

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

13.12.21

# India successfully tests Supersonic Missile Assisted Torpedo in Odisha



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- India successfully test-fired a long-range Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) off Balasore coast in Odisha on Monday.
- "The system has been designed to enhance anti-submarine warfare capability far beyond the conventional range of the torpedo," said Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The system is being developed to be used by the Indian Navy, officials said.

# **Dubai becomes world's 1st paperless govt, saves over \$350 million: Crown Prince**



- Dubai has become the world's first government to turn 100% paperless, Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum has announced.
- He added the strategy has helped saved more than 1.3 billion Dirham (\$350 million) and over 14 million man-hours across the Dubai government.
- He said that 45 government entities cut paper consumption by over 336 million papers.

# KASHI VISHWANATH CORRIDOR



- On December 13, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor connecting the ancient Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi to the ghats of the Ganga.
- A total 23 buildings will be inaugurated, including a Tourist Facilitation Centre, Mumukshu Bhavan, Bhogshala, City Museum, Viewing Gallery and Food Court.
- The corridor, said to be the PM's dream project, has been built over an area of 5,000 hectares, and seeks to not only decongest but to also transform the temple complex.
- The Rs-800-crore project was launched by the PM in his parliamentary constituency in March 2019, with the aim of restoring the "lost glory" of the spiritual centre.

- The Kashi Vishwanath temple lacked direct access to the Ganga, and a 20-foot-wide corridor was envisaged to connect Lalita Ghat on the holy river to Mandir Chowk on the temple premises.

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# NEW CALEDONIA



- Voters in the French island territory of New Caledonia chose overwhelmingly to remain part of France, in a referendum boycotted by pro-independence forces and closely watched around the South Pacific.
- New Caledonia is a sui generis collectivity of overseas France in the southwest Pacific Ocean, south of Vanuatu, about 1,210 km east of Australia, and 17,000 km from Metropolitan France.
- The archipelago, part of the Melanesia subregion, includes the main island of Grande Terre, the Loyalty Islands, the Chesterfield Islands, the Belep archipelago, the Isle of Pines, and a few remote islets.

- **The Chesterfield Islands are in the Coral Sea.**
- **French President Emmanuel Macron hailed the result as a resounding confirmation of France's role in the Indo-Pacific, and announced negotiations on the territory's future status. Separatist activists expressed disappointment.**
- **They had urged a delay in the vote because of the pandemic, and were angry over what they said were French government efforts to sway the campaign. So they called on their supporters to stay away from voting stations.**

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# BUXA TIGER RESERVE (BTR)



- An increase in the forest density and the big cat prey base, especially deer, had attracted a Royal Bengal tiger, a first such sighting in 23 years, to the Buxa Tiger reserve.
- They believed that a favourable habitat at the tiger reserve would invite more tigers, which had migrated to neighbouring Bhutan. The state shares a contiguous range of the protected area with Bhutan.
- The forest department shared a camera trap picture of the tiger spotted at the East Damanpur range of the tiger reserve.
- Buxa Tiger Reserve lies in Alipurduar district of West Bengal.



- Its northern boundary runs along the international border with Bhutan. The Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary of Bhutan is contiguous to the north of BTR.
- The Sinchula hill range lies all along the northern side of BTR and the eastern boundary touches that of the Assam state.
- Manas National Park lies on east of BTR. BTR, thus, serves as international corridor for Asian elephant migration between India and Bhutan.
- National Highway No.31 C roughly runs along its southern boundary.
- It is the easternmost extension of extreme bio-diverse North-East India and represents highly endemic Indo-Malayan region. The fragile "Terai Eco-System" constitutes a part of this reserve.

# Saudi Arabia government has banned the Tablighi Jamaat



- Saudi Arabia government has banned the Tablighi Jamaat calling it one of the gates of terrorism.
- Saudi Islamic Affairs Ministry has directed the mosques to warn people during Friday sermon against the Tablighi Jamaat. Government has also warned people against associating with the Tablighi Jamaat which has been banned in Saudi Arabia.
- What is it? Tablighi Jamaat, which literally means a society for spreading the faith, is a Sunni Islamic missionary movement.
- Objective: The proselytising movement aims to reach out to ordinary Muslims and revive their faith, particularly in matters of ritual, dress, and personal behaviour.

- **Background:** It was launched by Deoband cleric and prominent Islamic scholar Maulana Muhammad Ilyas Khandhalaw in 1927 in Mewat to bring back Meo peasants (mostly Muslims who were largely practicing Hindu traditions) into the fold of traditional Islam.
- **How wide is its reach?** In two decades after its launch, the Tablighi Jamaat had spread beyond the Mewat region. It has a significant base in Pakistan, Bangladesh, United States, Britain, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore.

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# **JYOTIRLINGAM TEMPLES OF MAHARASHTRA**



- Ministry of Tourism under its Dekho Apna Desh Initiative organised a webinar on 'Jyotirlingam Temples of Maharashtra'.
- Maharashtra boasts of a large number of popular and revered religious and spiritual places that attracts large number of tourists.
- Trimbakeshwar (Tryambakeshwara), Bhimashankar, Parali Vajinath, Grishneswar and Aundh Nagnath are the prominent Jyotirlingas in the state of Maharashtra.
- Tryambakeshwar/ Trimbakeshwar Jyotirlingam is located about 28 km South West of Nashik and it is also one of four places where Sinhastha Fair (Kumbh Mela) is held which draws people from all over India.

- **These shrines enshrining Shiva in the form of a Jyotirlingam and have been revered since time immemorial in the Indian system of beliefs.**
- **Out of 12 Jyotirlingas, the southernmost of these is located at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu while the northernmost is located in the Himalayas at Kedarnath in Uttarkhand.**
- **These temples are closely linked with legends from the puranas and are rich in history and tradition.**

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# World Talent Ranking report 2021:

## India ranked 56th



- International Institute for Management Development (IMD) World Competitive Centre published its “World Talent Ranking Report”.
- In the report, Europe has dominated the ranking in 2021.
- Global top 10 countries are from this region. Switzerland has retained its top spot.
- India has been ranked at 56th position. In the Middle East & North Africa, UAE maintained its second position, following Israel (first in this region). Israel has been ranked 22nd.
- In the Arab world, UAE maintained its top position. The UAE has improved its global talent ranking by one position to 23rd.

- **Taiwan has been ranked at third place in Asia while at 16th place In Asia, Taiwan has been ranked behind Hong Kong (11) and Singapore (12) but ahead of South Korea (34), China (36), and Japan (39).**
- **IMD is an independent academic institution, having Swiss roots and a global reach. It was founded 75 years ago for business leaders by business leaders.**
- **It has been a pioneering force in developing leaders who can transform organizations and contribute to society.**

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