Prelim Bits 06-08-2017

Mission Electrification

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- Recently, Ministry of Railways has organised an event for Exchanging of Agreement with Stakeholders as part of “Mission Electrification”.
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- The mission was launched in 2016 and it targeted to complete electrification of 24,400 route kilometre of Broad Gauge network in next five years.
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- Under the Mission, Ministry of Railways for the first time entrusted the electrification process to PSU’s outside the ministry’s preview.
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- Power Grid Corporation India Limited (PGCIL), transmission sector PSU under Ministry of Power has been granted license to do electrification works.
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Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Kendras

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- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana’ is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
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- It aims to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through special kendra’s known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra.
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- Kendras have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.
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- Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, for co-coordinating procurement, supply and marketing of generic drugs through PMBJK.
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- Earlier, only medicines manufactured by Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSU) were being supplied to Kendra. Later medicines which the CPSU's not able to supply are being made from private manufacturers.
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Air Quality Index

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- In its recent report, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) pointed out that Delhi has not seen a "poor" air quality in July month.
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- The classifications of air quality are part of a 6 grade, colour coded Air Quality Index (AQI).
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- It is used by CPCB to rate air quality in the country.
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- The AQI will consider eight pollutants (PM10, PM2.5, NO2, SO2, CO, O3, NH3, and Pb)
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- There are six AQI categories, namely Good, Satisfactory, Moderately polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe.
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- Based on the measured ambient concentrations, corresponding standards and likely health impact, a sub-index is calculated for each of these pollutants.
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Endangered Languages

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- The linguistic survey by People's Linguistic Survey of India (PLSI) was launched in 2010 in order to update existing knowledge about the languages spoken in India.
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- The World’s largest linguistic survey has identified 780 languages in India.
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- In a recent study about world’s endangered languages, 4,000 of the world's 6,000 languages face a potential threat of extinction, out of which 10 per cent is spoken in India.
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- In other words, 400 Indian languages out of our total 780 languages may get extinct.
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- Most of the endangered languages which are on the verge of disappearance are the coastal languages.
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- The reason is that livelihood in coastal areas is no longer safe and they started migrating inward.
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- Few other languages are thriving mainly because educated people in these communities have started using these languages for writing.
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- Those languages include Gondi (spoken in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra), Bheli (Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat), Kotbarak (Tripura), Mizo, Garo and Khasi.
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SAMVAD

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- SAMVAD is a Global Initiative on Conflict Avoidance and Environment Consciousness.
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- The second edition of "Samvad” Conference is being organised in Yangon, Myanmar.
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- The first edition of this unique conference was hosted by Vivekananda Kendra, New Delhi in September 2015.
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- The conference represents various religions and traditions across the world.
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