Prelim Bits 14-07-2018

INS Tarangini

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- INS Tarangini is part of the first Training Squadron based at Kochi, under the Southern Naval Command of the Indian Navy.
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- The word Tarangini means ‘the one that rides the waves’.
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- It is the first ship of the Indian Navy to have circumnavigated the globe in the year 2003-04.
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- It commenced ‘Lokayan-18’ from Kochi, to cover a distance of over 20,000 nautical miles to display the Indian flag at 15 ports across 13 countries.
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- During its Lokayan voyage, it will participate in the prestigious ‘tall ship races - 2018’ at Sunderland Port in the UK.
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- It has already participated in tall ship races conducted around the world in 2007, 2011 and 2015.
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Longest Lunar Eclipse of the Century

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- A total lunar eclipse will occur on July 27-28, 2018 with a totality duration of 1 hour 43 minutes which makes it the **longest total lunar eclipse** of this century (2001 AD to 2100 AD).
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- In this eclipse, the Moon will pass through the central part of the Earth’s umbral shadow.
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- **Longer eclipse** – The moon will be at apogee, means at farthest from the Earth in its orbit and will be moving at a slower speed in its orbit.
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- This slower moving full Moon will take longer time and greater distance of

Earth’s umbral shadow cone to travel, making it the longest duration of total eclipse of this century.
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- **Brighter Moon** - On July 27, the red planet Mars, will also be at opposition, meaning that the Sun and Mars will lie opposite to each other, keeping the Earth in the middle.
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- This will result in Mars coming close to the Earth, causing it to appear brighter than normal.
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Govardhan Teerth

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- Union Tourism Ministry recently sanctions Rs.50 crore for development of Govardhan Parikrama in Mathura under PRASAD scheme.
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- The ‘National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Augmentation Drive’ (PRASAD) has been launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15.
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- Its objective is holistic development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations.
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- Click here to know more about PRASAD scheme.
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S-400 Air Defence Systems

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- India is going ahead with the purchase of S-400 air defence systems from **Russia** despite American concerns.
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- The U.S. has passed the **CAATSA** (Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) that proposes to impose sanctions on nations that have significant defence relations with Russia.
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- This has generated significant concern in India which is heavily dependent on Russia for military hardware.
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- While the U.S. Administration has said waivers will be incorporated in it to protect friends and allies, it is yet to be done.
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Swachh Survekshan Grameen

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- Government has recently launched the Swachh Survekshan Grameen, 2018.
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- It is a nationwide survey of rural India to rank the cleanest and dirtiest States and districts.
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- A random selection of 6, 980 villages across 698 districts will be surveyed.
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- This is the **first comprehensive survey for rural India**, which has been launched after three successful editions of a similar survey in urban India.
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- The ranking will be based on qualitative and quantitative evaluation.
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- The three basic parameters are,
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i. Direct observation of public places by independent surveyors,
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ii. Service-level progress using data from the Swachh Bharat Mission's information system and
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iii. Citizens' feedback.
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Resolution 2427

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- The UN Security Council has adopted a resolution 2427, which won unanimous approval of the 15 members of the council.
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- The resolution aimed at a framework for mainstreaming protection, rights, well-being and **empowerment of children** throughout the conflict cycle.

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- It also condemns attacks against schools and hospitals and the denial of humanitarian access by parties to armed conflict.
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- It demands that all relevant parties immediately put an end to such practices and take special measures to protect children.
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Source: The Hindu, PIB, Business Standard

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