Prelim Bits 06-11-2017

TholpavaKoothu

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- TholpavaKoothu is a unique shadow puppet theatre form of Kerala.
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- It is an ancient peculiar ritualistic art form dedicated to Bhagavati, worshiped by the people of Kerala as the Mother Goddess.
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- It is performed using **leather puppets** at the specially constructed theatre called **Koothu Madam** in front of the Bhagavati temple.
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- It is believed to have originated in the ninth century AD.
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- It uses Tamil epic "Kamba Ramayana" as its basic text.
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- The language used is a dialect of Tamil with an admixture of Sanskrit and Malayalam words.
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- It is a fine example of the integration of Aryan and Dravidian cultures.
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- It is preserved as a family tradition by the Pulavars.
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INSV Tarini

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- INSV Tarini is the Indian Navy's second ocean going sailboat.
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- Navika Sagar Parikrama is a project wherein a team of women officers of the Indian Navy would circumnavigate the globe on INSV Tarini.
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- This is the first ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women

crew.
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- It has completed its first leg of its maiden voyage (Goa to Australia) and started its second leg of its global expedition from Australia to New Zealand.
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- “INSV Tarini” was built based on the design of famous temple Tara Tarini.
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- The temple is situated in Kumari hills at the bank of the River Rushikulya, Odisha.
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- Click here to know more about Tara Tarini Temple.
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Ancient Spiral Galaxy

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- Scientists have discovered the most ancient spiral galaxy in the universe known as “A1689B11” that existed almost 11 billion years ago.
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- It existed just 2.6 billion years after the Big Bang (13 billion years ago), when the universe was only one-fifth of its present age.
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- It is a spiral galaxy, which could provide insights into the early cosmos.
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- Scientists used a powerful technique on the **Gemini North telescope in Hawaii** to verify the spiral nature of the galaxy.
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Aircraft Launch System

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- India is going to launch second indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-II) - INS Vishal, using US based aircraft launch mechanisms.
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- It will have to choose between catapult-based aircraft launch mechanism (CATOBAR) and electro-magnetic aircraft launch system (EMALS).
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- CATOBAR is powered by a steam catapult and EMALS uses an electric motor-driven catapult instead.
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- The use of electro-magnetic energy allows the launch of much heavier aircraft and also reduces the stress on the aircraft.
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- INS Vishal, 65,000-70,000 tonne nuclear-powered vessel is a follow up of INS Vikrant class of aircraft carriers.
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- India’s first domestic carrier, Vikrant, weighing 40,000 tonnes, is scheduled to be launched by 2018-end.
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- It works on a Short Take-Off But Arrested Recovery (STOBAR) mechanism similar to that in the present carrier INS Vikramaditya.
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Black Buck Reserve

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- A wildlife conservation reserve dedicated exclusively to the blackbuck is coming up in the Trans-Yamuna region of Allahabad near the MP and UP border.
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- Blackbuck or Antilopecervicapra, also known as Indian Antelope is found in India, Nepal and Pakistan.
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- It is the sole living member of the genus Antilope and is classified under the family Bovidae.
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- It is known for its majestic spiral horns (in males) and coat colour contrasts.
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- They are found in the open Savannahs of north and central India, but are now restricted to just a few patches and habitats.
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- It is inhabited in:
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i. Velavadar Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat
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ii. Ranibennur Blackbuck Sanctuary in Karnataka
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iii. Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary in Maharashtra
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iv. Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary in Bihar
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- It is protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act and Appendix III of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species).
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- The reserve in Allahabad is the first ever conservation reserve of its kind in UP.
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Autumn Leaf

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- The Autumn Leaf is a rare butterfly species normally found in Karnataka and Kerala.
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- It resembles a leaf found in the autumn with an orangish tinge.
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- It is spotted for the first time after few years, in the Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary (GSWS), Tamil Nadu.
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- GSWS, also known as Srivilliputhur Wildlife Sanctuary, home to the endangered grizzled squirrel, is bordered by Periyar Tiger Reserve and Palaghat gap.
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- It is considered as one of the Butterfly hotspots.
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Source: The Hindu, PIB.

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