

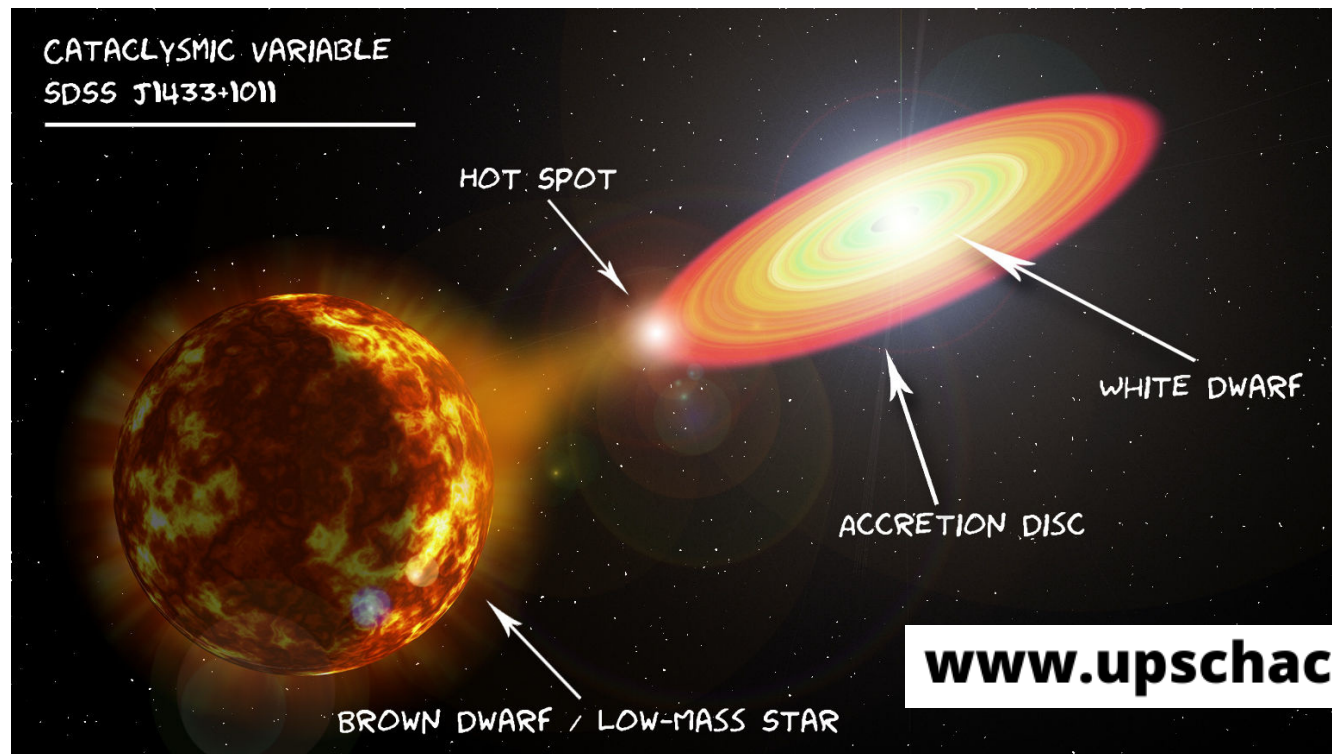
An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that curves through a dense, lush green forest. Several cars are visible on the road, including a white car, a blue car, and a white van. The road has white dashed lines for lane markings. The overall scene is vibrant and scenic.

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**DAILY NEWS DECODE**

24.11.21

# WHITE DWARF WITH FASTEST SPIN



- A white dwarf star that completes a full rotation once every 25 seconds is the fastest spinning confirmed white dwarf, according to a team of astronomers.
- They have shown that it is an extremely rare example of a magnetic propeller system: The white dwarf is pulling gaseous plasma from a nearby companion star and flinging it into space at around 3,000 kilometres per second.
- It is only the second magnetic propeller white dwarf to have been identified in over 70 years.
- Put into context, one rotation of the planet Earth takes 24 hours, while the equivalent on J0240+1952 is a mere 25 seconds.

- That's almost 20% faster than the confirmed white dwarf with the most comparable spin rate, which completes a rotation in just over 29 seconds.
- A white dwarf is a star that has burnt up all of its fuel and shed its outer layers, now undergoing a process of shrinking and cooling over millions of years.
- This particular star, named LAMOST J024048.51+195226.9 — or J0240+1952 — is the size of the Earth but is thought to be at least 200,000 times more massive.
- It is part of a binary star system; its immense gravity is pulling material from its larger companion star in the form of plasma.

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# RADIO COLLARS



IndiumTrackM  
from Lotek

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- Last week, a wild elephant was radio-collared for the first time in Assam's Sonitpur district by the state's Forest Department, in collaboration with NGO World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-India.
- The joint initiative is being described as a step to study and mitigate human-elephant conflict in the state.
- Experts say the exercise is challenging, and even runs the risk of having a low success rate.

What are radio-collars?

- Radio collars are GPS-enabled collars that can relay information about an elephants' whereabouts. They weigh roughly 8 kg and are fitted around the elephant's neck.

- According to a WWF blog, collaring includes identifying a suitable candidate (generally an adult elephant), darting it with a sedative, and fitting a collar around the elephant's neck, before the animal is revived.
- Additionally, the team also attaches an accelerometer to the collar to "understand what exactly an elephant is doing at any given time (running, walking, eating, drinking, etc)".

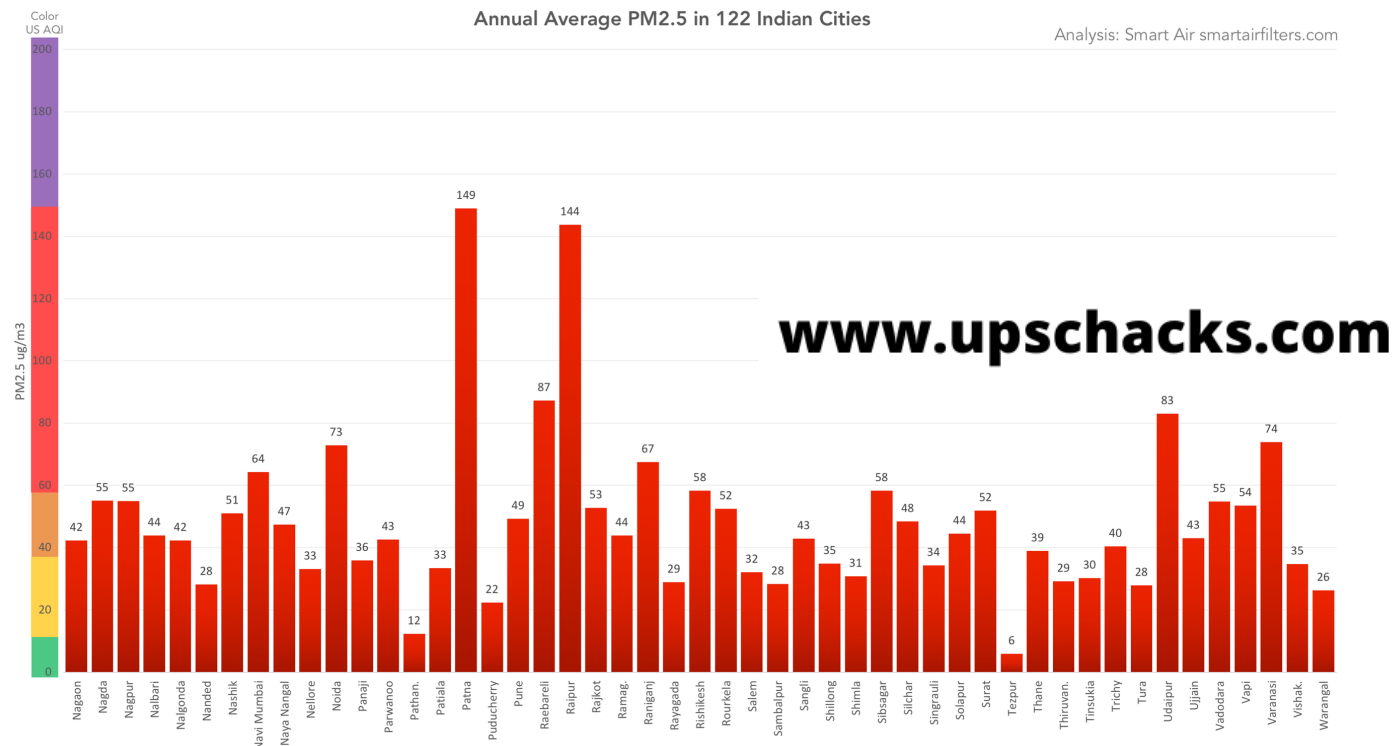
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# List of top 10 words of 2021 released by Collins Dictionary, 'NFT' tops the list



- 'NFT', the abbreviation of 'non-fungible token', has been named 'Word of the Year 2021' by Collins Dictionary. 'NFT' beat nine other words - 'Climate Anxiety', 'Double-vaxxed', 'Metaverse', 'Pingdemic', 'Cheugy', 'Crypto', 'Hybrid Working', 'Neopronoun' and 'Regencycore' to claim the top spot among the shortlisted words. 'NFT' word's usage was up 11,000% in the last year, Collins said.

# Which 10 cities have the cleanest air in India today?



- As per the Central Pollution Control Board, Karnataka's Gadag has the cleanest air in India with an air quality index of 22 on Wednesday.
- This is followed by Madikeri (26), Amaravati (28), Chikkaballapur (29), Hassan (31), Rajamahendravaram (31), Chamarajanagar (32), Chikkamagaluru (33), Yadgir (33) and Thrissur (36).
- Bihar's Siwan recorded the worst air quality today with an AQI of 420.

# Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2021

**INDIRA  
GANDHI  
PEACE  
PRIZE**



- The 2021 Prize is awarded to Pratham for its pioneering work over more than a quarter century in seeking to ensure that every child has access to quality education, for its innovative use of digital technology to deliver education, for its programs to provide skills to young adults and for its timely response in enabling children to learn during the Covid-19 – related school closures.
- This year, the international jury of the prize, chaired by the former Chief Justice of India, Justice T.S. Thakur
- It was instituted in the memory of the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust(IGMT) in 1986.



- It consists of a monetary award of Rs. 25 lakh along with a citation.
- It is given to individuals or organisations in recognition of creative efforts toward promoting international peace, development and a new international economic order; ensuring that scientific discoveries are used for the larger good of humanity, and enlarging the scope of freedom.
- A written work, in order to be eligible for consideration, should have been published.
- The selection panel consists of prominent national and international personalities including previous recipients.
- The recipients are chosen from a pool of national and international nominees.

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# US, Australia and UK signed MoU in Nuclear Submarine Alliance



- Australia officially became a part of the new Nuclear Powered Submarine defence alliance with the United Kingdom and the United States after signing a deal with the countries in Canberra, Australia.
- Under the AUKUS deal, Australia will be provided with 8 nuclear-powered submarines capable of stealthy and long-range missions. It is the first agreement on technology signed by the three countries after the formation of the defence alliance AUKUS (Australia-UK-US).
- AUKUS is a trilateral security pact signed between Australia, UK & USA in September 2021. The first major initiative of AUKUS would be to deliver a nuclear-powered submarine fleet for Australia.