Prelim Bits 11-04-2017

Constitutional status to Backward Classes Commission

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- Lok Sabha cleared the Constitution 102nd Amendment Bill that grants constitutional status to the Backward Classes Commission.
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- The Commission is renamed as "National Commission for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes".
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- The bill says that any addition to the central list of communities under the other Backward Classes will have to be cleared through the Parliament.
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- It also seeks to insert a **new article 342A** that empowers the President to specify the communities which would fall under socially and educationally backward classes, for states and union territories, in consultation with the concerned governor.
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- The new Commission will hear the grievances of socially and educationally backward classes, a function which has been discharged so far by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes.
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- Presently, National Commission for Backward Classes is a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the power of enacting law in identifying the backward classes has been entrusted with the state government.
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Nakshe Portal

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- A new web portal “nakshe” was launched by the Ministry for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, on the occasion of 250th anniversary of Survey of India (SoI).

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- Topographic maps containing natural and man-made geographical features including terrain or topography are prepared by the SoI and it is made available for free download from “nakshe” web portal.
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- Survey of India is the oldest scientific department in India, created in 1767 and one of the oldest survey establishments in the world.
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Shodhganga

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- It is the repository developed to contain an electronic copy of all M.Phil/Ph.D thesis to make it accessible to all institutions.
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- The task of setting-up of this repository is assigned to Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), an inter-university centre of the University Grants Commission (UGC).
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- It also provides access to Indian theses and dissertations in open access to world-wide academic community and making visibility of Indian research to other countries.
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Swachhagraha “Bapu Ko Karyanjali”

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- It is a Mission, an exhibition to Mark 100th Anniversary of Champaran Satyagraha.
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