Prelim Bits 17-04-2017

Vistadome Coach

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- It is the new type of coach that runs between Vishakapatnam and Araku in A.P state.
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- It has distinct features like the glass roof inside these new coaches which will allows the commuters to enjoy the outside view of journey to Araku Valley.
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- Araku Valley is a hill station in the Eastern Ghats, known for its coffee.
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- It is located close to A.P - Odisha border and surrounded by various mountains which are endowed with bauxite ores. One of the important mountains is Galikonda which is one of the highest in A.P.
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- The nearest cave to Araku Valley is Borra cave.
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Three new plant species in Nilgiris Biodiversity

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- The three new species of plants belonging to the Balsaminaceae family were identified in Mukurthi National Park.
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- The species Impatiens Kawttyana, tiahmushkulni and nilgirica were named after Toda Deity hills ‘kawtty’, ‘Taihmushkuln’.
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- Toda tribes in Nilgiris believe that their god resides and rules them from the hills and thus they preserve the ecosystem.
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- Mukurthi National Park is a protected area located in the western corner of the Nilgiris plateau in Tamil Nadu.
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- It is part of Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve, India’s first International Biosphere Reserve and part of UNESCO World Heritage Site.
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Shell Companies

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- Shell Company is a company without active business operations or significant assets.
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- It is not necessarily illegal or illegitimate, as they often serve an important role for potential startups, for takeover of other business.
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- It can act as a tax avoidance technique for legitimate businesses.
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- It also acts as tax havens where one can transfer tax liability between different entities within the same company and money laundering.
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- Recently, Enforcement Directorate has launched an operation against these shell companies under Prevention of Money Laundering Act to unearth the black money being channeled by the tax professionals using shell companies.
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Global Health Estimates for South Asia

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- It is compiled by World Bank for the World Health Organisation (WHO).
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