

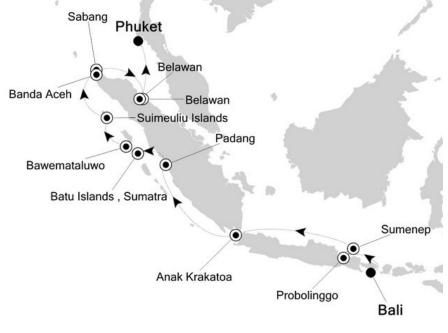
Prelim Bits 13-07-2018

India and Indonesia Cooperation

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- Indonesia has recently agreed to give India access to its port for operational turnaround for Indian Navy.
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- In a first, , Indian ship INS Sumitra berthed at Sabang Port close to the Malacca Strait for operational turnaround.
- \bullet INS Sumitra sailed from Port Blair to Sabang, where it will take provisions and fuel before going for further deployment in the Indian Ocean. \n
- It will increase the Indian Navy's footprint in the region. \slashn
- Sabang port is in Sumatra island of Indonesia



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Buddha of Swat

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- Buddha of Swat is located in Jahanabad, the epicentre of Swat's Buddhist heritage, a beautiful valley in the foothills of the Himalayas. \n
- It belongs to $7^{\rm th}$ century depicted in a lotus position at the base of a granite cliff in northern Pakistan. \n
- It was damaged by Afghan Taliban in 2007. n
- It is restored recently by Italian government nearly 12 years after the Afghan Talibans damaged.

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Directive of Archaeological Survey of India

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- The Archaeological Survey of India, an organisation under the Ministry of Culture, has recently issued a notification regarding photography within the premises of archaeological monuments. \n
- ASI has decided to allow photography within the premises of all centrally protected monuments/sites except three sites.
- The 3 monuments/sites in which the photography would not be permitted are Ajanta Caves and Leh Palace having paintings, and Mausoleum of Taj

Mahal.

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European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

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• The EBRD is a multilateral development bank set up in 1991 after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

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- It aims to promote private and entrepreneurial initiative in emerging Europe. $\slash n$
- It invests in 38 emerging economies across three continents. \n
- The EBRD board of governors, voted unanimously in favour of the country's application in March 2018, with the entire membership process completed this week.

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- India takes a shareholding in the EBRD but it will not be a recipient of EBRD financing.
- India's membership opens up further joint investment prospects in markets such as Central Asia, Egypt and Jordan.

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Global Innovation Index (GII)

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- The 11^{th} edition of Global Innovation Index (GII) has ranked India as the 57th most innovative nation in the world.
- The GII is being developed jointly by Cornell University, the Paris-based business school Insead and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in Geneva.

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- GII ranks 126 economies based on 80 indicators. $\space{1mm}\sp$
- India has improved its ranking from 60th position in 2016 and $81^{\rm st}$ position in

2015.

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- China improved its ranking from 22 in 2017 to 17 this year. \slashn
- Since 2011, Switzerland has been ranked at the top every year. This year, Netherlands follows at second place and Sweden at third. \n

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Deputy Chairman in Rajya Sabha

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- The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha presides over the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha in the absence of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. \n
- The Deputy Chairman is elected from amongst the Rajya Sabha members. $\ensuremath{\sc n}$
- The chairman of Rajya Sabha (Vice President of India) presides over its sessions.

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- Whenever a vacancy arises, the election takes place in the very next session. $\slash n$
- Currently, the chair of Deputy Chairman remains vacant since June 30. $\ensuremath{\sc n}$
- The Rajya Sabha has a panel of six to seven senior members as part of Vice-President's panel who officiate in his absence. \n
- But the panel can't play the role of Deputy Chairman. $\slash n$

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Source: The Hindu, Economic Times

