Prelim Bits 21-09-2017

Peer-to-Peer Lending

- RBI has announced that Peer-to-peer lending (P2P) platforms will be treated as non-banking financial companies (NBFC) and will be regulated by it.
- P2P lending is a form of crowd funding used to raise loans in an online platform which are paid back with interest.
- Individuals or businesses can borrow money using an online platform which matches the lenders with borrowers.
- P2P lending platforms are largely technology companies registered under the Companies Act that act as aggregators for lenders and borrowers.
- The interest rate may be set by the platform or by mutual agreement between the borrower and the lender.

Sakhi

- It is a one-stop centre for providing medical, legal and rehabilitation facilities for women subjected to any kind of violence.
- These centres will be established across the country to provide integrated support and assistance under one roof both in private and public spaces in a phased manner.

Quantum computer

- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is planning to fund a project to develop quantum computers.
- A quantum computer employs the principles of quantum mechanics to store information in 'qubits' instead of the typical binary bits of 1 and 0.
- Circuits are designed in such a way that qubits work faster and can do intensive computing task much faster than other computers.
- It solves the problem in the same way of computing physics which might never be possible on traditional computers.
- Canada's D-Wave Systems, is a pioneer in developing quantum computers.

UDAAN

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for extension of time period of Udaan Scheme till 31st December, 2018.
- Initially the time period of Udaan was upto 2016-17.
- It is a national integration scheme with the goal to mainstream J&K youth with rest of the country.
- It provides exposure to the youth of J&K to corporate India along with skill enhancement and job opportunities.
- Leading Corporate have partnered with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under UDAAN.

Operation Sadbhavana and Operation Samaritan

- These operations are carried out by Indian Army in Jammu & Kashmir and North East states respectively.
- Under this, army undertakes various civic action programmes which aimed at winning hearts of the people and integration of the people with the nation.
- Under operation sadbhavana, recently army sponsored educational and national integration tour for Jammu and Kashmir youths.

Measuring height of Mount Everest

- The government of Nepal is finalizing a methodology to measure the height of Mount Everest.
- Already there are three different measures, in which two are determined by Indian survey and one by China.
- In 1856, the Royal Surveyor of India has measured the height as 8,840 metres and again in 1955, an Indian survey measured as 8,848 metres.
- In 2005, China conducted its own survey and came up with a figure that is exactly between the two heights measured by the two Indian surveys.
- China claimed the peak's "rock height" that of naked rock, uncapped by snow is 8,844 m high, or 4 m less than the "snow height".

Hunar Haat

- Ministry of Minority Affairs is organizing Hunar Haat to provide market and opportunity to master artisans belonging to the Minority communities.
- It is an exhibition of handicrafts, embroidery and art works and artisans will be provided free of cost stall, the arrangements for their transport and their daily expenses.

\n\n

\n\n

Source: PIB, The Hindu, Indian Express

\n