Prelim Bits 21-12-2017

'Naseem Al Bahr'

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- 'Naseem Al Bahr' or 'Sea Breeze' is India’s bilateral naval exercise with the Omani navy conducted since 1993.
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- The 11th edition of the exercise was recently held off the coast of Oman.
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- The Indian Navy deployed two naval ships - INS Trikand and INS Teg - for the exercise, an Indian Navy submarine and the versatile P8I long-range maritime aircraft.
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- India has an ancient maritime tradition and maritime interaction with Oman dating back to more than 4,000 years.
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- Archaeological research at sites in Mesopotamia, Bahrain, and Oman has led to the recovery of artefacts traceable to the Indus Valley civilization.
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- Bilateral relations between Indian and Oman were formally established with the signing of the 1953 Indo-Oman Treaty of Friendship, Navigation and Commerce, a first between India and an Arab country.
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P-8I

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- It is a long-range, multimission maritime patrol aircraft manufactured by Boeing, for the Indian Navy.
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- The aircraft was designed to protect the vast coastline and territorial waters of India.
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- It can conduct anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (AsuW), intelligence, maritime patrol, and surveillance and reconnaissance missions.
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National Rail and Transport University (NRTU)

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- The Cabinet recently approved the setting up of India's first National Rail and Transport University (NRTU) in Vadodara in Gujarat.
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- The university plans to use latest pedagogy and technology applications such as satellite based tracking, Radio Frequency Identification and Artificial Intelligence to improve on-the-job performance and productivity.
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- It is expected to have 3,000 full-time students.
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- A not-for-profit company would be created under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.
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- The company will be created by the ministry of railways and it would be the managing company of the proposed university.
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- The company will provide financial and infrastructural support to the university.
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Schaller’s Wood Scorpion

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- It is a new species recently identified from Tripura.
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- They are found in low elevations in parts of Tripura, including Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary and Bison National Park.
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- It is the 11th wood scorpion species from India.
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- India is home to more than 125 species of scorpions. Nine of India’s 11 wood

scorpions are endemic to the country.
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- Wood scorpions are also called dwarf scorpions as they are only about 3 cm long and live in small burrows on the ground, making them very difficult to spot.
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- Scorpions belong to the class Arachnida (having 8 legs) and phylum Arthopoda (jointed legs).
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- Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary and Bison National Park is well known for Indian Bison locally known as Gaur.
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- It also supports of viable population of Holook Gibbon, Spectacled Langurs, slow loris, Pig Tailed Macaque.
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STRIVE Project

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- Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) is a central sector scheme, implemented by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
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- It aimed at improving the quality and the market relevance of vocational training provided in ITIs.
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- The project will also strengthen the apprenticeship programme through industry-cluster approach.
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- It helps in setting up Vocational Education and Training (VET).
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- VET is a national body for vocational education which shall regulate accreditation and certification to bring uniformity in vocational training.
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- It is supported by World Bank loan assistance.
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- A financing agreement for the credit of USD 125 million for this project was recently signed by the Government of India with the World Bank.
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Dramatic Performances Act, 1876

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- The birth of professional Bengali theatre and plays like Nildarpan in 1872 brought anti-British subject matter to the general public.
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- Subsequently the government passed the DPA in 1876 during the period of Lord Lytton to regulate theatre.
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- It empowered the government 'to prohibit Native plays which are scandalous, defamatory, seditious or obscene'.
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- The police could 'enter, arrest, and seize scenery, dresses, etc'.
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- Also, public dramatic performances 'in specified localities' had to receive a license', and 'a copy of the piece, shall be previously furnished to the proper authorities'.
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- Even after Independence, the DPA remained in effect, with most states introducing their own amended versions.
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Source: The Hindu, PIB

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