Prelim Bits 04-03-2018

Falling Sex Ratio

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- A recent report from the NITI Aayog said sex ratio at birth (SRB) nationwide had dropped from 906 in 2012-2014 to 900 in 2013-2015.
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- The SRB is the number of girls born for every 1,000 boys.
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- In all, 17 of 21 large Indian States saw a drop in the SRB, with Gujarat performing the worst, declining 53 points.
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- A consistent lowering of the SRB is observed since the 1970s.
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- In natural circumstances, the SRB should be around 952 girls for every 1,000 boys.
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- However India’s SRB is far lower than 952 because of the preference for the male child.
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- As on today, around 63 million girls are estimated to be ‘missing’ in India because of such actions.
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Hazrat Amir Hasan Dehlvi

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- Amir Hasan Sijzi or Hazrat Amir Hasan Dehlvi is a sufi saint and also one of the two famous disciples ,the other being Amir Khusro, of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya.
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- Amir Sijzi was born in Badaun in Uttar Pradesh in 1254 and died in Daulatabad in 1337.
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- Amir Sijzi in his famous literary discourse titled Fawa’id-al-Fu’ad, wrote about the teachings of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya.

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- The book deals with the day-to-day interactions, reactions and teachings of a Sufi Shaikh in his khanqah.
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- This book is an important historical, social and literary document as it records contemporary life and society.
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- Amir Sijzi became Auliya’s disciple quite late in life, when he was already an established poet and called the Saadi-e-Hind
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- It is believed that the original copy of the Fawa’id-al-Fu’ad is buried with Amir Hasan Sijzi as per his will.
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World Wildlife day

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- Every year March 3 is celebrated as World Wildlife Day to raise awareness about our planet’s flora and fauna.
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- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was finalised on March 3 and the day has been celebrated as World Wildlife Day since 2014.
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- Theme of the year: “Big cats — predators under threat."
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- CITES is an international agreement between the governments of 183 countries to protect wild plants and animals and ensure their survival.
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Energy Management Centre

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- The Energy Management Centre (EMC), an autonomous institution under the Kerala government, has grabbed the global spotlight for its energy-positive campus.
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- The ‘Global Status Report 2017: Towards a zero-emission, efficient, and resilient buildings and construction sector,’ published by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), has listed the EMC campus as one of the

recent achievements in the deployment of key technologies for energy-efficiency in buildings.
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- The EMC’s energy-positive campus was designed to allow natural cross-flow ventilation from building forms and openings.
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- The EMC campus was built with assistance from Global Environment Fund (GEF).
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- Building-related carbon emissions have been rising by around 1% per year since 2010, and more than four million deaths are attributable to illness from household air pollution.
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Blizzards

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- Blizzards across Europe killed around 50 people and halted the transport network affecting the normal life of the people.
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- It is a **local cold wind** mostly experienced in the North eastern part of the North American Region.
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- Blizzard is a severe storm condition characterized by low temperatures, heavy snow and strong winds.
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- Europe is now experiencing blizzards as the plume of cold air from Russia has swept the continent leading temperatures to drop to -20 degrees.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu, Business Standard

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