

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

07.11.21

GANGA UTSAV

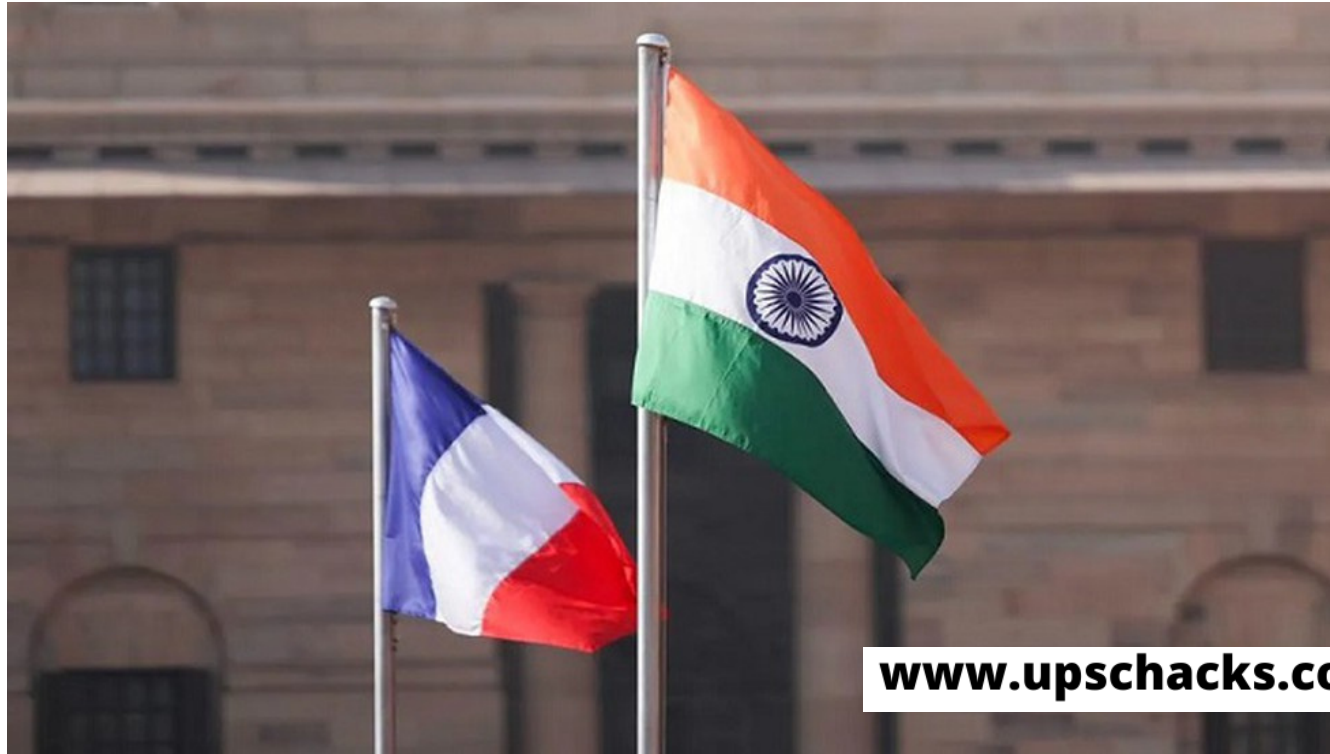


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- The three-day-long Ganga Utsav was held recently.
- National Mission for Clean Ganga celebrates Ganga Utsav every year to mark the anniversary of the announcement of River Ganga as the National River on 4th November.

- This year's River Festival celebrated not just River Ganga but all the rivers across the country.
- Activities were held across 150 districts, 112 in the Ganga belt and the remaining along other major rivers.
- This year, the aim was to take Ganga Utsav to the various river basins in India and promote the celebration of the River Festival.
- It was highlighted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of World River Day on 26th September this year in order to connect with the traditions which are associated with rivers for centuries in the country.

INDIA-FRANCE STRATEGIC RELATIONS



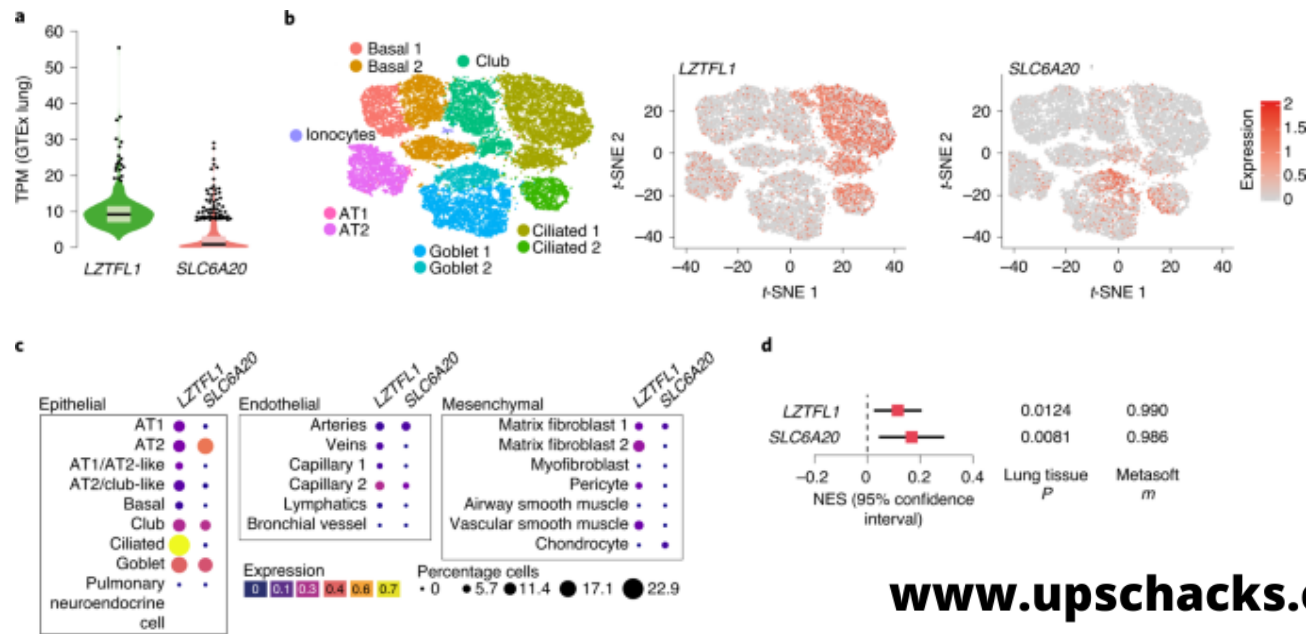
- France has emphasized partnership with India as a major pillar of its Indo Pacific strategy.
- This was highlighted during National Security Advisor Ajit Doval's visit to Paris for the annual India-France Strategic Dialogue.
- According to an official statement, India and France agreed to strengthen bilateral defence and security partnership.
- This will be done through enhanced intelligence and information sharing, operational cooperation, bolstering mutual capabilities and expanding bilateral exercises.
- New initiatives in maritime, space and cyber domains will also be pursued.

- **France reiterated its commitment to fully support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and defence industrialisation, joint research and technology development in India.**
- **Both the countries also agreed that emerging trends in global affairs reinforce the need for closer partnership between the two countries, including in the UN Security Council and other UN forums.**

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LZTFL1



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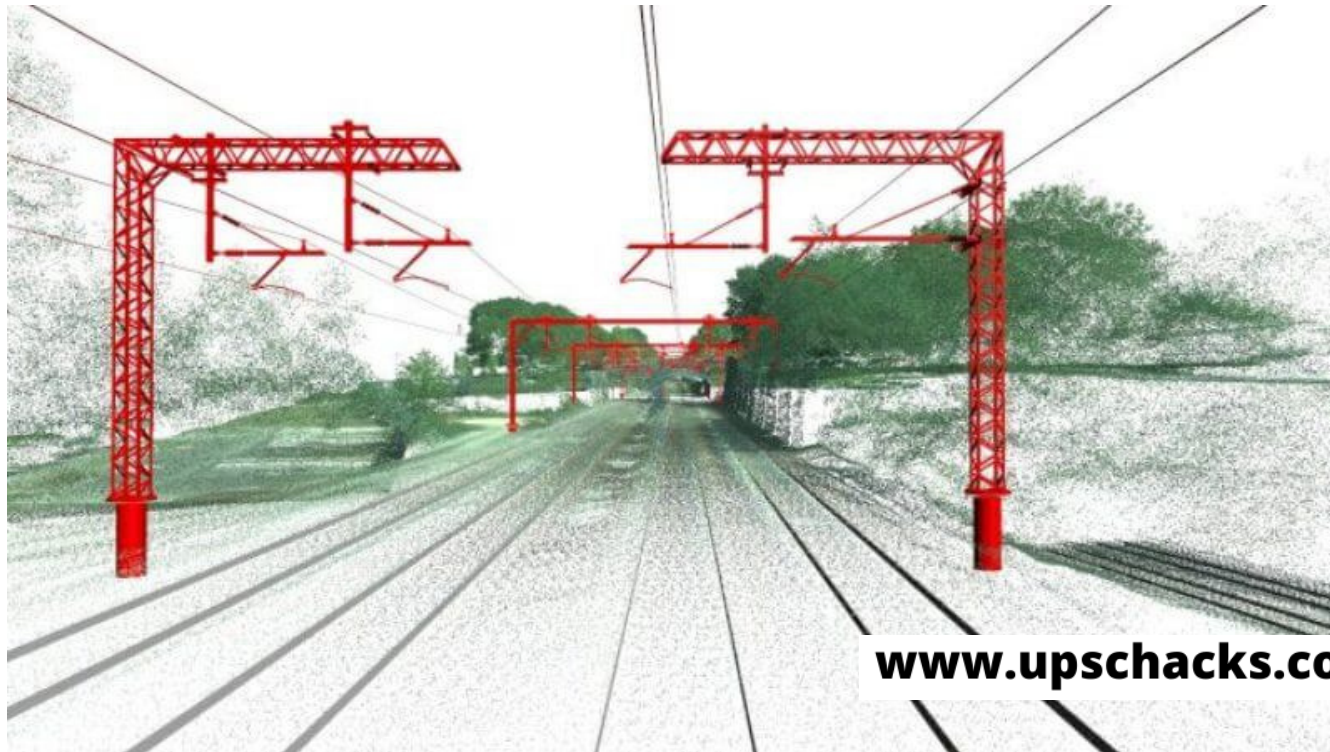
- Researchers at the Medical Research Council Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, University of Oxford, have identified the gene responsible for doubling the risk of respiratory failures from COVID-19.
- This gene — called LZTFL1 — can be found in 60 percent of people with South Asian ancestry and the researchers say that it may be able to explain the excess deaths seen in some of the UK communities and the impact of pandemic during the second wave in India.
- The researchers found that the higher risk version of the gene possibly prevents the cells lining the airways and the lungs from responding to the virus properly.

- This means that the presence of this gene changes how an individual's lungs respond to the virus, thereby increasing risk of developing respiratory failure from COVID-19.
- But while the gene impacts the response of the lungs, it does not impact the immune system, therefore, researchers believe that people carrying this version of the gene should respond normally to the vaccines.

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RAIL ELECTRIFICATION IN NORTH EAST



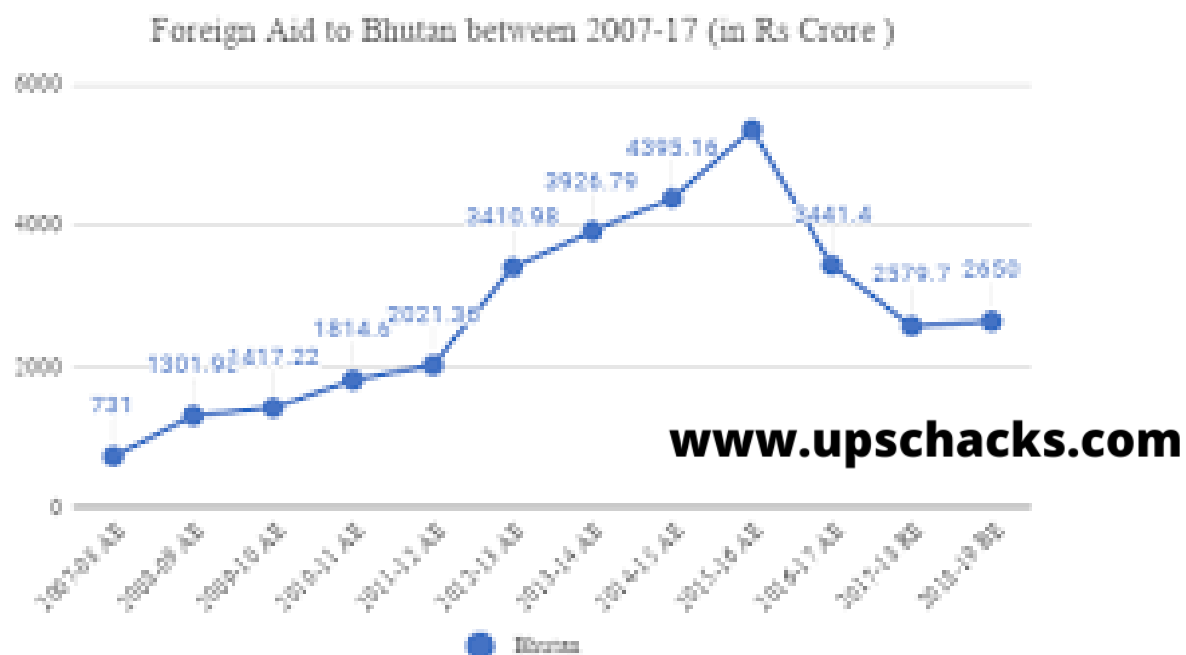
- In a historical achievement, CRS authorization has been received for introduction of AC electric traction to & from Guwahati railway station.
- Guwahati is the biggest and busiest railway station of Northeast being located in the capital of Assam. So, the biggest city of Northeast is now literally connected with all metros and other big cities through 25KV AC traction.
- Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has successfully completed Electrification work of total 649 RKM / 1294 TKM from Katihar to Guwahati. This way Total HDN (High Density Network) routes (649 RKM) falling in NFR have been commissioned with Electric Traction.

- **This great feat will now connect New Delhi to Guwahati on seamless Electric Traction. This is yet another effort by NFR for capital connectivity by Green Transportation.**
- **It may be mentioned here that, Northeast Frontier Railway has already started running trains with electric traction from the Kamakhya station with the arrival and departure of the Brahmaputra Mail with AC traction since 22nd October last.**
- **With the completion of the electrification of the Guwahati station, other prestigious trains like Rajdhani Express, Tejas Rajdhani Express etc from Northeast can now be switched over to run on electric traction from Guwahati to the National capital and other cities like Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata etc directly without change of traction enroute.**

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INDIA-BHUTAN TRADE RELATIONS



- The Commerce Secretary Level meeting was held between India and Bhutan on trade and transit issues.
- The two sides held extensive discussions on the current trade and transit issues including measures to further strengthen bilateral trade relations and issues of mutual interest, on ways to increase trade connectivity between the two countries.
- Through Letters of Exchange (LOE), the following seven additional entry/exit points for trade between India and Bhutan were formalized:-
- Nagarkata Land Customs Station without commodity restriction.
- Agartala Land Customs Station as an entry /exit point.

- **Pandu port (Guwahati Steamerghat) as an entry /exit point, subject to cross border control at Dhubri.**
- **Jogighopa port as an entry/exit point, subject to cross border control at Dhubri.**
- **Asian Highway 48 connecting Torsha Tea Garden in India and Ahllay in Bhutan as an additional route corresponding to the Land Custom Station at Jaigaon.**
- **Kamardwisa as an entry/exit point.**
- **Birpara as an entry/exit point.**
- **This will form an addendum to the Protocol of 2016 India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit. This will facilitate India-Bhutan bilateral trade to our mutual advantage.**
- **Since 2014, trade between India and Bhutan has more than doubled from USD 484 million in 2014-15 to USD 1083 million in 2020-21.**

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