

Prelim Bits 21-01-2019

Tamil Nadu Defense Industrial Corridor

- Defense Minister launched the Tamil Nadu Defense Industrial corridor.
- The Corridor, also called the Tamil Nadu Defense Production Quad, will connect Chennai, Hosur, Salem, Coimbatore and Tiruchi around which investments are expected to grow.
- Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Defense public sector units and private sector companies like TVS group announced investments along the corridor.
- Development of these corridors will help in accelerated growth and regional industry agglomeration, which will lead to increased defense production in the country and the region.
- Besides a defence innovation hub was also launched in Coimbatore.

World Capital of Architecture

- UNESCO has named the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro as the World Capital of Architecture for 2020.
- Rio has a mix of modern and colonial architecture.
- It will be the first city to receive the title under a programme launched together by UNESCO and the International Union of Architects (UIA) in November 2018.
- Rio houses some world-renowned sites like the statue of Christ the Redeemer and contemporary constructions like the Museum of Tomorrow.
- The city is also home to works of renowned architects such as Oscar Niemeyer, who also designed the capital city of Brasilia.

Saturn's Ring

- Saturn's rings may be formed between 100 million and 10 million years ago.
- Thus they might be much younger than the 4.5-billion-year-old planet.
- Four robotic spacecraft -**Pioneer 11, Voyager 1, Voyager 2 and Cassini** - played a major role in understanding the rings.
- The rings consist of a large number of small particles that orbit Saturn.
- According to the NASA they are about 400,000 km — equivalent to the distance between the Earth and the Moon — but are as little as 100 m thick.
- There are many rings — perhaps 500 to 1,000 — and there are also gaps within them.

- Particles range in size from “too tiny to see” to “the size of a bus”.
- Scientists believe the particles are icy snowballs or ice covered rocks.

Extinction risk for coffee species

- A new study has found that 60% all coffee species are at the risk of extinction from disease, climate change, and the loss of suitable space to grow coffee.
- The species at risk include Arabica, the most widely consumed coffee variety in the world.
- Arabica alone accounts for 60% of world coffee trade, and Robusta for the remaining 40%.
- Given the threat, other coffee species are likely to be required for coffee crop plant development.
- There are two optimal growing climates for Arabic coffee bean
 1. The subtropical regions-at high altitudes of 16-24° Rainy and dry seasons must be well defined, and altitude must be between 1800-3600 feet.
 2. The equatorial regions at latitudes lower than 10° and altitudes of 3600-6300 feet
- Robusta coffee is grown at much lower altitudes (sea level-3000 feet) in an area 10° North and South of the equator.
- It is much more tolerant to warm conditions than Arabica coffee.

Saksham 2019

- Saksham is an annual high intensity one-month long people-centric mega campaign of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- Various interactive programs and activities are being planned by PCRA, Public Sector upstream/downstream Oil & Gas companies during the month long ‘Saksham-2019’.
- PCRA is a national government agency engaged in promoting energy efficiency in various sectors of economy.
- It is a not for profit organization.
- It helps the government in proposing policies and strategies for petroleum conservation, aimed at reducing excessive dependence of the country on oil requirement.

Project Saksham	Ministry of Finance	Its objective is to develop a New Indirect Tax Network (Systems Integration) of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).
Project Saksham	Ministry of Railways	It is a comprehensive training program for all employees of Indian Railways to boost productivity & efficiency
Saksham (Sanrakshan Kshanta Mahotsav)	Ministry Of Petroleum and Natural gas	It is an annual flagship event to create focused attention on fuel conservation through people centric activities
Saksham	Ministry of Rural Development	Capacity Building program - a training module that uses Remote Sensing and GIS tools for project planning and monitoring component.

Source: PIB, The Hindu, Indian Express

