Prelim Bits 18-03-2018

Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE)

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- The President of India will soon inaugurate a Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE) at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
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- He will also present Gandhian Young Technological Innovation awards instituted by Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions [SRISTI].
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- FINE is an initiative to recognize, respect, showcase, reward innovations and to foster a supportive ecosystem for innovators.
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- It is organized by Rashtrapati Bhavan in association with the Department of Science and Technology and the National Innovation Foundation-India.
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- It will provide a window to showcase creative and innovative solutions for social development through innovation emerging from grassroots, student ideas and other technologies.
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Regional New Years in India

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- The Vice President of India has greeted the people on the auspicious occasion of Ugadi, Gudi Padava, Chaitra Sukladi and Cheti Chand.
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- Ugadi, also known as Yugadi, is the Telugu and Kannada New Year festival.
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- Gudi Pudwa is celebrated in Maharashtra that will mark the first day of the Hindu luni-solar calendar which is celebrated by people of Maharashtra, Marathi and Konkanis across the world.
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- Chaitra Sukladi is the New Year in traditional Hindu calendar based on the

beginning of the new moon and marks the first day of the Chaitra Month.
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- Cheti Chand is celebrated by the Sindhi Hindus which marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year.
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Saakshar Bharath

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- Saakshar Bharat is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Adult Education and Skill Development.
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- This program was formulated in 2009 with the objective of achieving 80% literacy level at national level, by focusing on adult women literacy.
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- It is being implemented in rural areas 26 States and one UT that had adult female literacy rate of 50 per cent and below as per Census 2001.
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- It is seeking to reduce the gap between male and female literacy to not more than 10 percentage points.
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- It has four broader objectives,
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1. To impart functional literacy and numeracy to non-literates
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2. To acquire equivalency to formal educational system
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3. To impart relevant skill development program
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4. To promote a learning society by providing opportunities for continuing education.
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- The principal target of the program is 70 million non-literate adults in the age group of 15 years and beyond.
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KUSUM Scheme

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- The Government of India is in the process of formulating a Scheme ‘Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)’.
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- It’s a farmer-oriented solar power scheme that will allow setting up grid-connected solar plants in rural areas and off-grid solar pumps.
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- Finance minister had announced the scheme in this year’s budget that involves decentralized solar power production of up to 28,250 Megawatt (Mw) over five years.
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- It aims at boosting farmers’ income by allowing them to sell additional power to the grid through solar plants set up on
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- It will also have provisions for solarization of tube wells and lift irrigation projects.
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- The other benefits of the scheme include
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1. reduction in transmission losses,
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2. support the financial health of discoms by cutting the burden of agricultural subsidy;
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3. supporting states in meeting their Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) targets;
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4. promotion of energy efficiency; and providing water security to farmers.
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Initiatives for Digitalization of Education

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- Some of the Government taken initiatives for digitalization of education are,
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1. E-Pathshala is a web portal designed to disseminate e-resources including e-books developed by NCERT, State Boards.
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2. Shagun portal is designed to showcase the innovative and successful models implemented by all States and UTs in diverse circumstances.
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3. The National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER) is an initiative to bring together all digital and digitisable resources across all stages of school education and teacher education.
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4. SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active learning for Young Aspiring Minds) is a Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) platform launched to offer various online courses for school education and higher education.
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5. SWAYAM PRABHA DTH-TV program for utilization of satellite communication technologies for transmission of educational e-contents through 32 National Channels has been launched.
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- Click here to know about initiatives to push education.
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World consumer Day

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- Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution launched integrated portal for consumer services (jagograhakjago.gov.in) on the occasion of World Consumer Rights Day.
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- Every year March 15 is celebrated as the World Consumer Rights day.
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- This year theme is “Making Digital Markets Fairer”.
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- The new Consumer Protection Bill is under government’s consideration that would replace the 30 year old Consumer Protection Act (COPRA) of 1986 once enacted.
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- The Day on which the COPRA, 1986 act received the Presidents assent is celebrated as National Consumer Day in December which is different from

World Consumer Rights day.
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- To safeguard the interest of consumers, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is in the process of adopting ISO Standard i.e. ISO 10008:2013 on Guidelines for business-to-consumer electronic commerce transactions.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu

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