Prelim Bits 18-02-2018

Surajkund- Lake of the sun

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- The place where Surajkund Mela takes place has an ancient connection to Tomar Dynasty.
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- Surajkund (the lake of the sun) is the oldest-surviving monument of Delhi.
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- Suraj Pal Tomar, in the 10th century, built Surajkund, the huge water reservoir along with a sun temple on the western bank.
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- The reservoir was constructed around 686 AD,as said by Syed Ahmed Khan in his book Asar-us-Sanadid.
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- The reservoir is built against the backdrop of Aravalli Hills forming a semi-circular shaped embankment.
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- It is designed in the shape of a rising sun with an eastward arc.
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Forest owlet

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- The century old debate on forest owlet’s genetic relationship with spotted owlet is resolved.
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- The bird belongs to the same genus as spotted owlet (Athene).
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- The Heteroglaux blewetti is endangered under IUCN classification.
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- Also the bird is endemic to the central Indian forests.
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- It is sedentary resident with recent sightings from fairly open dry deciduous forest dominated by teak.
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- The species faces a number of threats such as forest loss and degradation as a result of illegal logging and human encroachment, forest fires and minor irrigation dams.
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- The birds is included under CITES Appendix 1.
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Sunderbans Mangrove forest

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- Unique mangrove ecosystem that hosts a sizeable tiger population is unable to expand due to developmental pressures and sea level rise.
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- The Indian Sunderbans that comprise almost 43% of total mangrove cover.
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- ‘State of Art Report on Biodiversity in Indian Sundarbans’ published by World Wide Fund for Nature, India, outlines the threats facing the ecosystem.
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- The threats are climate change, habitat degradation due to industrial pollution and human disturbance, fuel-wood collection.
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- If the present rate of change prevails, the Sunderbans may disappear due to sea level rise.
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- Its natural response to retreat further inland is blocked by geographical features and man-made obstructions.
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- The population density of the Indian Sunderbans outside the Tiger Reserve area is 1,000 people per sq km.
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- Rehabilitation of former mangrove areas and creation of new mangrove habitations through intensified afforestation program are the only way out.
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Jatan and Darshak

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- Centre for Development for Advanced Computing (C-DAC), has developed software named “Jatan” that is set to revolutionize museum experience.
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- The latest technology will help online visitors get a 3-Dimensional (3D) view of hundreds of artifacts displayed at the museums.
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- The software will enable virtual tours to museums.
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- The group has developed “Darshak”, a mobile-based application, aimed at improving the museum visit experience among the differently-abled.
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- It allows real-time museum visitors gather all details about objects or artifacts simply by scanning a QR code placed near the object.
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- C-DAC is the premier R&D organization of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for carrying out R&D in IT, Electronics and associated areas.
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Atal Bhoojal Yojana

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- Atal Bhoojal Yojana is an ambitious plan aimed at efficient management of available water resources.
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- Atal Bhujal Yojana will focus on demand side management (how to meet requirements by minimum use of water).

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- The emphasis of the scheme will be on recharge of ground water sources and efficient use of water by involving people at the local level.
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- The half of the fund of 6000 crore will be supported by a world bank loan of 3000 crore and the rest will be funded by central government.
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- It would initially be implemented with community participation in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
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Enhanced Oil Recovery Program –ONGC

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- The program plans to introduce carbon dioxide injection in oil field to recover an extra 20 million barrels of crude oil.
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- It is carried out by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation in its Gandhar field.
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- The plan is carried out under enhanced oil recovery (EOR) program, whose objective is to improve India’s energy security.
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- It will be the first large scale CO2 injected project in South Asia.
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- Injected gas is miscible with residual oil and reduces its viscosity, making it easier to displace the oil from the rock pores.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu, Business Standard

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