Prelims Bits 12-01-2018

First direct women SC judge

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- The Supreme Court Collegium led unanimously recommended the name of senior advocate Indu Malhotra for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court.
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- Indu Malhotra will be the first woman lawyer to be directly recommended from the Bar to Supreme Court judgeship.
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- This is the first time in history that a woman advocate has been recommended for direct elevation from the Bar to a Supreme Court judgeship.
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- If appointed, Ms. Malhotra would be only the seventh woman judge in the Supreme Court's 68-year-old history.
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Appointment of SC judges

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- The Chief Justice of India and the Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President (on the recommendation of the collegium) under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution. (Collegium has not been mention in the constitution).
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- A person to be appointed as a judge of SC should have following qualifications
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1. He/She should have been judge of a high court (or high courts in succession) for five years.
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2. He/She should have been advocate of a High court (or High courts of succession) for ten years.
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3. He/She should be a distinguished jurist on the opinion of president who is recommended by the collegium.
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- Constitution has not prescribed a minimum age for appointment as a judge of the SC, but he/she can hold office until the age of 65 years.
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- Constitution has not fixed the tenure of SC judge.
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SFOORTI application

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- Ministry of Railway has launched Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information (SFOORTI) Application.
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- Both passenger and freight trains can be tracked over Zones/Divisions/ Sections can be viewed through this application.
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- Position of Rakes for specific type of Stock, loading and unloading of goods can also be viewed through this application.
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- It provides features for monitoring and managing freight business using Geographic Information System (GIS) Views and Dashboard.
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Hunar Haat

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- 5th “Hunar Haat”trade fair was organised at Mumbai by Minority Affairs Ministry.
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- This Expo is organised under “USTTAD” scheme in different parts of the country.
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- “Hunar Haat” have become a successful mission to provide employment and opportunities for artisans, craftsmen and culinary experts in national, as well international markets.
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USTTAD Scheme

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- Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD) is a scheme of Ministry of Minority Affairs.
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- It aims at preserving and promoting the rich heritage of traditional arts & crafts of the Minority communities.
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- It also envisages at boosting skill of craftsmen, weavers and artisans who are already engaged in traditional ancestral work.
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SC direction on Mullaperiyar Dam

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- Supreme Court directed union government to constitute a special committee to prepare for disaster management in Mullaperiyar dam.
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- SC also ordered Tamil Nadu and Kerala Governments to prepare their disaster management plan on the dam.
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- Concerns pertaining to the dam’s stability and lifespan would continue to be examined by an existing committee set up in 2014.
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- The dam situated at the confluence of the Mullayar and Periyar rivers is located entirely in Kerala.
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- The dam is operated by the Tamil Nadu government for its irrigation and power generation needs.
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Source: PIB, the Hindu

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