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Prelim Bits 20-09-2018

Exercise Aviaindra-18

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- It is an Air Force level exercise between India and Russian Federation.
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- It is a bi-annual exercise.
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- First Aviaindra was conducted in the year 2014.
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- Exercise Aviaindra 2018 is being conducted at Lipetsk, Russia and Jodhpur, India.
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- The exercise is focused towards anti-terrorist operations in a bi-lateral scenario.
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Air Services Agreement

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- Air services agreements are signed bilaterally to improve seamless air connectivity between two sovereign nations.
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- Union cabinet has recently approved the revised air services agreement between India and Morocco.
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- Under the agreement, both countries designate one of more airlines.
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- These designated airlines of either country
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- i. Have the right to establish offices in the territory of the other country for the promotion and sale of air services.
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- ii. Can enter into cooperative marketing arrangements with the designated carriers of same party, other party and third country.
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- iii. Can operate any number of services to/from the six points specified in the Route Schedule to the agreement.
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- These developments will enable the people of each country to travel to the other country leading to better economic and cultural ties.
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Dam Rehabilitation Improvement Project (DRIP)

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- Dam Rehabilitation Improvement Project (DRIP) was commenced in the year 2012 as a 6-year project.
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- Later, Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation extended the project period with a revised closure date by June, 2020.
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- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has recently approved the revised cost estimate of DRIP.
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- The project aims to improve safety and operational performance of 198 Dams, along with strengthening of institutions.
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- The funds for this project will be shared by World Bank, State Implementing agencies and Central Water Commission.
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- The primary beneficiaries are communities dependent on reservoir and downstream communities, who are prone to risk associated with dam failure or operational failure.
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- It also focusses on capacity building of staff for effectiveness of Dam Safety Organisation to make dams safe from structural and operational point of view.

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- Reservoirs in the state of kerala managed by water resources department and state electricity department will get funded under the DRIP programme to the tune of Rs. 514 crore.

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Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna

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- Employees' State Insurance Corporation under Ministry of Labour and Employment has recently rolled out Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna.
- The scheme covers Insured Persons (IP) covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.
- It aims to provide cash relief to unemployed insured person.
- The relief will be payable in cash directly to their Bank Account in case of unemployment and while they search for new engagement.

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Nuclear Plant in M.P

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- Activist and villagers in Madhya Pradesh raised their concerns over the proposed nuclear plant in Chutka.
- In 2009, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) has decided to set up the atomic station in Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh to generate 1,400 MW power.
- At present, there are 9 nuclear power reactors at various stages of construction.
- Kakrapar (2 reactors) in Gujarat, Rawatbhata (2 reactors) in Rajasthan, Kudankulam (2 reactors) and Kalpakkam (1 reactor) in Tamil Nadu and Gorakhpur (1 reactor) in Haryana.
- There are few nuclear power reactors accorded administrative approval and financial sanction. Each site has 2 reactors.

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- Gorakhpur in Haryana, Mahi-Banswara in Rajasthan, Kaiga in Karnataka, Chutka in Madhya Pradesh, Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu
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International Criminal Court

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- ICC is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal headquartered in The Hague in the Netherlands.
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- ICC has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, crime of aggression and war crimes.
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- ICC is the world's first permanent international criminal court.
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- States which become party to the Rome Statute become member of ICC, thus totalling 123 members.
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- The co-operation of the non-party states with the ICC is of voluntary nature.
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- But when a case is referred to the ICC by the UN Security Council all UN member states are obliged to cooperate, since its decisions are binding for all of them.
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- India is not a signatory to the Rome Statute.
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- **Recent Developments** - ICC has recently opened preliminary probe into Myanmar crimes against Rohingya Muslims.
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- ICC judges have previously ruled that though Myanmar has not signed up to the Hague-based ICC, the court still has jurisdiction over crimes against the Rohingya because Bangladesh is a member.
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- A preliminary examination can lead to a formal investigation by the ICC.
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- The UN fact-finding mission also repeated suggestions that crimes against the Rohingya be referred to the ICC.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu, The New Indian Express

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