

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

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ZERO-BUDGET NATURAL FARMING (ZBNF)



- Women farmers in the hill State of Himachal Pradesh are gradually turning to non-chemical, low cost “natural farming”, which has not only provided them with a sustainable livelihood but also empowered them better.
- Launched in 2018, the State’s Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Yojana (PK3Y) is promoting the climate resilient Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF), also called ‘Zero Budget Natural Farming’.
- ZBNF is a set of farming methods, and also a grassroots peasant movement, which has spread to various states in India.

- **'Zero Budget'** means without using any credit, and without spending any money on purchased inputs. **'Natural farming'** means farming with Nature and without chemicals.
- Under ZBNF, neither fertiliser nor pesticide is used. Also, only 10 % of water is to be utilised for irrigation as compared to traditional farming techniques.
- Basic concept of ZBNF, which is different from organic farming, is to ensure that profit from supplementary crops is enough to cover the cost of production of the main crop.
- It has attained wide success in southern India, especially the southern Indian state of Karnataka where it first evolved. The movement in Karnataka state was born out of by the efforts of Padma Shri Subhash Palekar in Karnataka.

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OPERATION RED ROSE



- In 2020, Punjab's Excise Department launched Operation Red Rose to curb illicit liquor trading and nail excise-related crimes.

- A year-and-a-half later, with the use of precise tracking and monitoring systems to check illicit distillation and smuggling of liquor, the results in terms of the number of suspects booked for crimes, convictions and rise in revenues are encouraging.
- The department has used several technologies — flow meters in bottling plants, QR code-based passes, GPS-enabled transport vehicles, and e-transit passes — to curb different modules of excise theft, which include direct supply of liquor from the manufacturing unit without paying excise duty; liquor smuggling from neighbouring States etc.
- The entire manufacturing process of liquor in the State is now online, which is monitored in real-time.

INFORMATION FUSION CENTRE – INDIAN OCEAN REGION (IFC-IOR)



- **The Netherlands is interested in posting a Liaison Officer (LO) at the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) for Maritime Domain Awareness and information sharing, Vice Admiral René Tas, Commander of the Royal Netherlands Navy, says.**
- **The IFC has been established at the Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) in Gurugram, which is the single point centre linking all the coastal radar chains to generate a seamless real-time picture of the nearly 7,500-km coastline.**
- **Mandate: Strengthening maritime security in the region and beyond, by acting as a maritime information hub for the region.**

- **Partner countries:** The Information Fusion Centre will serve countries that have White Shipping Information Exchange agreements with India.
- Through this Centre, information on “white shipping”, or commercial shipping, will be exchanged with countries in the region to improve maritime domain awareness in the Indian Ocean.
- It will also impart training in maritime information collection and sharing.
- Data is shared by virtual means – telephone calls, Faxes, emails and video conferencing. The centre also hosts liaison officers from foreign countries for quicker analysis of information and timely inputs.

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INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (ISIN)



- With an aim to boost liquidity in the corporate bond market, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) suggested further capping the number of ISINs for such bonds issued on a private placement basis.
- An International Securities Identification Number (ISIN) is a 12-digit alphanumeric code that uniquely identifies a specific security like stocks and bonds
- The organization that allocates ISINs in any particular country is the country's respective National Numbering Agency (NNA).

- An ISIN is not the same as the ticker symbol, which identifies the stock at the exchange level. The ISIN is a unique number assigned to a security that is universally recognizable.
- ISINs are used for numerous reasons including clearing and settlement. The numbers ensure a consistent format so that holdings of institutional investors can be tracked consistently across markets worldwide.

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Uyghur Community



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- forty-three countries including United States, European countries and Asian states called on China at the UN to “ensure full respect for the rule of law” with regard to the Muslim Uyghur community in Xinjiang, where there are reported human rights violations.
- There are about 12 million Uyghurs living in Xinjiang province which is officially known as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR).
- Xinjiang lies in the north-west of China and is the country’s largest region.
- It is a mostly desert region and produces about a fifth of the world’s cotton.
- The region is also rich in oil and natural gas.

- **The Uyghurs, largely Muslims, speak their own language, which is similar to Turkish, and see themselves as culturally and ethnically close to Central Asian nations.**
- **In the early 20th Century, the Uyghurs briefly declared independence for the region but it was brought under the complete control of China's new Communist government in 1949.**
- **Human rights groups have voiced concerns that much of that cotton export in Xinjiang is picked by forced labour, and in 2021 some Western brands removed Xinjiang cotton from their supply chains.**

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Konkan Shakti, 2021



- The first-ever tri-services joint exercise between India and the UK began on October 21.
- It aims to “derive mutual benefits from each other’s experiences and also showcase the continuing cooperation between the two countries”.
- The maritime component of the exercise, to be conducted off the west coast of India, will be held in two phases.
- Royal Navy (RN) will be represented by its aircraft carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth, with her integral F35 fighter aircraft and helicopters.

- The Indian Navy (IN) would be represented by three of its indigenously built stealth guided missile destroyers INS Kolkata, INS Kochi and INS Chennai, two stealth frigates, INS Talwar and INS Teg, and the tanker INS Aditya.
- The exercise at sea will feature advanced warfare tactics, Anti-Submarine Warfare exercises, over-the-horizon targeting drills, Air Defence Exercise, Cross Deck landings and other complex maneuvers at sea.

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India's 1st State-Wildlife DNA testing analysis lab inaugurated in Nagpur



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- Chief Minister of Maharashtra, inaugurated India's 1st State government-owned Wildlife DNA testing analysis laboratory at Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- On the occasion, he also launched 3 Fast Track DNA testing units in Mumbai & Pune under the Nirbhaya scheme.
- At present, there are 2 Wildlife DNA testing laboratories at Dehradun & Hyderabad, which are fully owned by the Central Government, whereas the newly launched is the 1st in India to be owned by a state government. The labs will be exclusively dealing with cases registered under Protection of Children From Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The labs were developed at a cost of Rs 53 crore under Central Government's Nirbhaya Scheme.

What is La Nina, which could lead to dip in temperature in North India in Jan-Feb?



- **La Nina, due to which temperature in North India is expected to fall to 3°C in January and February, is a phenomenon that is characterised by unusually cold ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific.**
- **It forms when equatorial trade winds strengthen to bring colder, deep water up from the bottom of the sea, leading to below-normal temperatures in northern hemisphere.**