

Prelim Bits 27-10-2017

Red Sanders

\n\n

\n

- Pterocarpus santalinus (Red sanders) is a species of Pterocarpus with a common name red sandalwood, and saunders wood.

\n

- It is endemic to the southern Eastern Ghats mountain range of South India.

\n

- It is listed in the category of “Endangered” by the IUCN because of overexploitation for its timber in South India.

\n

- It is also listed in the appendix II of the CITES.

\n

- This tree is valued for the rich red color of its wood and it is highly in demand in China.

\n

- The wood is not aromatic and it is not to be confused with the aromatic Santalum sandalwood trees that grow natively in South India.

\n

\n\n

Typhoon Lan

\n\n

\n

- Typhoon Lan, known in the Philippines as Typhoon Paolo was the second largest tropical cyclone in terms of a gale diameter on record.

\n

- It is the most intense of the Northwest Pacific Ocean in 2017.

\n

- It made a landfall in Japan as a category 2 equivalent typhoon.

\n

- The areas affected by this include Caroline Islands, Phillippines, Japan and South Korea.

\n

- **Gale** - The most common way of measuring winds is with the Beaufort scale, which defines a gale as wind from 50 to 102 km/h.

\n

- It is an empirical measure for describing wind speed based mainly on observed sea conditions.

\n

\n\n

Global Investors' India Forum

\n\n

\n

- It is the global event of investors and investees organized by ASSOCHAM, India's oldest apex chamber for commerce and industry.
- The event is officially supported by the Ministry of External affairs and Department of Industrial policy and promotion, Ministry of commerce and Industry.
- It was started in 2015 and this year it is organized with a theme "Ideate, Innovate, Implement and Invest in India".

\n

\n\n

Asian Development Bank

\n\n

\n

- India signed a USD 300 million loan pact with ADB for fiscal reforms in West Bengal to improve the quality of public service delivery.
- ADB is a regional development bank established in 1966, headquartered in Metro Manila, Philippines.
- ADB now has 67 members of which 48 from within Asia and Pacific while remaining 19 from outside.
- It admits the members of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and non-regional developed countries.
- Its voting system was modeled closely on the World Bank where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscriptions..
- It assists its members by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.

\n

\n\n

Ban of Pet coke in NCR

\n\n

- \n
- The Supreme Court has recently directed the prohibition of industrial use of pet coke and furnace oil in NCR regions from November 1, 2017.
- \n
- It also imposed a fine of Rs. 2 lakh on the Ministry of Environment for not fixing any emission standards for industries using pet coke and furnace oil in the NCR region.
- \n
- Petroleum coke, abbreviated coke or petcoke, is a final carbon-rich solid material that derives from oil refining.
- \n
- Petcoke is over 90 percent carbon and emits 5 to 10 percent more carbon dioxide (CO₂) than coal on a per-unit-of-energy basis when it is burned.
- \n
- It can contain vanadium, a toxic metal which is toxic in tiny quantities, 0.8 micrograms per cubic meter of air.
- \n
- It is sometimes a source of fine dust, which can get through the filtering process of the human airway and lodge in the lungs.
- \n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: PIB, The Hindu

\n

