

Prelim Bits 07-11-2017

Nelapattu bird sanctuary

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- Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary is a bird sanctuary in Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh,
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- It is an important breeding site for spot-billed pelicans.
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- Spot-billed pelicans are a bird of large inland and coastal waters, especially large lakes.
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- It breeds only in peninsular India, Sri Lanka and in Cambodia.
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- They are not migratory but are known to make local movements.
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- They are colonial breeder, often breeding in the company of other waterbirds.
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- It is categorized as “Near Threatened” in IUCN red list.
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- Copious rain from the south west and north east monsoon led to the return of pelicans in Nelapattu sanctuary.
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Gender Vulnerability Index

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- The first ever Gender Vulnerability Index is computed by Plan India, a non-governmental organisation.
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- It provides state-wise ranking by analyzing four parameters, namely health, education, poverty and protection/safety from violence.
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- The index is topped by Goa followed by Kerala and Mizoram.
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- Bihar ranked the lowest in the index particularly women safety and security.
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- The composite index has been developed within research for the NGO's "Plan for Every Child campaign".
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- It is aimed at comprehensively understanding the dimensions of various problems affecting children, particularly girls, in difficult circumstances.
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ChintanShivir

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- It is a two day national workshop organized by Ministry of Human Resource Development.
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- The main objective of the workshop is to provide holistic education relevant for 21st century India,
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- It aims to bring together key stakeholders from various NGOs, private sector and individuals to deliberate on key themes in the education sector.
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ShaalaSarathi

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- It is a portal launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
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- It is a State-NGO-CSR Portal to aid the collaboration among the stakeholders in sharing innovative practices in various schools.
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- **Shaala Siddhi** - A comprehensive **school evaluation system** focused on well-defined quality based parameters.
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- It facilitates Schools to make professional judgments for improvement.
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Proxima Centauri

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- Proxima Centauri is the closest star to Sun.
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- It is a faint red dwarf lying four light years away in the southern constellation of Centaurus.
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- It is orbited by the Earth-sized Proxima b which is the closest exoplanet to the solar system.
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- Scientists have recently detected dust belts around Proxima Centauri, by the Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA) Observatory in Chile.
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- The presence of dust belts indicates the presence of an elaborate planetary system hosted by it.
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eBird India Portal

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- It is an e-platform designed for birders to record their sightings through bird 'record'.
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- Bird 'record' is the observation of a particular species at a particular date, time and place.
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- Tamil Nadu State's bird 'record' has recently reached one million counts.
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- TN has become the third state to achieve this distinction after Kerala and Karnataka.
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- House Crow comes first in the list of 25 birds record followed by Common Myna, Large-billed crow and others.
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Best Urban Transport Practices Award

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- The award is announced by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
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- "Best City Bus Services" award is given to Surat for attracting 87% of private

vehicles and auto rickshaw users.

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- Mysuru's Public Bicycle Sharing has won the 'Best Non-Motorised Transport' Award.

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- Kochi Kerala has been chosen for the 'Best Urban Transport Initiative' Award for completing its Metro Rail Project in a quick time and integrating it with other modes of transport.

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Source: The Hindu, PIB

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