

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road through a dense green forest. Several cars are visible on the road, including a white car, a blue car, and a white van. The road curves through the trees, and the overall scene is lush and green.

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DAILY NEWS DECODE

29.01.22

Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran - The Chief Economic Advisor.



- **The Government has appointed Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran as the Chief Economic Advisor.**
- **Prior to this appointment, Dr. Nageswaran has worked as a writer, author, teacher and consultant. He has taught at several business schools and institutes of management in India and in Singapore and has published extensively.**
- **He was the Dean of the IFMR Graduate School of Business and a distinguished Visiting Professor of Economics at Krea University.**
- **He has also been a part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India from 2019 to 2021.**

- He holds a Post-Graduate Diploma in Management from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad and a doctoral degree from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

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World's-largest canal lock unveiled in Netherlands



- The world's largest canal lock has been inaugurated at IJmuiden, a small port city, in the Port of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The sea lock was inaugurated by Dutch King Willen-Alexander. The IJmuiden sea lock is 500-meter (1,640-foot) long and 70-meter wide. Construction on the massive infrastructure project began in 2016 and was meant to be done by 2019. It also went over the initially planned budget by around €300 million (\$338 million).
- The IJmuiden lock was designed to allow large, modern cargo ships to reach the port of Amsterdam. The structure is also deep enough that ships will no longer have to wait for a favourable water level to enter the canal. With almost nine meters above the sea level, the structure is also a defence against the threat of flooding.

India's largest EV charging station opened at Gurgaon



- India's largest electric vehicle (EV) charging station with a capacity of 100 charging points for 4 wheelers, was opened at Delhi-Jaipur National Highway in Gurugram. Previously, India's largest EV charging station was situated in Navi Mumbai with 16 AC & 4 DC charging ports for EVs.
- The new EV charging station has been developed by tech-piloting company Alektrify Private Limited.
- This EV charging station will not only boost the electric vehicles industry in the region but will also act as a benchmark for large EV charging stations across the nation in future. The electric vehicle charging station of this size and magnitude is rare and will be instrumental for the industry to experience actual Ease of Doing Business in smooth 'Certification Compliance' and 'Safety Standards'.

Lok Sabha secretariat launches Digital Sansad app



- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has launched the official mobile application of the Parliament named 'Digital Sansad App' on January 27, 2022, to allow citizens to access live proceedings of the House, including the Union Budget 2022 live.
- The app will make the Parliament and Parliamentary proceedings accessible not only to the members but also to the public of the country.
- Through the Digital Sansad App, citizens can check what their members of Parliament are doing, what debates they are participating in and what they are saying. Using the app, parliamentarians can also digitally log their attendance.

- The app contains information on budget speeches since 1947 as well as House discussions from the 12th Lok Sabha to 17th Lok Sabha. It will also contain a live telecast of Sansad proceedings. 2022 Budget session can also be watched live on this App.

How will this app help MPs?

- The app will also help members of parliament to access services like checking personal updates viz., House bulletins, the status of their notices, etc.
- MPs are barred from using laptops inside the house. Thus, this app will become handy for MPs to get parliamentary information during any debate in the House.
- In future, this app will help MPs to log in for attendance, give questions for the Question Hour as well as submit notices for debates or adjournment motions.

Why this app was launched?

- Legislature is required to keep its constituents apprised of its routine proceedings. This objective needs Parliament to keep its communication channels up-to-date with evolving technological landscape. Thus, parliament started expanding its digital footprint. The launch of the 'Digital Sansad App' is an initiative in that direction.

India's first graphene innovation center to be established in Kerala



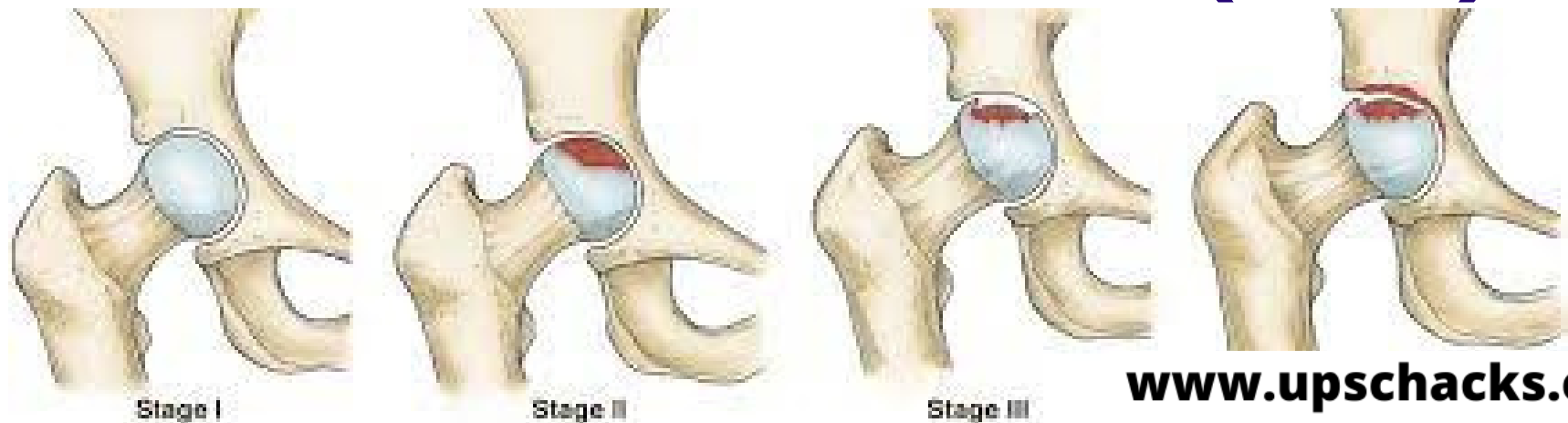
- India's first innovation centre for graphene will be set up in Kerala by the Digital University Kerala (DUK), along with the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) in Thrissur, for Rs 86.41 crore.
- This will be the first graphene Research and Development (R&D) incubation centre in the country. Tata Steel Limited is set to be the industrial partner of the centre.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, has given approval for the project. The project, which will be implemented with the support of the Kerala government, is expected to accelerate the state's growth in the knowledge industry sector.

- Graphene is known for its extraordinary electrical and electronic properties, and as per latest research, it could replace indium and thereby bring down the cost of OLED (organic light-emitting diode) screens in smartphones.
- Graphene has good chemical stability, high electrical conductivity and a large surface area while being transparent and lightweight.

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AVASCULAR NECROSIS (AVN)



- The health woes of the patients infected with Covid-19 in the second wave still continues as many are being diagnosed with the long post-Covid complications of Avascular Necrosis (AVN), referred to as bone death.
- To find a clinical explanation, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has submitted a proposal to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) seeking approval for a multicentric study to probe cases of AVN among Covid-19 recovered patients.
- The AVN is not a new ailment. Before Covid, this case was found due to smoking, alcoholism, and steroid use linked to other conditions.
- AVN, or Osteonecrosis, is a common cause of painful hips in youngsters. It occurs due to the restricted blood supply to the bone, resulting in loss of its density and weight-bearing capacity.

- **As the bone breaks into small pieces, the patient suffers unbearable pain and loses mobility completely. Hip bones are more prone to this.**
- **Not all patients with AVN need to undergo hip replacement surgeries. When the disease progresses in the first or second stage, core decompression surgeries are conducted. When it reaches the third and fourth stages, then joint replacement surgeries are done.**

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Who are the members of the team behind Union Budget 2022-23?



- The team that helped Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman prepare the Union Budget includes Finance Secretary TV Somanathan, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj and Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth.
- It also includes Disinvestment Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey and Financial Services Secretary Debasish Panda. V Anantha Nageswaran was appointed as Chief Economic Adviser, few days ahead of the Budget.

Scotland waste-reduction project aims to recycle hundreds of tonnes of PPE



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- A research partnership between Scotland's Heriot-Watt University and PPE maker Globus Group aims to recycle hundreds of tonnes of plastic personal protective equipment (PPE) like masks and gloves.
- Researchers said used plastic PPE will be turned into a secondary raw material called pyrolysis oil, which can then be refined into new commercial products like new PPE products or fuels.

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38% global emissions caused by construction, operation of buildings:

WEF



- According to the World Economic Forum, the construction and operation of buildings are responsible for 38% of global emissions.
- There's an urgent need for solutions to help accelerate decarbonisation of the urban-built environment to limit the global temperature rise to below 1.5°C, the forum said.
- WEF also noted that there's an urgent need to accelerate investment to implement these solutions.

WHO shares list of 21 vaccine-preventable diseases



- The WHO has shared a list of 21 vaccine-preventable diseases on Twitter, saying, "Talk to your health worker to ensure vaccination is up to date for you and your family."
- The list includes COVID-19, Cervical cancer, Cholera, Diphtheria, Ebola, Hepatitis B, Influenza, Japanese encephalitis, Measles, Meningitis, Mumps, Pertussis, Pneumonia, Polio, Rabies, Rotavirus and Typhoid, among others.

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IIT Jodhpur develops technique to diagnose COVID using chest X-ray



- The researchers at IIT Jodhpur have designed a special AI (Artificial Intelligence) technique to diagnose COVID-19 using chest X-ray.
- Based on deep learning, they proposed an algorithm called COMiT-Net that studies the abnormalities in lungs to differentiate between normal and COVID-19 infected lungs.
- They studied 2,500 X-ray images for the research and achieved about 96.8% accuracy.

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