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Important Facts For Prelims (31st May 2019)

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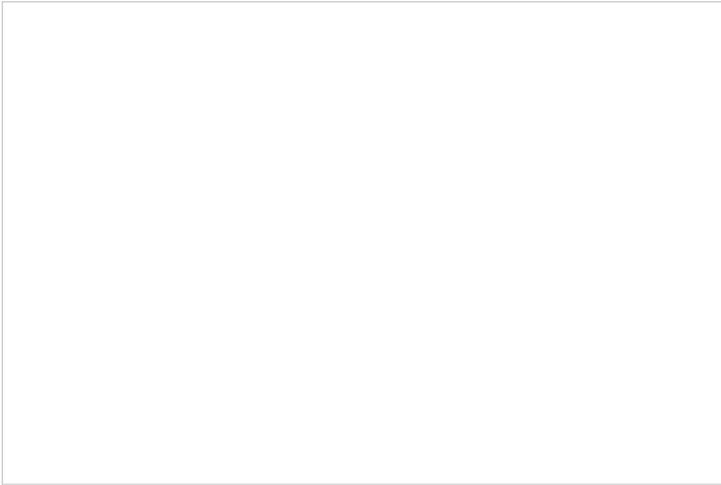
NGTS-4b

Astronomers have discovered a rogue **exoplanet** with its own atmosphere in the **Neptunian Desert**.

- NGTS-4b, nick-named '**The Forbidden Planet**' is smaller than Neptune but three times the size of Earth.
 - The exoplanet has a mass of 20 Earth masses, a radius 20 per cent smaller than Neptune, and temperature of 1000 degrees Celsius.
 - It orbits around the star in only 1.3 days — the equivalent of Earth's orbit around the Sun of one year.
 - It is the first exoplanet of its kind to have been found in the Neptunian Desert.
- **Neptunian Desert:** is the region close to stars where no Neptune-sized planets are found.
 - This area receives strong irradiation from the star. The planets do not retain their gaseous atmosphere as they evaporate leaving just a rocky core.
 - It is believed that the planet may have moved into the Neptunian Desert recently, in the last one million years. It was very big and the atmosphere is still evaporating.
 - This planet must be tough, it is right in the zone where we expected Neptune-sized planets could not survive.
- **Exoplanet Planets:** orbit around other stars in outer space. Exoplanets are very hard to see directly with telescopes. They are hidden by the bright glare of the stars they orbit.

Kalbelia Dance

- Kalbelia dances are an expression of the Kalbelia community's traditional way of life.



- **Location:** The largest number of the population of Kalbelias is in Pali district, then Ajmer, Chittorgarh and Udaipur district.
- **Nomadic life:** Once professional **snake handlers**, Kalbelia today evoke their former occupation in music and dance that is evolving in new and creative ways.
They live a nomadic life and belong to the scheduled tribes.
- **Instruments:** Women in flowing black skirts dance and swirl, replicating the movements of a serpent, while men accompany them on the "**khanjari**" instrument and the "**poongi**", a woodwind instrument traditionally played to capture snakes.
 - The dancers wear **traditional tattoo designs**, jewellery and garments richly embroidered with small mirrors and silver thread.
 - Kalbelia songs disseminate **mythological knowledge** through stories, while special traditional dances are performed during Holi, the festival of colours.
- The songs also demonstrate the **poetic acumen** of the Kalbelia, who are reputed to compose lyrics spontaneously and improvise songs during performances.
 - Transmitted from generation to generation, the songs and dances form part of an **oral tradition** for which no texts or training manuals exist.
 - Song and dance are a matter of pride for the Kalbelia community and a marker of their identity at a time when their traditional travelling lifestyle and role in rural society are diminishing.
- They demonstrate their community's attempt to revitalize its cultural heritage and adapt it to changing socioeconomic conditions.

Wellbeing Budget

- **New Zealand** became the first country to unveil its "**wellbeing**" budget.
 - Factors, such as life expectancy, education levels, air quality and "a sense of belonging" were included in the budget.
 - There will be increased spending on mental health, indigenous welfare and child poverty in a budget.
- Many other nations have adopted similar concepts but the New Zealand attempt is being touted as the first time it has been at the core of a government's spending

decisions.

- The idea of wellbeing budget is 2nd such innovative step after, the Himalayan kingdom of **Bhutan** first floated the idea of **prioritising happiness over growth** in the early 1970s and introduced a **Gross National Happiness Index in 2008**.