

Prelim Bits 19-02-2018

Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT)

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• India's City Union Bank suffered a cyber attack via the SWIFT financial platform.

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- It is a messaging network that financial institutions use to securely transmit information and instructions through a standardized system of codes.
- SWIFT is headquartered in Belgium.
- It also brings the financial community together at global, regional and local levels – to shape market practice, define standards and debate issues of mutual interest or concern.
- \bullet For money transfers, SWIFT assigns each participating financial organization a unique code with either eight or eleven characters $\mbox{\ \ \ }$

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Swami Ramakrishna Pramahamsa's Birth Anniversary

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- Ramakrishna Pramahamsa's birth anniversary was on February 18th.
- His spiritual movement indirectly aided nationalism, as it rejected caste distinctions and religious prejudices.
- Ramakrishna's religious and spiritual philosophy was centered on Shakto, Advaita Vedanta and universal tolerance.
- Foremost among his innumerable disciples was Swami Vivekananda, who was instrumental in establishing the philosophy of Ramakrishna at a global stage.

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• Vivekananda established the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897 to carry out the visions of his Guru Ramakrishna.

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Assam- Wildlife Protection

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• In a major initiative for wildlife protection, the forest guards in Assam were given modern weapons to check poaching of rhinos, tigers and other wild animals.

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• Also for the first time wildlife fast-track courts have been set up to exclusively deal with poaching and wildlife crimes.

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• Assam has five national parks and 19 wildlife sanctuaries and is home to 91% of Indian rhinos.

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1. Kaziranga

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2. Manasa

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3. Nameri

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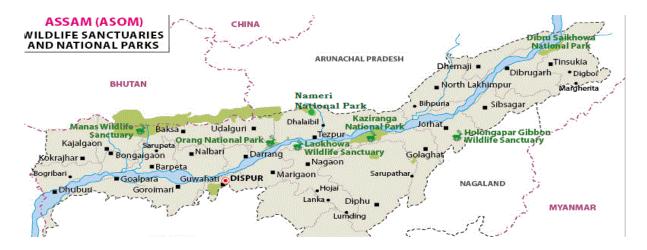
4. Rajiv Gandhi Orang

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5. Dibru Saikhowa

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 \bullet Manas and Dibru saikhowa are the Biosphere reserve in the state. $\mbox{\ensuremath{\backslash}} n$

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Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS)

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• GLASS was developed by WHO to foster standardized AMR surveillance globally.

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• It released the first set of surveillance data on anti-microbial resistance recently.

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• Key Findings of GLASS are

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1. AMR is widespread in both high and low income countries.

- 2. The most commonly reported resistant bacteria were Escherichia coli (E. coli), Klebsiella pneumoniae, Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococcus pneumonia, and Salmonella spp.
- 3. There is an alarming spike in the cases resistant to penicillin and ciprofloxacin.

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Sambandh Initiative

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- Western Naval Command hosted the Sambandh exercise last year.
- Participants were from the 10 Indian Ocean Littoral countries Maldives, Myanmar, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia and Mauritius.
- Naval officers and cadets from smaller countries that do not have big navies were welcomed aboard INS Vikramaditya -India's aircraft carrier as a part of the initiative.

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 Apart from the Sambandh initiate, the Indian Navy sent its Mobile Training Team (MTT) to these countries.

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• Training teams of the Indian Navy were sent to neighboring countries to train other countries cadets at their home base.

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Map: Myanmar-Manipur border

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• A dam being constructed by Myanmar across river—close to the boundary with India has stoked fears of submergence and water scarcity in Manipur's Chandel district.

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 \bullet The Indian states that border Myanmar are:

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 $\textbf{A} runachel \ Pradesh, \textbf{N} agaland, \textbf{M} anipur, \textbf{M} izoram$

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• Tip to remember easily: Myanmar MMAN. \n

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Source: PIB, The Hindu, Livemint, Down to earth.

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