# Prelim Bits 07-11-2018

## International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

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- India has been elected as a Member of the ITU Council for another 4-year term (2019-2022).
- India has been a regular member of the ITU council since 1952.
- ITU is the specialized agency of United Nation (UN) for information and communication technologies (ICTs).
- It currently has a membership of 192 countries and more than 700 private-sector entities.
- Its secretariat is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is responsible for the allocation of radio spectrum and satellite orbits, and for the standardization and development of ICTs worldwide.
- The work of ITU covers the whole ICT sector, from digital broadcasting to the Internet and from mobile technologies to 3D TV.
- It is unique among UN agencies in having both public and private sector membership.
- In its recent meeting, it was decided to set up ITU South Asia Area Office and Technology Innovation Centre in New Delhi.

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## GSAT – 11

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- GSAT – 11, India’s heaviest communication satellite till date, returns to Guiana after repair work in Bengaluru, for its launch in December.

- It is going to be launched in Ariane -5 launch vehicle designed by Arianespace, ISRO’s long-time European launch services contractor.
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- It will be launched from Guiana space port in South America along with South Korea’s weather satellite GEO-Kompsat 2A.
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- It is built to provide the Indian region superior communication and 12 GBPS connectivity with its multiple spot beams in Ka and Ku bands.
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## VdW Materials

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- VdW materials are made of piles of ultra-thin layers that are held together by van der Waals bonds.
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- Van der Waals bonds are weak forces exist between molecules of same substance and arise when atoms are in close proximity.
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- VdW materials have the potential to replace the current hard drive assemblies in computers and become the key to quantum computing.
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- Controlling magnetism is typical of VdW materials.
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- The layers in the material can be changed, added or removed in order to introduce magnetism and other new physical properties in the material.
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## UDAN 3

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- Ude Desh Ki Aam Nagrik (UDAN) is a regional connectivity scheme introduced by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
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- Under UDAN 3, government proposes to connect destinations through seaplanes and have invited bids for the same.
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- Among the destinations, the recently unveiled Statue of Unity at Sardar Sarovar Dam, Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad, Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand and Nagarjuna Sagar in Telangana are included.

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- UDAN offers concessions to the airlines to encourage them to fly on regional routes.
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- Concession include operating subsidies like levies or charges imposed by the airport operators, excise duty at 2% and VAT at 1% on aviation turbine fuel, parking charges at airports and exempting these operations from the GST net.
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- Airports Authority of India (AAI) is the implementing agency.
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- A Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF) will be created to subsidise operations under the RCS.
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- The central government will fund 80% of the losses incurred and the rest will be covered by the states.
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- This is provided through the Viability gap funding (VGF) to the selected airline operators from RCF, and state governments will be required to reimburse the applicable share.
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- VGF will be provided for three years from the date of commencement of operations of such RCS flights.
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- In general, central and state contributions for VGF are 80:20 and for the north-eastern states & union territories it is 90:10.
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- Benefits under the Scheme will be available for a period of 10 years from the date of its notification.
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- RCS will be made operational only in states and at airports which are willing to provide concessions required under the Scheme.
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## SDG Global Media Compact

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- Global media compact was introduced in the last session of UN general assembly in collaboration with UN foundation.
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- It is an initiative marking a new drive to advance awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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- The Compact seeks to inspire media and entertainment companies around the world to leverage their resources and creative talent to advance the Goals.
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- It is inclusive and aims to embrace media companies from all regions and all platforms.
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- The 17 Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by world leaders at the historic Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015.
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**Source: PIB, The Hindu, Business Standard**

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