Prelim Bits 30-03-2017

Animal Welfare Board of India

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- The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is a statutory advisory body under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MOEF).
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- It derives its legal structure from the prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.
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- It is headquartered in Chennai, frames a range of rues on how animals ought to be humanely treated everywhere.
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- The term of the office of Members is 3 years and presently consists of 22 members from several government organizations along with animal rights activists and parliamentarians.
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- Recently, the Ministry of Environment issued a notification saying that the board will be permanently chaired by a senior MoEF official.
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- Some of the functions performed by AWBI
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1. To advice the Central Government on the matters relating to the medical care provided in animal hospitals.
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2. To advice the Government related to the design of slaughter houses and vehicles to lessen the burden on draught animals.
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3. To give financial assistance to animal welfare organizations, rescue establishments and animal hospitals
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Brown dwarfs

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- Brown dwarfs are objects which are too large to be called planets and too small to be stars.
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- The mass of brown dwarfs is too small for full nuclear fusion of hydrogen to helium to take place i.e to become fully-fledged stars, but usually more massive than planets.
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- Recently scientists have identified a brown dwarf, located at 750 light years away in the constellation of Pisces.
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- It is made of gas that is around 250 times purer than the sun, hence consists of more than 99.9% hydrogen and helium.
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- It is about 90 times as massive as the planet Jupiter, making it the most massive brown dwarf found to date.
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- 3 Criteria given by International Astronomical Union (IAU) to classify any celestial body as planet,
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1. It needs to be in orbit around a any fully fledged star.
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2. It needs to have enough gravity to pull itself into a spherical shape.
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3. It has cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit.
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Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat

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- It is a programme organized by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
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- It aims to actively enhance interaction between people of diverse cultures living in different States and UTs, with the objective of promoting greater

mutual understanding amongst them.
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- As per the programme, each year, every State/UT would be paired with another State/UT in India for reciprocal interaction between the people.
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