

Prelim Bits 07-12-2017

RIC Meeting

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- 15th RIC (Russia, India and China) foreign ministerial meeting is going to be held in New Delhi.

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- It is expected to review global and regional issues of mutual interest as well as discuss trilateral exchanges and activities.

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- Russia has assured that it will take up the issue of India's entry into NSG with china during the meeting.

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Nuclear Suppliers' Group

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- NSG is a group of nuclear supplier countries that seek to prevent nuclear proliferation by controlling the export of materials, equipment and technology that can be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.

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- It was founded in response to the Indian nuclear test in May 1974.

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- As of now, the NSG has 48 members with European Commission and the Zangger Committee Chair participates as observers.

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- The NSG Chair for 2017-2018 is Switzerland.

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- The NSG Guidelines contain "Non-Proliferation Principle," adopted in 1994.

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- It means a supplier, notwithstanding other provisions in the NSG Guidelines, authorises a transfer only when satisfied that the transfer would not contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

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- India has been pursuing member countries of NSG to become a member but

its entry is being opposed by China, New Zealand, Ireland, Turkey and Austria.

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Wassenaar Arrangement

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- Wassenaar arrangement focuses on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies.

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- It is a **multilateral export control regime** which became operational in 1996.

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- It is designed to regulate the export of sensitive technologies that could possible lead to destabilizing accumulations.

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- It is presently composed of 41 countries. Currently India is not a member.

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- The Secretariat is located in Vienna (Austria).

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- Export controls are implemented by each individual participating State based on the wassenaar arrangement list.

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- Member states exchange information on their transfers of conventional weapons and dual-use goods to states outside of the arrangement.

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- All decisions are taken by consensus and the deliberations are kept in confidence.

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- It is not a treaty, and therefore is not legally binding.

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- The political committee of wassenaar Arrangement is going to meet in Vienna, which is likely to decide on India's membership request.

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International Tourism Mart

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- It is being organized by the Union Ministry of Tourism in association with North Eastern States.

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- This year, the 6th International Tourism Mart is organized at Guwahati, Assam.

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- It is organised in the North Eastern States on rotation basis.

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- The earlier editions of this mart have been held in Guwahati, Tawang, Shillong, Gangtok and Imphal.

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- It is organized with the objective of highlighting the tourism potential of the region in the domestic and international markets.

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- It will put the spotlight on India's "Act East Policy", blossoming ties with ASEAN and the larger East Asia region.

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National Green Tribunal

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- Click [here](#) to know more about NGT.

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- Current rules require that every Bench of the NGT consist of "two or more" members and made up of at least one judicial and one expert member.

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- However, a recent notification from the Union Environment Ministry has relaxed this requirement.

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- It has allowed the Chairperson of NGT to constitute single member benches.

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- The notification was issued following the SC criticized the union government for not filling up vacancies in the NGT principal and zonal benches.

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Ichamati River

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- It is a transboundary river in West Bengal which flows through India and Bangladesh.

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- It forms the international border between India and Bangladesh for 21

kilometres.

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- The Mathabhanga River originates in Bangladesh and it bifurcates near Nadia in West Bengal in to Ichhamati and Churni.

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- Ichhamati River and its branches form a large oxbow lake complex near Bangaon in North 24-Paraganas district.

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- The river is facing the problem of siltation leading to thin flow of water in the dry season and floods in the rainy season.

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Source: The Hindu, PIB, BusinessLine.

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