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Important Facts for Prelims (09th October 2018)

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Zika Virus Disease Cases in Rajasthan

- Recently, few cases of Zika virus disease have been reported in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- The mosquito borne flavivirus was first identified in Uganda in 1947 in monkeys through a network that monitored yellow fever. It was later identified in humans in 1952 in Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- Zika Virus is also transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy, through sexual contact, transfusion of blood and organ transplantation.

Ghagra River as National Waterway

- Development work of Ghagra river as National Waterway (NW)-40 is to start from Basti in Uttar Pradesh, under the Sagarmala Programme of Ministry of Shipping.
- The waterway from Manjhighat at Ganga-Ghaghra river confluence to Faizabad/Ayodhya along Ghagra River for a length of 354 km was declared as NW-40 during the year 2016.
- This waterway is being classified as class-III waterway which envisages movement of up to 1000 ton capacity vessels. Besides cargo and passenger movement, NW-40 will provide a connectivity to tourist and pilgrimage places along river Ghaghra and Ganga.
- Ghaghra is the largest tributary of the Ganges by volume and the second longest tributary of the Ganges by length after Yamuna.

Sagarmala Project

- Sagarmala project aims at holistic port infrastructure development along the 7,500-km long coastline through modernisation, mechanisation and computerisation. Under this port led development framework government hopes to increase its cargo traffic three-fold.
- It also includes establishment of rail / road linkages with the port terminals, thus providing last mile connectivity to ports; development of linkages with new regions, enhanced multi-modal connectivity including rail, inland water, coastal and road services.

Andaman and Nicobar Command

- Recently the Andaman and Nicobar Command has celebrated its 18th Raising Day recently.
- It is the only joint tri-services operational Command of the country.
- The joint tri-services operational Command was created in 2001 to safeguard India's strategic interests in the Andaman and Nicobar region.
- The Command has been doing regular exercises with the neighbouring countries as part of India's Act East Policy.