Prelim Bits 25-11-2017

India’s Biggest Oil Refinery

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- India’s biggest oil refinery proposed on the western coastline near Rajapur tehsil of the Ratnagiri district in Maharastra.
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- The government has recently begun the joint measurement of land.
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- The land has been notified as an industrial area under Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) Act, instead of Land Acquisition Act, 2013.
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- MIDC law is draconian and gives no voice to the people.
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- So farmers from in Maharashtra have been protesting against it.
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- The villagers are also concerned at the pollution caused by the refinery once it is operational.
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- The refinery will stand next to world’s biggest nuclear power project, the proposed 9900 MW Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project (JNPP), which is another cause for concern among locals.
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- A desiltation project and a 1,500 MW thermal power project are also proposed in the vicinity.
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Panel to reform IBC

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- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code became operational in December 2016.
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- It provides for a market-determined and time-bound insolvency resolution process.
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- With rising number of cases under the IBC, the government has set up a 14-member panel to identify and suggest ways to address issues faced in its implementation.
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- This committee will be chaired by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas.
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- The move also comes against the backdrop of concerns about the possibility of promoters wresting back control of a company under insolvency process.
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North East Rural Livelihood Project

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- It is a unique scheme proposed by the Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER) and is being supported by the World Bank.
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- It will primarily benefit the tribals and the lower socioeconomic groups, especially women, in the North-Eastern Region (NER).
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- Four states, - Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, will be taken up for helping the tribal and even the non-tribal lower groups living in remote areas.
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- It is also aimed at assisting over 10,000 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and benefit about three lakh poor households.
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- The more vulnerable tribal groups like Reang in Tripura and Lepsha and Bhutias in Sikkim will also benefit from it.
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Indian Forest (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017

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- Bamboo is taxonomically a grass.
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- Yet it was legally defined as a tree under the Indian Forest Act, 1927.
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- This was a major impediment for bamboo cultivation on non-forest land as the act mandates requirement of felling/transit permit for its economic use.
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- Though India has 19% share of world’s area under bamboo cultivation, its market share in the sector is only 6%.
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- So the Union Government has recently promulgated the Indian Forest (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017.
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- It exempts bamboo grown in non-forest areas from the definition of tree.
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- So there is no more a requirement of felling/transit permit.
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- Hence this will promote cultivation of bamboo in non-forest areas to achieve twin objectives of increasing the farmer incomes and also increasing the green cover.
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- It will greatly aid the success of recently constituted National Bamboo Mission.
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- Bamboo grown in the forest areas will continue to be governed by the provisions of IFA, 1927.
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Talanoa Dialogue

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- It is facilitative dialogue among member of Conference of Parties of Paris Agreement to be taken in 2018.
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- It is a year-long process to take stock of the collective efforts of Parties in relation to progress towards the long-term goal of economy-wide absolute emission reduction and to inform the preparation of nationally determined contributions.
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- Talanoa is a traditional word used in Fiji and the Pacific to reflect a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue.
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How bacteria survive?

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- Aerobic bacteria cannot undergo metabolic processes without oxygen.

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- Each cell must extract electrons from food that are then transported along the cell's membrane until they reach an oxygen molecule.
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- The energy released during this metabolic process is used to sustain life.
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- But Bacteria rarely live by themselves as single-celled organisms.
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- Most grow in communities to form a biofilm with tissue-like properties that serves to fortify the community.
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- As communities grow they can become overcrowded, creating an environment where each cell has to compete for limited nutrients and oxygen to survive.
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- Biologists have recently revealed a mechanism by which bacterial cells access oxygen for energy production.
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- They say that the communities can change the overall structure of the biofilm so that its surface area-to-volume ratio is higher and a larger proportion of the cells inside are able to access the oxygen on the outside.
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- Some can also make molecules called phenazines, which help to shuttle electrons from the inside to the outside of the cell.
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- Some make alternative versions of terminal oxidases i.e enzymes that transfer electrons to oxygen, which use oxygen more efficiently or are better at scavenging oxygen when the concentration is low.
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Sources: PIB, The Hindu, The Indian Express

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