Prelims Bits 16-01-2018

Aadhaar Face Authentication

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- The Unique Identification Authority of India has decided to enable Face Authentication for validating Aadhaar cards from July 2018.
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- Currently, the UIDAI provides two modes of biometric verification: fingerprint authentication and iris authentication.
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- Face authentication will be allowed only in fusion mode along with one more authentication factor either fingerprint or iris or aOTP to authenticate an Aadhaar number holder.
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- Face authentication will only be allowed on a “need” basis.
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Orange Passports

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- Ministry of External Affairs has decided to offer orange coloured passport to the travellers who require an emigration check.
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- By this ECR status would be issued a passport with an orange-coloured, non-ECR status will continue to get blue passports.
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ECR status

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- As per the Emigration Act, 1983, certain categories of Indian passport holders require obtaining an ‘Emigration Clearance’ for going to certain

countries.
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- Emigration, as per the Act, means the leaving of India by any Indian citizen with the intent of taking up employment in certain foreign countries.
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- Persons who don’t have a minimum educational qualification of 10th standard (SSC, Matriculation) will come under ECR category.
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- The idea behind the ‘ECR’ is to ensure the safety of uneducated and unskilled Indian citizens, from the most deprived socio-economic strata, against prevailing legal conditions in certain foreign countries.
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Types of passports issued in India

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- **Regular Passport -** This has a navy blue cover; it is issued to citizens for ordinary travel like vacations and business trips.
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- **Diplomatic Passport -** This has a maroon cover; it is issued to Indian diplomats, top-ranking government officials (joint secretary and above) and diplomatic couriers.
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- **Official Passport -** This has a white cover; it is issued to individuals representing the Indian government on official business.
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FDI in single brand retail

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- Union government has decided to allow 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in single-brand retail trading through the automatic route last week.
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- Single-brand retail chain is expected to sell all its products under only one label across its store, example Burger King, KFC, Levis.
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- If an MNC operates a single-brand retail chain, the product must also be sold under the same brand name globally.
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- The MNC must also source 30 per cent of its purchases for the business from India.
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- Now this rules are slightly relaxed to allow an MNC to set off any local sourcing for its global business, against this 30 per cent quota.
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FDI

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- Foreign direct investment (FDI) is an investment made by a company or individual in one country in business interests in another country.
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- Foreign direct investments are distinguished from portfolio investments in which an investor merely purchases equities of foreign-based companies.
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- FDI comes to India with two routes through automatic and Government route.
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- **Automatic route-**under this route the foreign companies do not need a prior approval for investment either by the Government or the Reserve Bank of India.
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- The investors are only required to intimate the Regional office concerned of the Reserve Bank within 30 days of receipt of inward remittance.
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- **Government route -** Certain activities that are not covered under the automatic route and that require prior Government approval comes under this route.
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- Earlier Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) issued permissions for such foreign investments.
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- Recently FIPB was scrapped and now concerned government department can clear such procedures.
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Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (1958)

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- Union government has tabled amendments to Ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains act in the parliament.
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- The Lok Sabha passed the amendments to the Act, the Bill is yet to be cleared by the Rajya Sabha.
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- The Act was originally instituted conservation measures and banned construction activities near protected monuments.
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- The amendment now allows to carry out public works within the 100 m prohibited zone.
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UMANG App

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- UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) is envisaged to make e-governance.
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- It is developed by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to drive Mobile Governance in India.
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- It provides a unified approach where citizens can install one application to avail multiple government services.
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- The app services include Aadhaar, DigiLocker, and Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS). Etc.
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Farthest known galaxy

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- NASA has spotted the farthest known galaxy in the universe, a primitive cluster of stars just 500 million years old.
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- The galaxy was named SPT0615-JD.
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- Preliminary analysis suggests that the galaxy is less than 2,500 light-years across.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu, Business Line, Live Mint

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