



# IAS PARLIAMENT

*Information is Empowering*

A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

## Prelim Bits 20-12-2018

### **Pralay**

\n\n

- \n
- It is a newly developed surface-to-surface tactical missile.
- \n
- The trial of the missile was recently deferred by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) due to the cyclone Phethai.
- \n
- It is a derivative of Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) exo-atmospheric interceptor which can destroy enemy weapons at high altitudes.
- \n
- It has a payload of 1 tonne and it has the capacity to strike targets 350 km away.
- \n
- It can travel up to 500 km if the payload is halved.
- \n
- It is propelled by solid-fuel rocket.
- \n
- It can fly faster than the conventional missiles in its class and can evade ballistic missile defence system.
- \n
- It will be launched from its own canister-based transport erector launcher.
- \n

\n\n

### **Surrogacy Regulation Bill**

\n\n

- \n
- Surrogacy is an arrangement, often supported by a legal agreement, whereby a woman agrees to become pregnant and give birth to a child for another person, who are or will ultimately become the parent(s) of the newborn child.

\n

- Lok Sabha has recently passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016.

\n

- It allows surrogacy for couples that cannot have children.

\n

- The bill prohibits commercial surrogacy and allows altruistic surrogacy to Indian married couple who cannot bear children.

\n

- **Commercial surrogacy** generally refers to any surrogacy arrangement in which the surrogate mother is compensated for her services beyond reimbursement of medical expenses.

\n

- **Altruistic surrogacy** refers to an arrangement in which a woman volunteers to carry a pregnancy for intended parents without receiving any monetary compensation in return.

\n

\n\n

Click [here](#) to know about the bill.

\n\n

## **Restricted Area Permit**

\n\n

\n

- National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has written to Union Home Minister seeking re-imposition of Restricted Area Permit (RAP) regime in Andaman & Nicobar.

\n

- It includes 6 Islands inhabited by Andamanese, Jarawas, Sentinelese, Onges and Sompens.

\n

- Union Home ministry has previously excluded these islands from Restricted Area Permit till December 2022.

\n

- The commission has quoted Article 338A (9) of the Constitution of India for reimposition of RAP.

\n

- Article 338A (9) mandates that Union and every State Government should consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting Scheduled Tribes.

\n

\n\n

Click [here](#) to know about RAP

\n\n

## Water in Asteroids

\n\n

- \n
- Japanese scientists have detected evidence of water in 17 asteroids for the first-time using data from the infrared satellite AKARI.
- \n
- This discovery will contribute to understanding of the distribution of water in our solar system, the evolution of asteroids, and the origin of water on Earth.
- \n
- Previous studies have suggested that other celestial bodies in our solar system have, or used to have, water in some form.
- \n
- Asteroids are considered to be one of the candidates that brought water to Earth.
- \n
- Researchers found that water is retained in asteroids as hydrated minerals, which were produced by chemical reactions of water and anhydrous rocks that occurred inside the asteroids.
- \n
- Hydrated minerals are stable even above the sublimation temperature of water ice.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: PIB, The New Indian Express**

\n



**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*  
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative