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Nation remembers BR Ambedkar on his 66th death anniversary



- India observes December 6 as Mahaparinirvan Divas every year to mark the death anniversary of Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, who fought for the economic and social empowerment of Dalits in the country.
- He was popularly known as Babasaheb Ambedkar passed away on December 6, 1956.
- The Union government has decided to celebrate Mahaparinirvan Divas as part of the major commemoration of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
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- He was primarily an Economist and educationist.
- Babasaheb was also the flag bearer of India's Dalit Activism, is called the chief architect of the Indian Constitution.
- BR Ambedkar was the Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee for the constitution of independent India on August 29, 1947. He was also the law minister of India after independence.
- He had also started fortnightly and weekly papers named 'Excluded India', 'Mook Nayak', 'Janta' to raise voice against the atrocities on Dalits. His first wife was only 9 years old at the time of their marriage.

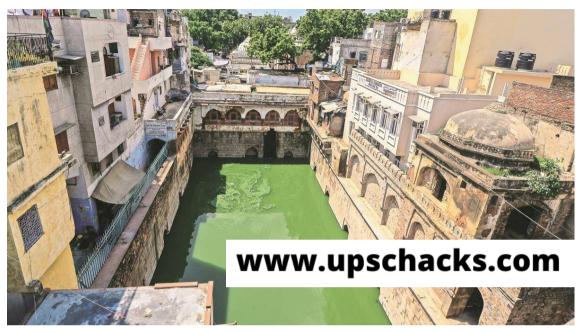
Cambridge Dictionary names 'perseverance' Word of the Year 2021



- Perseverance, a word that captures the undaunted will of people across the world to never give up, despite the many challenges of the last 12 months, is Cambridge Dictionary's Word of the Year 2021.
- Perseverance has been looked up more than 243,000 times on the website in 2021, the first time it has made a noticeable appearance.
- NASA's Perseverance Rover made its final descent to Mars on 18 February.

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Nizamuddin Basti project wins two UNESCO heritage awards



- Nizamuddin Revival Project, India's project on the holistic urban revitalisation of the historic Nizamuddin Basti community, in New Delhi has won the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2021.
- The project involves the meticulous restoration of over 20 historic monuments clustered around the 14th-century mausoleum of the revered Sufi saint, Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya.
- Nizamuddin Revival Project won these awards under 2 categories:
- Award of Excellence
- Special Recognition for Sustainable Development.

Nizamuddin Basti:

- The settlement around the tomb of Noted Sufi saint Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya, who settled in a Delhi village Ghiyaspur located on the tributary of River Yamuna, is known as the Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti.
- The Nizamuddin area comprises the Humayun's Tomb, Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti and Sunder Nursery, Batashewala Tomb-Garden Complex, the tomb of courtier poet Khan I Khanan 'Rahim', and the Mughal-period caravanserai of Azimganj Serai.
- Winners of UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2021:
 - The jury of Heritage experts honoured 9 projects from 6 countries (Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, and Thailand) with the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2021.

MOUNT SEMERU



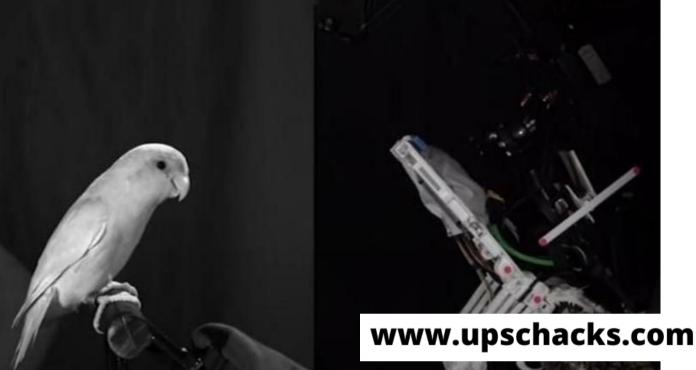
- Rescuers in Indonesia raced to find survivors in villages blanketed by molten ash after the eruption of Mount Semeru killed at least 14 persons and left dozens injured.
- Semeru, or Mount Semeru, is an active volcano in East Java, Indonesia.
- It is located in a subduction zone, where the Indo-Australia plate subducts under the Eurasia plate.
- It is the highest mountain on the island of Java.
- The name "Semeru" is derived from Meru, the central world mountain in Hinduism, or Sumeru, the abode of gods.
- This stratovolcano is also known as Mahameru, meaning "The Great Mountain" in Sanskrit.

What are the features of AK-203 rifles to be jointly made by India, Russia?



- India and Russia have signed a pact to jointly manufacture over six lakh AK-203 assault rifles in UP's Amethi.
- It has an effective range of 300 metres or more than three football fields and is also lightweight and robust.
- It fires the 7.62 mm rounds that have better penetrating power and can use hi-tech add-ons like special sights and grips.

Bird-like robot that can perch and carry objects created: Stanford



- Engineers at Stanford University have developed a bird-like robot that can fly around, catch and carry objects and perch on various surfaces.
- Dubbed "stereotyped nature-inspired aerial grasper", the robot is based on the legs of a peregrine falcon.
- The robot, which is mostly 3D-printed, is equipped with motors and fishing line that act as stand-ins for muscles and tendons.