Prelim Bits 02-07-2018

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

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- OPCW is an independent, autonomous international organisation with a working relationship with the United Nations.
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- It is the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which entered into force in 1997.
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- OPCW has 193 Member States working together to achieve a world free of chemical weapons.
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- It is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands.
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- It was awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 2013.
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- It has been recently **granted additional powers** by its members voting in two-third majority.
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- Until now, OPCW could only say whether chemical weapons were used but not who had used them.
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- The new power allows it to assign blame for attacks.
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- This process of extending its jurisdiction was heavily opposed by Russia.
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- But, Britain was supporting the move arguing that new powers were needed to deal with repeated chemical attacks in Syria.
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RIMPAC

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- RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific Exercise) is the world’s largest international maritime exercise.

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- The 26th edition of RIMPAC was hosted by the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) recently.
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- It commenced off the Hawaii coast with the participation from 25 countries.
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- It is aimed at increased inter-operability and development of common understanding of procedures for maritime security operations.
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- It provides a platform for multilateral operational interactions.
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- India has participated in this edition and represented by INS Sahyadri.
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- Israel, Sri Lanka and Vietnam joined RIMPAC for the first time.
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- China is absent this year as it was dis-invited from participating by the U.S., citing China's military actions in the South China Sea.
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- China participated in the exercise in 2014 and 2016.
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INS Sahyadri

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- INS Sahyadri is an indigenously built stealth frigate.
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- It participated in trilateral Malabar war games with Japan and the U.S. off the Coast of Guam.
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- It recently participated in RIMPAC and has been adjudged **runner-up in an innovation competition.**
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- INS Sahyadri presented the 'idea of integrating yoga into our daily life as technology for well-being during extended deployments for ships'.
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- The idea was appreciated by representatives of participating countries.
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Mission Shaurya

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- ‘Mission Shaurya’ is an initiative of the Tribal department of the Maharashtra State Government.
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- It aims to train tribal students to scale Mt. Everest.
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- Recently, 10 tribal students from residential schools in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra conquered Everest.
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- **Mission Shakti** - Maharashtra government has also announced this mission to impart special training and prepare tribal students for the Olympics 2024.
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International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

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- IOM was established in 1951. It had been an observer to the UN since 1992.
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- The agency joined the UN system as a related organization in September 2016.
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- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
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- It works in the field of migration with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.
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- The organisation has 166 member countries (including India) and 8 observer states.
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- It aims to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.
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- IOM works to help ensure the humane management of migration by providing services and advice to governments and migrants, promote international cooperation on migration issues.
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- Mr. Vitorino of Portugal is the first Director General elected to IOM after it has become part of UN.
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AGNI – V

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- The Agni series (I to V) missiles constitute the backbone of India’s nuclear weapons delivery and part of nuclear triad.
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- Agni-V is India’s longest-range ballistic missile which will be inducted into the nuclear arsenal soon.
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- Earlier variants of the Agni family of long-range missiles have already been deployed.
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- Agni – V is an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km and can reach most parts of China.
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- It is powered by three stage solid fuelled missiles.
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- It can carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes.
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- It is a part of Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).
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No-first-use doctrine

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- India is committed to a ‘No-First-Use’ policy as part of its nuclear doctrine.
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- Thus, second strike capability - the capability to strike back after being hit by nuclear weapons first becomes important.
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Source: The Hindu, Indian Express

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