Prelim Bits 02-11-2017

UNESCO Asia Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation

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- Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangam, has won the UNESCO Asia Pacific Award of Merit 2017 for cultural heritage conservation.
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- It has become the first temple in Tamil Nadu to be given the prestigious award from the UN body.
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- The massive renovation and restoration effort executed through the public-private partnership model since 2014 was the main reason to win this award.
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- Mumbai's Christ Church and Royal Bombay Opera House were the other monuments in India that received the Award of Merit this year.
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- The award is being given to encourage the efforts of all stakeholders and the public in conserving and promoting the monuments and religious institutes with rich heritage in the Asia-Pacific region.
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- The awards are classified under four categories - Award of Excellence, Awards of Distinction, Awards of Merit and Award for New Design in Heritage Context.
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Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple

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- The Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple or Thiruvarangam is a Hindu temple dedicated to Hindu deity Vishnu.
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- The temple is situated on an islet between Cauvery and Kollidam rivers. Kollidam is the northern distributary of Cauvery River.
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- It has seven prakaras and 21 towers, including the 236-feet-high

Rajagopuram.
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- It is considered as the foremost among the 108 DivyaDesams.
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- A DivyaDesam is one of the 108 Vishnu temples that are mentioned in the works of the Alvars called “NalayiraDivyaPrabandham”.
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NiveshBandhu

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- NiveshBandhu is an investor facilitation portal which will be launched by the Ministry of Food Processing during World Food India Expo 2017.
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- Its objective is to assist investors to make informed investment decisions.
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- The portal would provide information on Central and State Governments’ investor friendly policies, agro-producing clusters, infrastructure, and potential areas of investment in the food processing sector.
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- World Food India 2017 will provide global businesses a platform to explore Indian market across the value chain in food processing and food retail.
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- It brings together global & Indian leaders across the food value chain for possible partnerships and facilitates investment flow in the food processing sector.
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RKVY-RAFTAAR

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- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the continuation of RashtriyaKrishiVikasYojana (RKVY) as RKVY- Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR) for three years i.e. 2017-18 to 2019-20.
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- RKVY is a continuing scheme under implementation from XI Five Year Plan.
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- RKVY – RAFTAAR scheme will incentivize States in enhancing more allocation to Agriculture and Allied Sectors.

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- It will provide considerable flexibility and autonomy to states in planning and executing programmes for investment in agriculture and allied sectors.
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- The funds would be provided to the States as 60:40 grants between Centre and States (90:10 for North Eastern States and Himalayan States).
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- It will also strengthen farmer's efforts through creation of agriculture infrastructure that help in supply of quality inputs, market facilities etc.
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- It will further promote agri-entrepreneurship and support business models that maximize returns to farmers.
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EESL and GEF partnership

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- The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has partnered with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under Ministry of Power, for the project 'Creating and Sustaining Markets for Energy Efficiency'.
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- The project will receive a composite funding of $454 million comprised of the GEF grant and loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
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- The project, one of the largest funding by GEF till date, will mitigate 60 million tonnes of CO_2 equivalent.
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- EESL proposes **Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund** (EERF) for sustainable funding mechanism of energy efficiency projects in the country.
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- Click here to know more about GEF
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Uluru

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- Uluru is the world's largest monolith and a giant red rock, located in Central Australia.
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- It is also known as Ayers Rock, a sandstone formation which experiences a

hot desert climate.
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- It is considered as sacred to “Anangu”, the Aboriginal people of the region.
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- Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
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- It is notable for appearing to change colour at different times of the day and year, most notably when it glows red at dawn and sunset.
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- At a meeting of the Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park board, a unanimous decision was made to restrict the climbing of rock, which will come into effect from October 2019.
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- It was a proposal by the aboringal tribes for whom the site is sacred.
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Source: The Hindu, PIB

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