

Prelim Bits 18-12-2017

List of Invasive Animal Species

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- Zoological survey of India has recently compiled the list of invasive animal species.

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- These are species which pose a threat to the native biodiversity and human well-being.

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- **Papaya Mealy Bug** - It belongs to Mexico and Central America.

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- It is believed to have destroyed huge crops of papaya in Assam, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

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- **Cotton Mealybug** - It is a native of North America but has severely affected cotton crops in the Deccan.

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- **Amazon Sailfin catfish** - It is destroying fish populations in the wetlands of Kolkata.

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- **African Apple Snail** - It is said to be most invasive among all alien fauna.

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- It is a mollusk and was first reported in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands but today it is found all across the country.

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- **Orange Cup-Coral** - It originated in the Indo-East Pacific.

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- It has been reported in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Gulf of Kutch, Kerala and Lakshadweep.

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Nyaya Gram

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- It is a township with a judicial academy and auditorium in the Allahabad

High Court.

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- The U.P state government has provided the funding for this judicial infrastructure.

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- And U.P public works department is the nominated construction agency.

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- It will help judges to assemble and deliberate on the contemporary legislation and developments in the field of law.

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Gene to Tackle Stress Faced By Plants

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- Plants during their lifetime face **biotic stress** induced by living entities (pathogens) and **abiotic stress** caused by non-living entities (drought, osmotic stress, chemical or salt stress).

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- Scientists have recently discovered a single gene whose expression controls the plants' response to both biotic and abiotic stress.

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- Hsp31 is a heat shock protein found in the plants. Over expression of this protein renders them tolerant to stresses.

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- Methylglyoxal is an aldehyde which regulates processes such as cell proliferation and its survival at lower concentrations. But above a certain level it becomes toxic, targeting proteins and DNA to turn them non-functional.

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- Hsp31 protein is found to detoxify the methylglyoxal when it reaches higher concentration.

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- The protein is similar to PARK7 protein in humans which is linked to the early onset of Parkinson's disease.

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- Researchers believe that this finding can be used to engineer plants that can withstand, for instance, drought or bacterial infections.

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Kangri

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- Kangri is an earthen pot filled with burning charcoal traditionally used in Kashmir to keep them warm during the winter season.

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- It is held by its handle under a long loose woolen garment which people in the Valley wear.

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- As a part of their culture, parents give a specially designed pot to their daughter in the first winter after her wedding.

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- It is being displayed as a work of art in affluent households, especially in urban Kashmir.

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- Kangri-making is a cottage industry, providing employment to many men and women.

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- But it is slowly losing out its relevance due to its ill-effects such as causing rashes and burns as well as due to affordability of modern heating appliances like electric and gas heaters.

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Wakaleo Schouteni

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- It is a **new species of marsupial lion** discovered in Australia which has been extinct for at least 19 million years.

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- It was a meat eating predator existing in the late Oligocene to early Miocene era (some 18 to 26 million years ago).

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- It is named in honour of palaeo-artist Peter Schouten.
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- With this new finding, it is believed that two different species of marsupial lions were present in Oligocene era.
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Sampark, Samanvay, Samvad

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- It is a conclave organized by the **Ministry of Railways** to discuss and deliberate “Vision for New Railway – New India 2022”.
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- The conclave is aimed at
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- i. breaking the boundary put up by railway organization in sharing information (sampark)
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- ii. improve co-ordination (samanvay)
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- iii. find solutions (samvad) to the critical issues facing Indian Railways
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- It encouraged all officers to give inputs and bring out the ground realities and potential impediments to implementation of new policies and reforms.
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Source: The Hindu, PIB

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