# Prelim Bits 14-12-2018

## Noney Bridge

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- The bridge is going to be constructed by the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) across the river Ijai in the state of Manipur.
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- It is set to get the World's tallest railway bridge and it is expected to be over 142 meters tall.
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- It will connect Manipur with the rest of the Country.
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- It will be twice the height of Qutub Minar which is the tallest minaret made up of brick in the world.
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- Mala-Rijeka viaduct bridge (139 meters) in Europe currently holds the tallest railway bridge record.
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## National Security Guard (NSG)

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- A parliamentary panel has recently recommended that the Centre should take steps to equip NSG with its own dedicated air wing.
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- NSG was raised in the year 1986 following the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Operation Blue Star.
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- It is a force specially equipped to deal with anti-terrorist activities in all its manifestations.
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- It doesn’t have a cadre of its own or direct recruitment and is instead dependent on personnel sent on deputation from the army and the central armed police forces (CAPF).
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- It has Special Action Group (SAG) comprising Army Personnel and the

Special Ranger Groups (SRG) comprising personnel drawn from the CAPF/State Police forces.
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- NSG’s delay in reaching Mumbai during 2008 terrorist attack with the non-availability of dedicated aircraft came under severe criticism.
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## Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy (RISE)

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- RISE report is published by World Bank.
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- It rates 133 countries on electricity access, renewable energy, energy efficiency and access to clean cooking.
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- It is to provide useful data to policymakers and help the private sector make informed decisions about investing in energy projects.
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- It charts global progress on sustainable energy policies.
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- The 2018 report finds that the world has seen a huge uptake in sustainable energy policies.
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## Lingayat Community

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- Lingayats are distinct Shaivite religious tradition founded by Basaveshwara, a 12th-century social reformer, Kannada poet, and philosopher.
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- They are strict monotheists and instruct the worship of only one God, namely, Linga (Shiva).
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- They constitute 17% of Karnataka’s state population.
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- They are currently classified as a Hindu sub-caste called “Veerashaiva Lingayats”.
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- Veerashaivism is a Shaiva sect within Hinduism and is predominantly located in Karnataka.

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- Veerashaivas claim that Basavanna was not the founder of the Lingayat tradition, but rather a reformer of an already existing religious tradition which they call Veerashaivism.
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- The demand for separate religion tag and minority status is a long pending demand of the Lingayat community.
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## Minority Status to Lingayats

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- The Central Government has rejected the Karnataka Government’s proposal seeking a separate minority religion status for the Lingayat community.
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- The Centre gave two reasons for rejecting the proposal,
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i. Lingayat has always been classified under Hindus ever since the first official census in India - 1871
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ii. If Lingayats are treated as a separate religion by providing separate code other than Hindu, all members of the Scheduled Caste professing Lingayat would lose their status as SC along with the consequential benefits.
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## Ground Water Extraction Guidelines

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- India is the largest user of ground water in the world, extracting about 25% of the global ground water extraction.
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- Ground water extraction in India is regulated by Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act of 1986.

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- Ground water is primarily extracted for irrigation in agricultural activities, accounting for 90% of the annual ground water extraction and remaining 10% is for drinking & domestic as well as industrial uses.
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- Central Government has recently notified the revised ground water extraction guidelines which will be effective from June, 2019.
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- The most important feature of the revised guideline is the introduction of the concept of Water Conservation Fee (WCF).
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- The WCF payable varies with the category of the area, type of industry and the quantum of ground water extraction.
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- WCF is designed to progressively increase from safe to over-exploited areas and from low to high water consuming industries as well as with increasing quantum of ground water extraction.
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- The high rates of WCF is to discourage packaged drinking water units in over-exploited areas and a deterrent to large scale ground water extraction.
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- The guideline also encourages use of recycled and treated sewage water by industries.
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- It exempted the requirement of No-Objection Certificate (NOC) for various following fields,
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i. Agricultural users,
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ii. Users employing non-energised means to extract water,
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iii. Individual households (using less than 1 inch diameter delivery pipe)
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iv. Armed Forces Establishments during operational deployment or during mobilization in forward locations.
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v. Strategic and operational infrastructure projects for Armed Forces, Defence and Paramilitary Forces Establishments and
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vi. Government water supply agencies.
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## Source: PIB, The Hindu, The New Indian Express

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