

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 text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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DAILY NEWS DECODE

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UN chief appoints Kailash Satyarthi as SDG Advocate



- Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi has been appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as a Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocate in the 76th UN General Assembly.
- Guterres appointed Satyarthi, STEM activist Valentina Munoz Rabanal, Microsoft President Brad Smith and K-pop superstars BLACKPINK as new SDG Advocates.
- With this, the UN now has total of 16 SDG Advocates.
- The SDG Advocates use their considerable spheres of influence to reach new constituencies to act now and keep the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals for people and for the planet.

- **The UN said climate action, bridging the digital divide, gender equality and the promotion of the rights of children are key issues to be championed by the new SDG Advocates.**
- **The SDG Advocates are prominent leaders in the world who work to mobilise action to deliver the 17 SDGs by 2030, using their considerable spheres of influence.**

Beijing 2022 Launches Official Slogan: “Together for a Shared Future”



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- The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics unveiled its official motto, “Together for a Shared Future”, during a ceremony at the city’s Capital Museum. The motto was chosen after a lengthy process that included a total of 79 different proposals. This motto embodies the Olympic spirit, the Chinese way of revealing the Olympic spirit.
- That’s because ‘together’ embodies a type of unity, cohesion and a way of overcoming difficulties. The Games will be held from February 4-20, with Beijing set to become the first city to host both the Summer and Winter Olympics.

Why does Brazil always speak first at the UN General Assembly?



- Global representatives are currently addressing the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) chamber in US as part of UNGA's 76th session.
- Brazil has been the first to address the delegation since 1995. As per an ex-UN protocol chief, this is because in the early days when countries were reluctant to speak first, Brazil volunteered and "earned the right to speak first".

Lunar Crater named after Arctic explorer Matthew Henson



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- The International Astronomical Union has named a crater at the Moon's south pole after the Arctic explorer Matthew Henson, a Black man who in 1909 was one of the first people to stand at the very top of the world.
- The proposal to name the crater after Henson was put forward by Jordan Bretzfelder who is an Exploration Science summer intern with Lunar & Planetary Institute, in Houston.
- Artemis Programme was launched by NASA which aims to land the next slate of lunar explorers on the Henson Crater.
- They will be selected from NASA's increasingly diverse astronaut pool.
- Henson Crater is located between Sverdrup and de Gerlache craters at the south pole of the Moon.

- **This program provides a cornerstone to study planetary processes as well as to create the infrastructure to advance human exploration at the Moon and on Mars**

Who was Matthew Henson?

- **Henson was an experienced explorer and skilled carpenter & craftsman.**
- **He stood at the front lines of almost a dozen Arctic expeditions that were organized by Robert Peary over the period of 18 years, including the one that reached the North Pole.**
- **The final push of that expedition was made by Henson. He was born in Maryland in 1866.**

GOGRA



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- Villagers have lost access to a vast grazing area near Gogra in eastern Ladakh owing to growing Chinese presence in the area.
- Gogra is one of the several friction points in eastern Ladakh where Indian and Chinese troops have been engaged in a stand-off since April-May 2020.
- The troops have disengaged from the north and south banks of the Pangong Tso and Gogra sector, creating “no zones” in areas along the undemarcated Line of Actual Control (LAC) that was regularly patrolled by Indian troops prior to April 2020.
- The Army had stopped the villagers’ access to the Kiu La pass that was till a few years ago frequented by the villagers of Lukung, Phobrang and Yourgo for cattle-grazing.

- **Since April 2020, Chinese troops have blocked Indian troops from reaching at least 10 patrolling points (PPs) in eastern Ladakh — running from Depsang plains in the north to the Pangong Tso lake in the south.**

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2021 CHANGEMAKER AWARD



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- Fairooz Faizah Beether of Bangladesh has been chosen for the 2021 Changemaker Award for her work promoting good health and well-being by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- The Award celebrates an individual who has inspired change using personal experience or from a position of leadership.
- Fairooz Faizah is co-founder of Moner School which is an anonymous online platform active in the field of mental health.
- The Changemaker Award is part of the Goalkeepers Global Goals award instituted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate progress towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN.
- The Goalkeepers is the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's campaign to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) announced by the UN in 2015 to achieve the objectives of ending poverty, fighting inequality and injustice and fixing climate change.

Superhydrophobic cotton to clean marine oil spill



- **Researchers at the IIT, Guwahati, have developed a new class of super-hydrophobic cotton composite with Metal-Organic Framework (MOF) that promises marine oil-spill clean-up in near future.**
- **It is a highly porous and water-repellent super-hydrophobic cotton composite material containing MOF.**
- **It can absorb oil selectively from an oil-water mixture.**
- **The MOF composite has great capability for selective separation of the oils from oil / water mixtures and the separation efficiency lies between 95 per cent and 98 per cent, irrespective of the chemical composition and density of the oils.**

- Besides, the MOF composite is also able to absorb large volumes of oils and can be reused for a minimum of 10 times so that the sorbents can provide more recovery of the spilled oil.
- Both heavy and light oils can be effectively absorbed by the material, which is easy to prepare, cost-effective and recyclable
- Its goal was to develop a new material which could be synthesised easily and should be cost-effective.
- The researchers have grown a new MOF material on the surface of medical cotton, which is environmentally friendly and cost effective.
- Such low-cost material will reduce the production cost of the material for large-scale synthesis for real applications, compared to currently available materials.
- The team initially developed a super-hydrophobic MOF which can repel the water and float on the water surface. Then, they grew the same MOF on the surface of medical cotton.
- It was observed that the medical cotton changes from hydrophilic to super-hydrophobic material and can float on the water surface.

- The MOF-coated cotton fibre composite showed water repellency with a water contact angle of 163° .
- The flexible super-hydrophobic MOF composite showed an oil absorption capacity of more than 2500 wt per cent.
- Motor oil, kerosene and gasoline were used by the team in this study to investigate the real-life potential of the material for oil-spill clean-up.
- The research team has also demonstrated the separation of oil from oil / water mixture by simple gravity-directed filtration and also a collection of underwater oil against gravity.