Prelim Bits 27-07-2017

Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC)

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- Recently, the Cabinet Committee has approved the proposal of Department of Rural Development for revision of cost of SECC 2011.
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- Earlier, Below Poverty Line (BPL) list was prepared by States/UTs for identifying beneficiaries for various poverty alleviation and development schemes.
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- Later in 2011, Socio Economic and Caste Census were launched to avoid exclusion and inclusion errors in receiving benefits from the Government.
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- SECC 2011 elicited information on identified parameters from each household for identification of deprivation and multi-dimensionality of poverty.
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- The Ministry of Rural Development provided financial and technical support to the States/UTs for conducting Socio Economic and Caste Census-2011.
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- The advantage of SECC is that it provides for programme specific customized priority list to suit programme objective and budget space to address specific deprivation.
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- It has generated customized priority list for Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojna-Gramin (PMAY-G) and Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
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Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

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- CAC is International food standards setting body.
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- It facilitates evolving a common standardization process for global trade and availability.
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- Codex Alimentarius (Food code) is a collection of internationally recognized standards, codes of practice, guidelines, and other recommendations relating to foods, food production, and food safety.
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- CAC has recently adopted three Codex standards for black, white and green pepper, cumin and thyme owing to India's efforts to benchmark global spices trade.
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- With this adoption of codex standards, spices have been included for the first time as commodities that will have such universal standards.
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- It will benefit the trade from universal agreement to identify good quality spices.
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Bilateral Investment Treaty

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- A bilateral investment treaty (BIT) is an agreement establishing the terms and conditions for private investment by nationals and companies of one state in another state.
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- The existing BIT's are negotiated based on the Model BIT text adopted in 1993 and amended in 2003.
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- The process of reviewing and revising the existing BITs was started in 2015 and the negotiations on revised Model BITs are being carried out with USA, Russia and EU.
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- BIT includes fair and equitable treatment, protection from expropriation, free transfer of means and full protection and security.
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- BITs are established through trade pacts and they allow for an alternative dispute resolution mechanism, through an Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS).
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- BITs help to project India as an attractive Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) destination, as well as protect outbound Indian FDI.
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- It boosts the confidence of investors by assuring a minimum standard of treatment and non-discrimination.
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Learn and Earn Scheme

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- Seekho aur Kamao (Learn and Earn) is a central sector scheme implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
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- It aims to provide placement linked skill training to youths from minority communities.
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- It is implemented across the country by through selected Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs).
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Air Freight Corridor

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- Recently, Air freight corridor was established between India and Afghanistan.
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- The connectivity established through the Air Freight Corridor will promote bilateral trade and provide Afghanistan, a landlocked country, direct access to India.
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- The cargo flight enables Afghan farmers quick and direct access to the Indian markets for their perishable produce.
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Lingayats

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- Lingayats popularly known as “Veerashaivas” in the State of Karnataka are demanding a separate religion.
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- Lingayatism is a distinct shaivite religious tradition, founded by Basavanna.
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- Basavanna was a 12th-century social reformer, Kannada poet, philosopher, statesman who served as the chief minister of Kalachuri dynasty ruled by King Bijjala.
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- Lingyatism emphasizes on monism and bhakti (loving devotion) to Shiva.
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- It is spread by the followers of Basavanna, known as “Sharanas”.
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- Now, there is a division on whether the religion should be called “Lingayata Dharma” or “Veerashaiva Dharma” or “Veerashaiva/Lingayata Dharma”.
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Kovvada

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- Kovvada is a new nuclear plant to be set up in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
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- It is a proposed light water nuclear water reactor in Srikakulam District.
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- Recently, Land acquired for the construction of nuclear power plant was handed over to Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).
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