Prelim Bits 16-12-2017

North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)

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- The Union Cabinet has recently approved new scheme NESIDS to fill up the gaps in creation of infrastructure in specified sectors till March, 2020.
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- It is a central sector scheme which will be funded 100% by the Central Government.
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- It covers,
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i. Physical infrastructure relating to water supply, power, connectivity and specially the projects promoting tourism
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ii. Infrastructure of social sectors of education and health.
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- Thus it will not only strengthen health care and education facilities in the region but will also encourage tourism and employment opportunities for local youth.
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Initiatives by Ministry of Railways

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- SRESTHA - New R&D organisation to serve the future technology needs of Railways.
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- SUTRA – A special unit for Transportation Research and Analytics.
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- The team will be involved in World class data analytics, simulation softwares, network optimisation and decision support systems.
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- NIVARAN – A grievance redressal portal and first IT application in Rail Cloud for resolving service related grievances of serving and former railway employees.
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RNI Report

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- Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) is mandated to submit an annual report on the status registered publications to the government under PRB Act, 1867.
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- RNI reports acts as an important index for print media in the country.
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- It gives comprehensive analysis of growth amongst regional language publications.
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- It submits its report to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
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- This year report highlighted that 4007 new publications were registered.
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- Uttar Pradesh tops the list of largest number of registered publications.
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Exercise Ekuverin

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- It is the joint military exercise conducted between India and Maldives.
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- It is being conducted every year alternatively in India and Maldives.
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- This year, the 8^{th} annual exercise will be conducted in Belagavi, Karnataka.
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- The objectives are to enhance defence cooperation and interoperability between the army of both countries with emphasis on Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorist operations under UN mandate.
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Plants that can glow

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- Scientists have recently found a way to induce plants to give off dim light by embedding specialised nanoparticles into their leaves.
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- It is considered as a major step towards using plants to illuminate the workspace, providing low-intensity indoor lighting or transforming trees into self-powered streetlights.
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- Scientists embed 3 components in to a different type of nanoparticle carrier.
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- It includes luciferase, luciferin and co-enzyme A.
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- Luciferase is an enzyme. It is used by the fireflies that give their glow.
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- Luciferase acts on a molecule called luciferin, causing it to emit light.
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- Co-enzyme A molecule helps the process along by removing a reaction byproduct that can inhibit luciferase activity.
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- Optimising the concentration and release rates of these components will boost the light emitted and duration of light.
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National Ayush Mission

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- It is a centrally sponsored scheme under the Ministry of Ayush with the objective of providing cost effective AYUSH Services with a universal access.
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- It also aims to improve educational institutions capable of imparting quality AYUSH education and adoption of quality standards of Ayush drugs.
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- The resource allocation to the States/UTs is proposed on the basis of population, backwardness and performance of the State/UT.
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- Grant-in Aid will be transferred through treasury route to State Governments.

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- Union Cabinet has recently approved the continuation of the scheme from 2017-2020.
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Source: The Hindu, PIB

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