Prelim Bits 26-10-2018

Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty

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- The treaty was signed in the year 1987 between United States and Soviet Union.
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- It required both countries to eliminate and permanently disown all of their nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500 kilometers.
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- It did not cover sea-launched missiles.
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- The treaty marked the first time the superpowers had agreed to reduce their nuclear arsenals, eliminate entire category of nuclear weapons.
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- As a result of this treaty, superpowers destroyed a total of 2,692 short, medium and intermediate-range missiles by the treaty's implementation deadline of June 1, 1991.
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- In 2014, United States has alleged that Russia violated the treaty and it has deployed the non-compliant missile.
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- Recently, US announced that it is withdrawing from the treaty. USA Congress approval for the same is yet to be taken.
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IMPRESS Scheme

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- Impactful Policy Research in Social Science (IMPRESS) has been launched by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development.
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- It aims to promote policy research in social science.
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- The objective is to identify and fund research proposals in social sciences

with maximum impact on the governance and society.
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- It will provide an opportunity to researchers from all universities (Central and State), private institutions with 12(B) status conferred by UGC.
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- Under this, 1,500 research projects will be awarded for two years to support social science research in the higher educational institutions.
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- The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) has been entrusted with the task of implementing and monitoring the scheme.
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- Some of the identified domains under the scheme are,
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1. State and democracy,
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2. Urban transformation,
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3. Media culture and society,
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4. Employment skills and rural transformation,
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5. Governance innovation and public policy, innovation,
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6. Agriculture and rural development,
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7. Social media and society,
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8. Politics law and economics.
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- Each project under the scheme will conclude in 3 years.
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SPARC Scheme

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- A webportal for the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) was recently launched by Union Human Resource

ministry.
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- It is a scheme for promotion of academic and research collaboration.
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- It aims at improving the research ecosystem of India’s higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian and foreign institutions.
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- The quality benchmark for SPARC is that only such Indian institutes can apply which are in top 100 NIRF ranking or top 100 NIRF subject ranking.
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- For foreign universities the benchmark is either top 500 of QS ranking or top 200 of QS subject ranking.
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- IIT-Khargapur is the national Coordinating Institute to implement the SPARC programme.
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Report on International Migrants

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- Asian Economic Integration Report 2018 was recently released by the Asian Development Bank.
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- The report has highlighted that most of the international migrants in 2017 were from India, followed by China and Bangladesh.
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- The report further said as many as one third of international migrants were from Asia in 2017.
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- According to the report, Asia continued as the largest source of international migrants globally although the number of Asian migrants headed to regional destinations declined slightly.
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- According to UN recommendations, International migrants are those persons who have spent at least one year of their lives in a country other than the one in which they live at the time the data are gathered.
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Mammals of India (MaOI)

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- MaOI is a part of Biodiversity Atlas (India project), which is an initiative of National Centre for Biological Sciences.
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- It is an online, peer- reviewed, freely-accessible portal.
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- It provides an opportunity to any person to upload geotagged photographic observations about mammals with information on habitat age of the observed individual.
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- These observations will be reviewed by subject experts and uploaded on the website.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu

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