Prelim Bits 08-05-2018

Tholu Bommalata

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\n
- It is Andhra Pradesh's shadow theatre which has a rich and strong tradition.
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- The puppets are large in size and have jointed waist, shoulders, elbows and knees.
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- They are colored on both sides and throw colored shadows on the screen.
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- The music is dominantly influenced by the classical music of the region.
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- The theme of the puppet plays are drawn from the Ramayana, Mahabharata and Puranas.
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- The skin of wild animals including the antelope and the spotted deer was used to make puppet.
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- Now the skin of Goats is used to make the puppets, as the hunting of deer is banned.
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First Apex Conference for the CEOs of Smart Cities

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- Minister of State (I/C) for Housing & Urban Affairswill inaugurated the ‘First Apex Conference for the CEOs of Smart Cities ‘in Bhopal.
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- The conference is organized for providing a platform for cross learning and

knowledge sharing among the Smart City CEOs.
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- The Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of the Smart City Special Purpose Vehicle (SPVs) have been instrumental in achieving transformational outcomes envisaged under the Smart City Mission.
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- The strategic components of area-based development in the Smart Cities Mission are city improvement (retrofitting), city renewal (redevelopment) and city extension (Greenfield development).
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- The Smart City Mission is flagship scheme of Union Government that will cover 100 cities and its duration is five years (2015-16 to 2019-20).
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- The focus of mission is on sustainable and inclusive development and set examples which can be replicated in other parts of the city and other cities.
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Strategy 2030

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- Asian Development Bank is preparing Strategy 2030.
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- Its new long-term strategy, to respond to the changes brought about by a rapidly evolving Asia and the Pacific.
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- The new strategy builds on the 2014 midterm review of its current strategy—Strategy 2020.
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- It outlines a vision and key directions for ADB’s engagement with developing member countries until 2030.
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- It aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on climate change, and other global commitments.
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- It identifies institutional reforms necessary to sharpen ADB's efficiency and effectiveness.
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- Under Strategy 2030, ADB will sustain its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty, given the region’s unfinished poverty agenda, and expand its vision to achieve a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific.
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Border Roads Organization

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- Border Roads Organization (BRO) is celebrated its Raising Day recently.
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- It is a leader in the arena of infrastructural development in the border areas of the country.
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- It is an organization under the Ministry of Defense.
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- The BRO consists of Border Roads Wing in the Ministry of Defense and the General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF).
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- The BRO undertakes projects in India and friendly countries.
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- These projects typically include developing roads, bridges, and airfields in hostile environments shunned by private enterprises, whether due to security concerns related to hostilities, or because of environmental challenges.
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Water ice hidden on the moon

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- A team from the Tohoku University in Japan found the mineral, called moganite, in a lunar meteorite discovered in a desert in northwest Africa.
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- It points to the presence of abundant hidden reserves of water ice under the surface of the moon.
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- It could be potentially useful for future human exploration.
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- Moganite is a crystal of silicon dioxide.
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- The mineral is known to form on the earth in specific circumstances in sedimentary settings from alkaline fluids.
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- It has never before been detected in samples of lunar rock.
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- The mineral formed on the surface of the moon in the area called Procellarum Terrane.
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- As water originally present in lunar dirt evaporated due to exposure to strong sunlight water remains as ice in the subsurface.
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ISRO to source fuel component from NFL

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- National Fertilizer Ltd (NFL) has won an order from the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to supply di-Nitrogen tetroxide (N2O4).
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- Nitrogen tetroxide forms an integral part of the liquid propellant used in launching space rockets.
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- N2O4 is a powerful oxidiser and an ideal liquid propellant component for satellite launch vehicles.
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- As the number of satellites launch are increasing, the demand for propellant is also increasing.
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- NFL is a Schedule ‘A’ and a Mini Ratna (Category-I) Company.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu

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