



Important Facts for Prelims (5th December 2018)

USMCA trade deal

- The **United States, Canada and Mexico** have reached an agreement to **replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**.
- The original 1994 NAFTA deal has also been renamed as the **United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement or USMCA**.
- The goal of NAFTA was to encourage economic activity by eliminating barriers to trade and investment between the U.S., Canada and Mexico.
- USMCA will give workers, farmers, ranchers and businesses a high-standard trade agreement that will result in freer markets, fairer trade and robust economic growth in the region.
- It will strengthen the middle class, and create good, well-paying jobs and new opportunities for the nearly half billion people of North America.

India Water Impact Summit-2018

- India Water Impact Summit is being jointly organized by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** and the **Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga)** from 5-7 December 2018 in New Delhi.
- The India Water Impact Summit is an annual event where stakeholders get together to discuss, debate and develop model solutions for some of the biggest water-related problems in the country.
- The discussions this year will be on **rejuvenation of the Ganga River Basin**.
- There will be multi-country dialogue on the subject, with showcasing of technological innovations, research, policy frameworks and funding models from India and abroad.

National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG)

- National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG) was **registered as a society in 2011** under the **Societies Registration Act 1860**.
- It acted as **implementation arm of National Ganga River Basin Authority(NGRBA)** which was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA),1986.
- NGRBA has since been dissolved in 2016, consequent to constitution of **National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga** (referred as National Ganga Council which comes under the chairmanship of Prime Minister of India.)

Indian Navy Day 2018

- Indian maritime forces celebrated Navy Day on **4 December**.
- The day marks the **exemplary role** of the naval branch of the **Indian Armed Forces in the 1971 India-Pakistan War**.
- The Indian Navy of the 21st century is emerging as a formidable force likely to influence the Indian Ocean Region.

India's First Private Satellite Launched

- US space agency **SpaceX** launched India's first privately built satellite **ExseedSAT 1** along with 63 other satellites from 17 countries.
- The mini communication satellite weighs just a kg and is made up of aluminium alloy.
- The satellite is owned by Mumbai-based startup Exseed Space and will serve the amateur radio communication.

Mangdechhu Project

- Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project is a **hydropower project** in **Bhutan**.
- 720MW run-of-river power plant was built on the **Mangdechhu River** in Trongsa Dzongkhag District of **central Bhutan**.
- It was built by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) with **support from Government of India**.
- It is among the ten Hydroelectric Projects planned under the 10,000MW hydropower development by the year 2020 programme of the Royal Government of Bhutan.

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