

Prelim Bits 12-12-2017

World Economic Situation and Prospects Report

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- The report is a jointly published by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

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- This year report marks the 70th anniversary of the publication.

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- It is the flagship report on the state of global economy.

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- The report highlights that, global economic growth reached 3 per cent in 2017, the highest growth rate since 2011.

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- It states that, India is set to see the growth accelerating to 7.2% in 2018-19 and 7.4% in 2019-20, up from the 6.7% in 2017-18.

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UN-DESA

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- UN-DESA is based at UN Headquarters in New York.

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- It is an entity of the UN Secretariat responsible for economic, social and environmental issues.

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- It promotes international cooperation in the pursuit of sustainable development.

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- It helps countries individually and regionally to formulate and implement national development strategies.

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- Its in-depth policy analysis has helped resolve many of the world's most pressing socio-economic issues.

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- It publishes “**Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017**”, which is the annual assessment of global and regional progress towards the Goals.

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UNCTAD

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- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and part of the UN Secretariat.
- It is a part of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG).
- It was formed specifically to handle the problems of developing countries dealing with trade, investment and development issues.
- Other reports published by UNCTAD - Trade and Development Report, World Investment Report, The Least Developed Countries Report, Information and Economy Report, Technology and Innovation Report and Commodities and Development Report.

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Laqshya Initiative

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- Government of India has recently launched Laqshya - Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative.
- Its objective is to reduce preventable maternal and new-born mortality, morbidity and stillbirths by improving the quality of care provided in the labour room.
- It will be implemented in Government Medical Colleges besides District Hospitals, and Sub- District Hospitals and Community Health Centres.
- The initiative plans to conduct quality certification of labour rooms and also incentivize facilities achieving the targets outlined.

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First NIC-CERT

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- National Informatics Centre (NIC) provides nationwide common ICT infrastructure consisting of national and state “Data Centres” to support e-Governance services to the citizen.

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- National Knowledge Network (NKN) has been set up to connect institutions/organizations carrying out R&D, Higher Education and Governance with speed of the order of multi Gigabits per second.

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- Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) is under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

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- It has been designated to serve as the national agency to collect, analyse and disseminate information on cyber incidents.

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- Country’s first NIC-CERT has been recently setup that will monitor, detect and prevent cyber attacks on government networks

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- It uses various tools to gather intelligence to identify vulnerabilities and possible exploits thereby predicting cyber incidents.

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Ranganadi Hydroelectric Dam

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- It is the Run-of-the-River (ROR) dam constructed on Ranganadi River in Arunachal Pradesh.

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- ROR is a type of hydroelectric generation plant whereby little or no water storage is provided.

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- Substantial flooding of the upper part of the river is not required for run-of-river projects as a large reservoir is not required.

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- It does not require the formation of a reservoir thus eliminating the methane and carbon dioxide emissions.

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- The Emissions are generally caused by the decomposition of organic matter in the reservoir of a conventional hydro-electric dam.

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Methanol blending with Petrol

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- It is a liquid chemical which is made from the destructive distillation (pyrolysis) of wood and is chiefly synthesized from carbon monoxide and hydrogen.

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- Its principal uses are in organic synthesis, as a fuel, solvent, and antifreeze.

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- It is also used to produce biodiesel via transesterification reaction.

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- Government will soon announce a policy which calls for 15 per cent blending of methanol in petrol to make it cheaper and also reduce pollution.

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Source: The Hindu, PIB

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