Prelim Bits 23-03-2018

BrahMos

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- Supersonic cruise missile BrahMos was successfully flight-tested for the first time with an indigenous seeker.
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- So far, the seeker, a critical technology in missiles, had come from Russia.
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- The seeker was developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad, in collaboration with other DRDO labs.
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- The seeker technology, which determines the accuracy of a missile, is a closely guarded secret.
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- Click here to know about BrahMos.
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Congo conflict

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- An ongoing conflict between the Pygmies and the Bantus has displaced 67,000 people in Congo.
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- Cohabitation has never been easy between the two communities, with the land-owning Bantus accused of exploiting the hunter-gatherers pygmies.
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- Bantu peoples is used as a general label for the 300–600 ethnic groups in Africa who speak Bantu languages
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- The 'Pygmy' peoples of central Africa are traditionally hunter-gatherers living in the rainforests throughout central Africa.
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- The Pygmies' nomadic lifestyle is increasingly under threat from deforestation, mining and extensive farming by the Bantus
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Pacific Garbage Patch

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- The vast dump of plastic waste swirling in the Pacific ocean is now bigger than France, Germany and Spain combined —is growing rapidly.
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- The immense accumulation of bottles, containers, fishing nets and microparticles in the ocen is known as the **“Great Pacific Garbage Patch” (GPGP).**
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- The dump now contains around 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic, posing a dual threat to marine life.
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1. Microplastics, tiny fragments of plastic smaller than 50mm in size that make up the vast majority of items in the GPGP, is a major contributer to bioaccumulation in the food web.
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2. The other environmental impact comes from the larger debris, especially the fishing nets. The net fragments kill marine life by trapping fish and animals such as turtles in a process known as ‘**ghost fishing’**.
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- At present, about 80,000 tons of buoyant plastic is in the GPGP.
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Kawal Tiger Reserve

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- Kawal tiger reserve is situated in Northern Telegana state.
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- The wildlife sanctuary in Kawal is the catchment area of river Godavari and Kadam.
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- The indiactor species of the sanctuary are Tiger and Nilgai.
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- The reserve forms the southern end of the central Indian Tiger Reserve Landscpe.
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- It is also linked to the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharastra to it north and Indrvathi Tiger reerve to its east
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- The forest area found here is the southern tropical mixed dry deciduous forest and dry teak forest.
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Dravidian Language Family

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- A study has found that the Dravidian language family had originated about 4,500 years ago.
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- The language family consists of 80 varieties spoken by nearly 220 million people across southern and central India.
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- The Dravidian language family’s four largest languages — Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu — have literary traditions spanning centuries
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- The geographical origin of the Dravidian language or its exact dispersal through time is not known with certainty.
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Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry

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- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had given its approval for Central Sector Scheme "Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry".
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- The core objective of the scheme is to improve the productivity and quality of silk through R&D intervention.
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- It is expected to increase the silk production from the level of 30348 MTs during 2016-17 to 38500 MTs by end of 2019-20
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- It will promote Women Empowerment and livelihood opportunities to SC/ST

and other weaker sections of the society.
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- It will be implemented by the Ministry through Central Silk Board (CSB).
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- The Scheme has four components,
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1. Research & Development (R&D), Training, Transfer of Technology and IT Initiatives
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2. Seed Organizations and farmers extension centers
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3. Coordination and Market Development for seed, yarn and silk products and
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4. Quality Certification System (QCS) by creating amongst others a chain of Silk Testing facilities, Farm based & post-cocoon Technology Up-gradation, and Export Brand Promotion
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- Brand Promotion of Indian silk will be encouraged through quality certification by Silk Mark.
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- Efforts will be strengthened for collaborating with National Institute of Fashion Technology and National Institute of Design for support on design and product development.
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Map of the day

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Middle East Asia

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- West bank and Gaza strip constitute Palestine.
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- Armenia and Azerbaijan are land locked countries.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu, Business Standard

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