Prelim Bits 30-04-2017

India’s first book village

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- **Bhilar in Satara District, Maharashtra** is India’s first “Book of Village”.
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- The village Bhilar is located between the hill stations of Mahabaleshwar and Panchgani in Maharashtra.
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- There will be 25 book hotspots in the village which are mini libraries having 15,000 books to be kept permanently for the public.
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- The idea for this book village is inspired by Britain’s popular Hay-on-Wye book village and literary festival concept.
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- The village is known for strawberry cultivation and called as **“Strawberry country” in Maharashtra.**
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International Basava Convention

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- Basavanna was a 12th-century social reformer, Kannada poet, philosopher, statesman who served as the chief minister of Kalachuri dynasty ruled by King Bijjala.
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- Recently Basava Jayanti was celebrated for the first time on his birth anniversary and digital version of his work “**Vachana**” was released.
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- Vachana is a prosaic form well known in the Kannada literature which propagates values of universal brotherhood.
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- Basavanna spread social awareness through his poetry and rejected gender or social discrimination, superstitions and rituals.
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- Basavanna founded **“Lingayatism”,** a distinct **shaivite religious tradition** and spread by his followers **Sharanas.**
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- Lingyatism emphasizes on monism and bhakti (loving devotion) to Shiva and lingyats are also called as Veerashaivas.
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- Basava introduced a public institution called as “**Anubhava Mantapa**” - hall of spiritual experience that would facilitate men and women from all socio-economic backgrounds to have discussion on various spiritual questions.
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Eurasia Economic Union

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- India is set to formalize a free trade agreement with Eurasia Economic Union.
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- The Eurasian Economic Union comprises Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.
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- The treaty on the Eurasian Economic union was signed in 2015.
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Institutions of EAEU

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- **Eurasian Economic Council** is the supreme body of the union consisting of all Head of the member states. It is similar to European Council.
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- **Eurasian Intergovernmental Council** is the 2nd level of intergovernmental institution consisting of the Prime Ministers of member states.
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- **Eurasian Economic Commission** is the executive body similar to European Commission and day to day work is done by this body and **Court of the EAEU** is the judicial organ.
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Yakshagana

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- It is a traditional theatre form that combines dance, music, dialogue, costume, make-up, and stage techniques with a unique style and form.
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- This theatre style is mainly found coastal region of **Karnataka.**
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- Yakshagana is traditionally presented from dusk to dawn.
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- Yakshagana poetry is a collection of poems written to form a music drama and it is also called as **“Prasanga”.**
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- Tenkutittu (includes Kerala), Badagutittu, Uttara Kannadatittu are the traditional variants of Yakshagana.
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Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun

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The Japanese government has selected former Union Law Minister **Ashwani Kumar** for the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun , in recognition of his achievements in bolstering India-Japan ties.

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