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Prelim Bits 20-11-2017

e-vehicle

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- State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has set up 'India's first e-vehicle charging unit' in Nagpur.

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- Nagpur is the first city to introduce Electric Public Transportation Model in India.

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FAME India

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- The government has recently invited proposals from cities with population of above 10 lakh for extending grants under the FAME scheme.

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- FAME - Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric and Hybrid Vehicles in India

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- It is a scheme to promote large-scale adoption of Electric vehicles in multi-modal public transport.

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- The scheme has 4 focus areas i.e. Technology development, Demand Creation, Pilot Projects and Charging Infrastructure.

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- It is aimed at incentivising all vehicle segments i.e. 2 Wheeler, 3 Wheeler Auto, Passenger 4 Wheeler Vehicle, Light Commercial Vehicles and Buses.

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World Economic Outlook

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- The report “World Economic Outlook” is being published by International Monetary Fund (IMF).

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- It ranks over 200 countries in terms of per capita GDP based on Purchasing Power Parity (PPP).

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- In this year ranking, India has moved up one position to 126 in terms of GDP per capita.

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- It is still ranked lower than all its BRICS peers.

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- Qatar remains the world’s richest as per the IMF data.

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- **PPP** – It is the rate at which the currency of one country needs to be converted into that of a second country.

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- It is used worldwide to compare the income levels in different countries.

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- It is to ensure that the expenditure on a similar commodity must be same in both currencies when accounted for exchange rate.

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PowerTex India Scheme

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- It is a three-year comprehensive scheme for powerloom sector development.

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- It comprises several schemes of textile ministry such as In-situ Upgradation of Plain Powerlooms, Group Workshed Scheme (GWS), Yarn Bank Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Credit Scheme for Powerloom Weavers etc.

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- It also includes Grant-in-Aid and Modernisation & Upgradation of Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs).

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- The textile ministry has recently recommended an increase in capital subsidy for the powerloom sector from 10% to 30%.

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- It has also sought additional funds to be disbursed to powerloom weavers.

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Deformed Amphibians

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- Scientists have been witnessing frogs with deformities in Western Ghats.
- Missing eyes, deformed hind legs, missing limbs, extra limbs, partial limbs, limbs that are bent or bony, and abnormally thin or weak limbs are some of the reported frog abnormalities.
- The reason behind this is suspected to be symptomatic of underlying toxicity in the environment and the food chain.
- Many amphibians breed in the shallow waters of paddy fields and pesticide applications also coincide with the breeding periods of frogs.
- These chemicals ultimately reach the soil and move into the water system where the larval stage (tadpoles) of the frog develops leading to deformities.

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Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin)

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- The scheme was launched last year with the target of completing one crore new houses by March, 2019.
- It aims at helping rural people below the poverty-line (BPL) in construction of dwelling units and upgradation of existing unserviceable kutchha houses by providing assistance in the form of full grant.
- It involves local construction material, use of technology through rural mason training, geo-tagging of assets and payment directly into the account of beneficiary through IT-DBT platform.
- Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011 is used to identify the beneficiary.
- It is only the homeless and those living in one kuccha room with kuccha roof or two kuccha rooms with kuccha roof are the beneficiaries.
- An allowance of Rs. 120,000 in plain areas and Rs. 130,000 in hilly areas will be provided for construction of homes.

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Source: The Hindu, PIB

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