

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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# MEDICAL CANNABIS



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- In a bid to strengthen its position in the global medical cannabis industry, Indian pharmaceutical major Dr Reddy's Laboratories has said that it will acquire German firm Nimbus Health.

- Nimbus has been a major player in the field of cannabis-based medicines.
- Globally, the legal cannabis market is expected to reach an estimated valuation of \$146.4 billion by 2025-end.
- A recent report by ResearchAndMarkets.com pegged the market size of medical cannabis at \$176 billion by 2030 as various countries are considering legalising it.
- In India, while trade and consumption of cannabis is banned under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act of 1985, calls for legalising its use for medicinal purposes have grown stronger over the years.
- In January this year, the government had informed the Delhi High Court that cannabis is not completely prohibited in the country as its medical and scientific use is allowed after obtaining necessary permissions from state governments.

- In 2018, Uttarakhand had become the first state in the country to allow commercial cultivation of hemp crops.
- A year later, the Madhya Pradesh government also did the same.

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# LAKADONG TURMERIC



- West Jaintia Hills witnessed the first-of-its-kind Fly-Off Event to demonstrate the use of novel and innovative Drone/UAV technology for payload delivery, that could serve as a model of solving the 1st mile connectivity issues for Lakadong Turmeric farmers from the hinterland.
- Lakadong Turmeric has been identified under The One District, One Product (ODOP) Initiative under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, as a product with excellent potential for growth and export for West Jaintia Hills.

- **ODOP partnered with AGNli Mission, one of the nine technology missions under the Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council to identify Indian innovative technologies that can play a transformative role in the end-to-end processing of Lakadong Turmeric.**
- **It may be noted that the Lakadong Turmeric from West Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya, one of the world's finest turmeric varieties with the highest curcumin content of 7-9% (in comparison to 3% or less in other varieties), is fast becoming a game changer in the economy of the district.**
- **The State of Meghalaya has applied for a Geographical Indication tag for Lakadong turmeric.**
- **India produces 78 per cent of the world's turmeric, as per a reply given by the Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar in the Rajya Sabha**

# GHOST ARMY



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- US President Joe Biden on February 2, 2022 signed into law a bill titled, “Ghost Army Congressional Gold Medal Act”, essentially providing recognition to the ‘Ghost Army’, a tactical deception unit deployed by the US during World War II.
- In 1944, this unit was tasked with a mission to put on a show for the German troops in an attempt to deceive them and manipulate their decisions.
- Their deception tactics involved using inflatable dummy tanks, personnel, trucks and sound effects. The heaviest weapon in their possession was a 0.50 caliber machine gun.
- Seventy-seven years since this mission was undertaken, there are just nine surviving veterans of the Ghost Army scattered across the US.

- The existence of the 'Ghost Army' was unknown for about 50 years after it was formed in January 1944. The unit had a "strange mission", to keep enemy troops in the dark about the number and location of American troops.
- Its existence was declassified in 1996.

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# **IIT Roorkee researchers find enzyme that breaks down plastic faster**



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- IIT Roorkee researchers found a three-dimensional structure of an enzyme from the microbe, *Comamonas testosteroni* KF1 that can help break down plastics faster, especially the non-biodegradable ones.
- Lead author Ravindra Kumar said the team identified all enzymes responsible for phthalate and teraphthalate degradation.
- Phthalate is a potential carcinogen used to increase plastics' durability.

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# Who was Saint Ramanujacharya, honoured with 216-ft Statue of Equality?



- Saint Ramanujacharya, in whose honour PM Narendra Modi unveiled the 216-foot-tall Statue of Equality in Hyderabad, was a revered Vedic philosopher and social reformer.
- Born in 1017 in Tamil Nadu, Ramanujacharya revived the Bhakti movement.
- He's credited with establishing the correct procedures for rituals performed in temples.
- He's also regarded as an inspiration for poets like Kabir and Meerabai.

# 100 years of Chauri Chaura incident



- Year 2022 marks the completion of 100 years of the Chauri Chaura incident.
- On 2 February 1922, volunteers participating in the Non-cooperation Movement led by a retired Army soldier named Bhagwan Ahir, protested against high food prices and liquor sale in the marketplace.
- The demonstrators were beaten back by the local police and several of the leaders were arrested and put in the lock-up at the Chauri Chaura police station.
- In response to this, a protest against the police was called on 4 February, to be held at the local marketplace.
- On 4 February, 1922, approximately 2,000 to 2,500 protesters assembled and began marching towards the market at Chauri Chaura.

- They had gathered to picket a liquor shop in the marketplace. Their leader was arrested, beaten and put in jail.
- Part of the crowd gathered in front of the local police station shouting slogans demanding the release of their leader.
- In an attempt to frighten and disperse the crowd, the police fired warning shots into the air. This only agitated the crowd who began to throw stones at the police.
- With the situation getting out of control, the Indian sub-inspector in charge ordered the police to open fire on the advancing crowd, killing three and wounding several others.
- In the ensuing chaos, the heavily outnumbered police fell back to the shelter of the police chowki while the angry mob advanced.
- Infuriated by the gunfire into their ranks, the crowd set the chowki ablaze, killing all of the Indian policemen and chaprassis (official messengers) trapped inside, resulting in deaths of three civilians and 23 policemen.

- **The incident dealt a blow to the nonviolent noncooperation movement led by Mahatma Gandhi, who denounced the violence in Chauri Chaura and called off a campaign of civil disobedience that he had been about to launch in Bardoli, Gujarat state.**
- **Suspension of the campaign angered Jawaharlal Nehru, Motilal Nehru and CR Das.**

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# What is the Motion of thanks?



- The Address of the President, which corresponds to the 'speech from the Throne in Britain', is discussed in both the Houses of Parliament on a motion called the 'Motion of Thanks'.
- Clause(2) of Article 87 of the Constitution requires that provision shall be made by the rules regulating the procedure of either House for the allotment of time for discussion of the matters referred to in the President's Address.
- It is available to the members of Parliament, for raising discussions & debates in a bid to examine and criticise government.
- Usually, three days are allotted to discussion on Motion of Thanks.

- **Amendments on the Motion of Thanks are to be moved in such form 'as may be considered appropriate by the Chairman/Speaker' and it is the discretion of the Chair whether to admit or disallow amendments.**
- **If any of the amendments are put forward and accepted then the Motion of Thanks is adopted in the amended form.**
- **Amendments may refer to matters contained in the Address as well as to matters which, in the opinion of the member, the Address has failed to mention.**
- **At the end of the discussion, the motion is put to vote.**
- **The Motion of Thanks must be passed in the House, Otherwise, it amounts to the defeat of the government.**
- **The President's Address is the statement of policy of the Government and, as such, is drafted by the Government which is responsible for its contents.**
- **It contains a review of various activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies, projects and programmes which the Government of the day wishes to pursue with regard to the important national and international issues.**
- **It also indicates, in broad terms, items of legislative business which are proposed to be brought during the sessions to be held in that year.**