Prelim Bits 03-03-2018

Energy Efficient Services Ltd

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- EESL is to provide 10,000 electric vehicles and 4,000 chargers would be supplied to various Government departments in the state of Andhra Pradesh as part of its green initiative.
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- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) is a joint venture of four National Public Sector Undertakings,
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1. NTPC Limited
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2. Power Finance Corporation Limited
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3. Rural Electrification Corporation Limited
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4. POWERGRID Corporation of India Limited
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- EESL is a Super Energy Service Company (ESCO) set up under the Ministry of Power.
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- As South Asia's first and foremost energy efficiency leader, EESL leads the market-related activities of the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE).
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- Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) is EESL’s flagship initiative.
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- The company has established global operations in the UK and South-East Asia.
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River Citarum

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- The river Citarum runs over 186 miles from the Wayang Mountain to the Java Sea in the Western Java.
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- The island’s largest river supports more than 30 million residents who rely on the water source for agricultural, domestic and personal use.
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- Unregulated factory growth since the area’s rapid industrialization in the 1980s has choked the Citarum with both human and industrial waste.
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- Factory pipes dump waste directly into waters bubbling with chemical dyes used in textiles, creating an overwhelming stench.
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- The river is now one of the most polluted rivers in the world.
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- Many locals suffer from skin diseases like scabies and dermatitis, as well as respiratory infections from inhaling factory pollution.
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- Recently, Jakarta vowed to get tough on business owners who ignore waste-disposal rules.
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Rise in short spells of heavy rainfall

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- A paper published by researchers from IIT-Gandhinagar, observes that the

frequency of sub-daily (less than 24-hours) rainfall extreme has witnessed a two-fold increase between 1979 and 2015.
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- At present rainfall data is reported on 24-hour basis and long-term sub-daily observations are limited.
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- In cities, heavy downpour for less than an hour can create urban flooding due to large impervious area.
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- The paper states that changes in sub-daily precipitation extremes are more strongly related to **variations in the atmospheric motion** and **increase in vertical velocity** than the **increase in atmospheric moisture content and climate warming.**
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Super Colony of Penguin

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- A thriving super colony of some 1.5 million Adelie penguins has been discovered on the remote Danger Islands in the east Antarctic.
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- However in the west Antarctic, the same species is in decline due to sea ice melt blamed on global warming.
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- The first complete census revealed that the Danger Islands host more than 750,000 breeding pairs of Adelie penguins, more than the rest of the Antarctic Peninsula region combined.
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- Adelie penguins, one of the five species in the continent, are carnivores, and they feed over krill and silverfish in the region.
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Invasive Alien Species (IAS)

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- National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has urged the government to come up with quarantine facilities at major seaports and airports to check the invasive alien species (ornamental species), which is posing a threat to India's native fish populations.
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- The huge market for Invasive Alien Species (IAS) is turning out to be major threat to India's aquatic biodiversity.
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- Most of the fish are imported from Southeast Asian countries.
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- An alien species become invasive whenever it has a competitive advantage over the native ones.
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- For example sucker mouth catfish, an ornamental species known as a 'tank cleaner' of aquariums has spread to almost all freshwater ecosystems and outnumbers other native fish by feeding on their larvae and competing with them for food resources.
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Konark Dance and Music Festival

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- At the 32nd Konark dance and music festival, various dance forms were performed that celebrated the heritage, history and arts.
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- Some of the performances are as discussed below,
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1. **Mahari** is a dance form that is performed as a special service to Lord Jagannath, Odisha by the devdasis (temple dancers)called mahari for centuries. It spurred the development of Odissi and Gotipua dance forms of Odisha.
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2. **Gotipua** (Goti – Single; Pua – Boy) dance has been performed in Orissa by young boys who dress up as female to praise Lord Jagannath and Lord Krishna.
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3. **Kathak** is one of the classical dance forms and only one belonging to northern part of the country. It is about story telling from episodes in myths and puranas.
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4. **Odissi** is a highly stylized dance and to some extent is based on the classical Natya Shastra and the Abhinaya Darpana.Odisha is the home of Odissi.
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5. **Mangaiyar** is a Muslim community who perform folk music with their traditional instrument is kamaicha. They are found in the Sindh, Pakistan and Rajasthan, India regions.
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Map of the Day

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North America – Water Bodies

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- Huron Ontario Michigan Erie Superior –HOMES.
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- Lake Superior is the largest fresh water lake in the world in terms of surface area and the deepest among the 5.
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(Note that Lake Baikal in Russia is largest fresh water lake by volume)

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- Lake Erie is the shallowest with the most fish species.
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- Water from Lake Superior, Erie, Michigan and Huron flows into Ontario via Niagara Falls.
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- Except Lake Michigan, which is completely inside USA, other lakes form the USA –Canada border.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu, BusinessLine

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