Prelim Bits 05-05-2017

Dholes

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- The Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (IGZP), running a conservation breeding centre for the **Dholes (Indian wild dogs),** plans to reintroduce a pack of 16 into the forests.
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- The pack should be genetically strong and have the basic instinct to hunt.
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- If the Rs 1.5-crore conservation project works, **it will be the third such zoo effort** for the recovery and long-term survival of an endangered species.
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- Earlier, Darjeeling's Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park had a programme for the **red panda** and a **Pygmy Hog** Conservation Programme was undertaken in Assam.
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- Protected under **Schedule 2 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** and listed as **'endangered'** by the IUCN, the dhole was adopted by IGZP in 2014 under the Central Zoo Authority's mandate.
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- Dholes, with a cinnamon-coloured coat, bushy tail and an alert gaze, are aggressive pack predators, covering long distances on a hunt.
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Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme

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- Job opportunities under the PMEGP fell over 9.5% year-on-year to 3.2 lakh in FY16 from more than 3.5 lakh in FY15, according to Assocham.
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- The PMEGP is an effective scheme **aimed at reducing unemployment and generating sustainable employment opportunities** in rural and urban India.
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- It is a **central sector scheme** launched in 2008-09 by merging Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) schemes. **KVIC is the Nodal Agency** at National Level.
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- **Objectives:** To generate continuous and sustainable employment opportunities in Rural and Urban areas of the country
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- To provide continuous and sustainable employment to a large segment of traditional and prospective artisans, rural and urban unemployed youth in the country through setting up of micro enterprises.
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- To facilitate participation of financial institutions for higher credit flow to micro sector.
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Genetic secrets of the tea tree

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- Scientists have unlocked the genome of the tea tree, which may help explain why tea leaves are rich in antioxidants and caffeine, and **how they produce so many flavours.**
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- The most popular varieties of tea — all come from the leaves of the evergreen shrub Camellia sinensis, otherwise known as the tea tree.
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- The researchers found that **the leaves of the tea plant contain high levels of chemicals** that give tea its distinctive flavour. They include flavonoids and caffeine.
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- Six main types of tea are produced from Camellia sinensis - white, yellow, green, oolong, black and post-fermented. Each has its own aroma, taste and appearance.
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- The distinctive flavours of these teas are created by their different chemical compositions.
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- The genetic knowledge could lead to ways to improve the quality and price of tea, by selective breeding of tea plants.
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SAMPADA

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- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, has given its approval for re-structuring the schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) under new Central Sector Scheme – SAMPADA (**Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters**) for the period 2016-20 coterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle.
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- The objective of SAMPADA is to **supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease agri-waste.**
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- It is a comprehensive package to give a renewed thrust to the food processing sector in the country.
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- The implementation of SAMPADA will result in creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.
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Extra Neutral Alcohol

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- The Patna High Court has recently set aside the Bihar government's decision to ban production of Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA) by several distillery and liquor companies in the State.
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- The court observed that the government had no right to ban production of ENA as it is used in various other industries apart from making liquor.
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- The Extra Neutral alcohol or ENA is a high distillated alcohol **without any impurities**.
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- ENA is mainly **used in the production of potable alcohol,** in the pharmaceutical industry.
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- In the flavors and fragrance industry, dilute ethanol is used to produce distilled vinegar, flavour extracts and concentrates for soft drinks and food products.
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