

Prelim Bits 02-07-2018

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

\n\n

\n

- OPCW is an independent, autonomous international organisation with a working relationship with the United Nations.

\n

- It is the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which entered into force in 1997.

\n

- OPCW has 193 Member States working together to achieve a world free of chemical weapons.

\n

- It is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands.

\n

- It was awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 2013.

\n

- It has been recently **granted additional powers** by its members voting in two-third majority.

\n

- Until now, OPCW could only say whether chemical weapons were used but not who had used them.

\n

- The new power allows it to assign blame for attacks.

\n

- This process of extending its jurisdiction was heavily opposed by Russia.

\n

- But, Britain was supporting the move arguing that new powers were needed to deal with repeated chemical attacks in Syria.

\n

\n\n

RIMPAC

\n\n

\n

- RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific Exercise) is the world's largest international maritime exercise.

- \n
- The 26th edition of RIMPAC was hosted by the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) recently.
- \n
- It commenced off the Hawaii coast with the participation from 25 countries.
- \n
- It is aimed at increased inter-operability and development of common understanding of procedures for maritime security operations.
- \n
- It provides a platform for multilateral operational interactions.
- \n
- India has participated in this edition and represented by INS Sahyadri.
- \n
- Israel, Sri Lanka and Vietnam joined RIMPAC for the first time.
- \n
- China is absent this year as it was dis-invited from participating by the U.S., citing China's military actions in the South China Sea.
- \n
- China participated in the exercise in 2014 and 2016.
- \n

\n\n

INS Sahyadri

\n\n

- \n
- INS Sahyadri is an indigenously built stealth frigate.
- \n
- It participated in trilateral Malabar war games with Japan and the U.S. off the Coast of Guam.
- \n
- It recently participated in RIMPAC and has been adjudged **runner-up in an innovation competition.**
- \n
- INS Sahyadri presented the 'idea of integrating yoga into our daily life as technology for well-being during extended deployments for ships'.
- \n
- The idea was appreciated by representatives of participating countries.
- \n

\n\n

Mission Shaurya

\n\n

- \n
- 'Mission Shaurya' is an initiative of the Tribal department of the Maharashtra State Government.
 - \n
 - It aims to train tribal students to scale Mt. Everest.
 - \n
 - Recently, 10 tribal students from residential schools in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra conquered Everest.
 - \n
 - **Mission Shakti** - Maharashtra government has also announced this mission to impart special training and prepare tribal students for the Olympics 2024.
 - \n

\n\n

International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

\n\n

- \n
- IOM was established in 1951. It had been an observer to the UN since 1992.
 - \n
 - The agency joined the UN system as a related organization in September 2016.
 - \n
 - It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
 - \n
 - It works in the field of migration with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.
 - \n
 - The organisation has 166 member countries (including India) and 8 observer states.
 - \n
 - It aims to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.
 - \n
 - IOM works to help ensure the humane management of migration by providing services and advice to governments and migrants, promote international cooperation on migration issues.
 - \n
 - Mr. Vitorino of Portugal is the first Director General elected to IOM after it has become part of UN.
 - \n

\n\n

AGNI - V

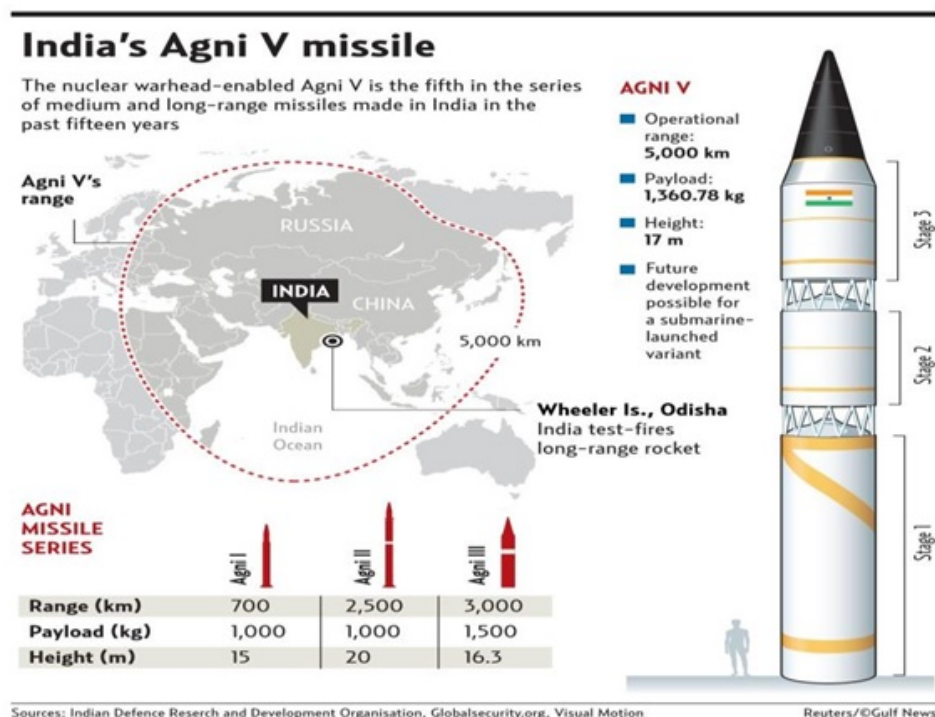
\n\n

\n

- The Agni series (I to V) missiles constitute the backbone of India's nuclear weapons delivery and part of nuclear triad.
- Agni-V is India's longest-range ballistic missile which will be inducted into the nuclear arsenal soon.
- Earlier variants of the Agni family of long-range missiles have already been deployed.
- Agni - V is an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km and can reach most parts of China.
- It is powered by three stage solid fuelled missiles.
- It can carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes.
- It is a part of Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).

\n

\n\n



\n\n

No-first-use doctrine

\n\n

\n

- India is committed to a 'No-First-Use' policy as part of its nuclear doctrine.
\n
- Thus, second strike capability - the capability to strike back after being hit by nuclear weapons first becomes important.
\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Hindu, Indian Express

\n

