

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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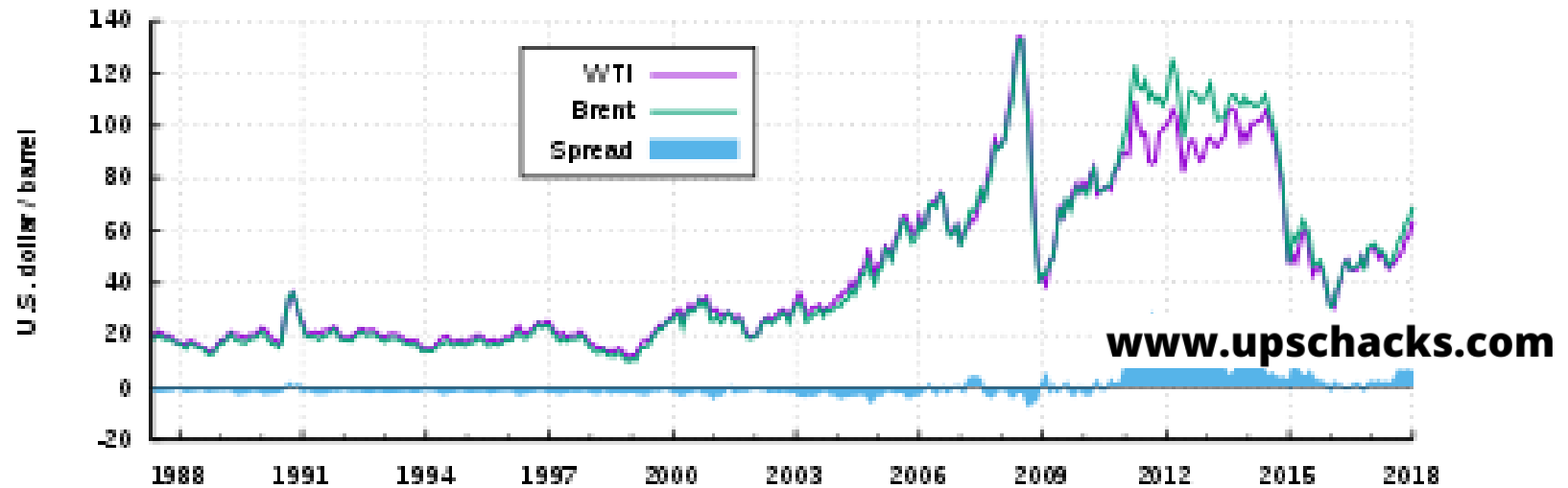
JUSTICE CLOCK



- Supreme Court e-Committee chairperson and SC judge Justice DY Chandrachud inaugurated two digital services for Gujarat High court — a 'Justice Clock', and electronic payment of court fee.
- An LED display of 7 feet by 10 feet, placed at a height of 17 feet from the ground, has been erected at a busy crossroad near the Gujarat High Court premises.
- This 'Justice Clock' will exhibit vital statistics of the justice delivery system in Gujarat, to "maximise outreach and visibility" of the work done by the state judiciary.
- The interface has been designed and developed in-house and will display data from the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) in real-time.

- A similar format of Gujarat judiciary-related statistics will also be available on the Gujarat HC website under a tab of 'Virtual Justice Clock', accessible to all.
- While the online e-Courts fee system was already available for the Gujarat High Court, which was tested on a pilot basis allowing advocate and parties to procure judicial stamps online through electronic payment and upon submission of a PDF receipt, this platform now stands expanded to all district and taluka courts.
- The payment platform is of StockHolding Corporation of India Ltd (SHCIL) as empanelled by the Gujarat government.
- A PDF receipt of the fee paid will be generated and submitted to the court registry concerned.
- It will then be verified from within the digital case information system and locked as 'consumed', wherein the receipt will be defaced, so as to avoid its reuse or misuse.

BRENT CRUDE



- Oil prices are at their highest levels since 2014 — Brent crude hit \$88.3 per barrel, up 27% since December 1, when it was trading at \$69.5
- The spike has been driven primarily by fears of supply side disruptions.
- The attack by Yemen's Houthis on fuel trucks in Abu Dhabi, in which three people including two Indians were killed, and the tensions between Russia, the world's second-largest oil producer, and Ukraine have raised concerns.
- The outage on an Iraq-Turkey pipeline heightened worries.
- There is also concern over the growing imbalance between demand and supply — the former did not see the moderation that was initially expected as the Omicron wave began.

- Further, the key oil producing countries have kept supply on a gradually increasing schedule in spite of the sharp increase in global crude prices.
- Brent Crude may refer to any or all of the components of the Brent Complex, a physically and financially traded oil market based around the North Sea of Northwest Europe.
- Colloquially, Brent Crude usually refers to the price of the ICE Brent Crude Oil futures contract or the contract itself.

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What is current rule on deputation in IAS ?



- The Centre has proposed amendments to the IAS (Cadre) Rules in order to exercise greater control in central deputation of IAS officials, which has often been at the centre of tussles between the Centre and the states.
- Central deputation in the Indian Administrative Service is covered under Rule-6 (1) of the IAS (Cadre) Rules-1954, inserted in May 1969.
- It states: "A cadre officer may, with the concurrence of the State Governments concerned and the Central Government, be deputed for service under the Central Government or another State Government or under a company, association or body of individuals, whether incorporated or not, which is wholly or substantially owned or controlled by the Central Government or by another State Government.

- **Provided that in case of any disagreement, the matter shall be decided by the Central Government and the State Government or State Governments concerned shall give effect to the decision of the Central Government.”**
- **As on January 1, 2021, out of around 5,200 IAS officers in the country, 458 were on central deputation.**

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Jahnavi Dangeti becomes first Indian to complete prestigious Nasa programme



- **Jahnavi Dangeti, a young girl from Andhra Pradesh, has just completed NASA's International Air and Space Program (IASP) at the Kennedy Space Centre in Alabama, US, making her the first Indian to accomplish this feat.**
- **She is part of a carefully shortlisted group of 20 students from around the world. She has been a campus ambassador for numerous organisations, including Star (Space Technology and Aeronautical Rocketry), an Indian private aerospace company.**
- **She is a member of the International Organization of Aspiring Astronauts (IOAA). She participated in many events and workshops of Nasa, Isro and other space agencies.**

1st BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 held under Chinese chairship



- The first BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 was held virtually on January 18-19 2022, with the members thanking India for its BRICS chairship in 2021. China has taken on the rotating chairmanship of BRICS in 2022. BRICS is a grouping of five major emerging economies — Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- Meanwhile, Sanjay Bhattacharyya India's BRICS Sherpa said that Last year we saw a significant achievement that our foreign ministers brought about in terms of the document on the strengthening and reform of the multilateral systems. These issues of global governance, particularly the UN systems and other institutions, are extremely important. And I'm happy that we shall continue to attach high importance to its continued relevance

Oxford University Press declares 'Anxiety' as Children's Word of the Year 2021



- Apart from “anxiety” (21%), “Challenging” (19%), “isolate” (14%), “Wellbeing” (13%) and “resilience” (12%) were the children’s top five words. In 2020, Coronavirus was the Children’s Word of the Year by OUP.
- Over 8,000 children from across 85 schools in the UK, spanning Year 3 to Year 9, were surveyed and asked to choose the top words they would use when talking about health and wellbeing.

- The research highlights the widespread impact lockdown and school closures had on children, with almost a quarter of all surveyed choosing anxiety (21 per cent) as their number one word, closely followed by challenging (19 per cent) and isolate (14 per cent).
- However, wellbeing (13 per cent) and resilience (12 per cent) closely followed as their top words, signalling children's positive attitude in the face of recent challenges.

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Eastern swamp deer (Barasingha)



- Officials attributed the decrease to two high floods in 2019 and 2020.
- They have also observed that the animal is distributed to areas beyond the Kaziranga National Park and now found in Orang National Park and Laokhowa-Bura Chapori wildlife sanctuaries (Assam).
- During the last survey, it was found that the female eastern swamp deer outnumbered the males by more than three times.
- The Barasingha (*Rucervus duvaucelii*), also called swamp deer, is a deer species distributed in the Indian subcontinent.

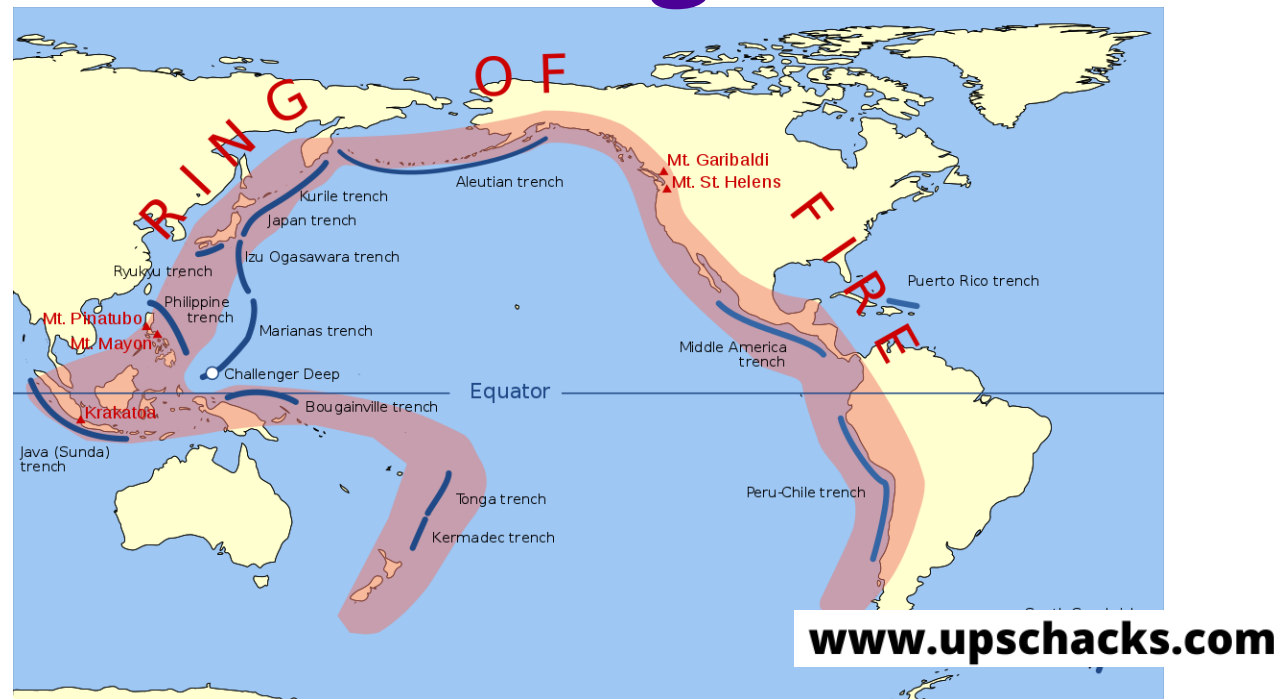
- Populations in northern and central India are fragmented, and two isolated populations occur in southwestern Nepal.
- It has been extinct in Pakistan and Bangladesh, and its presence is uncertain in Bhutan.
- The swamp deer differs from all other Indian deer species in that the antlers carry more than three tines.
- Because of this distinctive character it is designated *bārah-singgā*, meaning “twelve-horned” in Hindi.
- In Assamese, Barasingha is called *dolhorina*; *dol* meaning swamp.
- There are three subspecies of Barasingha found in India -
- Wetland Barasingha, the largest among all the swamp deers of India
- Hard-ground/Southern Barasingha
- Eastern Barasingha
- All the three species of swamp deer vary in dental and cranial features, and a few other features as well.
- Eastern Barasingha, the smallest of Barasinghas, has smaller tail and antlers compared to other subspecies.
- Large off-white hair on the inner side of the ears makes this Barasingha different from other two subspecies.
- The eastern swamp deer is endemic to Kaziranga.

- **Swamp deer is considered Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List.**
- **It is considered as Appendix I in CITES.**
- **It is placed under Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.**

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Pacific ring of fire



- The Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano (near the island nation of Tonga), located on the Pacific 'Ring of fire' has erupted recently.
- The Pacific 'Ring of Fire' or Pacific rim, or the Circum-Pacific Belt, is an area along the Pacific Ocean.
- It is a long horseshoe-shaped seismically active belt of earthquake epicenters, volcanoes, and tectonic plate boundaries.
- It is home to about 75 per cent of the world's volcanoes i.e., more than 450 volcanoes.
- Also, about 90 per cent of the world's earthquakes occur here.

- Its length is over 40,000 kilometers and traces from New Zealand clockwise in an almost circular arc covering Tonga, Kermadec Islands, Indonesia, moving up to the Philippines, Japan, and stretching eastward to the Aleutian Islands, then southward along the western coast of North America and South America.
- The area is along several tectonic plates including the Pacific plate, Philippine Plate, Juan de Fuca plate, Cocos plate, Nazca plate, and North American plate.
- The movement of these plates or tectonic activity makes the area witness abundant earthquakes and tsunamis every year.
- Along much of the Ring of Fire, tectonic plates move towards each other creating subduction zones.
- This is a very slow process – a movement of just one or two inches per year.
- As this subduction happens, rocks melt, become magma and move to Earth's surface and cause volcanic activity.
- Subduction zones are also where most of the violent earthquakes on the planet occur.

- Major volcanic events that have occurred within the Ring of Fire since 1800 included the eruptions of Mount Tambora (1815), Krakatoa (1883), Novarupta (1912), Mount Saint Helens (1980), Mount Ruiz (1985), and Mount Pinatubo (1991).
- The Ring of Fire has been the setting for several of the largest earthquakes in recorded history, including the Chile earthquake of 1960, the Alaska earthquake of 1964, the Chile earthquake of 2010, and the Japan earthquake of 2011 as well as the earthquake that produced the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004.
- The December 26, 2004 earthquake occurred along the subduction zone where the Indian Plate was subducted beneath the Burma plate.
- In the case of Tonga, the Pacific Plate was pushed down below the Indo-Australian Plate and Tonga plate, causing the molten rock to rise above and form the chain of volcanoes.

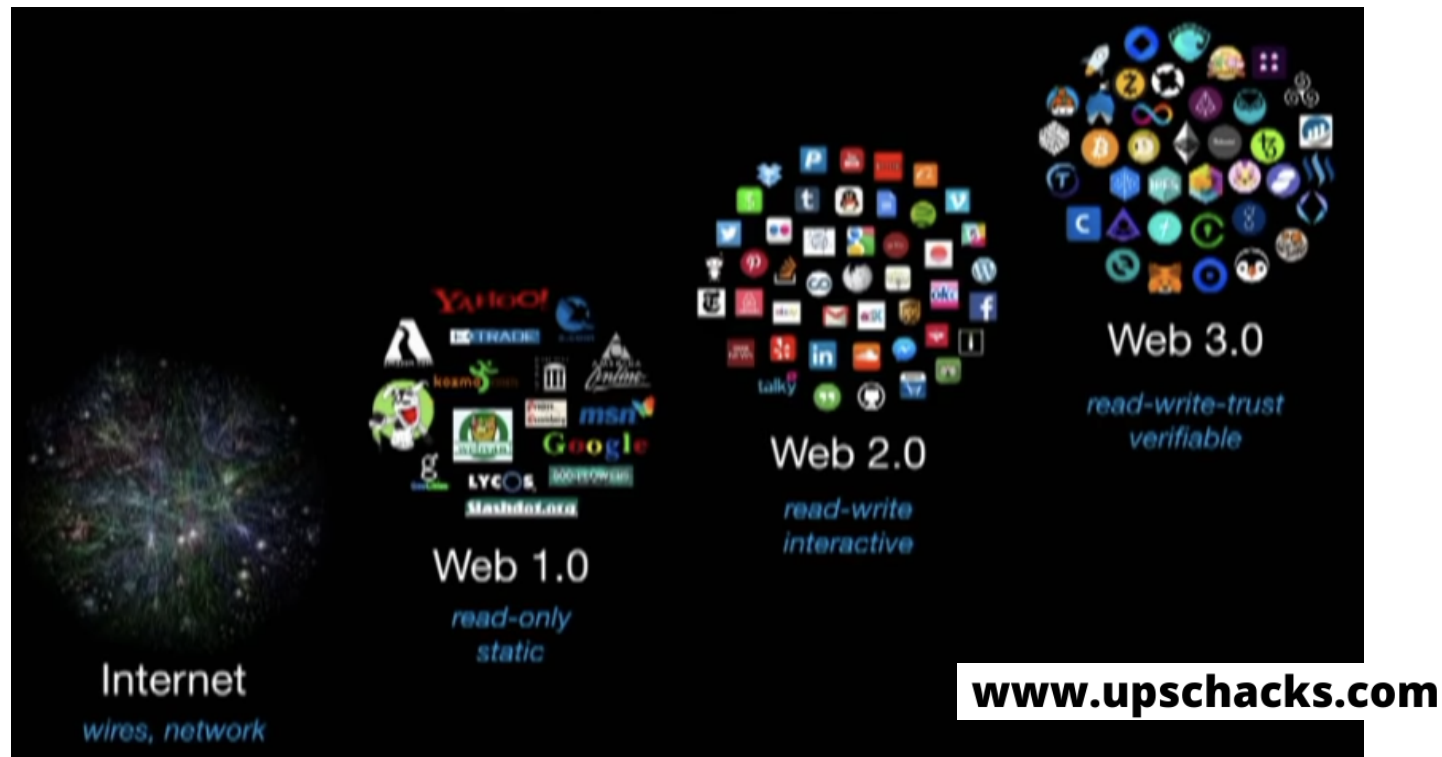
Indonesia to relocate capital



- It is reported that Indonesia's current capital Jakarta is slowly sinking and experts are predicting that up to a third of the city could be underwater by 2050.
- New capital site is located 2,000 kilometers away from Jakarta and will be named "Nusantara" which means "archipelago" in Javanese language.
- It will cover about 56,180 hectares in East Kalimantan province on the Indonesian part of Borneo, which the country shares with Malaysia and Brunei.
- The new city will be governed by a body dubbed the State Capital Authority, with leadership appointed to five-year terms directly by the president.
- The government has envisioned the new capital as a low-carbon "superhub" that will support pharmaceutical, health and technology sectors and promote sustainable growth beyond Java island.

- **Indonesia is not the first country in the region to relocate from an overpopulated capital.**
- **Malaysia moved its government to Putrajaya from Kuala Lumpur in 2003, while Myanmar moved its capital to Naypyidaw from Rangoon in 2006.**
- **Indonesia is the largest country in Southeast Asia, with a maximum dimension from east to west of about 5,100 km.**
- **It shares a border with Malaysia in the northern part of Borneo and with Papua New Guinea in the centre of New Guinea.**
- **Its current capital is Jakarta and the currency is Indonesian rupiah.**
- **Its islands can be grouped into the Greater Sunda Islands of Sumatra (Sumatera), Java (Jawa), the southern extent of Borneo (Kalimantan), and Celebes (Sulawesi), the Lesser Sunda Islands (Nusa Tenggara) of Bali and a chain of islands that runs eastward.**
- **Indonesia was formerly known as the Dutch East Indies (or Netherlands East Indies).**

Web 3.0



- The concept of Web3, also called Web 3.0, used to describe a potential next phase of the internet, created quite a buzz in 2021.
- It is a decentralized internet to be run on blockchain technology, which would be different from the versions in use, Web 1.0 and Web 2.0.
- In Web3, users will have ownership stakes in platforms and applications unlike now where tech giants control the platforms.
- Currently if a seller has to make a business to the buyer, both the buyer and seller need to be registered on a “shop” or “platform” like Amazon or Ebay or any such e-commerce portal.

- What this “platform” currently does is that it authenticates that the buyer and seller are genuine parties for the transaction.
- Web3 tries to remove the role of the “platform”.
- For the buyer to be authenticated, the usual proofs aided by block chain technology will be used.
- The same goes for the seller and with block chain, the time and place of transaction are recorded permanently.
- Thus, Web3 enables peer to peer (seller to buyer) transactions by eliminating the role of the intermediary.
- The spirit of Web3 is Decentralized Autonomous Organization (DAO) which is that all the business rules and governing rules in any transaction are transparently available for anyone to see and software will be written conforming to these rules.

How did the Amar Jawan Jyoti keep burning for 50 years at India Gate?



- The Amar Jawan Jyoti, which was merged with the flame at the National War Memorial at India Gate, was burning for around 50 years without being extinguished.
- It was kept burning with the help of LPG cylinders till 2006, following which it was changed to piped natural gas (PNG). One LPG cylinder could keep one burner alive for 1.5 days.

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