Prelim Bits 20-12-2018

Pralay

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- It is a newly developed surface-to-surface tactical missile.
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- The trial of the missile was recently deferred by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) due to the cyclone Phethai.
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- It is a derivative of Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) exo-atmospheric interceptor which can destroy enemy weapons at high altitudes.
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- It has a payload of 1 tonne and it has the capacity to strike targets 350 km away.
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- It can travel up to 500 km if the payload is halved.
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- It is propelled by solid-fuel rocket.
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- It can fly faster than the conventional missiles in its class and can evade ballistic missile defence system.
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- It will be launched from its own canister-based transport erector launcher.
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Surrogacy Regulation Bill

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- Surrogacy is an arrangement, often supported by a legal agreement, whereby a woman agrees to become pregnant and give birth to a child for another person, who are or will ultimately become the parent(s) of the newborn child.
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- Lok Sabha has recently passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016.
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- It allows surrogacy for couples that cannot have children.

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- The bill prohibits commercial surrogacy and allows altruistic surrogacy to Indian married couple who cannot bear children.
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- **Commercial surrogacy** generally refers to any surrogacy arrangement in which the surrogate mother is compensated for her services beyond reimbursement of medical expenses.
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- **Altruitstic surrogacy** refers to an arrangement in which a woman volunteers to carry a pregnancy for intended parents without receiving any monetary compensation in return.
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Click here to know about the bill.

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Restricted Area Permit

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- National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has written to Union Home Minister seeking re-imposition of Restricted Area Permit (RAP) regime in Andaman & Nicobar.
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- It includes 6 Islands inhabited by Andamanese, Jarawas, Sentinelese, Onges and Sompens.
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- Union Home ministry has previously excluded these islands from Restricted Area Permit till December 2022.
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- The commission has quoted Article 338A (9) of the Constitution of India for reimposition of RAP.
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- Article 338A (9) mandates that Union and every State Government should consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting Scheduled Tribes.
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Click here to know about RAP

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Water in Asteroids

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- Japanese scientists have detected evidence of water in 17 asteroids for the first-time using data from the infrared satellite AKARI.
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- This discovery will contribute to understanding of the distribution of water in our solar system, the evolution of asteroids, and the origin of water on Earth.
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- Previous studies have suggested that other celestial bodies in our solar system have, or used to have, water in some form.
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- Asteroids are considered to be one of the candidates that brought water to Earth.
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- Researchers found that water is retained in asteroids as hydrated minerals, which were produced by chemical reactions of water and anhydrous rocks that occurred inside the asteroids.
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- Hydrated minerals are stable even above the sublimation temperature of water ice.
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Source: PIB, The New Indian Express

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