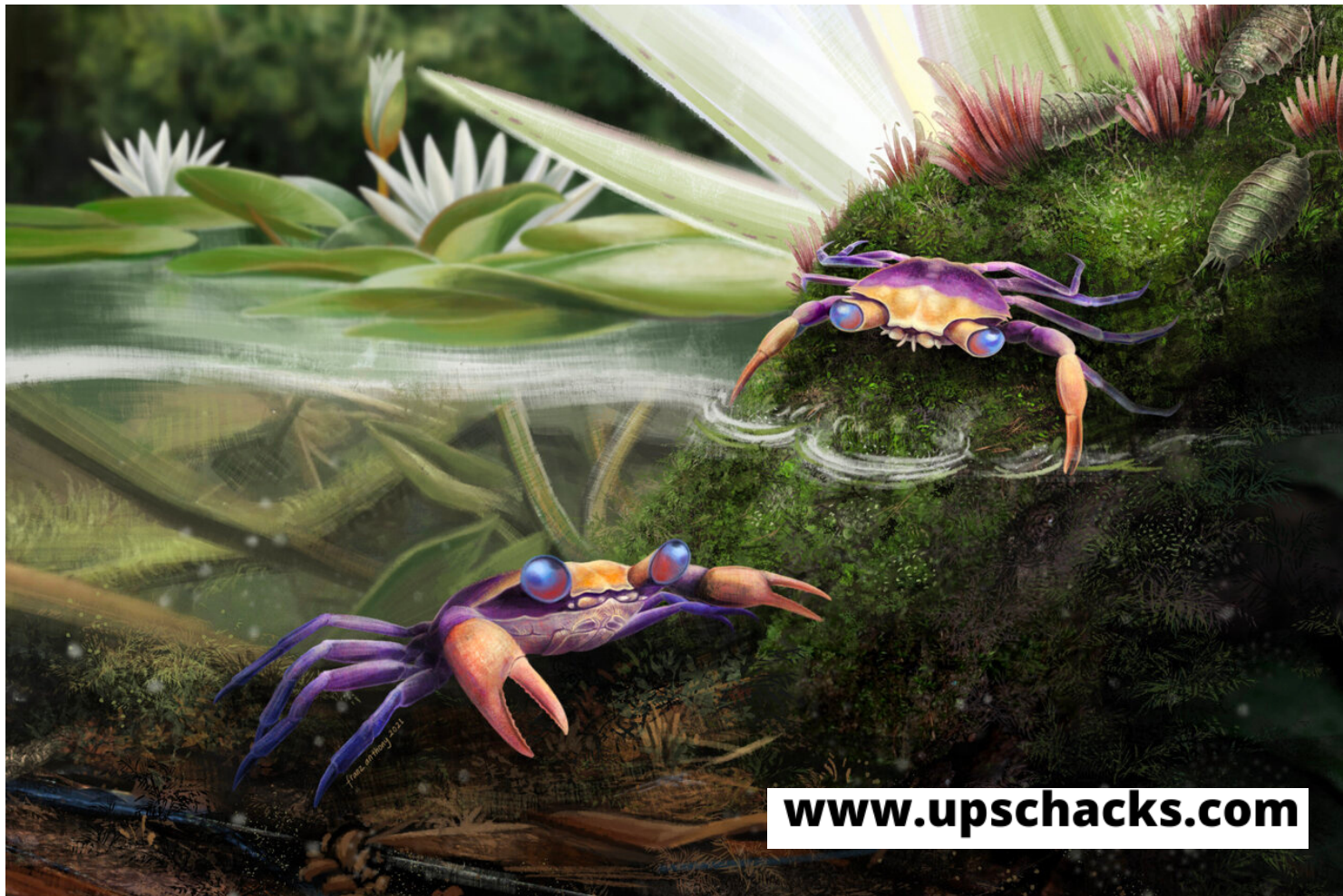
- **Bhaskarabda, an era counted from the date of the ascension of a seventh century local ruler, will be added to Saka and Gregorian eras in the official calendar of the Assam Government.**
- **Bhaskarabda began when Bhaskaravarman was crowned ruler of the Kamrupa kingdom. He was a contemporary and political ally of northern Indian ruler Harshavardhana.**
- **Unlike Gregorian, where a day starts at midnight, the Assamese calendar begins and ends at sunrise over 24 hours. While the Gregorian goes by the solar cycle, the Saka and Bhaskarabda eras use a lunisolar system based on both the phases of the moon and the solar year.**
- **The gap between Bhaskarabda and Gregorian is 593 years.**

# **New species of snail discovered in a limestone cave in Meghalaya**



- **A new micro snail species was found deep inside a limestone cave at Mawsmai village in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district.**
- **The discovery was made by Nipu Kumar Das and Aravind Madhyastha, scientists of the Bengaluru-based Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE).**
- **The new species was named 'Georissa mawsmaiensis' after the limestone cave in Mawsmai.**

# First dinosaur era crab fully preserved in amber found: Harvard



- An international team of scientists have discovered the first dinosaur era crab fully preserved in amber, Harvard University reported.
- "The specimen is spectacular, it is one of a kind. It's absolutely complete and is not missing a single hair on the body, which is remarkable," a scientist said.
- The species has been named *Cretapsara athanata*.