Prelim Bits 10-06-2018

Sheikh Chilli

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- Sheikh Chilli is a Sufi saint whose tomb is in Thanesar, Haryana.
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- He was Mughal Prince Dara Shikoh’s spiritual advisor.
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- Thanesar was a well known centre of the Sufi Chishti silsila.
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- The tomb is situated in the Old Trunk Road.
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- In the middle of the complex there is a shallow tank.
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- Galleries are found around the tank and they were used as madarasa which is a place to study.
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- Dara Shukoh could have built the madarsa to promote the Qadriya order of Suifism.
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- The madarsa dates back to the mid-17th century when Dara Shukoh was powerful in the Mughal court.
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Chhau Dance

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- Recently the distinctive Chhau mask of Purulia, West Bengal was awarded the Geographic Indication tag.
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- The traditional rural craft of making masks is an integral component of the semi-martial art dance form of Chhau.
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- Chhau dance is a tradition from eastern India that enacts episodes from epics including the Mahabharata and Ramayana, local folklore and abstract themes.

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- Its three distinct styles hail from the regions of Seraikella (Jharrkhand) , Purulia (West Bengal) and Mayurbhanj (Odisha), the first two using masks.
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- Chhau dance is intimately connected to regional festivals, notably the spring festival Chaitra Parva.
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- The dance is performed at night in an open space to traditional and folk melodies, played on the reed pipes ''mohuri'' and ''shehnai.''
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- In 2010 the Chhau dance was inscribed in the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
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SCO Media Summit

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- The first media summit for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held in Beijing, China.
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- The event will enhance media cooperation and people-to-people exchanges between SCO member states.
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- With a theme of "carrying on the 'Shanghai Spirit' and ushering a new era for media cooperation," the summit attracted over 260 attendees who exchanged ideas on building new platforms of media cooperation and closer people-to-people ties.
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- The member states are really keen to take forward their cooperation at the regional level in areas such as trade, culture, health and education.
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- The media plays a crucial role in promoting closer friendship and cooperation.
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Bodhisena

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- The oldest documented Indian resident in Japan, and arguably the most influential, was Bodhisena.

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- He was a monk from Madurai, Tamil Nadu.
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- His outsized impact on Japanese culture persists even some 1,300 years after he docked on the archipelago’s shores.
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- Bodhisena came to believe that Manjushri (the bodhisattva of wisdom) lived on the Chinese mountain of Wutai, and therefore travelled there to pay obeisance.
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- He was also called Bodaisenna.
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- In China, he met the Japanese ambassador to the Tang court, who persuaded him to carry on to Japan on the invitation of the then Emperor, Shomu (701-756 AD), a devout Buddhist.
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- The Indian monk taught Sanskrit and helped establish the Kegon school of Buddhism, a variant of the Chinese Huayan school.
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- He died in 760 AD and is buried in Ryusenji-temple on the slopes of Mt. Omine.
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- The Kegon continues to flourish with its headquarters at Nara’s Todai-ji temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
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- Buttetsu, a disciple of Bodhisena from Champa taught a style of dance that featured themes taken from Indian mythology, set to a musical rhythm, common in South Asia, but unknown at the time in Japan.
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- These dances became known as rinyugaku and were absorbed into the local artistic oeuvre.
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Jallian Wala Bagh Tragedy

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- The massacre at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar on April 13, 1919 was a tragedy in the Indian colonial history.
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- The massacre was executed under the orders of Brigadier Reginald Dyer who was then the General Officer Commanding of the 45th Infantry Brigade at Jullundur (now Jalandhar).

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- The British government appointed the Hunter Commission to inquire into the happenings.
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- Actually, Jallianwala Bagh is a public garden in Amritsar, Punjab.
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- During this time there was wide unrest in the country against Rowlatt Act.
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- The civilians had assembled to condemn the arrest and deportation of two national leaders, Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew.
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- The ineffective inquiry and the initial accolades for Dyer by the House of Lords fuelled widespread anger, was one of the causes of the Non-cooperation Movement of 1920–22.
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Task Force on Shell Companies

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- The Task Force on Shell Companies takes pro-active and coordinated steps to check the menace of shell companies.
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- The 'Task Force' was set up in February, 2017 by the Prime Minister's Office under the joint Chairmanship of the Revenue Secretary and Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
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- It has a mandate to check in a systematic way, through a coordinated multi-agency approach, the menace of companies indulging in illegal activities including facilitation of tax evasion and commonly referred to as 'Shell Companies'.
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- Department of Financial Services, Central Board of Direct Taxes, Central Board of Exercise Customs, Central Bureau of Investigation, Enforcement Directorate, Serious Fraud Investigation Organization, Financial Intelligence Unit-IND, RBI, SEBI, DG-Central Economic Investigation Bureau are its Members.
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- The major achievements of the Task Force include the compilation of a database of shell companies by SFIO.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu

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