

## **Prelim Bits 09-05-2018**

### **NABH (Nextgen Airports for Bharat) Nirman initiative**

\n\n

\n

- Minister for Civil Aviation stated that the government is committed to the building of airport capacity as part of NABH (NextGen Airports for BHarat) Nirman initiative.

\n

- The three key aspects of NABH Nirman are

\n

\n\n

\n

1. Fair and equitable land acquisition

\n

2. Long-term master plan for airport and regional development and

\n

3. Balanced economics for all stakeholders.

\n

\n\n

\n

- The air traffic of the country is increasing, both at domestic and international level.

\n

- India airlines flew highest-ever domestic passengers by flying about 117 passengers during 2017.

\n

\n\n

### **UN report for social inclusion**

\n\n

\n

- The UN Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2018 was launched recently.

\n

- It urged countries to take advantage of high growth rate and share the

benefits with the national society.

\n

- The report on the Asia-Pacific region has also urged the regional powers to invest in inclusive and sustainable growth.

\n

- The report described South and Southwest Asia as the fastest growing sub-region of the Asia-Pacific region.

\n

- It also highlights the need to increase the social spending by the government.

\n

- It is released by the UNESCAP (Economic and social commission for Asia-Pacific).

\n

\n\n

## AI for Accessibility

\n\n

\n

- Microsoft is launching a \$25 million initiative to use artificial intelligence to build better technology for people with disabilities.

\n

- The Artificial Intelligence for accessibility initiative will include seed grants for startups, nonprofit organizations and academic researchers.

\n

- Deeper investments and expertise from Microsoft researchers will also be provided.

\n

- Microsoft has experimented with accessibility tools, such as a “**Seeing AI**” Smartphone app using computer vision and narration to help people navigate if they’re blind or have low vision.

\n

- Microsoft’s translation tool also provides deaf users with real-time captioning of conversations.

\n

\n\n

## Rariphotic Zone off the coast of Bermuda

\n\n

\n

- Oxford scientists have discovered an ocean zone off the coast of Bermuda with over 100 species new to science.

\n

\n\n

\n

- The Rariphotic Zone (rare light zone) extends from 130 meters to 300 meters in depth.

\n

- The zone joins five other areas which have distinct biological communities living and growing within them.

\n

\n\n



\n\n

\n

- Tanaids - minute crustaceans - dozens of new algae species and black wire coral that stand up to two meters high are some of the new species found.

\n

- The team has also discovered a major algal forest on the summit of an underwater mountain 24 km off the coast of Bermuda.

\n

- There are over 100,000 underwater mountains in seas across the globe yet less than 50 have been biologically sampled in detail

\n

\n\n

## **Purifying water using sunlight**

\n\n

\n

- Scientists have developed a new technology that uses the sunlight to purify water with near-perfect efficiency.

\n

- Researchers developed a method that used black, carbon-dipped paper in a triangular shape and using it to both absorb and vaporize water.

\n

- It is simple, and the power source - the sun - is available everywhere.

\n

- This technique uses low cost materials against developing advanced materials, such as metallic plasmonic and carbon-based nanomaterials.

\n

- The low-cost technology described could provide drinking water in regions where resources are scarce, or where natural disasters have struck.

\n

\n\n

## Share of tourism in green house gas emission

\n\n

\n

- The team led by researchers at the University of Sydney in Australia found out that global comprehensive tourism footprint of tourism-related greenhouse gas emissions is larger than previously estimated.
- The world's domestic and international tourism industry contributes to 8% of the global greenhouse gas emissions.
- It is about four times greater than previously estimated.
- Small islands attract a disproportionate share of carbon emissions through international arrivals.
- The U.S. is responsible for the majority of tourism-generated emissions overall.
- It is growing faster than international trade and is already responsible for almost a tenth of global GHGs.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: PIB, The Hindu**

\n\n

\n\n

\n