

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road cutting 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 curves in a large loop, and the surrounding trees are vibrant green, suggesting a healthy, natural environment.

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DAILY NEWS DECODE

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CULTURE MAPPING OF 80 VILLAGES



- Culture mapping of 80 villages associated with noted personalities in history, in particular the freedom movement, unique crafts and festivals has been started as a pilot project, Culture Ministry officials said.

The project is expected to be completed this financial year.

- From Sempore in Kashmir to Kanjirapally in Kerala, villages with a connection to the freedom movement as well as those with their own art practices have been selected for the project, being conducted by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).
- The project would lead to a “national register and interactive database of artists and art practices from the villages of India”. Each artist would be given a unique ID and an e-commerce platform set up.

- **The work under the mission involves coordinating the data collection through ground and field surveys conducted on the basis of detailed formats and questionnaires, mobile application, interactive web-portal and an over-the-top (OTT) platform to showcase ethnographic documentaries/ cultural events/ festival/ melas etc. of villages.**
- **On the list of villages selected is Sempore or Pandrenthan in Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir that is associated with 14th Century mystic Lal Ded or Lalleshwari.**
- **From Ladakh, the pilot project included Choglamsar and Wanla villages, known for wood carving.**
- **Khatkar Kalan village in Punjab, which has a memorial of Bhagat Singh; Reni village of Uttarakhand, where the Chipko movement started; and Kathputli Colony in Delhi, known for the “migrant kathputli artists”, are also on the list.**
- **Two villages in Tamil Nadu — Ettayapuram (the birthplace of poet Subramania Bharathi) and Thiruchigadi (a village of “women potters”) — are also on the list.**

MALAIYAHA TAMILS



- Sri Lanka's Malaiyaha Tamil workers, whose labour in tea plantations fetches precious foreign exchange to the country, are living in "inhumane and degrading" conditions, a UN expert has said.
- Contemporary forms of slavery have an ethnic dimension.
- In particular, Malaiyaha Tamils —who were brought from India to work in the plantation sector 200 years ago — continue to face multiple forms of discrimination based on their origin, said Tomoya Obokata, UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery.
- The plight of the Malaiyaha Tamil community, historically neglected and marginalised, has received relatively less international attention.

- Roughly 1.5 lakh people from the community, with a population over 10 lakh, are engaged in direct labour in the estates, and most of them are women.
- Their daily wage of LKR 1,000 (about ₹373) — won after sustained protests in recent years — is tied to an arduous target of 18-22 kg of plucked tea leaves every day, to be met rain or shine, while braving leeches and wasp attacks.
- A prominent item in Sri Lanka's export basket — apart from garments, rubber, and spices — tea brings roughly \$1.3 billion a year into the country.
- India has committed to building 14,000 houses in Sri Lanka's hill country, but the construction is progressing at a slow pace amid private plantation companies' apparent reluctance to part with land.

Prime Minister of India has greeted the people of Goa on the day of the Feast of St. Francis Xavier.



- He was a Spanish Jesuit who lived as a Roman Catholic missionary in the 1500s.
- He was born on 7th April 1506 in the kingdom of Navarre in present day Spain.

- He was one of the first seven members of the Jesuit order under the leadership of St. Ignatius of Loyola.
- He travelled extensively, particularly in India, Southeast Asia, and Japan, to share his faith. Francis was the first Jesuit to go to Japan as a missionary.
- He is the patron saint of Roman Catholic missions.
- He was instrumental in the establishment of Christianity in India, the Malay Archipelago, and Japan.

- He brought several novel strategies to missionary work that influenced generations of Roman Catholic missions.
- He is credited for the idea that missionaries must adapt to the customs and language of the people they evangelize.
- He also advocated for an educated native clergy to perpetuate the newly formed Christian communities.
- He died on December 3, 1552 on the island of Sancian (now Shang-ch'uan Tao, off the Chinese coast) while trying to gain entrance to China, which was then closed to foreigners.
- Xavier was first buried on a beach at Shangchuan Island, Taishan, Guangdong.
- His body was taken from the island in February 1553 and temporarily buried in St. Paul's Church in Portuguese Malacca on 22 March 1553.
- An open grave in the church now marks the place of Xavier's burial. Pereira came back from Goa, removed the corpse shortly after 15 April 1553, and moved it to his house.
- On 11 December 1553, Xavier's body was shipped to Goa.
- The body is now in the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Goa, where it was placed in a glass container encased in a silver casket on 2 December 1637.

- **The Feast of St Francis is celebrated at the Basilica of Bom Jesus, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.**
- **The Basilica is one of the oldest churches in Goa, which was completed in 1605.**
- **It is considered the greatest example of Baroque architecture in the whole of India and is one of Goa's popular tourist attractions.**
- **The mausoleum was built in the 17th Century by the Florentine sculptor Giovanni Battista Foggini and took 10 long years to complete.**

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