

# Prelim Bits 06-11-2017

#### TholpavaKoothu

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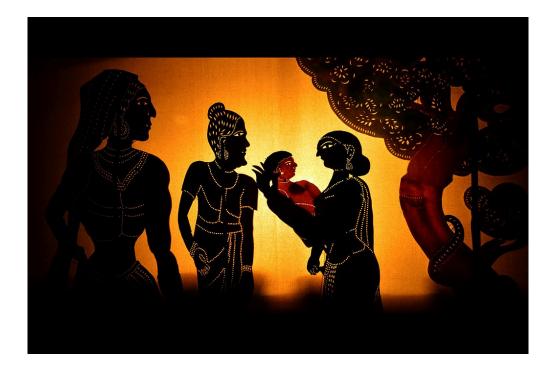
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- TholpavaKoothu is a unique shadow puppet theatre form of Kerala.  $\n$
- It is an ancient peculiar ritualistic art form dedicated to <u>Bhagavati</u>, worshiped by the people of <u>Kerala</u> as the Mother Goddess.  $\n$
- It is performed using **leather puppets** at the specially constructed theatre called Koothu Madam in front of the Bhagavati temple. n
- It is believed to have originated in the ninth century AD.  $\slash n$
- It uses Tamil epic "Kamba Ramayana" as its basic text.  $\n$
- The language used is a dialect of Tamil with an admixture of Sanskrit and Malayalam words.

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- It is a fine example of the integration of Aryan and Dravidian cultures. h

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#### **INSV Tarini**

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- INSV Tarini is the Indian Navy's second ocean going sailboat.  $\slashn$
- Navika Sagar Parikrama is a project wherein a team of women officers of the Indian Navy would circumnavigate the globe on INSV Tarini.  $\n$
- This is the first ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew.
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- It has completed its first leg of its maiden voyage (Goa to Australia) and started its second leg of its global expedition from Australia to New Zealand.  $\n$
- "INSV Tarini" was built based on the design of famous temple Tara Tarini.  $\n$
- The temple is situated in Kumari hills at the bank of the River Rushikulya, Odisha.

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• Click <u>here</u> to know more about Tara Tarini Temple. n

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## **Ancient Spiral Galaxy**

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- Scientists have discovered the most ancient spiral galaxy in the universe known as "A1689B11" that existed almost 11 billion years ago.  $\n$
- It existed just 2.6 billion years after the Big Bang (13 billion years ago), when the universe was only one-fifth of its present age.
- It is a spiral galaxy, which could provide insights into the early cosmos.  $\n$
- Scientists used a powerful technique on the **Gemini North telescope in Hawaii** to verify the spiral nature of the galaxy.

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## Aircraft Launch System

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- India is going to launch second indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-II) INS Vishal, using US based aircraft launch mechanisms.  $\n$
- It will have to choose between catapult-based aircraft launch mechanism (CATOBAR) and electro-magnetic aircraft launch system (EMALS).  $\n$
- CATOBAR is powered by a steam catapult and EMALS uses an electric motor-driven catapult instead.  $\n$
- The use of electro-magnetic energy allows the launch of much heavier aircraft and also reduces the stress on the aircraft.  $\n$
- INS Vishal, 65,000-70,000 tonne nuclear-powered vessel is a follow up of INS Vikrant class of aircraft carriers.
- India's first domestic carrier, Vikrant, weighing 40,000 tonnes, is scheduled to be launched by 2018-end.
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- It works on a Short Take-Off But Arrested Recovery (STOBAR) mechanism similar to that in the present carrier INS Vikramaditya.  $\n$

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## **Black Buck Reserve**

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• A wildlife conservation reserve dedicated exclusively to the blackbuck is coming up in the Trans-Yamuna region of Allahabad near the MP and UP border.

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- Blackbuck or Antilopecervicapra, also known as Indian Antelope is found in India, Nepal and Pakistan.
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- It is the sole living member of the genus Antilope and is classified under the family Bovidae.

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- It is known for its majestic spiral horns (in males) and coat colour contrasts.  $\slash n$
- They are found in the open Savannahs of north and central India, but are now restricted to just a few patches and habitats.  $\n$
- It is inhabited in: n

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- i. Velavadar Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat
- ii. Ranibennur Blackbuck Sanctuary in Karnataka
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- iii. Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary in Maharashtra
- iv. Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary in Bihar  $\normalin{\cite{n}} \normalic{n} \normalic$

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- It is protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act and Appendix III of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species).  $\n$
- The reserve in Allahabad is the first ever conservation reserve of its kind in UP.

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## Autumn Leaf

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• The Autumn Leaf is a rare butterfly species normally found in Karnataka and

Kerala.

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- It resembles a leaf found in the autumn with an orangish tinge.  $\ensuremath{\sc vn}$
- It is spotted for the first time after few years, in the Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary (GSWS), Tamil Nadu.
- GSWS, also known as Srivilliputhur Wildlife Sanctuary, home to the endangered grizzled squirrel, is bordered by Periyar Tiger Reserve and Palaghat gap.
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- It is considered as one of the Butterfly hotspots.  $\space{\space{1.5}n}$

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#### Source: The Hindu, PIB.

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