Prelim Bits 23-04-2017

First underwater metro tunnel

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- The tunnel is **constructed inside the bed of Hoogly River** in West Bengal, the first under river tunnel in India.
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- The two tunnels running parallel will connect the twin cities of **Howrah and Kolkata** located on either side of the Hooghly.
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- The twin tunnels, about 520 meters long, are crucial to the East West Metro project that will connect the eastern part of Kolkata to the Howrah Maidan across the river.
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Kharai Camels

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- Kharai camels also called as **"Swimming Camels"** is a separate breed among the **nine breeds of camel found in India.**
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- Gujarat is the only State in India which is home to Kharai Camels.
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- The camel is adapted to extreme climate of Kutch and shallow seas and high salinity.
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- It grazes on mangrove trees and can **swim up to three kilometers into the sea** in search of their primary food mangroves.
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- The camels are bred by 2 distinct communities, the Fakirani Jats, who are the handlers and the Rabaris, who own the animals. The nomadic communities move in search of mangroves for their camels to feed on.
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- Jats, Rabaris and Sammas belong to maaldhari – the nomadic pastoralists of Kachchh who own herds of camels, goats, sheep, buffaloes and cows.

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- The steadily decreasing mangroves due to heavy industrialization along the coast have affected the traditional grazing routes.
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- **Mangrove sites in Gujarat – Gulf of Kutch, Gulf of Khambat and Dumas-Ubhrat.**
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Lionfish

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- The lionfish is a **carnivorous fish** native to the warm, tropical waters of the South Pacific and Indian Oceans (i.e., the Indo-Pacific region), including the Red Sea.
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- It is an **invasive species in Atlantic Ocean** and it has no known predators in the Atlantic Ocean.
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- Lionfish have been found in water depths from 1 to 300 feet on hard bottom, mangrove, seagrass, coral, and artificial reefs (like shipwrecks).
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- Lionfish is a **nocturnal hunters** and it is a top predator in the food chain.
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Native range of Lionfish

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Liver carcinogen

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Aflatoxin is a toxin produced by **Aspergillus moulds** that commonly infect corn, peanuts, almonds and sunflower seeds. It has the potential to cause liver cancer

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