Prelim Bits 11-09-2018

Nomadic Elephant

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- It is an annual **Indo-Mongolia** joint military exercise.
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- The 2018 edition of the exercise will be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
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- It aims to improve the tactical and technical skills in counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations in rural and urban scenario.
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MILEX – 2018

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- MILEX is a military field exercise of countries of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technological and Economic Cooperation).
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- Its aim is to practice the BIMSTEC nations in planning and conduct of counter terrorist operations.
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- The exercise focusses on counter-terrorism operation in semi-urban setting.
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- The countries of BIMSTEC organisation are Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.
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- The headquarters is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
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Door Step Delivery Scheme (DSD)

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- The scheme is launched by the Delhi government.
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- It aims to provide 40 essential government services at the door step of the people.
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- The residents of Delhi will get delivery of various government services, including driving licence, marriage certificate and ration card, at the place of their choice.
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- In the first phase, 40 services will be provided for a nominal charge of Rs 50.
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- Customers will have to dial helpline and mobile sahayaks will be deployed by the service providers to households for collection of required documents and biometric data.
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- The required services once ready, will be delivered through speed post.
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Human Rights Council

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- The 39th session of UN Human Rights Council is going to be held in Geneva.
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- It is expected to adopt a resolution on the human rights situation in Myanmar.
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- The session follows the report by the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, which detailed crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide by Myanmar's security forces in Rakhine State.
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- UNHRC is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system, responsible for promoting and protecting human rights around the world.
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- It has 47 seats with tenure of 3 years.
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- Members are elected by UN General Assembly by two-third majority vote and no member may occupy a seat for more than 2 consecutive terms.
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- It is a separate entity from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), but the council works closely with the OHCHR.
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- It accesses human rights situation in all 193 UN member states periodically.
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- It published a report on human rights situation in Kashmir and urged Indian

government to repeal Armed Forces (Jammu & Kashmir) Special Powers Act, 1990. But Indian government rejected the report.
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WMO report on El Nino

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- World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), has recently forecasted a 70% chance of an El Nino developing by the end of this year.
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- WMO also quoted that the anticipated El Nino may not be as powerful as the 2015-16 event but will have considerable impact.
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- WMO was created in 1950 as an intergovernmental organization.
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- It became a specialized agency of the United Nations, in 1951, for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.
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- WMO is the UN system‘s authoritative voice on weather, climate and water.
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- Its secretariat is in Geneva, Switzerland and is headed by the Secretary-General.
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- Through its members, WMO provides forecasts and early warnings to nations, which help prevent and mitigate disasters.
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- WMO monitors and forecast the transport of chemical and oil spills, forest fires, volcanic ash, haze and nuclear isotopes.
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- It also draws world attention to the depletion of the ozone layer.
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- Indian Meteorological Department, Pune has recently been recognized as the Regional Climate Centre for providing regional climate services to South Asian countries.
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Exoplanet

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- An exoplanet is a planet which orbits a star outside the solar system.
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- An exoplanet twice as big as the Earth, Wolf 503b, was discovered with the help of NASA’s Kepler space telescope.
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- Exoplanet Wolf 503b is located in the Virgo Constellation.
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- It is about 145 light years away from Earth and orbits its star every 6 days.
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- Investigating the nature of this exoplanet will help to understand about the structure and diversity of planets in the milky way galaxy.
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Kepler Telescope

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- The Kepler telescope was originally launched in 2009 as part of NASA’s Discovery Program.
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- It is an observatory in space dedicated to finding planets outside our solar system.
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- It targets particularly alien planets that are around the same size as Earth in the “habitable” regions of their parent star.
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- Kepler was the first telescope to find a planet (Kepler-69c) approximately the size of Earth in the habitable region of a star.
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- It examined the TRAPPIST-1 system which likely has multiple Earth-sized planets in it between December 2016 and March 2017.
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- After the Kepler space telescope, TESS is the second spacecraft which will search for planets outside our solar system, including those that could support life.
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Source: PIB, The New Indian Express

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