



# Around The WORLD

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UK

## Unique Roman stately home discovered

In a first, remnants of an elite-status Roman villa and bath house have been unearthed under a building site near Scarborough, North Yorkshire, where archaeological excavations were in progress. During the quarrying, a huge complex of buildings, including a central room branched out into different rooms, along with a bath house were revealed. Archaeologists believe that this one of a kind discovery is likely to give them a better insight into Roman Britain dating back to 100 AD.



GREECE

## Country to deploy anti-missile system to Saudi

It has been reported that the country's defence minister Nikos Panagiotopoulos and foreign minister Nikos Dendias will travel to Saudi Arabia next month to sign an agreement, post which, a patriot anti-missile system will be dispatched to the Middle Eastern country. As per officials, the US made anti-aircraft system will protect critical energy facilities of kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is under threat of drone and missile attacks led by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi rebels.



IRAN

## Uranium enrichment level to reach its highest ever

In retaliation to an alleged Israeli attack on a nuclear site, Natanz, which caused damage to thousands of Uranium centrifuges, the country has now decided to produce 60% enriched uranium, which is its highest level so far. Countries like Germany, France and UK have strongly criticised this pronouncement, expressing that the move is unnecessary. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, however, has assured that the nuclear activities were "exclusively peaceful".



NEPAL

## One-horned rhinos increase in number

What is being called one of the greatest conservation success stories in Asia, the rhino population in Nepal has seen a rise from 645 in 2015 to 752 this year. This population increase has improved the status of the species from endangered to vulnerable. Nepal is one of the only few countries that is sanctuary to one-horned rhinos. Officials says that the ongoing pandemic has also played a momentous role in helping animals and their habitats due to restriction of human activity.



USA

## American troops to be withdrawn from Afghanistan

President Biden stated his decision to pull out the US combat forces from Afghanistan by September 11, 2021, i.e., on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. This move is intended to end the prolonged war between the two countries. However, it has been purported that the former president Trump assured the Taliban that the troops would be evacuated by May 1 this year, which, if not followed through, will result in attacks by the latter on US and NATO.



INDIA

## Sputnik V vaccine to enter the country soon

The COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik V, developed by Russia's Gamaleya Research Institute, has become the third inoculation to gain approval in the country. The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) has tied up with Dr Reddy's Laboratories to begin the supply in India. While the initial batches will be imported from the native country, the eventual doses will be produced domestically, precisely 850 million doses annually, which the RDIF says will be enough to vaccinate 425 million people worldwide.



SRI LANKA

## Government bans eleven extremist groups

Ahead of the second anniversary of Easter Sunday suicide bombings that shook the country, the government banned 11 Muslim extremist groups including Al-Qaeda and ISIS. The other nine groups are also religious and social establishments. As per the move, taken as part of Prevention of Terrorism Act, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa stated in a gazette notification that anyone linked to these groups will face a jail sentence for up to 20 years.



JAPAN

## Contaminated Fukushima water to be released into sea

The Japanese government has announced its plan to discharge over one million tonnes of contaminated water from the ruined Fukushima nuclear power station into the sea. The water, which is comparable to about 5000 Olympic-sized swimming pools, has been treated but will be filtered once again in order to remove hazardous isotopes. Several countries including China and South Korea have condemned this decision due to its toxicity and the detrimental impact on marine life.

