Prelim Bits 02-01-2018

NARI

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- NARI is an online portal developed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
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- The portal will provide women citizens with easy access to information on government schemes and initiatives for women.
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- It provides links to the Ministries, Departments and autonomous bodies offering the schemes as well as easy access to online applications and grievance redressal.
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e-Samvad

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- **e-Samvad** is an online portal to provide a platform for NGOs and Civil Societies to interact with the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
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- Through e-Samvad, NGOs and civil society can provide their feedback, suggestions, put up grievances, share best practices which will help in formulation of effective policies.
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Margdarshan

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- Margadarshan scheme is under the purview of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), a national level apex advisory body under Ministry of Human Resource and Development.
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- The scheme aims to provide mentoring to institutes by a well performing Institute.
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- Institutions of repute will act as a mentor with its existing facilities to serve as the hub to guide and disperse knowledge to 10 technical institutions.
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- It will allow for information sharing, such as technical education, research and sharing of resources to encourage best practices.
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- Mentor institute also provide services to faculty for self improvement.
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- Government owned, aided and self financed institutes and universities approved by AICTE can participate.
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- Duration of the project shall be of 3 years.
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- The fund dispersed by AICTE shall be utilized to conduct programmes for technical up liftment of the faculty members and shall not be used for purchase of equipment like computer, laptop etc.
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Swayam Prabha

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- The Swayam Prabha is a group of 32 DTH channels devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programmes on 24X7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite.
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- The channels cover higher education, school education and assist the students (class 11th & 12th) prepare for competitive exams.
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- The contents are provided by IITs, UGC, IGNOU, NCERT and NIOS.
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- Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), an autonomous Inter-University Centre (IUC) of UGC maintains the web portal.
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- INFLIBNET is involved in creating infrastructure for sharing of library and information resources and services among Academic and Research Institutions.
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- It allows students to choose the time of their convenience for learning.
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- It widens the scope of SWAYAM, an online education platform which covers teachers training, graduate and post graduate courses.
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Training Teachers through Swayam Prabha

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- After the launch of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the RTE, many teachers without requisite training had been hired.
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- The RTE (Amendment) Act, 2017 mandates teachers to acquire Bachelor/Diploma in Elementary Education by May, 2019 to retain their jobs.
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- The NIOS, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of HRD, is tasked with training these teachers.
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- Under Swayam Prabha, the government had one DTH channel in English and Hindi of the 32 channels for telecasting educational programmes dedicated to teacher training.
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- The government has decided to increase it to 3 channels along with providing an encoder device that permits live video interaction
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- ISRO is collaborating with NIOS in providing the devices to the teachers.
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Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga

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- Jagdishpur-Haldia & Bokaro-Dhamra Natural Gas Pipeline (JHBDPL) project is also known as Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga.
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- The 2,655 km project aims to connect the eastern states to the national gas grid.
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- Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal are the beneficiary states.
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- The project will usher Industrial development in East India by supplying environmentally clean natural gas to fertiliser and power plant, refineries,

steel plants and other industries.
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- It also provides clean energy to households and transportation in the cities en-route the pipeline.
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- State-run gas utility GAIL India has recently placed orders for 400-km of pipeline.
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- With these awards, pipe supply orders for 2,100 km of the project have been placed.
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Rooftop Solar Plant

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- GAIL has commissioned the country's second-largest rooftop solar power plant with a capacity of 5.76 Mega Watt at Pata, Uttar Pradesh.
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- The country's largest rooftop solar plant is located in Amritsar and has a capacity of 12 MW.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu

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