Prelim Bits 25-08-2018

Fame India Scheme

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- FAME India Scheme [Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India] was launched in 2015.
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- Its objective is to support hybrid/electric vehicles market development and Manufacturing eco-system.
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- The FAME India Scheme is aimed at incentivising all vehicle segments i.e. 2 Wheeler, 3 Wheeler Auto, Passenger 4 Wheeler Vehicle, Light Commercial Vehicles and Buses.
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- It has 4 focus areas i.e. Technology development, Demand Creation, Pilot Projects and Charging Infrastructure.
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- The phase I of FAME expires on March 31, 2018.
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- In phase II, the government is targeting a fully (100%) electric fleet for public transport, including buses, taxis and auto-rickshaws.
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- An inter-ministerial panel has recently finalised the roadmap for the II phase spanning over five years and subsidy support for all types of electric vehicles.
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- At present, the incentive is being offered on purchase of strong hybrid and electric cars, two-wheelers and three-wheelers.
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- The panel decided to offer subsidy to all categories of electric vehicles, including two-wheelers, three-wheelers and four-wheelers.
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National Mission for Manuscripts

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- National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) is developing an app to make 3

lakhs manuscripts online accessible.
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- NMM was set up in 2003 by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture to identify, document, conserve, digitise and publish Indian manuscripts.
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- A manuscript is a handwritten composition on paper, bark, cloth, metal, palm leaf or any other material dating back at least seventy-five years that has significant scientific, historical or aesthetic value.
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- NMM is working towards fulfilling its motto, ‘conserving the past for the future’.
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- India possesses an estimate of 10 million manuscripts, probably the largest collection in the world, which covers a variety of themes, textures and aesthetics, scripts, languages, calligraphies, illuminations and illustrations.
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Biodiversity Heritage Sites

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- The Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board has initiated steps to identify and declare Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS).
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- BHS are well defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems.
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- Under Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (BDA), the State Government in consultation with local bodies may notify in the official gazette, areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS).
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- The State Government in consultation with the Central Government may frame rules for the management and conservation of BHS.
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- The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) issues the guidelines for selection and management of the BHS.
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- It covers terrestrial, coastal and inland waters and, marine ecosystems having rich biodiversity.
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- Ameenpur lake in Telangana is the first waterbody in the country to be declared as a BHS.
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QUAD Grouping

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- Indo-Pacific Quadrilateral is a closed group consisting of India, Australia, Japan & USA.
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- Japan pioneered the initiative about a decade ago as a coalition of maritime democracies.
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- Securing a rules-based global order, liberal trading system and freedom of navigation are believed to the guiding principles.
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- It aims to contain a rising China and its “predatory” economic and trade policies.
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- The purpose is also to provide alternative debt financing for countries in the Indo-Pacific region.
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- Report on stability was recently launched by four think tanks from the Quad countries at the Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF).
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- The report was published by Quadripartite Commission on Indian Ocean Regional Security, which put out a series of 20 policy recommendations for stability in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
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- It recommended that the four countries should work to oppose the establishment of permanent Chinese military bases in the IOR.
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3D Printed Reef

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- World's largest 3D-printed reef was installed in Maldives to help save corals.
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- The artificial reef was developed using computer modelling and a 3D printer at a lab in Melbourne, Australia,.
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- It was designed to resemble reef structures typically found in the Maldives.
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- It aims to help coral reefs survive the ravages of climate change and warming waters.
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- 3D printing technology offers a new way of saving the corals to fight with global warming, bleaching and environmental pollution.
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Source: Indian Express, PIB

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