Prelim Bits 26-01-2019

National Voters Day

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- The National Voters' Day (NVD) was celebrated all over the country on January 25.
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- It is celebrated every year since 2011.
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- The theme for NVD 2019 was 'No Voter to be Left Behind'.
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- The day is to mark the Foundation day of Election Commission of India, which was established on 25th January 1950.
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- The main purpose of the NVD celebration is to encourage, facilitate and maximize the enrollment, especially for the new voters.
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- It is dedicated to the voters of the country.
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- The Day is utilized to spread awareness among voters for promoting informed participation in the electoral process.
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Autonomous Council

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- The Union Cabinet has approved the constitutional amendment which seeks to increase the powers of the autonomous council recently.
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- The amendment to Article 280 and Sixth Schedule of the Constitution has been approved.
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- It will significantly improve the financial resources and powers of the autonomous districts councils in **Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura**, fulfilling longstanding aspirations of the tribal population in these Northeastern states.

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- At least 1/3rd of the seats will be reserved for women in the village and municipal councils in the Sixth Schedule areas of Assam, Mizoram and Tripura.
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- At least two of the nominated members in all autonomous councils in the North East Sixth Schedule areas will also be reserved for women resulting in empowerment of women.
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- There will be State Election Commissions for holding elections to the autonomous councils, village and municipal councils in the areas of Assam, Mizoram and Tripura.
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- There will be a provision for anti-defection too.
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- Meghalaya has for the time being kept out of the purview of the provision for elected village and municipal councils and one-third reservations for women.
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UDAN

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- The union Minister for Civil Aviation and Commerce announced the results of Phase 3 bidders under Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) Scheme
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- UDAN is an innovative scheme to develop the regional aviation market. It is a market-based mechanism in which airlines bid for seat subsidies.
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- This first-of-its-kind scheme globally will create affordable yet economically viable and profitable flights on regional routes so that flying becomes affordable to the common man.
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- It envisages providing connectivity to un-served and under-served airports of the country through revival of existing air-strips and airports.
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- The operators could seek a Viability Gap Funding (VGF) apart from getting various concessions.
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- The scheme also provides for various benefits including no airport charges and three-year exclusivity on the routes.
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- The States have a key role under the scheme. The selection of airports where

UDAN would start would be done in consultation with State Government and after confirmation of their concessions.
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- The UDAN is likely to a give a major fillip to tourism and employment generation in the hinterland.
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CORSIA

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- Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORISA) is a global scheme to address the increase in total CO2 emissions from international aviation above 2020 levels.
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- The aviation industry is committed to technology, operational and infrastructure advances to continue to reduce the sector's carbon emissions.
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- On average (2021-2035), flights subject to CORSIA's offsetting requirements will account for over 600 million tons of CO2 per year.
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- This makes CORSIA one of the largest carbon pricing instruments in the world in terms of greenhouse gas emissions coverage.
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- CORISA is expected to complement other planned measures such as:
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1. aircraft technology evolution
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2. operational improvements
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3. the greater use of sustainable aviation fuels.
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- On 2018, International Civil Aviation Organization adopted the international Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) for CORSIA.
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- The adoption of global standards for CORSIA will ensure the necessary level of uniformity in regulations which our industry needs.
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Source : PIB, The Hindu, Business Standard

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