

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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'Earth's Black Box' with steel walls to be built in Aus to gather all climate data



- A bus-sized steel box will be built in Australia to record data sets, measurements and interactions relating to the Earth's health.
- The 'Earth's Black Box' will have 3-inch thick steel walls and storage drives inside with storage for up to 50 years.
- The purpose of the device is to provide an account of events that led to the climate crisis.

Which are the most mispronounced words of 2021?



- As per a British Institute of Verbatim Reporters' research, the most mispronounced words of 2021 include Dalgona (Tal-goh-NAH), Cheugy (Choo-gee), Dogecoin (Dohj-coin), Giorgio Chiellini (Jyor-jyo kyi-lee-nee), Shein (Shee-in) and Keirin (Kay-rin). British Institute of Verbatim Reporter provides captions and subtitles for television and courtrooms in conjunction with language-learning app Babel.

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GRSE launches first large survey vessel Sandhayak for Indian Navy



- Indian shipbuilder Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) has achieved a new milestone with the launch of the first large survey vessel for the Indian Navy.
- Called Sandhayak, the vessel is the first in the series of four ships being built under the Survey Vessel Large (SVL) project. It has been built at GRSE.
- Indian State Defence Minister Ajay Bhatt, who was present at the launch ceremony, said that the ship's launch is a new milestone for the country's vision of 'New India' by 2030.
- In October 2018, the Indian Ministry of Defence and GRSE signed the contract to build the four survey ships. Featuring over 80% indigenous content by cost, the ships are fully designed by GRSE and are being built using 'Integrated Construction' concepts.

RBI: Gujarat became India's Largest Manufacturing Hub



- Gujarat has left behind Maharashtra to become the country's leading manufacturing hub, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Gujarat saw its Gross Value Addition (GVA) in manufacturing grow by 15.9 per cent annually between FY12 to FY20 to stand at Rs 5.11 lakh crore, data shows. GVA is an economic metric that measures the supply of goods and services in an economy
- Meanwhile, Maharashtra's annual growth rate stood at nearly half of Gujarat's at 7.5 per cent for the same time period and its GVA for manufacturing stood at Rs 4.34 lakh crore in FY20. Maharashtra is still the leading provider of services in India, with the state's services GVA growing by 12.6 per cent annually, standing at Rs 15.1 lakh crore in FY20.

RAIGAD FORT



- President Ram Nath Kovind is beginning his four-day visit (December 6-9) to Maharashtra by visiting the Raigad Fort where he will pay tribute to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- Raigad is a hill fort situated about 25 km from Mahad in the Raigad district and stands 2,851 feet above the sea level. The British Gazette states the fort was known to early Europeans as the Gibraltar of the East. Its decisive feature is a mile and a half flat top which has adequate room for buildings.
- The fort, which was earlier called Rairi, was the seat of the Maratha clan Shirke in the 12th century. The fort changed hands a number of times from the dynasty of Bahaminis to the Nizamshahis and then the Adilshahis.

- In 1656, Chhatrapati Shivaji captured it from the More's of Javli who were under the suzerainty of the Adilshahi Sultanate.
- In 1662, Shivaji formally changed the fort's name to Raigad and added a number of structures to it. By 1664, the fort had emerged as the seat of Shivaji's government.
- On June 6, 1674, Shivaji was coronated at Raigad by Gagabhatt where he took on the title of Chhatrapati. Six years later, Shivaji passed away in Raigad in 1680 and was cremated at the fort.

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HORNBILL FESTIVAL



- To protest the killings of civilians by the security forces in Mon district on Saturday, eight of the 17 tribes in Nagaland have announced their withdrawal from the annual Hornbill Festival, which is currently underway at Kisama village.
- The 22nd edition of the annual event started on December 1, 2021.
- Also called the “festival of festivals”, the 10-day annual programme brings all the 17 tribes of the Nagaland on a platform and facilitates the promotion of their culture to the rest of the world.
- The first edition of the festival – which is named after the Indian hornbill, the large and colourful forest bird which is displayed in the folklore of most of the state’s tribes – was held in 2000.

- Organised by the State Tourism and Art & Culture Departments, the Hornbill Festival is held at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, about 12 km from Kohima.
- One of the major highlights of this festival is the Hornbill International Rock Festival, held at the Indira Gandhi Stadium, where local and international rock bands are roped in to perform.

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RUSSIA-UKRAINE BORDER TENSION



- The tension on the Russia-Ukraine border represents a major security crisis for the region, with the potential to snowball into a broader conflict.
- Ukraine says that Russia has amassed around 90,000 troops at the border, and US intelligence reports say that a Russian invasion of Ukraine is possible as early as next month.
- Russia has shown, as recently as 2014, that it is not averse to taking military action in Ukraine. In that year, Russia seized Crimea from Ukraine in what was the first time a European country annexed territory from another country since World War Two.

- **Ukraine and Russia share hundreds of years of cultural, linguistic and familial links. As part of the Soviet Union, Ukraine was the second-most powerful Soviet republic after Russia, and was crucial strategically, economically and culturally.**
- **Ever since Ukraine split from the Soviet Union, both Russia and the West have vied for greater influence in the country in order to keep the balance of power in the region in their favour.**
- **For the United States and the European Union, Ukraine is a crucial buffer between Russia and the West.**
- **Efforts to induct Ukraine into NATO have been ongoing for many years and seems to have picked up pace recently. Russia has declared such a move a “red line”, with Moscow worried about the consequences of the US-led military alliances expanding right up to its doorstep.**