Prelim Bits 12-05-2017

UN-Habitat

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- India has been unanimously elected as the President of the UN-Habitat.
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- It is the UN programme working towards a better urban future. Its mission is to **promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development** and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.
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- UN-Habitat reports to the United Nations General Assembly.
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- Since the UN-Habitat came into being in 1978, It is only the third time that India has been elected to lead this important organization after 2007 and 1988.
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- The theme of the 26th Meeting of the Governing Council is “Opportunities for effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda”.
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Technology and Innovation Support Centers

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- The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) have signed an agreement to establish Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISC).
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- TISC program **provides innovators in developing countries** with access to locally based, high quality technology information and related services, helping them to exploit their innovative potential and to create, protect, and manage their intellectual property (IP) rights.
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- The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) is designated as the National Focal point for the TISC national network.
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- **Services offered by TISCs may include:**\n
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    - Access to online patent and non-patent (scientific and technical) resources and IP-related publications;
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    - Assistance in searching and retrieving technology information;
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    - Training in database search;
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    - On-demand searches (novelty, state-of-the-art and infringement);
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    - Monitoring technology and competitors;
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    - Basic information on industrial property laws, management and strategy, and technology commercialization and marketing.
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Electrick

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- Scientists have developed a new technology that can turn any surface — including walls, furniture and steering wheels — into a touch screen using tools as simple as a can of **spray paint.**
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- With the new technology dubbed Electrick, conductive touch surfaces can be created by applying conductive paints, bulk plastics or carbon-loaded film.
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- Like many touchscreens, **Electrick relies on the shunting effect** — when a finger touches the touchpad, it shunts a bit of electric current to ground.
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- By attaching a series of electrodes to the conductive materials, researchers showed they could use a well-known technique called **electric field tomography** to sense the position of a finger touch.
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Biodegradable Electronics

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- Scientists have developed a new ultra thin, flexible electronic device that is biodegradable, an advance that **may help tackle the problem of mounting electronic waste.**
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- They created a flexible electronic device that **can easily degrade just by adding a weak acid like vinegar.**
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Khooni Bhandara

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- A unique **underground water management structure** of the Mughal era in Madhya Pradesh, known as the 'Khooni Bhandara,' is eyeing the tag of UNESCO world heritage site.
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- Khooni Bhandara is a network of Kundis (well-like structures), which are inter-connected through an underground tunnel.
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- The system ensured a smooth course of water from the first to the last Kundi, **based on the law of gravity.**
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- An iron stairs or rope is used to go down in the tunnel through these well-like structures.
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- The structure, also a popular tourist spot, is still functional and serves high-quality drinking water to a portion of Burhanpur.
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