

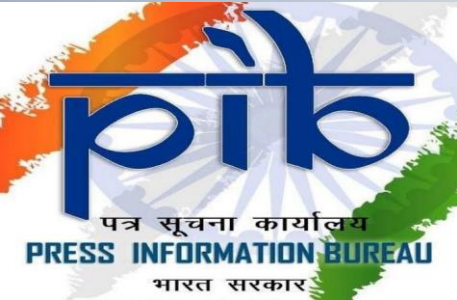


# CURRENT AFFAIRS



## WEEKLY ROUND-UP

- ✓ PIB IN DETAIL
- ✓ AIR/RS/LSTV SUMMARIES
- ✓ NEWSPAPERS DAILY



**20<sup>th</sup> August 2018 TO 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2018**

## "Bond-i"

1. Bond-i, an acronym standing for **Blockchain Offered New Debt Instrument** is the world's first public bond created and managed using only blockchain.
2. It is launched by **World Bank** and the **Commonwealth Bank of Australia** is the sole lead manager of the deal.
3. The total worth of the bond is **110 million Australian Dollars.** (Around \$ 80 million )
4. It is viewed as **an initial step in moving bond sales away from manual processes towards faster and cheaper automation.**
5. World Bank's bonds hold an **AAA rating.**

## "Aeolus Satellite "

1. Aeolus is a **European wind survey satellite** launched by **Arianespace**, world's leading satellite launch company.
2. It is the **world's first space mission** to gather information on **Earth's wind on a global scale.**
3. It is part of the **Copernicus project**, a joint initiative of the European Union and the European Space Agency (ESA) to track environmental damage and aid disaster relief operations.
4. The satellite is equipped with **Doppler wind lidar**, an advanced laser system designed **to accurately measure global wind patterns from space.**
5. It will probe the **lowermost 30 kilometres** of the atmosphere in measuring winds around the Earth.

## "5G Panel"

1. A steering committee headed by **Paulraj** was formed by the government last year to make fifth-generation (5G) telecommunication services successful in India.
2. Its mandate is to **formulate a road map for 5G services in India.**
3. The committee has revealed that the advent of next-generation wireless services may unleash **USD 1 trillion economic opportunity** for the country.
4. Under the spectrum policy, the committee has suggested that India's spectrum allocation for public wireless services should be **enhanced significantly.**
5. It has also asked for setting up a **Standing Committee** with five-year term to **advise on building spectrum technology infrastructure.**
6. While the **US** is likely to deploy 5G services **later this year, or in the first quarter of 2019**, the **India** rollout may begin **by 2020.**

## "Exercise Pitch Black "

1. Ex Pitch Black a **biennial** multi-national large force employment warfare exercise was hosted by **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).**
2. It is for the **first time** that IAF participated with air assets in the **Exercise Pitch Black (PB-18).**

## "Exercise Maitree 2018 "

1. It is joint **military** exercise between **Indian Army** and **Royal Thai Army**
2. Exercise Maitree is **an annual** event designed to strengthen the partnership between Royal Thai Army and Indian Army.

## "HELINA"

1. HELINA is an acronym for "**Helicopter Launched Nag**" missile.
2. Nag is a **third generation Anti-Tank guided missile** indigenously developed under "**Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)**" of DRDO.
3. Anti-Tank Guided Missiles are primarily designed to hit and destroy heavily armored military vehicles.
4. Helina is the helicopter launch variant of Nag, that can be fired from Dhruv advanced light helicopter and HAL Rudra attack helicopter.
5. It is a heavier and longer-range version of the vehicle mounted Nag missile with a **7-km range**.
6. Typically, a land version of Nag missile has a range of only **4 km**.
7. The missile is guided by "**infrared imaging seeker**", that homes in on the target's heat signature.



## "Change'e 4"

1. Chinese space agency has recently revealed images of the exploration vehicle which will carry Chang'e 4 by the end of this year.
2. Chang'e 4 is a **Chinese lunar exploration mission**.
3. The mission will incorporate an **orbiter, a robotic lander and rover**.
4. It will be **China's second lunar lander and rover**.
5. It will reach the far side of the Moon, not visible from the Earth, a feat no country has ever achieved.
6. Chang'e-4 will follow China's successful **Chang'e-3** mission which soft-landed on the visible side of the Moon in 2013

## "Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW)"

1. It is an **indigenously** developed **lightweight glide bomb**, capable of targeting large enemy infrastructure, like airfields.
2. It is an **accurate bomb** and is termed **a precision-guided munition (PGM)**.
3. It has **"Inertial navigation system"** which guides it precisely to its target, typically an enemy airfield **up to 100 km away**.
4. This precisely guided one bomb is **more economical** than traditional free fall bombs which are less accurate.
5. It has another advantage that it can release the bomb at a safer distance to enemy airfield and return without exposing itself to enemy anti-aircraft defences.

## “Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana”

1. PMAY aims at helping people below the poverty-line (BPL) in construction of dwelling units and upgradation of existing unserviceable kutcha houses through assistance in the form of full grant.
2. Government will soon introduce provision of **‘lock-in’ period of five years** for the houses purchased under PMAY.
3. Beneficiaries are people belonging to SCs/STs, freed bonded labourers and non-SC/ST categories, widows or next-of-kin of defence personnel killed in action, ex-servicemen and retired members of the paramilitary forces, Disabled persons and Minorities.
4. Under **PMAY – Gramin**, Government aims to construct 1 crore pucca (permanent) houses for the rural poor by 2019.
5. Beneficiaries would be chosen based on the according to data taken from the **Socio-Economic Caste Census of 2011**.
6. Under **PMAY – Urban**, Government envisions “Housing for All” by 2022 target 2 cr houses by 2022..
7. Beneficiaries – Urban poor who does not own a pucca house, Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Middle Income Groups (MIG) and Lower Income Groups (LIG).
8. Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme is an interest subsidy available to a loan amounts up to 12 lakhs at the rate of 4% ( 6 to 9 lakhs) and 3% (9 to 12 lakhs). It is for purchase/construction/extension/improvement of house to cater EWS/LIG/MIG.

## "International Buddhist Conclave 2018"

1. The 6<sup>th</sup> International Buddhist conclave was recently inaugurated in New Delhi by the President.
2. Union **Ministry of Tourism** has been organizing International Buddhist Conclave **biennially**.
3. The conclave aims to **showcase the Buddhist heritage in India, boost tourism** in the country, and **Cultivate friendly ties with countries and communities** interested in Buddhism..
4. Delegates from 29 countries are participating in the conclave.
5. It has been organised by the **Ministry of Tourism** in collaboration with State Governments of Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
6. The conclave is going to be held in **New Delhi, Ajanta (Maharashtra)**. Site visits to **Rajgir, Nalanda and Bodhgaya (Bihar)** and **Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh)** will also be conducted.
6. Theme was 'Buddha Path – The Living Heritage'

## "4D Printing"

1. Scientists have successfully developed the world's first 4D printing for ceramics.
2. It can be used to create complex, shape-changing objects.
3. 4D printing is conventional 3D printing combined with the additional element of **time as the 4th dimension**.
4. The 4D printed objects can re-shape or self-assemble themselves over time with external stimuli, such as mechanical force, temperature, or a magnetic field.

## "OSIRIS-REx"

1. The Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) spacecraft was launched in **2016**.
2. Its target is **Near-Earth Asteroid** called **Bennu**.
3. It will bring sample back to Earth for study **by 2023**.
4. It will help scientists investigate how planets formed and how life began, as well as improve our understanding of asteroids that could impact Earth.

## "NAVIC"

1. India's own GPS is all set to be launched and will place it in the club of select countries which have their own indigenous navigation systems.
2. The GPS has been named **NavIC—Navigation with Indian Constellation**.
3. The other countries that have their own indigenous system are: Russia: GLONASS—Global Navigation Satellite System , European Union: Galileo Positioning System , Japan: Quasi-Zenith Satellite System—QZSS , China: Beidou Navigation Satellite System—BDS
4. The NavIC will be useful in terrestrial, aerial and marine navigation.
5. Tracking, managing disaster and gathering geodetic data will be a few of the other uses of the system



## "Insight Spacecraft"

1. InSight, short for Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport, is designed to **study deep interiors of Mars**.
2. This mission is **part of NASA's Discovery Program** for highly focused science missions that ask critical questions in solar system science.
3. It is the **first outer space robotic explorer to study in-depth of Mars crust, mantle and core**.
4. It also measures **tectonic activity and meteorite impacts** on Mars.
5. It will be a **first test of miniaturized CubeSat technology at another planet**, which researchers hope can offer new capabilities to future missions.
6. The instruments aboard the spacecraft include seismometer, self-hammering probe and Cameras to take a "selfie" of the mission's equipment.

## "Curiosity"

1. It is a **rover** deployed by NASA in its **Mars Exploration Program**.
2. It assesses whether Mars ever had an environment able to support small life forms called microbes.
3. The rover has **recently spotted a "foreign object debris"**, a very thin flake of rock in Mars surface.
4. Previously, it captured **mesas and buttes** on Mars geological layer called as Murray formation, which is formed from the lakebed mud deposits.