Prelim Bits 29-03-2019

Coffee E-market

- Coffee Board of India has launched blockchain based coffee e-marketplace integrate the farmers with markets in a transparent manner.
- This initiative will help in creating a brand image for Indian Coffee through traceability in reducing grower's dependency on intermediaries by assuring fair price for the coffee producer.
- Facts on Indian Coffee production

1. India is the only country in the world where entire coffee is grown under shade, handpicked and sun-dried.
2. It produces one of the best coffees in the world, produced by small coffee growers, tribal farmers adjacent to National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in the Western and Eastern Ghats, which are two of the major bio-diversity hot spots in the world.
3. Indian coffee is highly valued in the world market and sold as premium coffees.

Coffee Board of India

- Coffee Board of India was established in 1942, it is headquartered in Bangalore.
- The organization is managed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to promote coffee production in India.
- Coffee Boards traditional duties include

1. Promotion of the sale and consumption of coffee in India and abroad,
2. Conducting coffee research,
3. Financial assistance to establish small coffee growers,
4. Safeguarding working conditions for labourers,
5. Managing the surplus pool of unsold coffee.

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited

- RVNL is 100% owned Mini-Ratna Company of Ministry of Railways established in 2003 to bridge the infrastructure deficit on Indian Railways.
- RVNL functions as an extended arm of the Ministry of Railways, which carries out planning, development, resource mobilization & execution of

railway related projects on fast track:

- RVNL's mandate includes mobilization of extra-budgetary resources through a mix of equity, and debt from banks, financial institutions, and multilateral agencies.
- RVNL is in the business of executing all types of railway projects, including new lines, doubling, gauge conversion, railway electrification, metro projects, workshops, major bridges, construction of cable-stayed bridges, institution buildings.

International Telecommunication Union

- The International Telecommunication Union is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) based in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is the oldest among all the 15 specialized agencies of UN.
- ITU is responsible for issues that concern information and communication technologies.
- The role of ITU are as follows
    1. It coordinates the shared global use of the radio spectrum.
    2. It promotes international cooperation in assigning satellite orbits.
    3. It works to improve telecommunication infrastructure in the developing world.
    4. It assists in the development and coordination of worldwide technical standards.
- Its membership includes 193 Member States and around 800 public and private sector companies, and academic institutions as well as international and regional telecommunication entities.
- ITU releases the ICT Development Index (IDI) based on internationally agreed information and communication technologies (ICT) indicators

The Grand Order of the King of Tomislav.

- Croatian state order is awarded to heads of state for their important contribution towards the development of state relations between Croatia and their respective countries.
- The Grand Order of King Tomislav is the highest civilian order of Croatia.
- It is named after King Tomislav of Croatia.
- Recently Indian President Ram Nath Kovind was honoured Croatia's highest civilian order.

Mini Mum

- Mini mum frog is found in eastern Madagascar, it lives in the leaf litters of lowland forests.
- It is one of the smallest frogs in the world, reaching an adult body size of 9.7 mm in males and 11.3 mm in females, it could sit on a thumbtack.

- These frogs belong to the subfamily Cophylinae which is endemic to Madagascar.

Source: The Hindu, PIB, Down to Earth