Prelim Bits 09-11-2017

Creative Cities Network

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- The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to promote cooperation among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.
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- The 180 cities in 72 countries currently make up this network.
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- All the cities work together in placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level.
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- Gastronomy, music, crafts and folk art, media arts, design, film and literature are the seven fields of creativity highlighted by the network.
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- Chennai has been recently included in the list of UCCN for its rich musical tradition.
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- Some of the other cities included along with Chennai are Alba (Italy) for gastronomy, Almaty (Kazakhstan) for music and Auckland (New Zealand) for music.
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- Jaipur (crafts and folk art) and Varanasi (Music) are the other Indian cities that feature on the list.
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Island Development Agency

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- The Island Development Agency was setup this year to bring holistic development in 9 islands.
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- It includes four in A&N Islands i.e. Smith, Ross, Long, Avis and five in Lakshadweep i.e. Minicoy, Bangaram, Thinnakara, Cheriyam, Suheli.
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- The agency is headed by Union Home Minister and the projects are being directed by NITI Aayog.
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- It aims at promoting and implementing development based on sustainable approach to building a thriving maritime economy of the project islands.
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- Its second meeting was recently held and it was decided to develop PPP package for the development of Airport in Minicoy Island and promoting of **Tuna fishing Industry** for improving livelihoods in Lakshadweep.
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Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC)

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- Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)under Ministry of Commerce is establishing TISC under the World Intellectual Property Organizations (WIPO) TISC program.
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- DIPP has recently signed an Institutional agreement with Anna University, Chennai to establish India’s second TISC.
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- TISC in Punjab is the India’s first TISC.
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- It provides innovators in developing countries with access to locally based, high quality technology information and related services.
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- It will help the innovators to exploit their innovative potential and to create, protect, and manage their Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs).
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- The objective is to foster creativity and innovation, thereby promoting entrepreneurship and enhancing social, economic and cultural development.
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Organic World Congress

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- The Organic World Congress (OWC) is organized once every three years in a different country by the International Federation of Organic Farming Movements (IFOAM).
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- This year, the congress is being organized in Greater Noida, UP.
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- The last edition of the Organic World Congress took place in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2014.
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- It will see the participation of 1,400 representatives from 110 countries, and 2000 delegates from India.
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- In the event, 55 seeds group from 15 Indian states will showcase 4,000 varieties of seeds.
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IEA Ministerial Conference

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- IEA is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organization established in the framework of the OECD in 1974 in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis.
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- It acts as a policy adviser to its member states, but also works with non-member countries, especially China, India, and Russia.
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- India recently declared its “Association” status with the International Energy Agency (IEA).
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- This year IEA Ministerial conference is being held in Paris.
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- At the Conference, India signed joint work programmes with IEA and other key members of the IEA Family i.e. Brazil, Chile, India, Indonesia and Thailand.
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- The event focusses on energy security, clean energy technology.
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State wise “Ease of Doing Business” ranking

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- Commerce and Industry Ministry is the nodal body at the Centre for the state wise ease of doing business ranking.
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- It is based on the assessment of implementation of the Business Reforms

Action Plan’ (BRAP).
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- Telangana is currently in the top followed by is Haryana, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and West Bengal.
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- The final ranking is likely to be released in January, 2018.
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- Telangana was the joint topper with Andhra Pradesh, in the ranking last year.
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- However, Andhra Pradesh is currently ranked 14th.
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- Gujarat, ranked third last year, is now number eight with a score of 41.94%
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Source: PIB, The Hindu

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