Prelim Bits 02-10-2017

Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve

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- The Forest Department has identified hundreds of leopards in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve.
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- It is a protected area and tiger reserve along the Western Ghats in the state of Tamil Nadu.
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- It was first declared as a wildlife scantuary in 2008 and it is the largest wildlife scantuary in Tamil Nadu.
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- It later became the fourth tiger reserve as a part of project Tiger.
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- It is a significant wildlife corridor in the Nilgiri Biosphere reserve between western ghats and the rest of the eastern ghats.
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Green Masala Bonds

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- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has raised $300 million via "Green Masala Bonds" at the London Stock Exchange (LSE).
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- This is the first green masala bond on LSE's new International Securities Market.
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- The money raised from the green bond will go towards financing renewable energy project across India.
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- The bonds are certified by Climate Bonds Initiative, an international, not-for-profit organisation that helps build robust framework around green bond investment.
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- IREDA, a state-owned company established a a non-banking financial

institution.
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- It extends financial assistance for renewable energy and energy efficiency conservation projects in India.
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New drug for Chikungunya

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- Researchers from IIT roorkee used an existing anti-viral drug piperazine for the cure of chikungunya.
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- Currently, there is no cure for the disease.
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- Piperazine is used for the treatment of worm infections.
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- The anti-viral activity of piperazine molecule inhibits virus replication.
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- The drug binds to the target, the protein's interaction with the enveloped protein of virus is inhibited and hence the virus release from infected cell is affected.
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Molecular robot

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- Scientists have created the world's first 'molecular robot' that can be used to build molecules and may help discover novel durgs.
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- The robot is millionth of a millimetre in size and made up of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen atoms.
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- It can be programmed to move and build molecular cargo using a tiny robotic arm.
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US-2 Amphibian

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- It is Japan's aircraft, designed for air-sea recue work.
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- The Indian government ha been keen on acquiring the US-2i as part of their expanding bilateral strategic partnership.
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- The aircraft requires only one fourth of the distance that commercial airlines require for takeoff and landing.
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- The aircraft has an approximate operational range of 4500 km and a cruise speed of 480 km/hr. It does not require runway construction.
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No More reservation Charts

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- The Indian Railways has decided to stop pasting reservation charts on train coaches.
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- It is implemented as a part of Go Green Policy in five cities - Chennai, New Delhi, Kolkatta, Mumbai and Bengaluru.
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- The initiative is a pilot project to keep the coaches neat and clean.
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Source : The Hindu, Business Line, Business standard.

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