

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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# Rythu Bandhu scheme



- The Telangana state government started crediting money to farmers' bank accounts under 8th phase of Rythu Bandhu Scheme from 28th December, 2021.
- Launched in 2018, Rythu Bandhu (Agriculture Investment Support Scheme) is Telangana government's direct benefit transfer scheme for farmers.
- Under the scheme, each farmer gets Rs 5,000 per acre per crop season without any ceiling on the number of acres held.
- The grant helps them cover the expenses on input requirements such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and labour.
- The Agriculture Extension Officers (AEO) supervises the Rythu Bandhu cheques distribution at village level.

- **This scheme is based on anticipated input expenditure for each acre of land and there is no restriction on the number of acres owned by a farmer.**
- **This is the first direct farmer investment support scheme in India, where the cash is paid directly whereas PM-KISAN only provides support to the family and not to the farm units.**

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# What is aquamation, process behind Desmond Tutu's eco-friendly cremation?



- Touted as an eco-friendly alternative to cremation methods, the body of Archbishop Desmond Tutu will undergo aquamation.
- In this, the body is heated and immersed in a mixture of water and potassium hydroxide for a few hours.
- While the body tissue gets dissolved, the bones are dried and reduced to white dust and handed to the family in an urn.

# 'Potentially hazardous' building-sized asteroid to shoot past Earth on Jan 11



- An asteroid the size of a skyscraper will shoot past Earth's atmosphere on January 11, 2022, American space agency NASA has said.
- Asteroid 2013 YD48, which has been labelled a "potentially hazardous object", will pass within 5.6 million kilometres of Earth, NASA said.
- It is approximately 104 metres in width, making it wider than the height of Big Ben.

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# **UK museum finds over 550 new species including 6 dinosaurs in 2021**



- **Researchers at the London's Natural History Museum have found 552 new species of animals including six new dinosaurs in 2021.**
- **The biggest animals to be discovered were the spinosaurs discovered on the Isle of Wight. Other discoveries were the brachiopods, arachnids and an ancient herbivorous crocodile relative.**
- **They also found a mouse in Scotland from 166 million years ago.**

# Fossil of sea reptile alive nearly 250 million yrs ago found in US



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- Scientists from the US and Germany have found a fossil of a giant sea reptile, ichthyosaur (*Cymbospondylus youngorum*), in the US that was alive nearly 246 million years ago.
- The animal was 18 metre long, with the skull alone more than 2 metre.
- Notably, the ichthyosaur was the largest tetrapod of its time, whether on land or at sea.

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# US extends support for International Space Station till 2030: NASA



- NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said that the administration of US President Joe Biden has committed to extending the operations of the International Space Station (ISS) through 2030.
- Nelson added that Biden administration will continue research in the orbiting laboratory with international partners including Russia through the decade.
- Currently, Congress has approved funding only till 2024.

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