

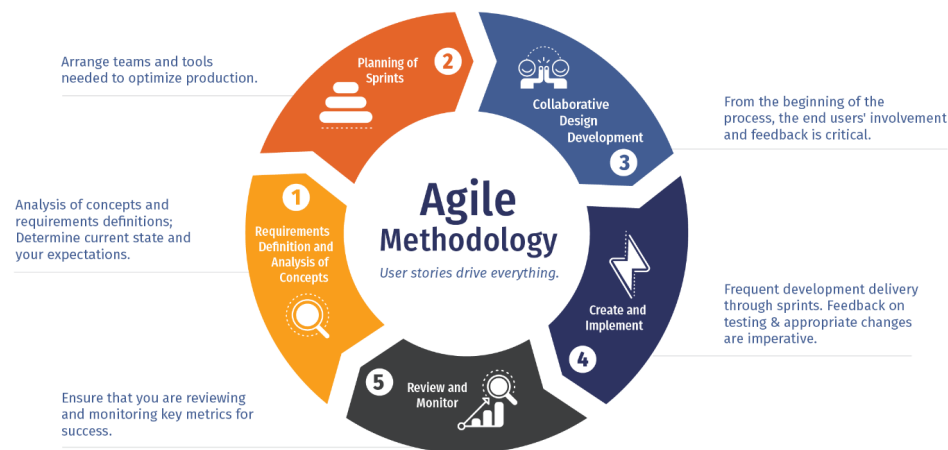
An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that curves through a dense, lush green forest. Several cars are visible on the road, including a white car, a blue car, and a white van. The road has white dashed lines for lane markings. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down at the road and the surrounding trees.

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DAILY NEWS DECODE

02.02.22

AGILE APPROACH



- The central theme of this year's Economic Survey is the "Agile approach", implemented through India's economic response to the COVID-19 Pandemic shock.
- The preface of Economic Survey states that the "Agile approach" is based on feed-back loops, real-time monitoring of actual outcomes, flexible responses, safety-net buffers and so on.
- The Economic Survey 2021-22 argues that some form of feedback loop based policy-making was always possible, but the "Agile framework: is particularly relevant today because of the explosion of real-time data that allows for constant monitoring.
- Such information includes GST collections, digital payments, satellite photographs, electricity production, cargo movements, internal/external trade, infrastructure roll-out, delivery of various schemes, mobility indicators, to name just a few.

- **Another theme highlighted in this Economic Survey relates to the art and science of policy-making under conditions of extreme uncertainty.**
- **The Preface also takes a bird's eye view of the "great deal of evolution" of the Economic Surveys presented since the first Survey in 1950-51.**

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India's first geological park will be built in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh



- The first geological park of India will be built in Lamheta, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh.
- Approval for the park was given by the Geological Survey of India, under the ministry of mining.
- Park will be constructed with an investment of Rs 35 crores, over five-acre land.
- The geological park will be built in Lamheta, because this place is among significant places in the world, from the geological point of view.
- In 1928, William Henry Sleeman had discovered a Dinosaur fossil from this area.

- **UNESCO has also recognised Lamheta as a geo heritage site. Lameta Formation is also called Infratrappean Beds.**
- **It is a sedimentary geological formation found in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.**
- **It is associated with the Deccan Traps. It is of the Maastrichtian age and is known for dinosaur fossils.**
- **Geopark is a unified area, which advances the protection and use of geological heritage in a sustainable manner.**
- **It also promotes the economic well-being of the people living there.**

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Spituk Gustor Festival celebrated in Ladakh 2022



- **Spituk Gustor Festival, a two-day annual celebration of Ladakhi culture and traditional heritage celebrated on 30th & 31st January 2022 in Leh and Ladakh Union Territory.**
- **To witness the colourful festivities, devotees arrive at the Spituk Monastery every year and attend the colourful mask dance locally called "Chams".**
- **Spituk monastery is 8 km from Leh. It is a celebration of peace and prosperity that is celebrated at the Spituk Monastery in Leh and Ladakh UT.**

- **The main attraction of the festival was the colourful mask dance locally called Chams performed by the monks of the monastery in their best robes depicting different deities such as Mahakala (Gonbo), Paldan Lhamo (Shridevi), White Mahakala, Protector Deity.**
- **The mask dance began with Serskam followed by Hashang Hatuk, Six Arms Mahakala, Paldan Lhamo, Shawa, Janak Chams. However, local people believe that after this festival, the weather will get warmer and more pleasant.**

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World Wetlands Day observed on 02 February



- World Wetlands Day is observed every year on February 2 all over the world. 2022 marks 51 years of the Convention on Wetlands.
- The international theme for World Wetlands Day 2022 is 'Wetlands Action for People and Nature'.
- The day aims to raise awareness about the crucial role played by wetlands for people and our planet.
- The day is celebrated to mark the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. World Wetlands Day was first celebrated in 1997.

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New genus of parasitic flowering plant discovered from Nicobar Islands



- The genus *Septemeranthus* grows on the plant species *Horsfieldia glabra* (Blume) Warb.
- The name *Septemeranthus* is derived from the Latin word 'septem' meaning 'seven', referring to the arrangement of flowers.
- The genus belongs to the family Loranthaceae, a hemiparasite under the sandalwood order Santalales and is of widespread importance.
- The parasitic flowering plants have a modified root structure spread on the stem of the tree and are anchored inside the bark of the host tree.
- The genus *Septemeranthus* has a distinct vegetative morphology, inflorescence architecture and floral characters.
- The leaves of the plant are heart-shaped with a very long tip and the ovary, fruit and seeds are 'urceolate' (earthen pot-shaped).

- The flowers have five persistent bracts having conspicuous margins.
- The newly discovered plant that derives nutrients from its hosts has green leaves capable of photosynthesis.
- The new genus is unique in that it is endemic only to the Nicobar group of islands.
- In addition to *Septemeranthus*, four other genera on non-parasitic plants, *Nicobariodendron* (Hippocrateaceae), *Pseudodiplospora* (Rubiaceae), *Pubistylis* (Rubiaceae), *Sphyranthera*, (Euphorbiaceae) have also been discovered earlier from Nicobar group of islands.
- Recently a new species in the hemiparasitic family Loranthaceae, *Dendrophthoe laljii* have also been discovered from the Nicobar group of islands.

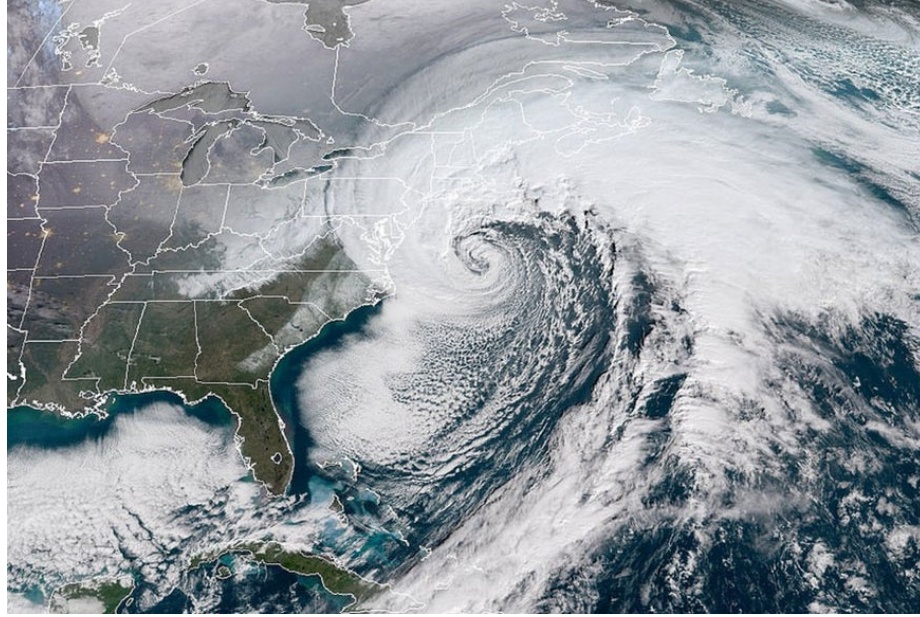
Honduras



- The Republic of Honduras is a country of Central America situated between Guatemala and El Salvador to the west and Nicaragua to the south and east.
- The Caribbean Sea washes its northern coast, the Pacific Ocean its narrow coast to the south.
- Its capital and largest city is Tegucigalpa.
- In the pre-Columbian era, modern Honduras was split between two pan-cultural regions: Mesoamerica in the west and the Isthmo-Colombian area in the east.
- It was home to several important Mesoamerican cultures, most notably the Maya, before the Spanish Colonization in the sixteenth century.
- The Spanish introduced Roman Catholicism and the now predominant Spanish language.

- It became independent in 1821 and has since been a republic.
- Honduran society is predominantly Mestizo, however, American Indian, black and white individuals also live in Honduras.
- More than three-fourths of the land area of Honduras is mountainous, lowlands being found only along the coasts and in the several river valleys that penetrate toward the interior.
- A large undeveloped lowland jungle, La Mosquitia lies in the northeast, and the heavily populated lowland Sula valley in the northwest.
- In La Mosquitia lies the UNESCO world-heritage site Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve, with the Coco River which divides Honduras from Nicaragua.
- It is known for its rich natural resources, including minerals, coffee, tropical fruit, and sugar cane, as well as for its growing textiles industry, which serves the international market.

What is a bomb cyclone?



- A bomb cyclone is a large, intense midlatitude storm that has low pressure at its center, weather fronts and an array of associated weather, from blizzards to severe thunderstorms to heavy precipitation.
- It becomes a bomb when its central pressure decreases very quickly—by at least 24 millibars in 24 hours.
- It typically develops in the wintertime, over the ocean or off a coast (in temperate latitudes).
- Two famed meteorologists, Fred Sanders and John Gyakum, gave this pattern its name in a 1980 study.
- Bomb cyclones form through a process called “bombogenesis”, that occurs when a cold air mass collides with warm waters.

- As this happens, the pressure drops significantly and a cyclone forms and intensifies.
- When a cyclone “bombs,” or undergoes bombogenesis, this tells us that it has access to the optimal ingredients for strengthening, such as high amounts of heat, moisture and rising air.

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Income tax return form to have a separate column for crypto next year



- **The income tax return form will have a separate column for gains made from cryptocurrencies and paying taxes from next year, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said.**
- **The government will from April 1 charge a 30% tax plus cess and surcharges, on such transactions, he added.**
- **Bajaj said crypto gains were always taxable and the budget provided certainty over the issue.**

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Limiting global warming to 1.5°C still catastrophic for coral reefs: Study



- **A University of Leeds-led study has said limiting global warming to 1.5°C will still be "catastrophic" for coral reefs. It said over 90% of tropical coral reefs will suffer frequent heat stress even under Paris Agreement climate warming limits.**
- **"Our finding reinforces the stark reality that there is no safe limit of global warming for coral reefs," a researcher said.**

Guj, UP sanctuaries listed as Ramsar sites on International Wetlands Day



- **On International Wetlands Day, Iran's Ramsar Convention has named the Khijadia Bird Sanctuary near Jamnagar in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh as Ramsar sites i.e. Wetlands of International Importance.**
- **"India has established the largest network of Ramsar sites in South Asia.**
- **Our tally now stands at 49," sharing the news, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav tweeted.**

Asteroid detected 2 yrs ago to stay in Earth's orbit for 4,000 yrs: Study



- An asteroid named 2020 XL5, which was detected two years ago, might remain in Earth's orbit for at least 4,000 more years while posing no danger, scientists said.
- It is one of only two of what are called Trojan asteroids travelling as a companion with Earth.
- Its location varies between about 90 million-270 million kilometres from Earth.