

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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MOBILE HONEY PROCESSING VAN



- Chairman KVIC Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena launched the country's first Mobile Honey Processing Van at Village Sirora in Ghaziabad, UP.
- The Mobile Van has been designed in-house by KVIC at its Multi-disciplinary Training Centre, Panjokehra, at a cost of Rs 15 lakh.
- This mobile honey processing unit can process up to 300 KG of honey in 8 hours.
- The van is also equipped with a testing laboratory, that would instantly examine the quality of honey.

- **The Mobile Honey Processing Van comes as a major development under KVIC's Honey Mission which aims at training beekeepers, distributing Bee Boxes to farmers and helping rural, educated as well as unemployed youth to earn extra income through beekeeping activities.**
- **In line with Prime Minister's dream of "Sweet Kranti" (Sweet Revolution) through honey production, the KVIC has come up with this unique innovation to enable beekeepers and farmers to get fair price of their honey produce.**

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INDIA'S FIRST MULTI-DIMENSIONAL ADVENTURE SPORTS EXPEDITION



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- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, on January 07, 2022, flagged-in India's first multi-dimensional adventure sports expedition conducted by National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (NIMAS) in France.
- The expedition was conducted in November 2021 and the team was led by Director NIMAS Colonel Sarfaraz Singh, comprising 12 people - eight Army personnel and four youths of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The expedition team carried out over 250 kilometres of winter trekking in the Alps Mountain Ranges, which included Tour De Mont Blanc trek covering the French, Swiss and Italian Alps.

- **Mont Blanc (meaning "white mountain") is the highest mountain in the Alps and the European Union, rising 4,807.81 m above sea level.**
- **It is the second-most prominent mountain in Europe, after Mount Elbrus.**
- **The mountain stands between the regions of Aosta Valley, Italy, and Savoie and Haute-Savoie, France.**

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Election Commission hikes expenditure limit for candidates in polls



- **The Election Commission of India has increased the existing election expenditure limit for candidates in Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies, due to the rise in inflation.**
- **The new limits will be applicable in all upcoming elections in the country.**
- **The previous major revision in the election expenditure limit was done in 2014.**
- **It was further increased by 10% in 2020. EC had formed a Committee**

Parliamentary constituencies poll expenditure ceiling:

- The ceiling on parliamentary poll expenditure has been raised from 70 lakh to 95 lakh rupees in bigger states and 54 lakh to 75 lakhs in smaller states.**
- The bigger states include Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Karnataka.**
- The smaller states include Goa, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and UTs.**
- The ceiling on poll expenditure in UT of Jammu and Kashmir has been raised to 95 lakhs.**
- Assembly constituencies poll expenditure limits:**
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- For Assembly constituencies, expenditure limits have been enhanced from 28 lakh rupees to 40 lakh rupees in bigger states and from 20 lakhs to 28 lakhs in smaller states.**

Antigua and Barbuda joined ISA as the 102nd member



- The Caribbean nation of Antigua and Barbuda joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as the 102nd member by signing the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement, the India-led global green energy initiative.
- The Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne signed the framework agreement in the presence of Indian High Commissioner Dr. K. J. Srinivasa to catalyze global energy transition through a solar-led approach.
- ISA was jointly launched by India and France in 2015 during the 21st session of the United Nations Climate Change COP-21 in Paris, France to promote solar energy.

TS Tirumurti assumes Chair of UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee



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- India's Permanent Representative to the UN, T S Tirumurti has been appointed as the Chair of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2022.

- India has assumed the chairmanship of the United Nations Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNSC-CTC) for one year, beginning from January 01, 2022.
- Being the Chair of Counter-Terrorism Committee 2022, India will work to further enhance the role of the Counter-Terrorism Committee in strengthening the multilateral response to counter-terrorism, and ensure that global response to the threat of terrorism remains unambiguous, undivided and effective.
- India is currently a non-permanent member of the 15-nation UNSC. Its two-year term will end on December 31, 2022.

Takht Sri Damdama Sahib



- Delhi Assembly has passed an amendment Bill to the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1971, recognising Takht Damdama Sahib as the fifth Takht of Sikhs.
- A Takht, which means a throne, is a seat of temporal authority for Sikhs.
- The Takhts are known to issue hukamnama from time to time on issues that concern the Sikh community.
- This amendment adds one more ex officio member in the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) house and it will increase members of DSGMC from 55 to 56.
- There are five Sikh Takhts, three in Punjab and one each in Maharashtra and Bihar.
- The three Takhts in Punjab are directly controlled by the Sikh Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC), while the two Takhts outside Punjab have their own trusts and boards.

3rd National Water Awards-2020



- These awards were instituted to recognize and encourage exemplary work and efforts made by States, Districts, individuals, organizations, etc across the country in attaining the government's vision of a 'Jal Samridh Bharat'.
- The first National Water Award was launched by the Jal Shakti Ministry in 2018.
- It strives to create awareness among the people about the importance of water and attempts to motivate them to adopt best water usage practices.
- National Water Awards are given in 11 categories which are as follows –
 - Best State.
 - Best District (2 Awards each in five zones; total 10 Awards).
 - Best Village Panchayat (3 Awards each in five zones; total 15 Awards).
 - Best Urban Local Body.

- **Best Media (Print and Electronic).**
- **Best School.**
- **Best Institution / Resident Welfare Association (RWA) / Religious organisations for successful campus water usage.**
- **Best Industry for industrial water conservation.**
- **Best NGO.**
- **Best Water User Association.**
- **Best Industry for CSR Activities.**
- **Awards in the category of Best District and Best Village Panchayats will be given separately for North, South, East, West and North-East.**
- **In the Best State category, Uttar Pradesh has been awarded first prize, followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu in NWA 2020.**
- **India's current water requirement is estimated to be around 1,100 billion cubic meters per year, projected to go up to 1,447 billion cubic meters by 2050.**
- **While India has more than 18% of the world's population, it has only 4% of the world's renewable water resources.**

Kazakhstan sought assistance from the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)



- Due to violent protests, Kazakhstan has sought assistance from the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) recently.
- It is a Central Asian country and former Soviet republic, declared independent on December 16, 1991.
- It is bounded on the northwest and north by Russia, on the east by China, and on the south by Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, the Aral Sea, and Turkmenistan; the Caspian Sea bounds Kazakhstan to the southwest.

- Its capital is Nur-Sultan (formerly known as Astana) and its currency is Kazakhstani tenge.
- Kazakhstan is the largest country in Central Asia and the ninth largest in the world.
- The local ethnos - Kazakhs make the largest part of the population - 58.9%, followed by Russian, Ukrainians, Uzbeks, Uighur, Tatar and German.
- Lowlands make up one-third of Kazakhstan's huge expanse, followed by hilly plateaus and plains.
- Kazakhstan's highest point, Mount Khan-Tengri at 22,949 feet (6,995 metres), in the Tien Shan range on the border between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and China, contrasts with the flat or rolling terrain of most of the republic.
- The western and southwestern parts of the republic are dominated by the low-lying Caspian Depression, which at its lowest point lies some 95 feet below sea level.
- South of the Caspian Depression are the Ustyurt Plateau and the Tupqaraghan (formerly Mangyshlak) Peninsula jutting into the Caspian Sea.
- Vast amounts of sand form the Greater Barsuki and Aral Karakum deserts near the Aral Sea, the broad Betpaqdala Desert of the interior, and the Muyunkum and Kyzylkum deserts in the south.

- **Depressions filled by salt lakes whose water has largely evaporated dot the undulating uplands of central Kazakhstan.**
- **Kazakhstan's climate is sharply continental, and hot summers alternate with equally extreme winters, especially in the plains and valleys.**

Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)-

- **It is an intergovernmental military alliance in Eurasia, founded in 1992.**
- **It consists of select post-Soviet states as members namely Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan.**
- **Its purpose is to ensure the collective defence of any member that faces external aggression.**
- **It has been described by political scientists as the Eurasian counterpart of NATO.**
- **It supports arms sales and manufacturing as well as military training and exercises.**
- **Afghanistan and Serbia hold observer status in the CSTO.**
- **The organization uses a rotating presidency system in which the state leading the CSTO changes every year.**

- **Beyond mutual defence, the CSTO also coordinates efforts in fighting the illegal circulation of weapons among member states and has developed law enforcement training for its members in pursuit of these aims.**

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JC Chaudhry gets first ever Guinness World Record in Numerology



- India's one of the top numerologists, JC Chaudhry has achieved the first-ever Guinness World Record in Numerology and the first world record of 2022 by educating about ancient science to around 6000 participants, enthusiasts of numerology joined from the United States, the United Kingdom, Middle East, and India.
- The Guinness World Record London office has opened a new category, "Numerology" for this achievement.
- The initiative was organised by CNPL (Chaudhry Nummero Pvt Ltd) and the Indian Institute of Numerology to create awareness regarding numerology, which is prevalent across ancient cultures like Greece, Egypt, China, Chaldea and India.

Sea Dragon 2022 Exercise



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- India and its partners in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad along with Canada and South Korea are participating in the multinational exercise Sea Dragon 2022 at Guam in the Western Pacific.
- The six nations that are participating in the exercise are the United States, Australia, Canada, India, Japan and South Korea.
- The exercise, primarily focused on anti-submarine warfare (ASW) training, will involve more than 270 hours of in-flight training and activities ranging from tracking simulated targets to tracking a US Navy submarine.
- Each event will be graded and the country scoring the highest points will receive the Dragon Belt award.

- **Sea Dragon 22 focuses on anti-submarine warfare (ASW) training and excellence, which includes everything from tracking simulated targets to tracking a genuine US Navy submarine.**
- **Pilots and flight officers from all around the world develop strategies and discuss tactics in training sessions that take into account their individual countries' skills and equipment.**

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Hyderabad gets India's first Open Rock Museum



- Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh has inaugurated India's first Open Rock Museum in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Museum displays around 35 different types of rocks from different parts of India with ages ranging from 3.3 billion years to around 55 million years of the Earth's history.
- The Open Rock Museum, set up with the aim of educating and enlightening the masses about several lesser-known facts, displays around 35 different types of rocks from different parts of India.
- These rocks also represent the deepest part of the earth, up to 175 km from the surface of the earth. The rocks have been sourced from Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir and others.

ICMR approves India-made first kit 'OmiSure' to detect Omicron



- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has approved a testing kit for detecting the Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus.
- The covid kit developed by Tata is called 'OmiSure' and will be an enhancement for the detection of the Omicron variant.
- The kit is manufactured by Tata Medical and Diagnostics. The tests have been performed as per the manufacturer's instructions.
- Responsibility for batch-to-batch consistency lies with the manufacturer.

- **The Tata Medical and Diagnostics has developed a kit 'OmiSure' that can detect the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV2 in nasopharyngeal/oropharyngeal specimens during the RT-PCR tests.**
- **The test kit is compatible with all standard Real-Time PCR Machines.**
- **The test run time of this kit is 85 minutes. The result turnaround time, including sample collection and RNA extraction, is 130 minutes.**

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Scientists name new tree after Leonardo DiCaprio as a tribute



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- Scientists at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, have named a newly discovered tree after Leonardo DiCaprio.
- They wished to honour the actor for helping in saving an endangered forest where the tree only grows.
- "He was crucial in helping to stop the logging of the Ebo Forest," Dr Martin Cheek said.
- The tree has been officially named 'Uvariopsis dicaprio'.

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