Prelim Bits 18-07-2017

Eco-bridges

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- Telangana is the first state to have eco-friendly bridges for the movement of tigers over a canal cutting across the tiger corridor.
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- The bridge links Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra with the forests in Telangana.
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- It requires the laying of fertile soil to grow grass and plants over the structure, so that fragmentation of the reserve forest is camouflaged.
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Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve

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- Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is a tiger reserve in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra state in central India.
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- It is Maharashtra's oldest and largest national park.
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- It is one of India's 50 "Project Tiger" - tiger reserves.
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- Andhari, a minor river in waiganga basin flows through the tiger reserve.
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National Academic Depository (NAD)

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- It is a 24 X 7 online store house of academic awards digitally lodged by various academic institutions/school boards/eligibility assessment bodies.
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- The academic awards in NAD shall cover degrees, diplomas, certificates, mark-sheets including awards issued for skill development.
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- The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been designated as authorized body to operationalise NAD.
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- NAD comprises of two interoperable digital depositories viz., NDSL Database Management Limited (NDML) and CDSL Ventures Limited (CVL).
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- The Aadhaar or unique NAD ID will be used for registration and usage of the digital database.
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- NAD facilitates online access, retrieval and verification of academic awards and eliminates fraudulent practices such as forgoing of certificates and mark sheets etc.
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Initiatives to improve Quality of Education

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- **Global Initiative Of Academic Networks (GIAN)** – It aimed at collaborating Indian institutes of Higher Education in India with Foreign academics.
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- **Impacting Research Innovation And Technology (IMPRINT)** - It is a pan-IIT and IISc joint initiative to develop a roadmap for research in premier institutions to solve major engineering and technology challenges in ten technology domains relevant to India.
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- **Uchchtar Aavishkar Abhiyan** – It aims to promote industry-specific need-based research in the educational institutions to keep up the competitiveness of the Indian industry in the global market.
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- **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan** – It aims at providing strategic funding to higher educational institutions to improve the overall quality of existing state institutions.
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Science Express

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- Science Express is a flagship programme of the Dept. of Science & Technology (DST).
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- It is an innovative mobile science exhibition mounted on AC train, traveling across India since October 2007. Since then, it has made eight tours of the country.
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- Currently, the 9^{th} phase of the Science Express exhibition train is on a nationwide tour since 17 February 2017.
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- This phase of train is being referred as ‘Science Express Climate Action Special (SECAS) highlighting the global challenge of climate change.
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Monetary neutrality

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- A theory which states that money has no real effect on how resources are allocated in an economy.
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- For instance, a doubling of the stock of money supply caused by central bank policy should have no other effect on the economy except the doubling of the nominal prices of all goods.
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- But this theory has been criticized for assuming that when the supply of money is increased, the new money percolates into the economy and affects prices evenly.
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- Others have argued that the new money enters the economy at different points and affects prices unevenly, thus distorting resource allocation.
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Neolithic Axe

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- Recently, the largest Neolithic granite axe has been shifted to a museum in Kerala.
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- Neolithic Period, also called New Stone Age, is the final stage of cultural evolution or technological development among prehistoric humans.
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- It was characterized by stone tools shaped by polishing or grinding, dependence on domesticated plants or animals, settlement in permanent villages, and the appearance of such crafts as pottery and weaving.
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- It is generally thought to have occurred sometime about **10,000 BC**.
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- During that time, humans learned to raise crops and keep domestic livestock and were thus no longer dependent on hunting, fishing, and gathering wild plants.
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- The cultivation of cereal grains enabled Neolithic peoples to build permanent dwellings and congregate in villages.
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- The Neolithic Period was succeeded by the Bronze Age when human societies learned to combine copper and tin to make bronze, which replaced stone for use as tools and weapons.
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- Important Neolithic Age sites are Mehrgarh (in present day Pakistan), Gufzral, Burzahoam (Kashmir), Chirand (Bihar), Utnur (A.P), Paiyampalli (T.N) etc.
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