Prelim Bits 19-02-2018

Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT)

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- India's City Union Bank suffered a cyber attack via the SWIFT financial platform.
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- It is a messaging network that financial institutions use to securely transmit information and instructions through a standardized system of codes.
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- SWIFT is headquartered in Belgium.
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- It also brings the financial community together – at global, regional and local levels – to shape market practice, define standards and debate issues of mutual interest or concern.
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- For money transfers, SWIFT assigns each participating financial organization a unique code with either eight or eleven characters
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Swami Ramakrishna Pramahamsa’s Birth Anniversary

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- Ramakrishna Pramahamsa’s birth anniversary was on February 18^{th}.
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- His spiritual movement indirectly aided nationalism, as it rejected caste distinctions and religious prejudices.
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- Ramakrishna’s religious and spiritual philosophy was centered on Shakto, Advaita Vedanta and universal tolerance.
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- Foremost among his innumerable disciples was Swami Vivekananda, who was instrumental in establishing the philosophy of Ramakrishna at a global stage.
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- Vivekananda established the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897 to carry out the visions of his Guru Ramakrishna.
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Assam- Wildlife Protection

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- In a major initiative for wildlife protection, the forest guards in Assam were given modern weapons to check poaching of rhinos, tigers and other wild animals.
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- Also for the first time wildlife fast-track courts have been set up to exclusively deal with poaching and wildlife crimes.
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- Assam has five national parks and 19 wildlife sanctuaries and is home to 91% of Indian rhinos.
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- The five national parks in Assam are
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1. Kaziranga
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2. Manasa
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3. Nameri
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4. Rajiv Gandhi Orang
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5. Dibru Saikhowa
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- Manas and Dibru saikhowa are the Biosphere reserve in the state.
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Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS)

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- GLASS was developed by WHO to foster standardized AMR surveillance globally.
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- It released the first set of surveillance data on anti-microbial resistance recently.
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- Key Findings of GLASS are
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1. AMR is widespread in both high and low income countries.
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2. The most commonly reported resistant bacteria were Escherichia coli (E. coli), Klebsiella pneumoniae, Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococcus pneumonia, and Salmonella spp.
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3. There is an alarming spike in the cases resistant to penicillin and ciprofloxacin.
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Sambandh Initiative

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- Western Naval Command hosted the Sambandh exercise last year.
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- Participants were from the 10 Indian Ocean Littoral countries Maldives, Myanmar, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia and Mauritius.
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- Naval officers and cadets from smaller countries that do not have big navies were welcomed aboard INS Vikramaditya -India's aircraft carrier as a part of the initiative.
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- Apart from the Sambandh initiate, the Indian Navy sent its **Mobile Training Team (MTT)** to these countries.
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- Training teams of the Indian Navy were sent to neighboring countries to

train other countries cadets at their home base.
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Map: Myanmar-Manipur border

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- A dam being constructed by Myanmar across river close to the boundary with India has stoked fears of submergence and water scarcity in Manipur’s Chandel district.
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- The Indian states that border Myanmar are:
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Arunachel Pradesh,**N**agaland,**M**anipur,**M**izoram

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- Tip to remember easily: **My**anmar **MMAN.**
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Source: PIB, The Hindu, Livemint, Down to earth.

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