

Prelim Bits 27-10-2017

Red Sanders

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Typhoon Lan

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

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

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

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

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- **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.

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

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Global Investors' India Forum

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- It is the global event of investors and investees organized by ASSOCHAM, India's oldest apex chamber for commerce and industry.

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- The event is officially supported by the Ministry of External affairs and Department of Industrial policy and promotion, Ministry of commerce and Industry.

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- It was started in 2015 and this year it is organized with a theme "Ideate, Innovate, Implement and Invest in India".

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Asian Development Bank

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- India signed a USD 300 million loan pact with ADB for fiscal reforms in West Bengal to improve the quality of public service delivery.

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- ADB is a regional development bank established in 1966, headquartered in Metro Manila, Philippines.

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- ADB now has 67 members of which 48 from within Asia and Pacific while remaining 19 from outside.

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- It admits the members of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and non-regional developed countries.

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- Its voting system was modeled closely on the World Bank where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscriptions..

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- It assists its members by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.

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Ban of Pet coke in NCR

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 - The Supreme Court has recently directed the prohibition of industrial use of pet coke and furnace oil in NCR regions from November 1, 2017.
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 - 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.
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 - Petroleum coke, abbreviated coke or petcoke, is a final carbon-rich solid material that derives from oil refining.
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 - 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.
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 - It can contain vanadium, a toxic metal which is toxic in tiny quantities, 0.8 micrograms per cubic meter of air.
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 - It is sometimes a source of fine dust, which can get through the filtering process of the human airway and lodge in the lungs.

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Source: PIB, The Hindu

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