Prelim Bits 14-11-2018

LEAP Initiative

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- Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) was recently launched by Ministry of Human Resource and Development.
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- It is a three weeks flagship leadership development training programme.
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- The objective is mainly to train academic heads who are potentially likely to assume leadership roles in the future.
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- Its focus group is second level academic functionaries in public funded higher education institutions.
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- It would include both domestic and foreign training in managerial skills such as problem-solving, handling stress, team building work, conflict management, developing communication skills etc.
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- The implementation will be through top ranked universities and top 100 global ranked foreign universities.
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ARPIT initiative

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- Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT) was recently launched by Ministry of Human Resource and Development.
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- It is a unique initiative of online professional development of 15 lakh higher education faculty using the MOOCs platform SWAYAM.
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- National Resource Centres (NRC) will be identified to prepare online training material.
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- NRC will be in a mixed range of institutions such as, Central Universities,

IISc, IUCAA, IITs, IISERs, NITs, IGNOU, State Universities, UGC's Human Resource Development Centres (HRDCs) and National Institutes for Technical Teachers Training.
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- It will focus on latest developments in the discipline, new & emerging trends, pedagogical improvements and methodologies for transacting revised curriculum.
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- **SWAYAM** - Study Webs of Active learning for Young Aspiring Minds is a Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) platform launched to offer various online courses for school education and higher education.
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INDRA

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- It is a bilateral joint military exercise between India and Russia.
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- It is joint tactical level operations in the peace keeping / enforcement environment under the aegis of UN.
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- It is being organised in Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh.
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- This year edition is the 10^{th} exercise in the series of Exercise INDRA.
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- INDRA - 2018 focuses on combating insurgency under the aegis of United Nations (UN).
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Global Digital Content Market

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- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) organises Global Digital Content Market (GDCM).
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- It is a conference to showcase the latest opportunities and challenges in the creative industries and, changes brought about by digital technologies.
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- This year, the special focus of the conference is Asia-Pacific region.
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- India has been chosen as a host nation for the conference by WIPO.
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- Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) hosts this conference in New Delhi.
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- This is the 2nd edition of the conference. The first one was hosted in Geneva, 2016.
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- It will feature panel sessions on music, education publishing, broadcasting and digital inclusion.
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- It will see participation of professionals from various creative fields, the digital industry around the world and delegates of the diplomatic community from Missions to the United Nations.
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ExoMars

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- ExoMars is a joint space venture between European Space Agency and Russian space agency Roscosmos to Mars.
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- The ExoMars programme comprises 2 missions.
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- The first mission was launched in 2016 and consists of the Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO) and Schiaparelli, an entry, descent and landing demonstrator module.
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- The second mission is planned to be launched in 2020 and comprises a rover and surface science platform.
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- The rover that will carry a drill and a suite of instruments dedicated to search for possible existence of life beyond earth and geochemistry research.
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- It is likely to land on Mars' equator called Oxia Planum, which had housed a massive pool of water in the prehistoric era.
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PM-STIAC

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- Prime Minister has recently interacted with the members of Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).
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- It is a 21-member panel, advise the Prime Minister on all matters related to S&T, innovation and monitor the implementation of PM’s vision on the same.
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- It is chaired by government’s Principal Scientific Advisor.
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- It is expected to act as a high-level advisory body to several ministries and execute mission-oriented programmes.
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- Secretaries of various scientific ministries such as education, environment and health would be ‘special invitees’ to the council meetings.
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- Scientific Advisory Committees (SAC) - Cabinet and SAC-PM was dissolved and replaced by PM-STIAC.
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Source: PIB, The Indian Express

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