

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".
- The village Bhilar is located between the hill stations of Mahabaleshwar and Panchgani in Maharashtra.
- There will be 25 book hotspots in the village which are mini libraries having 15,000 books to be kept permanently for the public.
- The idea for this book village is inspired by Britain's popular Hay-on-Wye book village and literary festival concept.
- 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.
- Vachana is a prosaic form well known in the Kannada literature which propagates values of universal brotherhood.
- \bullet Basavanna spread social awareness through his poetry and rejected gender or social discrimination, superstitions and rituals. \n

- Basavanna founded "Lingayatism", a distinct shaivite religious tradition and spread by his followers Sharanas.
- Lingyatism emphasizes on monism and bhakti (loving devotion) to Shiva and lingyats are also called as Veerashaivas.
- Basava introduced a public institution called as "Anubhava Mantapa" hall of spiritual experience that would facilitate men and women from all socioeconomic 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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 \bullet The treaty on the Eurasian Economic union was signed in 2015. \n

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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.
- Eurasian Intergovernmental Council is the 2nd level of intergovernmental institution consisting of the Prime Ministers of member states.
- 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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- \bullet It is a traditional theatre form that combines dance, music, dialogue, costume, make-up, and stage techniques with a unique style and form. \n
- This theatre style is mainly found coastal region of **Karnataka**.
- \bullet Yakshagana is traditionally presented from dusk to dawn. $\$
- Yakshagana poetry is a collection of poems written to form a music drama and it is also called as "Prasanga".
- 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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