

Prelim bits 07-02-2017

Application of geo-spatial technology in Education sector

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- Under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed a portal called **“Bhuvan RUSA”**.

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- In this portal, geo-tagging of institution by a mobile application and associated details captured by the educational institutions are uploaded.

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- The key stakeholders in Bhuvan RUSA are Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development; National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO); State Governments and institutions of the States/UTs funded under RUSA.

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- RUSA is the **centrally sponsored scheme** aims at providing strategic funding to higher educational institutions throughout the country.

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Char Dham Highway Project

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- The Char Dham highway development project is an initiative to improve connectivity to the Char Dham pilgrimage centres in the Himalayas i.e **Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath**.

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- This objective is to provide roads with paved shoulders, provision for landslide mitigation and other road safety measures, which will provide all weather road connectivity for pilgrims and for movement of defence forces.

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- But generally the Char Dham pilgrimage centre four pilgrimage sites in India i.e **Badrinath, Dwarka, Puri and Rameswaran** but the **Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath** in Uttarkhand state were known

as Chota Char Dham.

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Employee's Provident Fund

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- Employee's Provident Fund (EPF) is a retirement benefit scheme that is available to all salaried employees.
- Any company with over 20 employees is required by law to register with the EPFO.
- Both employees and employers contribute 12 per cent each of a worker's salary.
- This fund is maintained and overseen by the Employees Provident Fund Organization of India (EPFO) which is under ministry of labour and employment.
- The EPFO is tasked to assist the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), a statutory body formed by the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952.
- The CBT consists of representatives of Governments (Centre and State), Employers and Employees.
- The labour ministry has proposed amending the Employees Provident Funds Act, 1952 with provisions like
 - 1. Establishments with at least 10 workers might have to pay provident fund, with the employer contributing nine per cent of a worker's salary.
 - 2. Government will have the power to reduce contribution of employers in factories with 10-20 workers from 12% to 9% towards EPFO
 - 3. In factories with up to 40 workers, penalty and recovery norms will be relaxed
 - 4. An appellate officer for employers so they don't have to come to Delhi to file appeal against order

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- Recently, to bring in more employees from public and private sector into the ambit of Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), an Employees' Enrolment Campaign, 2017 has been launched.

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Rocket Force

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- The Rocket Force is a special contingent to handle range of missiles in China's military's arsenal.

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- China's newly-formed Rocket Force has conducted an exercise with advanced **DF-16 medium-range ballistic missile**.

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- The ballistic missile has a range of over 1,000 km and could target a number of countries in the neighborhood, including India.

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- The missile can carry up to three nuclear warheads at a combined weight of one ton, and strike within five feet of a programmed target.

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