

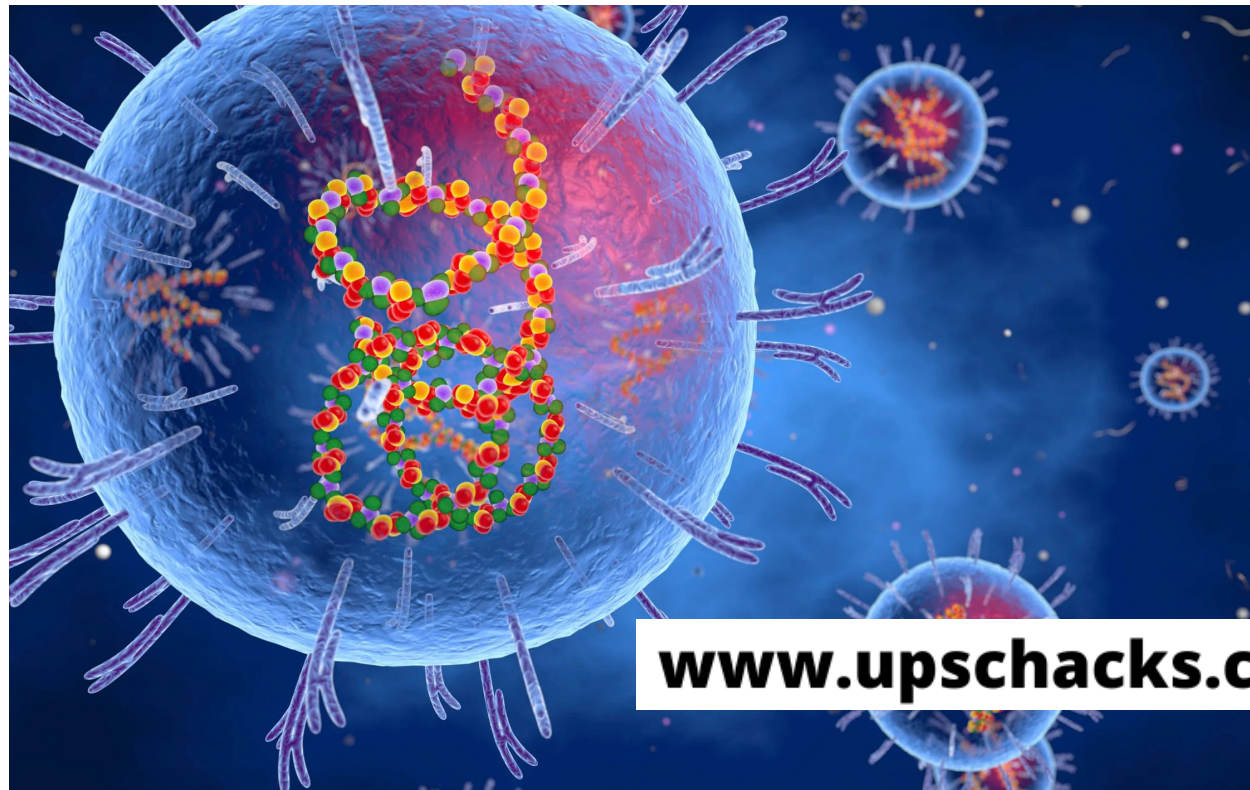
An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that curves through a dense, lush green forest. Several cars are visible on the road, including a white car, a blue car, and a dark car. The road has white dashed lines marking the lanes. The overall scene is vibrant and scenic.

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DAILY NEWS DECODE

16.02.22

What's the deadly Lassa fever that's being reported after 13 years in UK?



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- One of the three people diagnosed with Lassa viral fever, in its latest outbreak after 13 years in the UK, has died of the disease.
- It is spread through contact with household items or food contaminated with urine or faeces of infected rats.
- Mild symptoms include slight fever, fatigue, weakness etc while severe symptoms include bleeding, difficulty breathing, vomiting etc.

Medaram jatara



- **Sammakka Saralamma Jatara (also Sammakka Sarakka Jatara and Medaram Jatara) is a festival to honour the Hindu Tribal goddesses, celebrated every two years at Medaram Village state of Telangana, India.**
- **This Jathara has been declared as a State Festival during 1998.**
- **It commemorates the fight of a mother and daughter, Sammakka and Saralamma, with the reigning rulers against an unjust law.**
- **It is believed that after Kumbh Mela, the Medaram Jathara is the 2nd largest congregation of devotees in the country.**
- **This fair is said to be the largest repeating congregation of tribal communities in the world.**

- Many tribal Devotees from different states of India (M.P, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka and parts of Jharkhand) reach the festive place to celebrate the Jathara.
- People offer bangaram/gold (jaggery) of a quantity equal to their weight to the goddesses and take holy bath in Jampanna Vagu (stream).
- It is a festival with no vedic or brahmanic influence.

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Lassa fever



- It is an acute viral haemorrhagic illness caused by Lassa virus, a member of the arena-virus Family of viruses.
- The Lassa virus is named after a town in Nigeria where the first cases were discovered in 1969.
- The virus is a single-stranded RNA virus belonging to the virus family Arenaviridae.
- The fever is spread by rats and is endemic in the rodent population in parts of West Africa – Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Togo and Nigeria.
- Symptoms typically appear 1-3 weeks after exposure
- Mild symptoms include slight fever, fatigue, weakness and headache and more serious symptoms include bleeding, difficulty breathing, vomiting, facial swelling, pain in the chest, back, and abdomen and shock.

- **Death can occur from two weeks of the onset of symptoms, usually as a result of multi-organ failure**
- **Humans usually become infected with Lassa virus through exposure to food or household items contaminated with urine or faeces of infected Mastomys rats.**
- **It can also be spread, though rarely, if a person comes in contact with a sick person's infected bodily fluids or through mucous membranes such as the eyes, nose or the mouth.**
- **Person-to-person infections and laboratory transmission can also occur, particularly in health care settings in the absence of adequate infection prevention and control measures.**
- **The overall case-fatality rate is 1%. Among patients who are hospitalized with the severe clinical presentation of Lassa fever, case-fatality is estimated at around 15%.**
- **Early supportive care with rehydration and symptomatic treatment improves survival.**
- **About 80% of people who become infected with Lassa virus have no symptoms.**
- **1 in 5 infections result in severe disease, where the virus affects several organs such as the liver, spleen and kidneys.**

INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY



- The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of a G20 Secretariat and its reporting structures, which will be responsible for implementation of overall policy decisions and arrangements needed for steering India's forthcoming G20 Presidency.
- G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation that plays an important role in global economic governance.
- India will hold the Presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023, culminating with the G20 Summit in India in 2023.
- As per practice, a G20 Secretariat is being established to handle work relating to substantive / knowledge / content, technical, media, security and logistical aspects of India's G20 Presidency.

- **It will be manned by officers and staff from the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and other relevant line Ministries / Departments and domain knowledge experts.**
- **The Secretariat will be functional till February 2024.**
- **The Secretariat will be guided by an Apex Committee headed by Prime Minister, and comprising Finance Minister, Home Minister, External Affairs Minister, and G20 Sherpa (Commerce & Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister), to provide overall guidance to India's G20 Presidency.**
- **Further, a Coordination Committee will also be set up to oversee all G20 preparations and report to the Apex Committee.**

Russia-Ukraine Border Conflict Explained 2021-2022



- The Russia-Ukraine Conflict 2021-2022, have been simmering for more than two months, with diplomatic efforts to resolve the issue showing little sign of progress.
- Russia has more than 100,000 troops on its border with Ukraine, sparking Western warnings of an imminent invasion.
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, meanwhile, voiced concerns that Russia continues to build up troop numbers along Ukraine's borders, including in Belarus.

- **The conflict in Ukraine began with protests in the capital city of Kiev in November 2013 against Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich's decision to reject a deal for greater economic integration with the European Union.**
- **After a violent crackdown by state security forces unintentionally drew an even greater number of protesters and escalated the conflict, President Yanukovich fled the country in February 2014. In March 2014, Russian troops took control of Ukraine's Crimean region, before formally annexing the peninsula after Crimeans voted to join the Russian Federation in a disputed local referendum.**
- **Russian President Vladimir Putin cited the need to protect the rights of Russian citizens and Russian speakers in Crimea and southeast Ukraine.**
- **The conflict heightened ethnic divisions, and two months later pro-Russian separatists in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of eastern Ukraine held a referendum to declare independence from Ukraine.**
- **In July 2014, the situation in Ukraine escalated into an international conflict and put the United States and the European Union (EU) at odds with Russia when a Malaysian Airlines flight was shot down over Ukrainian airspace, killing all 298 onboard.**

India to replace diesel by renewable energy in agriculture by 2024



- Union Power Minister R K Singh has announced that India will achieve zero-diesel use in agriculture and replace fossil fuel with renewable energy by 2024.
- For this, states should develop action plans to achieve the assigned targets and specific agencies dedicated to energy efficiency and conservation.
- This initiative is a part of the government's commitment to increase the share of non-fossil fuels by 2030 and become a net-zero emitter by 2070.
- Union minister chaired a virtual meeting with additional chief secretaries and principal secretaries of power in states for collaboration between the Central and state governments for achieving energy transition goals.

India ranks 3rd in 9th US Green Building Council



- The US Green Building Council (USGBC) has released the 9th annual ranking of top 10 countries outside of the United States (US) for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) in 2021 in which India ranked 3rd with 146 projects.
- It has been topped by China with 1,077 LEED projects certified in 2021, which is followed by Canada at 2nd position with 205 projects.
- The ranking highlights countries and regions outside the US that are doing good in healthy, sustainable, and resilient building design, construction, and operations.

- **As India becomes home to 146 more LEED licensed buildings and spaces in 2021, it represents 2,818,436.08 Gross Square Meters (GSM) of area.**
- **This marks an almost 10% enhance in LEED licensed area in India from 2020 despite the ongoing pandemic India's total tasks underneath LEED stand at 1,649 buildings with total of 46.2 million gross sq. meters.**

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ISRO successfully launches earth observation satellite, EOS-04



- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched an Earth Observation Satellite, EOS-04 and two small satellites into the intended orbit.**
- **This was the first launch mission of ISRO in the year 2022.**
- **The satellites were launched onboard the launch vehicle PSLV-C52 rocket from the First Launch Pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.**

Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-04):

- **EOS-04 is a Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT) designed to provide high-quality images under all weather conditions for applications such as agriculture, forestry, and plantations, flood mapping, soil moisture & hydrology.**

- The satellite weighs about 1710 kg. It can generate 2280 W power. It has a mission life of 10 years.
- The two small satellites included a student satellite (INSPIREsat-1), and a technology demonstrator satellite (INS-2TD).
- INSPIREsat-1 has been developed by the Indian Institute of Space Science & Technology (IIST) in association with the Laboratory of Atmospheric & Space Physics at the University of Colorado, Boulder.
- INS-2TD is a technology demonstrator satellite from ISRO. This is a precursor to the India-Bhutan Joint Satellite (INS-2B).

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Israel became first country to allow drones in civilian airspace



- Israel becomes the first-ever country to allow drone flights in civilian airspace.
- The certification was issued to the Hermes Starliner unmanned system by the Israeli Civil Aviation Authority and was manufactured and developed by Elbit Systems, an Israeli defence electronics company.
- The UAVs will be used for the benefit of agriculture, the environment, public welfare, economic activity and against crime.
- For safety reasons, international aviation regulations prohibit uncertified aircraft from flying in civilian airspace, limiting the operation of UAVs to unsegregated airspace.

- **The Hermes Starliner, which has a wingspan of 17 metres and weighs 1.6 ton, can fly for up to 36 hours at an altitude of about 7,600 metres, and can carry an additional 450 kg of electro-optical, thermal, radar and other payloads.**
- **It will be able to participate in border security and anti-terror operations, take part in securing mass public events, perform maritime search and rescue, commercial aviation and environmental inspection missions, as well as precision agriculture work.**

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WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the inaugural address at The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit on 16th February, 2022 via video message.
- World Sustainable Development Summit is TERI's annual flagship event.
- The theme for this year's Summit is 'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future'.
- The Summit will discuss a wide range of issues including climate change, sustainable production, energy transitions, global commons and resource security.

Pollution causing more deaths globally than COVID-19: UN report



- A UN environmental report said that pollution is contributing to more deaths globally than COVID-19.
- The report authored by UN Special Rapporteur David Boyd said that pollution from pesticides, plastics and electronic waste is causing widespread human rights violations and at least nine million premature deaths a year.
- It called for "immediate and ambitious action" to ban some toxic chemicals.

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