Prelim Bits 17-01-2018

Malimath Report

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- Justice Malimath Committee or The Committee on Reforms of the Criminal Justice System was constituted by the Home Ministry in 2000.
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- The committee had submitted its report in 2003 and made recommendations on crime investigation and punishment.
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- The recommendations were never implemented. It is now going to be revisited by the government.
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- One of its key recommendations is admissibility of confessions made before a police officer as evidence in a court of law.
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- Other recommendations are
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i. Stringent punishment for false registration of cases,
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ii. Constituting a National Judicial Commission and
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iii. Amending Article 124 to make impeachment of judges less difficult
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iv. Standard of “proof beyond reasonable doubt” followed in criminal cases be done away with.
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Sholas

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- The Sholas are a mosaic of mountane evergreen forests and grasslands.
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- They are found only in high altitude (>1500 metres above sea level) regions within the tropics, and are limited to the southern part of the Western Ghats.
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- They are characterised by undulating grassland patches, interspersed with thickets of stunted evergreen tree species.
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- Recent study has indicated that timber plantations, , expanding agriculture and the spread of invasive species reduced two thirds of the shoals in palani hill ranges of Western Ghats.
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- There is a marked 67% decline in grassland area compared to 1973 level.
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- The natural march of invasive species such as prolific-seed-producer, acacia and the policy push for plantations in 1990s seems to be the main cause for decline.
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- Fragmented grasslands also displaced endemic species Nilgiri Pipit.
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Nilgiri Pipit

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- Nilgiri Pipit (Anthus nilghiriensis) is a bird endemic to the Western Ghats of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, southern India.
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- It occurs on grassy upland slopes interspersed with bushes and trees, mainly above 1,500 m, and is commonest over 2,000 m.
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- It is listed as "**Vulnerable**" in IUCN red list category.
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- It feeds mostly on creeping grass in valleys, but nests in marshy grasslands with slightly taller grasses and sedges, particularly near streams.
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- It has been recorded consuming the seeds of grasses and herb.
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- Its grassland habitat is gradually being converted to plantations of tea, eucalyptus and silver wattle Acacia dealbata.
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Saksham – 2018

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- Saksham is a month long awareness programme by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
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- It is aimed to create awareness towards “Fuel Conservation” through judicious utilization and conservation of petroleum products and switching to cleaner fuels.
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- It is organized by PCRA- Petroleum Conservation Research Association and other oil & gas PSU’s under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
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IPrism

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- IPrism is an Intellectual Property (IP) competition, organized by the Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM), Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).
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- CIPAM collaborated with ASSOCHAM and ERICSSON India for this event.
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- This competition invites students to submit films on piracy & counterfeiting which causes significant loss to the industry and pose serious safety threats to the consumers.
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- The competition aims to foster a culture of innovation and creativity in the younger generation.
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Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav

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- The 7th edition of ‘Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-2018’ was inaugurated at Bengaluru.
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- It was conceived in 2015 by Ministry of Culture.
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- It was organised with intent to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the country.
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- This year, Ministry of Culture organised RSM under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat mission.
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- The ‘Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat’ programme under Ministry of HRD, aims to actively enhance interaction between people of diverse cultures living in different States and UTs in India.
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- As per the programme, each year, every State/UT would be paired with another State/UT in India for reciprocal interaction between the people.
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Source: The Hindu, PIB

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