Prelim Bits 19-06-2018

Rani Rashmoni

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- It is a fast patrol vessel, indigenously built by Hindustan Shipyard.
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- It is built under the Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) project of Indian Coast Guard.
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- Under the first phase of the project, 5 FPV's has been built.
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- The first four such ships are ICGS Rani Abbakka, ICGS Rani Avanti Bai, ICGS Rani Durgavati and ICGS Rani Gaidinliu.
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- They have been commissioned and are in active service at various locations on the eastern seaboard.
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- Rani Rashmoni is the last in the first phase and recently commissioned into the ICG.
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- It will be based in Visakhapatnam.
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India – U.S Defence Pacts

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- There are four foundational agreements that helps the U.S. to intensify its defence cooperation with a partner nation such as India.
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- India has already signed two pacts such as Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) and General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA).
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- **LEMOA** gives both nations access to each other's military facilities. But it does not make it automatic or obligatory.
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- **GSOMIA** paved the way for greater technology cooperation in the military

sector.
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- The other two pacts which India yet to ratify are Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA).
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- **COMCASA** will facilitate transfer of encrypted communications systems.
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- It helps in sharing high-tech military hardware, especially armed drones which the U.S. is willing to supply to India.
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- **BECA** facilitates exchange of geospatial information.
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2+2 dialogue (Two plus Two discussion)

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- It is a diplomatic arrangement between **India and U.S.**
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- It is going to be held in July in which Indian External Affairs and Defence Ministry will held meeting with their U.S counterparts.
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- It is expected to further cement the India-U.S. engagements.
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- It key focus areas will be concluding COMCASA and BECA pacts.
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- Sale of armed drones is high on the agenda of the 2+2 dialogue.
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- The U.S. has been engaging India since 2002 on the foundational agreements.
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- But successive governments have been wary of giving in to the U.S. demands due to fear that these pacts may compromise India-Russia military ties.
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Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)

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- Under LRS, all resident individuals can freely remit $250,000 overseas every financial year for a permissible set of current or capital account transactions.

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- Remittances are permitted for overseas education, travel, medical treatment and purchase of shares and property, apart from **maintenance of relatives** living abroad, gifting and donations.
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- Under LRS, people can’t send money to countries identified as ‘non-cooperative’ by the Financial Action Task Force.
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- However, the rules do not allow remittances for trading on the foreign exchange markets and the purchase of Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds issued by Indian companies abroad.
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- **Recent Concern –** Outward remittances under maintenance of close relatives shot up to almost $3 billion in 2017-18 from a mere $174 million in 2013-14.
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- RBI has been concerned over this and thereby, it has narrowed the definition of relatives to check the flow of funds.
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- Hence, funds under the ‘maintenance of close relative’ category can be sent only to immediate relatives such as parents, spouses, children and their spouses.
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- This has brought about by defining ‘relatives’ under the Companies Act, 2013 instead of the same act of 1956.
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Global Classification of Diseases

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- The World Health Organization (WHO) has released its new International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11).
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- ICD is a unique code for diseases, injuries that helps health professionals to share health information across the globe.
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- It is also used by national health programme managers, health insurers whose reimbursements depend on ICD coding.
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- The latest edition ICD – 11 provides significant improvements on previous versions in coding structure and electronic tooling.
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- This will allow health care professionals to more easily and completely record conditions.
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- ICD-11 will be presented at the World Health Assembly in May 2019 for adoption by Member States.
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- It will come into effect on 1 January 2022.
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- **New Additions in ICD-11** – It includes new separate chapters including traditional medicine and sexual health which was previously categorized in mental health conditions.
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- Gaming disorder has been added to the section on addictive disorders
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- The codes relating to antimicrobial resistance are more closely in line with the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS).
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Devrais

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- Devrais (Dev - 'God' and Rai - forest) is the name given to sacred groves located in Western Ghats of Maharastra.
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- A sacred grove can range from a few trees to several hundred trees in a cluster with a local deity.
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- They have been nurtured by local communities residing there, who draw upon traditional knowledge to conserve these patches of forestland.
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- Owing to rising urban migration and eroding ties to nature, younger generation have little awareness about the importance of preserving these groves.
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- Recently, a city-based environmental NGO has come up with a unique initiative to comprehensively document sacred groves in Maharashtra.
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- It is not only to encourage local communities to carry their traditions forward, but to document regional deities in what proposes to be a socio-cultural assessment.
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Source: The Hindu.

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