

## **Prelim Bits 30-12-2017**

### **PSLV C-40**

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- ISRO is planning to launch 31 satellites, including India's Cartosat-2 series earth observation space craft, in a single mission using PSLV C-40 in January, 2018.

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- The mission will be the first PSLV mission after the unsuccessful launch of the navigation satellite IRNSS-1H.

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- The mission consists of 28 nano satellites from abroad, including Finland and the U.S., one micro and one nano satellite from India along with one Cartosat satellite.

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- The satellites will be launched from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

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- Earlier this year, PSLV-C37 launched the first Cartosat-2 series satellite along with 103 co-passenger satellites in a single flight.

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- Click [here](#) to know about Cartosat-2 satellite.

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### **Siang River**

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- The Siang River flows for about 1,600 kilometres as Tsangpo River through the Tibet plateau, before entering India in Arunachal Pradesh.

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- The river becomes Brahmaputra after it flows into Assam near Sadiya.

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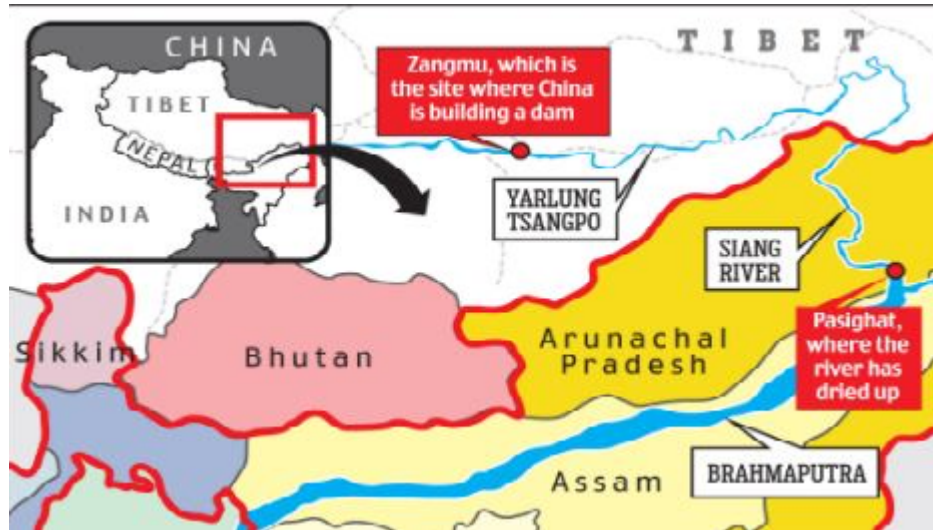
- In recent days, Siang which flows through Arunachal Pradesh has unusually turned muddy and darkened.

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- This has firmed up the suspicion that China may have begun construction of the world's longest tunnel upstream.

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- The 1000 km long tunnel will divert water from the Brahmaputra River in Tibet close to Arunachal Pradesh to the parched Xinjiang region.
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Siang River

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### **Financial Stability and Development Council**

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- The 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) has recently been held in New Delhi.
  - FSDC was established in 2010 with Union Finance Minister as its Chairman.
  - It was to solve the regulatory tussle between SEBI and IRDA on the regulation of Unit Linked Life Insurance Plan (ULIP).
  - Its members include
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- i. the heads of financial sector regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, and IRDA)
  - ii. Finance Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs
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iii. Secretary, Department of Financial Services

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iv. Chief Economic Adviser

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- FSDC has two core functions:

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1. to perform as an apex level forum to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability

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2. to enhance inter-regulatory coordination and promote financial sector development in the country

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- It will focus on financial literacy and financial inclusion.

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- It will monitor macro-prudential supervision of the economy and also assess the functioning of the large financial conglomerates.

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- FSDC sub-committee is chaired by the Governor of RBI.

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## **Blue Flag**

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- The 'Blue Flag' is a certification by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) that a beach, sustainable boating tourism operator, meets its stringent standards.

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- Union Environment Ministry has launched a pilot project for beach clean-up and development and is also striving for the 'Blue Flag' certification for such identified beaches.

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- Under the project, each state or UT has been asked to nominate a beach which will be funded through the ongoing Integrated Coastal Management

Programme.

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## **FEE**

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- Foundation for Environmental Education is a non-governmental organization promoting sustainable development through environmental education.
- It was formed in 1981 and is headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- The Blue Flag was originally a symbol of an environmental awareness initiative in France in 1987.
- It was later adopted as a programme by FEE, followed by other initiatives like adoption of the Eco-Schools and Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE).

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## **Garbage Emergency**

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- Bali has declared a “garbage emergency” across a six-kilometer stretch of coast.
- Indonesia is the world’s second biggest contributor to marine debris after China.
- Indonesia is one of the nearly 40 countries that are part of the UN Environment’s Clean Seas campaign.
- The campaign aims to halt the tide of plastic trash polluting the oceans, boost recycling services, curb the use of plastic bags, launch cleanup campaigns and raise public awareness.
- As part of its commitment, the government has pledged to reduce marine plastic waste by 70% by 2025.

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**Source: The Hindu, PIB**

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