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Important Facts for Prelims (30th November 2018)

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Konkan Exercise-2018

- The Bilateral KONKAN exercise is a **naval exercise conducted between India and the United Kingdom.**
- The Exercise provides a platform for the two navies to build interoperability and share best practices.
- The KONKAN series of **exercises was started in 2004.** Since then, the exercise is hosted in rotation by both the Navies and has grown in complexity, scale, and intensity.

Reggae got UNESCO Heritage Status

- Reggae music, which got international fame because of artists like Bob Marley, secured its place in United Nations' list of intangible cultural heritage.
- Reggae music genre **originated in Jamaica** (a Caribbean island nation).
- UNESCO noted that while reggae started out as the voice of the marginalized, it is now played and embraced by a wide cross-section of society, including various ethnic and religious groups.
- **Intangible Cultural Heritage of India:**
 - Kumbh Mela, Yoga,** Traditional brass and copper craft of utensils among **thatheras of Punjab, Sankirtana** (ritual singing, dancing and drumming of Manipur), **Buddhist chanting** of Ladakh, **Chhau Dance, Kalbelia** (folk song and dance of Rajasthan), **Kutiyattam** (a Sanskrit theatre of Kerala), **Tradition of Vedic Chanting, Ramlila, Novruz** (Persian New Year), **Ramman**(religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas), **Mudiyettu** (ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala).

Emissions Gap Report 2018

- **United Nations Environment Program** has released its annual Emissions Gap Report.
- The Emissions Gap Report assesses the “emissions gap,” the gap between anticipated emission levels in 2030, compared to levels consistent meeting with a 2°C/1.5°C target.

- For India, the emissions are projected to be more than 10% below their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target. Thus, with its currently-implemented policies, India is likely to achieve its Cancun pledge of 2020 and NDC targets.
- The report finds that
 - global emissions of greenhouse gases have risen for the first time in four years.
 - keeping global warming below 2°C above pre-industrial levels is still technically possible, the potential to bridge the 1.5°C gap is decreasing.
 - the current pace of national action is insufficient to meet the targets of the Paris Agreement, and the gap in 2018 is larger than ever
 - countries must triple their ambition levels to meet the 2°C goal, and increase ambition five-fold to meet the 1.5°C target
 - continuing with the current trends will likely lead to global warming of around 3°C by the end of the century.
 - nations must raise their ambition by three times to meet the two degrees Celsius and five times to meet 1.5 degrees
 - implementing fiscal policy measures such as carbon pricing and taxes are effective ways in reducing emissions and costs of mitigating it.

COP-16 Cancun, Mexico

- COP-16 took place at Cancun. At the conference, all parties including both the developed and the developing countries agreed to report their voluntary mitigation goals for implementation.
- **Green Climate Fund** under the COP, with a board equally representing developed and developing countries was established.