

## **Prelim Bits 17-07-2017**

### **Sperm Whale:**

\n\n

\n

- The sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), or cachalot, is the largest of the toothed whales and the largest toothed predator.

\n

- The spermaceti oil extracted from it is used in oil lamps, lubricants, and candles.

\n

- Ambergris is a solid waxy waste product from its digestive system is used as a fixative in perfumes and other uses.

\n

- The species is now protected by a whaling moratorium.

\n

- It is currently listed as vulnerable by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

\n

\n\n

### **Source: The Hindu**

\n\n

### **Operation Muskaan:**

\n\n

\n

- It was launched by Union ministry of Home Affairs

\n

\n\n

\n

- The railway police started implementing 'Operation Muskaan' from to trace missing and destitute children and reunite them with their parents

\n

- The main aim of the programme was to prevent child trafficking and rescue children from persons who tried to engage them in begging, sexual trade and

other antisocial activities.

\n

- Under this programme, specially trained police teams would screen all children residing in shelter homes, railway platforms, bus stands, roads and religious places.

\n

\n\n

## **Source: The Hindu**

\n\n

### **\nRamakrishna Math institutions:**

\n\n

\n

- Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission are worldwide, non-political, non-sectarian spiritual organizations which have been engaged in various forms of humanitarian, social service activities for more than a century.

\n

- The organizations were brought into existence by Sri Ramakrishna (1836-1886) and Sri Ramakrishna's chief disciple, Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902)

\n

- The motto of the twin organizations is Atmano mokshartham jagad hitaya cha, "For one's own salvation and for the welfare of the world".

\n

- It was formulated by Swami Vivekananda.

\n

\n\n

\n

- The headquarters is located in Belur in the district of Howrah, West Bengal, India.

\n

\n\n

## **Source: The Hindu**

\n\n

### **\nCrypto-currency**

\n\n

\n

- A recent petition has sought steps to restrain sale and purchase of illegal Crypto-currency.  
\n
- A crypto-currency is a digital asset designed to work as a medium of exchange.  
\n
- It is a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security making it difficult to counterfeit.  
\n
- It is not issued by any central authority, rendering it immune to government interference or manipulation.  
\n
- The anonymous nature of crypto-currency transactions makes them well-suited for money laundering and tax evasion.  
\n
- Ex: Bitcoin, Litecoin, Namecoin and PPCoin.  
\n

\n\n

**Source: The Hindu**

\n\n

\n

