Prelim Bits 16-04-2017

Terpene

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- Terpenes are organic compounds found in a variety of plants, and contribute to their flavor, scent and color.
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- The compounds are responsible for the essential oils of plants and the resins of trees and are often used in food additives, perfumery and aromatherapy.
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- Some are even thought to have medicinal properties, and to help in fighting bacteria, fungus and environmental stress.
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- Terpenes are also being used by living organisms as an instrument for long-distance communication.
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- The researchers suggest that terpenes are the most popular chemical medium on our planet to communicate through.
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The Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (BORI)

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- The Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune, was founded in the honor of the work of R.G. Bhandarakar, the foremost pioneer of scientific Orientology in India.
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- Orientology is the study of the indigenous lore and wisdom of the ancient East or the 'Orient'.
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- The Institute also hosts a Manuscripts Resource a Conservation Centre under the auspices of the National Mission for Manuscripts, a project of the Cultural Ministry of India.
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- Recently, BORI has initiated the process of launching e-library and major

digitization of its rare manuscripts in Sanskrit, Prakrit and Pali languages.
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Chinnar River

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- The Chinnar, east flowing river originates in the Annaimalai Hills in Idukki District, Kerala.
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- The 18 km long chinnar river defines the East-West Tamil Nadu/Kerala state boundary along the northern edge of the chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary and the southern edge of the Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary.
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- Recently, there was an illegal attempt to divert the water from Chinnar river to a dead stream “Mangayaar” in Tamil Nadu state by constructing a deep trench.
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- This unscientific interlinking of Chinnar and Mangayaar would adversely affect the **Muthuvan tribal** settlement in the Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary.
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Scorpene class submarine

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- It is a class of diesel-electric submarine jointly developed by the French DCNS under Project 75.
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- It features diesel-electric propulsion and an additional air-independent propulsion (AIP) system.
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- It will have both anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare.
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- Conventional diesel-electric submarines have to surface every few days to get oxygen to recharge their batteries. With AIP systems, they can stay submerged for much longer periods.
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- INS Kalvari and INS Khanderi, a Kalvari class scorpene submarine was built

under the project and will be commissioned soon.
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- INS Kalvari is succceded by the Project 75I, under which 6 diesel submarines with AIP technology will be built for Indian Navy by 2022.
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