Prelims Bits 15-02-2018

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Enforcement Directorate

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- Enforcement Directorate has registered a money laundering case against the fraudulent transaction of Rs.11, 500 corers in one of the branches of PNB.
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- Enforcement Directorate is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
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- It enforces Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).
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- Its headquarters is situated in New Delhi and headed by the Director of Enforcement.
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- The director is appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister.
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Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

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- Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) is situated at the tri-junction of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.
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- The reserve straddles the Ooty -Mysore interstate national highway.
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- It is contiguous with Wyanaad Wildlife Sanctuary on the west, Bandipur Tiger Reserve on the north.
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- The Moyar river flows downstream into the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and is the natural line of division between Mudumalai and Bandipur Sanctuary.
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- The MTR also forms part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
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- The Reserve has tall grasses, commonly referred to as “Elephant Grass”, Bamboos of the giant variety, valuable timber species like Teak, Rosewood.
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- Fauna found in the region are Tiger, Elephant, Indian Gaur, Panther, Barking Deer, Malabar Giant Squirrel and Hyena etc.,
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- Sathayamangalam,Kalakkad Mudunthurai and Anamalai are the other tiger reserves in the state of Tamil Nadu.
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Whip

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- The issue of expulsion of Member of Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu for violating the party’ whip is before the Madras High Court.
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- Whip in general denotes an official of a political party appointed to maintain parliamentary discipline among its members, especially so as to ensure attendance and voting in debates.
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- The office of Whip is not mentioned in the constitution but it is based on parliamentary convention.
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- In the 14th All India Whips Conference, 2008, the former Vice President Mohd. Hamid Ansari outlined the functions of whip as follows,
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1. Facilitate the functioning of the legislature and optimize its output.
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2. Be the channel for communicating party policy, on a day to day basis, to the rank and file of the party in the legislature

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3. Act as counselors to their Members and advisors to party leadership
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4. Function as the channel for dispensing favors and for enforcing discipline.
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Maramon Convention

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- Maramon Convention is the Asia’s largest weeklong annual Christian meet.
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- The convention is organized in the vast river bed of Pampa near the Kozhencherry Bridge.
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- The ongoing 123rd convention at Maramon,Pathanamthitta, Kerala began with a call to conserve the river Pampa and the environment.
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Mumbai 12th wealthiest City in the world

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- According to a report by New World Wealth, Mumbai, the economic hub of India is the 12th wealthiest city.
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- Mumbai also features among the top 10 cities in terms of billionaire population.
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- The list of 15 wealthiest cities was topped by New York with a total wealth of $3 trillion.
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- Among the 15 cities listed, San Francisco, Beijing, Shanghai, Mumbai and Sydney were the fastest growing in terms of wealth growth over the past 10 years, the report said
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Clean Air Campaign

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- The ‘Clean Air for Delhi’ was launched on February 10, 2018 jointly by the Central Government and the Government of Delhi to address all sources of pollution in Delhi.
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- Joint teams of officials of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi Government, and Municipal Corporations were constituted.
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- These teams will visit every administrative division of Delhi, monitor causes of pollution and initiate remedial measures, including penal actions against serious polluters on the spot.
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- The campaign will also include enforcement of pollution-control measures for vehicles, driving discipline, inspection of power plants in Delhi.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu, Business Standard

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