Prelim Bits 03-10-2017

ODF cities and towns

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- All cities and towns in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and Haryana became ‘Open Defecation Free’ as the Swacch Bharat Mission (SBM) completed three years.
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- Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh had already declared all cities and towns ODF.
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- Chandigarh is the only UT to have become ODF under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Urban).
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ODF Rural

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- Rural Gujarat has been declared as ODF, marking the completion of three years of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).
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- The state joined the league of Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Uttarakhand and Haryana, which were the first 5 states to be declared ODF rural states.
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- SBM (Gramin) is implemented by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and SBM (Urban) is implemented by Ministry of Urban development.
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National Waterway – 4

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- National waterway – 4 connects the state of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

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- It runs along Krishna, Godavari Rivers and Commanur, Buckingham Canals along the Coromandal Coast.
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- It is proposed to be developed in three phases.
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- Phase-I: Muktyala to Vijayawada (Krishna River)
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- Phase-II: Vijayawada to Kakinada (Eluru canal & Kakinada canal) and Rajahmundry to Polavaram stretch of Godavari
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- Phase-III: Commamur Canal, Buckingham canal and balance stretches of Krishna & Godavari Rivers.
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- Work on the first phase from Muktiyala to Vijayawada stretch has already commenced and the foundation stone will be laid today.
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Commission to Examine Sub Categorization of OBC

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- The President has appointed a Commission to examine the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes.
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- The commission is formed in exercise of the powers conferred to the President under the **Article 340** of the Constitution.
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- The five-member panel will be headed by retired Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court G. Rohini.
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- Sub-categorisation of OBC is done to ensure that the more backward among the communities can access the benefits of reservation.
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- The terms of reference of the commission are\n
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    - Examine the extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation

among the castes or communities included in the broad category of OBC.
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    - To work out the mechanism for sub- categorisation of OBC with reference to such classes included in the Central list.
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- **Article 340** - Appointment of a Commission to investigate the conditions of backward classes.
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Friends of Fish

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- It is an informal group of members in WTO which includes Argentina, Australia, Chile, Colombia, New Zealand, Norway, Iceland, Pakistan, Peru and the US.
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- The group is formed following the discussions on curbing fisheries subsidies in the WTO.
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- The group has pointed out that subsidies to the fisheries sector have led to over-capacity and over fishing.
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- However some countries including Japan, South Korea and China has expressed scepticism over the link between subsidies and over fishing.
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- Many developing countries such as India and the Philippines have been seeking flexibility in granting subsidies to their fisheries sectors.
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Chinese ink for Cancer therapy

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- Photothermal Therapy (PTT) is an emerging non-invasive treatment option for cancer.
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- It involves injection of nano-materials and accumulates it in cancer cells.
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- A laser heats up the nano-materials and kills the cells.
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- Many of the nano-materials are expensive and difficult to make.
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- However, a traditional Chinese ink called Hu-Kaiwen has similar properties to the nanomaterials used in Photothermal Therapy.
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- The Chinese ink is also capable of absorbing near infrared light, which will be useful in locating tumours.
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Crude Oil Shipment from US

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- India got its first shipment of crude oil from US in 42 years.
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- India Oil Corporation (IOC) became the first PSU refiner from India to source US crude oil.
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- It will process the crude at its east-coast base refineries located at Paradip, Haldia, Barauni and Bongaigaon.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu, Business Line.

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