

Prelim Bits 06-12-2018

Rat Kangaroo

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- Northern bettongs, sometimes referred to as rat-kangaroos, are truffle-eating Australian marsupials.

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- The World Wildlife Fund recently reported that they have suffered a dramatic population decline and could become extinct without urgent action.

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- Their numbers are down by 70% in the past 30 years.

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- They are at risk from feral cats, land-clearing and wildfires, which have become more frequent and fierce in Queensland due to climate change.

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Hand-in-Hand 2018

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- It is an exercise conducted annually as part of military diplomacy and interaction between armies of India and China.

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- The joint exercise will be conducted at Chengdu, China.

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- The aim of the exercise is to build and promote close relations between armies of both the countries and to enhance ability of joint exercise commander to take military contingents of both nations under command.

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- The exercise will involve tactical level operations in an International Counter Insurgency/ Counter Terrorist environment under UN mandate.

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GSAT-11

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- ISRO has recently launched its heaviest and most-advanced high throughput communication satellite GSAT-11 successfully.

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- It was launched from the Spaceport in French Guiana.

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- The launch vehicle Ariane 5 VA-246 was used to lift off and the satellite was placed in an elliptical Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.

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- The satellite weighs 5,854-kg and will provide high data rate connectivity to users of Indian mainland and islands through 32 user beams in Ku-band and 8 hub beams in Ka-band.

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- It will boost the broadband connectivity to rural and inaccessible Gram Panchayats in the country coming under the Bharat Net Project, which is part of Digital India Programme.

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- The Bharat Net Project aims to enhance the public welfare schemes like e-banking, e-health, e-governance among others.

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Source: PIB, First Post

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