Prelim Bits 03-02-2017

Nuclear Power Generation

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- Proposals for setting up of Ten indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors two Light Water Reactors each with foreign cooperation have been and finalised.
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- Presently two Central Public Sector Enterprises viz. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI) are involved in nuclear power generation.
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- The Government has amended the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 to facilitate establishment of Joint Venture Companies (JVC) by NPCIL with other Central PSUs to set up nuclear power plants.
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- Government does not propose to allow private sector to enter into the nuclear power sector.
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World Wetlands Day

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- World Wetlands Day is celebrated on February 2 to mark the Day of adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in the Iranian City of Ramsar in 1971.
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- They help stabilize water supplies, cleanse polluted waters, protect shorelines, recharge groundwater aquifers, contain extensive food chain and biological diversity, help mitigate natural disasters and have special attributes as cultural heritage as they are deeply connected with our beliefs and practices.
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- They are also called ‘kidneys of landscape’ or ‘biological supermarkets’
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Help to Farmers by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)

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- The Agro-meteorological Advisory Services (AAS) under the Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva (GKMS) is operated to prepare biweekly weather based bulletins.
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- The information is transmitted through multimedia channels and also through SMS to help farmers plan farm operations accordingly.
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- Farmers are using the GKMS service products for critical farm operations like
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1. Management of sowing (During delayed onset of rains);
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2. Changing crop variety (During delay in rainfall);
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3. Spraying Pesticides for disease control (During rainfall);
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4. Managing Irrigation (During Heavy rainfall Forecast).
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Third gender category in school exams

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- Bihar allowed students to appear for the Board exams under the third-gender category.
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- It is the first time such a measure is taken, since the Supreme Court recognised transgender people as a third gender in 2014.
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