Prelim Bits 05-04-2018

Wayanad wildlife Sanctuary

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- The Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala was formed in 1973.
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- The sanctuary was carved out of two territorial divisions- Wayanad and Kozhikode.
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- The sanctuary is located on the southern part of Western Ghats.
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- It is a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and also an Elephant Reserve.
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- The sanctuary is significant because of ecological and geographic continuity with other protected areas such as
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1. Bandipur Tiger Reserve and Nagarhole National Park of Karnataka in north-eastern portion
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2. Mudumalai Tiger Reserve of Tamil Nadu in south-eastern side
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- The vegetation comprises of tropical semi-evergreen forests, moist mixed deciduous forests, dry mixed deciduous forests, bamboo forests, and marshy grasslands.
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- Last year, the **first-ever vulture and raptor survey** was conducted at the

sanctuary.
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- As many as 24 species of raptors and two species of vultures were recorded.
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Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan

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- Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched the Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA).
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- It is a convergent framework across School Education and Higher Education aiming to **encourage children towards learning Science and Mathematics.**
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- The objectives of the RAA are,
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1. To enable children to become motivated and engaged in Science, Mathematics and Technology (SMT).
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2. To create a culture of thinking, inventing, tinkering to promote enquiry based learning in schools.
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3. To encourage and nurture schools to be incubators of innovation.
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- It is planned to provide nourishing and nurturing support to and a platform for schools in a dual track approach.
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- Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan will target students in the **age group of 6 - 18 years.**
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- It will encourage the children to have an enduring interest both inside classroom and outside classroom activities.
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Competition Commission of India (CCI)

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- The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to bring down the members of Competition Commission of India (CCI).
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- Presently the CCI has seven members, including the chairperson.
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- With this decision the change may be one chairperson and three members, totaling four members.
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- CCI is a statutory body of the Government of India responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002.
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- Click here to know about CCI.
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Internet Security Threat Report

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- The 'Internet Security Threat Report' was recently released by security solutions provider Symantec.
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- According to the report, **India** emerged as the **third most vulnerable country** in terms of risk of cyber threats, such as malware, spam and ransomware, in 2017.
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- India continues to be 2nd most impacted by spam and bots, 3rd most impacted by network attacks, and 4th most impacted by ransomware.
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- Cyber criminals are rapidly adding "**cryptojacking**" to their arsenal as the ransomware market becomes overpriced and overcrowded.
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- Cryptojacking is defined as the secret use of your computing device to mine cryptocurrency.
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- The global threat ranking is based on eight metrics — malware, spam, phishing, bots, network attacks, web attacks, ransomware and cryptominers.
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National Social Assistance Program (NSAP)

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- NSAP is a welfare program administered by the **Ministry of Rural Development**.
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- Its launch represents a significant step towards the fulfillment of the Directive Principles in Article 41 of the Constitution.
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- The program introduced a National Policy for Social Assistance for the poor.
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- It aims at ensuring minimum national standard for social assistance in addition to the benefits that states are currently providing or might provide in future.
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- This program is implemented in rural areas as well as urban areas.
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- The NSAP scheme was brought within the umbrella of 'Core of Core' scheme in 2016.
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- NSAP at present comprises of
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1. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)
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2. Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)
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3. Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)
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4. National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)

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5. Annapurna
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Small Savings Schemes

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- According to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), small savings schemes accounted for a little over a fifth (20.9 per cent) of all central government borrowing.
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- Small savings scheme include post office deposits, National Savings Certificate (NSC), and Kisan Vikas Patras (KVP).
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- The period (FY14-FY18) also saw a jump in government borrowing from the provident fund.
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- In the same period, annual borrowing from the (bond) market declined by 27 per cent.
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- Kisan Vikas Patra is a small savings instrument that will facilitate people to invest in a long term savings plans.
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- National Savings Certificates are savings instrument that are eligible for tax rebate.
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- Both KVP and NSC can be purchased from the Post offices.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu, BusinessLine, Business standard

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