Prelim Bits 21-11-2017

M-STRiPES

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- M-STRiPES (Monitoring System For Tigers-Intensive Protection and Ecological Status) is an app developed by Wildlife Institute of India.
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- The app will be used for the first time in All India Tiger estimation.
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- It is already in place in some national parks but it has been made mandatory for the fourth All-India Tiger estimation.
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- It is expected that the app would ensure more robust estimate by eliminating human errors in the survey.
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World Congress on Information Technology

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- The World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) is a premier global forum that is to be held for the first time in India, at Hyderabad.
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- The congress's objective is to create awareness of the shift in technology and serve as a forum for people to experience the change.
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- The 22nd edition of WCIT focus on technology led disruption in IT field and it also showcases latest trends, technologies, strategic discussions on building the digital future.
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- It is being organized by the Nasscom's India Leadership forum.
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Infrastructure Status for Logistics sector

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- The union Finance Ministry has recently granted the “Infrastructure” status to the Logistics sector.
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- It is being given at the time when the integrated logistics sector development is needed and logistics cost is very high compared to developed countries.
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- The implications of getting infrastructure status include
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i. It will get longer maturity loans compared to typical manufacturing sector
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ii. It will be eligible for slightly higher equity ratios while applying for loans
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iii. It will have certain advantages and flexibility while applying external commercial borrowing
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iv. It will allow doing refinancing with specialized lenders like IDFC, IIFCL etc
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- It is expected that it will improve efficiency and reduce the cost of capital in transportation and warehousing, thereby reducing the cost of logistics.
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International Court of Justice

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- Election to the seat of Judge of International Court of Justice was recently held.
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- India’s nominee Justice Dalveer Bhandari has been re-elected to ICJ after Britain withdrew its candidate Christopher Greenwood from the election.
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- The International Court of Justice (ICJ), established in 1946 is the principal judicial body of the UN.
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- The Court is composed of 15 judges with the tenure of 9 years serving in their individual capacities.
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- Candidates are first nominated by the national groups in the Permanent Court of Arbitration.
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- From the list of candidates, judges are elected by an absolute majority in both the General Assembly (97 votes) and Security Council (8 votes).
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- Elections are being held once in 3 years when one-third of the judges getting retired.
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- Although the judges do not represent their nations but act as independent agents, there cannot be more than one judge of each nationality.
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- It has two primary functions,
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i. To settle legal disputes submitted by States in accordance with established international laws, and
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ii. To act as an advisory board on issues submitted to it by authorized international organizations.
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Namami Barak Festival

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- It is a three day river fest, held recently in the State of Assam.
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- It is organized in three districts of Barak valley with the main function organized in Silchar.
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- It is to showcase the potential and possibilities of Barak valley.
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- The polo game was organized as part of this festival.
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- The first polo club in the world was formed at Assam's Silchar in 1834 by a lieutenant in the Indian army.
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- But the sport is no more played in the Assam state.
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- Players from Manipur, which is known as the home of polo, were invited for

the festival.
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- The oldest polo ground in the world is the Imphal Polo Ground in Manipur.
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- The festival will ensure a boost in trade and economic activities in this part of Assam
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World Fisheries Day

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- World Fisheries Day is being celebrated every year on November 21st to commemorate the establishment of World Fisheries Forum (WFF) in 1997.
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- WFF advocates for a global mandate of sustainable fishing practices and policies.
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- In India, it is celebrated fourth consecutive year by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries.
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Source: The Hindu, PIB

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