

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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Barbados becomes the World's newest republic



- Barbados has become the World's newest republic, around 400 years after it became a British colony. Barbados is said to have been made a 'slave society by the British.
- It first became an English colony in 1625. It gained its independence in 1966. Barbados, the Caribbean Island nation, removed Queen Elizabeth II as the head of the state.
- Dame Sandra Prunella Mason took over as the President of Barbados. He was selected to become the first president of Barbados in October 2021.
- He was selected as President of Barbados, at a joint meeting of both the Houses of Parliament of Barbados. His name was announced by Speaker of the House of Assembly, Arthur Holder.

Kerala Tourism launched STREET project for experiential tourism



- Kerala Tourism launched the 'STREET' project to promote and take tourism deep into the interiors and rural hinterland of Kerala.
- The project would help visitors experience the diversity of offerings in these locales. The STREET is an acronym for Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential, Ethnic, Tourism hubs.
- The STREET project aims to present the unique identity of the state of Kerala before to travellers. It also offers a huge potential for growth in the tourism sector and would bring in significant changes.
- The project will foster mutually beneficial organic relationships between tourism development and the ordinary lives of people in the state of Kerala.

- **The project, conceived by the Responsible Tourism Mission, is inspired by the 'Tourism for Inclusive Growth' slogan of The United Nations World Tourism Organization.**

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Black-and-orange Flycatcher & the Nilgiri Flycatcher



- Researchers from the Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, developed species distribution models for two both, BOF and NIF.
- They did this to understand the current potential suitability and possible responses of the species to future climate change using the MaxEnt algorithm.
- MaxEnt, which stands for 'maximum entropy modelling', predicts species' occurrences by finding the distribution that is most spread out, or closest to uniform, while taking into account the limits of the environmental variables of known locations.

- As per the study, about 75 per cent of the currently suitable areas of both species lie outside the protected area network in the Western Ghats.
- Future predictions for BOF indicate a 30.82 percent loss in suitable areas under the warming scenario called 'RCP 8.5'

Black-and-orange Flycatcher(BOF)-

- BOF is a species of flycatcher endemic to the central and southern Western Ghats, the Nilgiris.
- It is also found in Biligiri Rangana, Kannan Devan Hills and Palni hill ranges in southern India.
- It is unique among the Ficedula flycatchers in having rufous coloration on its back.
- The male is distinctly black headed with black wings.
- The female has the black replaced by dark brown and has a light eye-ring.
- They prefer areas with high leaf litter and undergrowth in open shola grassland habitats.
- IUCN status: Least concerned.

The Nilgiri Flycatcher(NIF)-

- It is an Old World flycatcher with a very restricted range in the hills of southern India.
- It was formerly referred to as the Nilgiri verditer flycatcher because of its similarity to the verditer flycatcher.

- Nilgiri verditer is a winter migrant to the Nilgiris, which, however, has distinct dark lores and a lighter shade of blue.
- This small and somewhat long-tailed flycatcher is about 13 centimetres (5.1 in).
- It is dark steely indigo blue with some violet-blue on the forehead and darker lores.
- The female is duller with dark brown on the upperparts and dark grey below.
- Like most flycatchers, it makes sallies to capture insects and returns to its perch.
- It forages mainly in the lower storey but can sometimes be found on top of the canopy.
- It is found mainly in the higher altitude shola forests of the Western Ghats, Nilgiris, Palnis, Anamalai ranges, the Brahmagiri, Baba Budan and Biligirirangan hills.
- IUCN status: Least concerned.

Great Green Wall (GGW) programme



- It aims to restore 100 million hectares of degraded ecosystems across 11 countries in the Sahel region.
- The GGW snakes the Sahel region from Senegal in the West to Djibouti in the East of Africa.
- It was launched in 2007 by the African Union to promote sustainable development and climate change mitigation.
- The 11 countries selected as intervention zones for the initiative are Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan.
- By 2030, it seeks to sequester 250 million tons of carbon and create 10 million green jobs. This will support communities living along the Wall to:

- **Grow fertile land, one of humanity's most precious natural assets.**
- **Grow economic opportunities for the world's youngest population.**
- **Grow food security for the millions that go hungry every day.**
- **Grow climate resilience in a region where temperatures are rising faster than anywhere else on Earth.**
- **Grow a new world wonder spanning 8000 km across Africa.**
- **The GGW offers multiple (environmental, social and economic) benefits on an epic scale, touching on 15 of the 17 United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals.**
- **The initiative brings together African countries and international partners, under the leadership of the African Union Commission and Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall.**
- **The Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD implemented a flagship initiative under the Great Green Wall called FLEUVE.**
- **The project was financed by the European Commission in the amount of about seven million Euro and was implemented from 2014-19.**

- **FLEUVE aimed at strengthening the capacities of local communities to help boost investments in land restoration and created employment opportunities or 'green jobs.**
- **The project was driven by local people themselves to strengthen community resilience to land degradation, drought and climate variability.**

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Cyclone Jawad



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- A cyclone is brewing in the Bay of Bengal and it is likely to cross the Andhra Pradesh-Odisha coast around December 4.
- The storm, once developed, will be called Jawad (read as Jowad), as named by Saudi Arabia.

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