

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road cutting 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 curves in a large loop, and the surrounding trees are vibrant green, suggesting a healthy, natural environment.

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DAILY NEWS DECODE

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Tamil Nadu and Puducherry beaches get coveted 'blue flag' certification



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- Two more beaches in India have been awarded “Blue Flag” certification, an international eco-level tag, taking the total number of such beaches in the country to 10.
- The two beaches to receive the certification this year are Kovalam in Tamil Nadu and Eden in Puducherry.
- The Foundation for Environment Education (FEE), Denmark, which accords the Blue Flag certification, has also given re-certification for eight nominated beaches - Shivrajpur-Gujarat, Ghoghla-Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri-Karnataka, Kappad-Kerala, Rushikonda- Andhra Pradesh, Golden-Odisha and Radhanagar- Andaman and Nicobar, which were awarded the Blue Flag certificate last year. .

- **These eight beaches got the Blue Flag certification on October 6, 2020.**

What is Blue Flag certification?

- **Blue Flag certification is a globally recognised eco-label accorded on the basis of 33 stringent criteria in four major heads which are environmental education and information, bathing water quality, environmental management and conservation and safety and services in the beaches.**
- **The Blue Flag beach is an eco-tourism model endeavouring to provide the tourists/beachgoers clean and hygienic bathing water, facilities, a safe and healthy environment and sustainable development of the area.**
- **The recommendations are done by an independent national jury composed of eminent environmentalists and scientists**

World's oldest living twins are 107-year-old Japanese sisters



- Guinness World Records has certified two Japanese sisters as the world's oldest living identical twins at 107.
- Umeno Sumiyama and Koume Kodama were born the third and fourth of 11 siblings on Shodoshima island in western Japan on Nov. 5, 1913.
- Sumiyama and Kodama were 107 years and 300 days old as of Sept 1, breaking the previous record set by famous Japanese sisters Kin Narita and Gin Kanie at 107 years and 175 days.

India will become 3rd largest importer by 2050



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- India could become the world's third-largest importer by 2050, according to a report released by the UK's Department of International Trade.
- With a 5.9 per cent share of global imports by 2050, the country will become the third-largest importer, following China and the United States.
- At present, India occupies the eighth spot on the list of the largest importing countries with a 2.8 per cent share.
- As per the Global Trade Outlook report, the country's position on the list will jump to the fourth position by 2030 with a 3.9 per cent share.

WHO launches new air quality guidelines after 16 yrs; recommends new AQ levels



- **The World Health Organization (WHO) has released the revised Global Air Quality Guidelines for the first time after 16 years.**
- **The guidelines recommend new air quality levels by reducing levels of key air pollutants.**
- **"Small particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) are of particular public health relevance, as they are capable of penetrating deep into the lungs," the WHO said.**

Govt launches National Single Window System for investors, businesses



- **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal launched the National Single Window System (NSWS) for investors and businesses.**
- **It will provide services such as know-your-approval (KYA), common registration, state registration, document repository and e-communication.**
- **The portal, which currently hosts 18 departments and nine states, will add another 14 departments and five states by year-end.**