Prelim Bits 08-12-2018

Seabed 2030

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- Seabed 2030 project was launched at the United Nations (UN) Ocean Conference in June 2017.
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- It is a collaborative project between the Nippon Foundation of Japan and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO).
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- It aims to bring together all available bathymetric data (depth and shape of the ocean floor) to create a map of the world ocean floor by 2030 and make it available to all.
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- The bathymetric data is fundamental for understanding ocean circulation, tides, tsunami forecasting, fishing resources, underwater geo-hazards, cable and pipeline routing, mineral extraction, oil and gas exploration.
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- The project is aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.
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- It comprises a global center and 4 regional centers (Arctic and North Pacific center, Atlantic and Indian Ocean center, South and West Pacific center and Southern Ocean center).
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GEBCO

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- It is an international group of mapping experts developing a range of bathymetric data sets and data products.
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- It operates under the joint auspices of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

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- IHO is an intergovernmental organization, established in 1921 to support safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment.
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- Its secretariat is in Monaco, which coordinates IHO's programmes.
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Click here to know about Intergovernmental Ocenaographic commission.

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FAO Council

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- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) was established in 1945 with the objective of eliminating hunger and improving nutrition standards by increasing agricultural productivity.
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- Its secretariat is in Rome, Italy.
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- **Recent Developments** - The 160th session of the FAO Council is currently underway in Rome.
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- It has approved India's membership to the Executive Board of the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) for 2020 and 2021.
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- It also approved India's proposal to observe an International Year of Millets in 2023.
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- The international endorsement comes in the backdrop of India celebrating 2018 as the National Year of Millets.
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- **WFP** – It was established in 1961 as an experiment to provide food aid through the UN system.
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- It is a member of the United Nations Development Group.
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Global Hackathon on Artificial Intelligence

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- NITI Aayog in partnership with Singapore based Artificial Intelligence (AI) start up going to launch “AI 4 All Global Hackathon”.
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- Its objective is to promote awareness and develop solutions to address challenges in AI algorithms and not compromising data privacy.
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Sattriya Dance

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- Nritya Parva - Sattriya Dance festival is being organised every year to mark the day of recognition of sattriya dance as a classical dance in 2000.
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- The dance form was introduced in the 15th century A.D by the great Vaishnava saint – Sankaradeva.
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- The word Sattriya is derived from ‘Sattra’, the place of its birth.
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- It was once a domain of male monks at the sattras, now it is performed by both men and women.
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- It is governed by strictly laid down principles in respect of hastamudras, footworks, aharyas, music etc
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- The costumes are usually made of pat - a silk produced in Assam which is derived from the mulberry plant and woven with intricate local motifs.
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- **Sankaradeva** – He was a poet, a playwright, a social and religious reformer.
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- His contributions include theatrical performance Ankia Naat, sattriya dance and a form of music called Borgeet, which is sung during the performance of Sattriya.
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- He founded “Ekasarana Dharma” – a neo-vaishnavite movement, resulted in an assembly of followers.
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50/50 milestone

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- International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has recently said that by the end of 2018, world will surpass the 50/50 milestone for internet use.
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- It means that for the first time, more than half of the global population will be using internet by the end of 2018.
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- This represents an important step towards a more inclusive global information society.
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- According to ITU, the world's richest countries have been showing slow and steady growth in Internet use, from 51% in 2005 to 80% now.
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- The development is more dramatic in developing countries where 45% people are currently online, compared to just 7.7% in 2005.
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Click here to know about ITU

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Source: PIB, The Hindu

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