

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 dark car. 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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INDIA-VATICAN CITY



- His Holiness Pope Francis received Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in a private audience at the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican on Saturday, 30 October 2021.
- This was the first meeting between an Indian Prime Minister and the Pope in more than two decades.
- In June 2000, Late Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had last visited the Vatican and met the then Pope, His Holiness John Paul II.
- India and The Holy See have friendly relations dating back to the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1948.
- India is home to the second largest Catholic population in Asia.

- **Prime Minister extended an invitation to His Holiness Pope Francis to visit India at an early date, which was accepted with pleasure.**
- **Vatican City, officially the Vatican City State is a landlocked and independent city state and enclave located within Rome, Italy.**
- **The Vatican City State, also known simply as the Vatican, became independent from Italy with the Lateran Treaty (1929).**
- **it is a distinct territory under "full ownership, exclusive dominion, and sovereign authority and jurisdiction" of the Holy See, itself a sovereign entity of international law, which maintains the city state's temporal, diplomatic, and spiritual independence.**
- **With an area of 49 hectares and a population of about 825, it is the smallest state in the world by both area and population.**

LAKHPATI SHG WOMEN



- To bring a sharper focus on moving women to the higher economic order, the Ministry of Rural Development launched an initiative on creating Lakhpati SHG women, to enable rural SHG women to earn at least Rs.1 lakh per annum.
- For the realization of this ambitious goal, the Ministry has envisioned livelihood support to 25 million rural SHG women in the next 2 years.
- National Rural Livelihood Mission works on a saturation approach. As of date, 6768 blocks have been covered under the programme with mobilizing 7.7 crore women into 70 lakh SHGs.

- From providing initial capitalization support to the SHGs are being credited to the tune of almost 80 thousand crore rupees annually.
- Under the mission, poor women from different cross-sections of class and caste form into Self Help Groups and their federations, providing financial, economic and social development services to their members for enhancing their income and quality of life.
- Over the years this money borrowed by SHGs through bank capitalization support is now being used for creating diversified livelihood opportunities.
- While all these efforts are yielding positive transformation, it is realized that for ensuring sustainable livelihoods and dignified life of women SHG members, there is a need to make concerted effort for ensuring at least INR 1,00,000 income per annum for the household i.e. enabling them to become a Lakhpati.
- The figure of Rs 1 lakh is both aspirational and inspirational for rural SHG women.

VALIYAZHIKKAL LIGHTHOUSE



- **Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated a new Lighthouse at Valiyazhikkal in Alappuzha district of Kerala.**
- **After obtaining the Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) clearance and other statutory clearance, the 41.26 metre height pentagonal RCC tower with elevator and allied buildings have been constructed and the lighthouse is currently on trial run since 03.06.2021.**
- **The Govt has approved development of 75 lighthouses for tourism as a part of the 75th Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Valiyazhikkal lighthouse is one of them. 11 other Lighthouses in Kerala have been earmarked for development of Tourism.**

- **Construction of the lighthouse will immensely benefit the mariners plying in this Kerala region and the local fishermen will benefit for Day mark in day time and Safe return in Night time from the sea.**
- **The location at Valiyazhikkal beach shall be a tourist destination and endorse the tourism activity in the area by providing scenic view of the sea to the tourists and thereby generate job and economical benefits for the locals.**

India's First Manned Ocean Mission "Samudrayan"



- With this launch, India joined the elite club of nations such as the USA, Russia, Japan, France and China to have such underwater vehicles for carrying out subsea activities.
- This niche technology shall facilitate Ministry of Earth Sciences, MoES in carrying out deep ocean exploration of the non-living resources such as polymetallic manganese nodules, gas hydrates, hydro-thermal sulphides and cobalt crusts, located at a depth between 1000 and 5500 meters.

- **MATSYA 6000 under Samudrayan initiative , the deep water manned submersible, will be ready for trials by the second quarter of 2024.**
- **The preliminary design of the manned submersible MATSYA 6000 is completed and realization of the vehicle is started with various organizations including ISRO, IITM and DRDO roped-in to support the development.**
- **The sea trials of 500 metre rated shallow water version of the manned submersible are expected to take place in the last quarter of 2022.**
- **Ministry of Earth Science-NIOT is indigenously developing this manned submersible with a depth capability of 6000 meters under the aegis of Deep Ocean Mission.**
- **The manned submersible, Matysa is designed to carry three persons in 2.1 meter diameter Titanium Alloy Personnel Sphere with an operational endurance of 12h and systems to support emergency endurance up to 96h.**
- **The underwater vehicles are essential for carrying out subsea activities such as high resolution bathymetry, biodiversity assessment, geo-scientific observation, search activities, salvage operation and engineering support.**

Rare 2,000-yr-old Roman statues found by archaeologists in UK



- In what's being called a 'once-in-a-lifetime' discovery, archaeologists in the UK found a set of rare Roman statues while digging the planned route of a high-speed railway.
- Three stone busts (dating back 2,000 years) that are stylistically Roman were uncovered along with a well-preserved hexagonal glass Roman jug.
- The jug is presumed to be over 1,000 years old.