Prelim Bits 28-06-2017

Bilaspur-Manali-Leh Rail line

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- Recently final survey for Bilaspur-Manali-Leh Rail line has been launched. It is going to be one of the highest railway tracks in the world.
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- It is laid at the height of 3,300 mt and 498-km long stretch will overtake China’s Qinghai-Tibet Railway.
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- Currently, the road route is open only for about five months in a year. Thus the rail line aimed at connecting Leh with the rest of the country through all weather rail line.
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- The all-weather Leh rail network is one of the four important railway connectivities identified by the defence ministry along the China border.
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Bilaspur Manali Leh Railway line

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Swachh Rail Campaign

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- Under this campaign, Quality Council of India conducted its 3rd survey to rank railway stations.
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- Visakhapatnam railway station in Andhra Pradesh was rated the cleanest station among the 75 busiest stations in the country.
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- It is followed by Secunderabad, Jammu, Vijayawada.
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- It is based on the criteria such as toilets on platforms, management of tracks and dustbins.
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Salt Water Crocodiles

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- The Estuarine or salt water crocodiles are found in the eastern coast and Andaman & Nicobar Islands in India.
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- Bhitarkanika National park on the odisha coast houses 70% of India’s salt water crocodiles.
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- Project Crocodile was launched by Government of India and UNDP to save the salt water crocodiles in Bhitarkanika.
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- Unlike other crocodiles, estuarine crocodiles lay eggs by creating a mound made of leaves of a particular mangrove species, which are plentifully available in Bhitarkanika.
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- Crocodiles start laying eggs by mid-may, with an incubation period of 75 days.
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- Other Crocodile species in India: Mugger crocodile and Gharial Crocodile.
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Magnetic field in Uranus

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- Recently scientists have found that Uranus' magnetic field gets flipped on and off like a light switch everyday as the planet rotates.
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- It is based on the data from **NASA's Voyager 2 Spacecraft**.
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- Uranus magnetic field is lopsided and tilted 60 degrees from its axis. Thus it causes magnetic field to tumble asymmetrically to the solar winds.
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- This is quite different from Earth's magnetosphere, since the alignment of Earth's magnetosphere is always toward the sun and it is one of the reason for Earth's auroras.
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