

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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NO-BUILD ZONE AROUND MONUMENTS



- The 100-metre radius around Centrally protected monuments where construction is prohibited could be replaced with site-specific limits to be decided by an expert committee, as the Union Culture Ministry was working on amendments to the relevant Act.
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958, was amended in 2010 to declare the 100-metre radius of protected monuments as prohibited areas and the next 300-metre radius as regulated areas.
- However, according to Ministry officials as well as a recent Parliamentary Standing Committee report, there was no specific reason for the 100-metre and 300-metre limits.

- **The proposed amendment would change Section 20A of the Act, which refers to the prohibited area, to rationalise the prohibited and regulated areas. Expert monument committees would decide the prohibited area around a monument.**
- **These areas could be as wide as 500 metres for some sites like the Taj Mahal.**
- **The amendment would also enable the ASI to act against encroachment by holding the relevant authorities liable in case of illegal buildings at a protected site, the official said. This would be similar to the enforcement powers under the Indian Forest Act.**

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INDIA-BANGLADESH RAILWAYS CONTRACT



- The Bangladesh railways will procure 420 broad-gauge wagons from India.
- The agreement was signed in Dhaka between the project director of Bangladesh railways Mizanur Rahman and the Hindustan Engineering and Industries Limited.
- The agreement worth Tk. 231 crore will be implemented within 27 months of the signing of the contract.
- This project is being implemented with the joint funding of the Government of Bangladesh and Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the Rolling Stock Operation Improvement Project.
- These are high speed bogies with automatic air brake systems so that the general and specialised products like various food grains, fertilisers, stones, wood etc. can reach the destination safely at low cost and in less time. The wagons are equipped with a stainless steel body.

SOWA RIGPA



- For the first time, the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine - National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, NCISM-NEET, has conducted an entrance test to Bachelor of Sowa Rigpa Medicine and Surgery (BSRMS) (Menpa Kachupa).
- Including Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, CIBS, and National Research Institute For Sowa Rigpa, NRISR, in Leh, the entrance is conducted in Dharamshala , Varanasi, Gangtok and Darjeeling.
- Sowa-Rigpa, the Science of Healing, is one of the seven Ayush systems, received UGC recognition in October last year. Sowa Rigpa is one of the oldest and well documented systems of traditional medicine in the world, and is popular in Himalayan region.
- The results of the entrance test will be declared on 8th of this month and academic sessions for first batch BSRMS will begin from March 14th this year.

SACHINDRA NATH SANYAL



- The Nation is remembering Revolutionary Sachindra Nath Sanyal on his 80th death anniversary.
- He was the founder of the Hindustan Republican Association also known as Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. It was created to carry out armed resistance against the British Empire in India.
- Sachindra Nath Sanyal was a mentor for revolutionaries like Chandrasekhar Azad and Bhagat Singh.
- He along with Rashbehari Bose attacked Viceroy Hardinge and injured him while he was entering new capital of Delhi.
- Sanyal was closely involved in the plans for the Ghadar Conspiracy. He was sentenced to life for his involvement in the conspiracy and was imprisoned at Cellular Jail.

- He was also jailed by the British for his involvement in Kakori Conspiracy.
- Sachindra Nath Sanyal passed away in Gorakhpur Jail on 7th February 194

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ANTARCTIC MICROBES FOR PLASTIC CLEAN-UP



- A team of Argentine scientists is using microorganisms native to Antarctica to explore the idea of cleaning up pollution from fuels and, potentially, plastics in the pristine expanses of the white continent.
- The tiny microbes munch through the waste, creating a naturally occurring cleaning system for pollution caused by diesel that is used as a source of electricity and heat for research bases in the frozen Antarctic.
- The continent is protected by a 1961 Madrid Protocol that stipulates it must be kept in a pristine state.
- The research on how the microbes could help with plastic waste could have potential for wider environmental issues. This work uses the potential of native microorganisms - bacteria and fungi that inhabit the Antarctic soil, even when it is contaminated.

INDIA-MALDIVES RELATIONS



- Maldives has announced that the Visa-free entry for Indian business travelers to the island nation, comes into effect.
- Starting from the 1st of February 2022, it has commenced the process of granting Indian Nationals visa free entry for business purposes, for a period not exceeding the visa free period of 90 days.
- This is according to the Agreement on the Facilitation of Visa Arrangements between both the governments, signed on the 17th of December, 2018.
- As part of the reciprocal arrangement, a multiple entry, non-resident, business visa will be granted for Indian Nationals for a period of 90 days within 6 months. Any Indian National with an approved business visa is eligible to renew their visa up to 180 days within a calendar year.

PARAY SHIKSHALAYA



- The West Bengal government on February 7 launched 'Paray Shikshalaya' – an open-air classroom in the neighbourhood programme – for students from class 1 to 7.
- The aim of this initiative is to encourage students who dropped out of schools during the Covid-19 pandemic to continue their education.
- Initially, the initiative was meant for primary school students (1 to 5). However, students in classes 6 and 7 were also included as physical classes in schools did not reopen for them
- Students are being called in batches. Arrangements for mid-day meals have also been made for the students taking neighbourhood classes.

- **Schools which do not have open-air spaces conducted the classes in neighbourhood parks and grounds. Local councilors and MLAs helped set up infrastructure in such parks like putting up makeshift shades and chairs, besides making mid-day meal arrangements for the students. Schools which have open-air spaces held the classes there.**

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SANTISHREE PANDIT



- **Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, a political science professor at Savitribai Phule Pune University, has been appointed as the first woman Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).**
- **She was appointed by President Ram Nath Kovind, who is the University's Visitor.**
- **She will hold the job for the next five years.**
- **She succeeds M. Jagadesh Kumar, who was appointed Chairperson of the University Grants Commission last week.**
- **Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) is a public central major research university located in New Delhi, India.**
- **It was established in 1969 and named after Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister.**

OPERATION AAHT



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- The Railway Protection Force has launched a nationwide operation to curb human trafficking.
- As part of “Operation AAHT”, special teams will be deployed on all long-distance trains/routes with focus on rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers.
- The Railways, which operate about 21,000 trains across the country daily, is the most reliable mode of transportation for the traffickers who often move their victims on long-distance trains.

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- **As part of “Operation AAHT”, the infrastructure and intelligence network of the force could be utilised to collect, collate and analyse clues on victims, source, route, destination, popular trains used by suspects, identity of carriers/agents, kingpins etc and shared with other law-enforcing agencies.**
- **The RPF could act as a bridge cutting across States to assist the local police in the mission to curb the menace.**

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Queen Elizabeth II marks 70th anniversary of her rule 2022



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- The United Kingdom has marked the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's rule, the queen looked to the future of the monarchy. She surpassed Louis XIV of France as the longest-reigning monarch of a sovereign state. She became the longest-lived British monarch on 21 December 2007.
- In 2017, she became the first British monarch to commemorate a Sapphire Jubilee. Elizabeth II is the Queen of the United Kingdom and 14 other Commonwealth realms. On 6 February 1952, Elizabeth became queen after the death of her father King George VI.

Salesforce Global Index: India leads in digital skills readiness



- **Salesforce, a leading player in Customer Relationship Management (CRM), published the Global Digital Skills Index 2022 which highlights the growing global digital skills crisis and the need for action.**
- **India has scored 63 out of 100, leads the digital skills readiness, and has the highest readiness index among the 19 countries. The average global readiness score was 33 out of 100.**
- **The 2022 Global Digital Skills Index, is based on a survey on around 23000 workers across 19 countries about digital skills, including their impact on the future of work, concerns about job readiness, and the significance of continuous learning.**

- **Three major skills gaps were identified in the 2022 global index: The everyday skills gap, The generational skills gap, and The leadership and workforce skills gap.**

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