



# drishti

## Important Facts for Prelims (16th October 2018)

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### QS ranking for Indian universities

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- Recently Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) has launched its first India-specific rankings- India University Rankings. This is the first edition of the rankings exclusively for Indian institutions.
- It is the second country-specific rankings conducted by QS. The first was released for China.
- QS is a UK based global higher education company which brings out the QS World University Rankings, the world's most widely-consulted list of its kind.
- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, has secured the top spot followed by the Indian Institute of Science (IISC), Bengaluru.
- The rankings reflect the top 75 Indian universities. Of these, at least seven IIT's are ranked in top ten.
- The indicators for ranking are – academic reputation (30 percent), employer reputation (20 percent), faculty-student ratio (20 percent), research citations per faculty member (20 percent), proportion of international students (2.5 percent) and proportion of international faculty (2.5 percent).

### Pandavani Artist Teejan Bai Honoured by Japan

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- Recently folk artist Teejan Bai from Chhattisgarh received Japan's one of the greatest honours, the Fukuoka Arts and Culture Prize for her art Pandavani.
- Earlier, the Fukuoka Art Prize had been awarded to Indian musician, A.R. Rahman.
- The Award to Teejan Bai can reflect India's strengthened soft power in East Asia.
- Pandavani (literally meaning 'songs of the Pandavas'), a folk theatre form involves enacting and singing with instrumental accompaniment ektara or tambura in one hand and sometimes a kartal in another.
- It is rustic entertainment, popular in the tribal areas of Chhattisgarh and neighbouring States.
- Sangeet Natak Akademi (National level academy of performing arts under Ministry of Culture) has initiated the documentation and promotion of this theatre form.

## Mithun or Gayal (*Bos Frontalis*)

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- The killing of at least 10 Mithuns has sparked tension between villagers on inter-State border of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Mithun is the State animal of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The mithun or gayal (*Bos frontalis*), considered a descendant of the Indian Gaur or bison, plays an important role in the socio-economic and cultural life of tribes such as the Nyishi, Apatani, Galo, Mishmi, Adi, Sherdukpen and other communities of Arunachal Pradesh.
- They are considered sacred because mithun sacrifice is compulsory in all ceremonial rituals.
- The Mithun is often referred to as 'the cattle of the mountains' and 'ship of the highland'.
- Mithun prefers cold and mild climates, and feeds on forest leaves, shrubs and grass. It has a high fertility rate, producing one calf every year.
- It has been classified as Vulnerable by the IUCN.