

Prelim Bits 17-01-2018

Malimath Report

\n\n

\n

- Justice Malimath Committee or The Committee on Reforms of the Criminal Justice System was constituted by the Home Ministry in 2000.

\n

- The committee had submitted its report in 2003 and made recommendations on crime investigation and punishment.

\n

- The recommendations were never implemented. It is now going to be revisited by the government.

\n

- One of its key recommendations is admissibility of confessions made before a police officer as evidence in a court of law.

\n

- Other recommendations are

\n

\n\n

\n

- i. Stringent punishment for false registration of cases,

\n

- ii. Constituting a National Judicial Commission and

\n

- iii. Amending Article 124 to make impeachment of judges less difficult

\n

- iv. Standard of “proof beyond reasonable doubt” followed in criminal cases be done away with.

\n

\n\n

Sholas

\n\n

\n

- The Sholas are a mosaic of mountane evergreen forests and grasslands.

\n

- They are found only in high altitude (>1500 metres above sea level) regions within the tropics, and are limited to the southern part of the Western Ghats.
\n
- They are characterised by undulating grassland patches, interspersed with thickets of stunted evergreen tree species.
\n
- Recent study has indicated that timber plantations, , expanding agriculture and the spread of invasive species reduced two thirds of the shoals in palani hill ranges of Western Ghats.
\n
- There is a marked 67% decline in grassland area compared to 1973 level.
\n
- The natural march of invasive species such as prolific-seed-producer, acacia and the policy push for plantations in 1990s seems to be the main cause for decline.
\n
- Fragmented grasslands also displaced endemic species Nilgiri Pipit.
\n

\n\n

Nilgiri Pipit

\n\n

- \n
- Nilgiri Pipit (*Anthus nilghiriensis*) is a bird endemic to the Western Ghats of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, southern India.
\n
- It occurs on grassy upland slopes interspersed with bushes and trees, mainly above 1,500 m, and is commonest over 2,000 m.
\n
- It is listed as “**Vulnerable**” in IUCN red list category.
\n
- It feeds mostly on creeping grass in valleys, but nests in marshy grasslands with slightly taller grasses and sedges, particularly near streams.
\n
- It has been recorded consuming the seeds of grasses and herb.
\n
- Its grassland habitat is gradually being converted to plantations of tea, eucalyptus and silver wattle *Acacia dealbata*.
\n

\n\n

\n\n

\n

- Saksham is a month long awareness programme by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

\n

- It is aimed to create awareness towards “Fuel Conservation” through judicious utilization and conservation of petroleum products and switching to cleaner fuels.

\n

- It is organized by PCRA- Petroleum Conservation Research Association and other oil & gas PSU’s under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

\n

\n\n

IPrism

\n\n

\n

- IPrism is an Intellectual Property (IP) competition, organized by the Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM), Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

\n

- CIPAM collaborated with ASSOCHAM and ERICSSON India for this event.

\n

- This competition invites students to submit films on piracy & counterfeiting which causes significant loss to the industry and pose serious safety threats to the consumers.

\n

- The competition aims to foster a culture of innovation and creativity in the younger generation.

\n

\n\n

Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav

\n\n

\n

- The 7th edition of ‘Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-2018’ was inaugurated at Bengaluru.

\n

- It was conceived in 2015 by Ministry of Culture.

\n

- It was organised with intent to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the country.
\n
- This year, Ministry of Culture organised RSM under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat mission.
\n
- The 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' programme under Ministry of HRD, aims to actively enhance interaction between people of diverse cultures living in different States and UTs in India.
\n
- As per the programme, each year, every State/UT would be paired with another State/UT in India for reciprocal interaction between the people.
\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Hindu, PIB

\n

