Prelim Bits 11-10-2018

National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)

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- Union Cabinet has recently approved the merging of two skill institutes to form National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET).
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- The merged two institutes are National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) and the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA).
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- NCVET is envisaged as an institution which will perform the regulatory functions so far vested in NCVT and NSDA.
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- It will regulate the functioning of entities engaged in short-term and long-term vocational education and training.
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- It will establish minimum standards for the functioning of such entities.
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- It will operationalize the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) to ensure that quality and standards meet sector specific requirements.
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- Regulatory functions currently being carried out by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) through the Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) will also be housed in the NCVET.
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Alphonso Mango

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- The government has recently granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag to the Alphonso Mango from Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg and other adjoining areas in Maharashtra.
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- Alphonso, the king of Mangoes, better known as ‘Hapus’ in Maharashtra, is in demand in domestic and international markets for its taste, pleasant

fragrance and vibrant colour.
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- A GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
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- It is given to both man-made and natural products. However it is a community right rather than individual or company.
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- It is protected under Geographical indications of goods (registration and protection) act, 1999.
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- It is managed by Cell for IPR promotion and Management (CIPAM) under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
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Click here to know more about GI.

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Make II Scheme

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- Department of Defence production under Ministry of Defence has recently cleared 31 projects and has given them in-principle approval under the Make-II scheme.
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- Make II Scheme corresponds to Make in India initiative in Defence production.
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- The provision of 'Make' category in Defence procurement Procedure is a pillar for realising the vision behind Make in India.
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- Make Scheme fosters indigenous capabilities through design & development of required defence equipment/product/upgrades by both public and private sector industry in a faster time frame.
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- Make I scheme is **Government-funded** and the projects under ‘Make-I’ sub-category will involve Government funding of 90%.
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- Make II scheme is **Industry-funded** and the projects involve development of products/equipment for which no government funding will be provided for

development purposes.
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Horizon 2020

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- It is a joint project by Indian government and European Union to develop a next generation influenza vaccine to protect citizens worldwide.
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- It aims to develop cost-effective and affordable influenza vaccine rapidly without compromising quality.
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- It is expected to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3 to ensure health and well-being for all and boost the Indian National Health Mission
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- The project require minimum 3 applicants from European countries associated to Horizon 2020 and minimum 3 applicants from India.
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- It is also open to applicants from other countries.
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Singphan Wildlife Sanctuary

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- Singphan wildlife sanctuary has been declared as a Elephant reserve by the Government of Nagaland.
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- With the approval of Government of India, it becomes the 30th Elephant reserve in the country.
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- The reserve lies in the North-western part of the State of Nagaland.
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- The declaration will boost the elephant conservation in the country especially north eastern region.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu, BusinessLine

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