Prelim Bits 30-01-2018

Super Blood Blue Moon

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- “Super Blood Blue Moon” is a rare cosmic event that combines an extra big Super moon, a Blue moon and a total lunar eclipse.
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- **Super moon** – It occur when the full moon coincides with the Moon’s closest orbit point (perigee) to Earth.
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- During a super moon, the moon appears 14% larger and 30% brighter.
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- The farthest distance between the moon and the Earth is termed ‘apogee’, while the perigee is the nearest point.
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- **Lunar Eclipse** – It occurs when the Sun, the Earth and the Moon are so aligned that the full moon passes through the shadow of Earth.
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- The moon gliding into Earth’s shadow will gradually turn in to orange or red.
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- This is because the sunlight passing through the Earth’s atmosphere break down and red part gets scattered by the atmosphere and falls on the Moon’s surface.
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- For this reason, a totally eclipsed moon is called a “**Blood Moon**”.
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- **Blue Moon** – It refers to the second full moon (or second lunar eclipse) in a month.
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- The Moon does not turn blue but historically the second full Moon of an English calendar month is termed as a Blue Moon.
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- Typically, it happens every two years and eight months.
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- The world is going to witness this event on Jan 31st in parts of western North America, Asia, the Middle East, Russia and Australia.
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VINBAX - 2018

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- VINBAX is the military exercise between armies of India and Vietnam.
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- It is the first ever such exercise boosting defence ties between the two countries.
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- It is going to be held in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh.
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- The joint exercise has been especially designed to enable and train officers from Vietnam in United Nations Peace Keeping Operations.
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India – Vietnam relations

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- India and Vietnam had signed a protocol on defence cooperation in 1994.
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- The partnership was thereafter elevated to strategic level in 2007.
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- A pact on boosting bilateral defence cooperation was signed in 2009.
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- The strategic partnership was elevated to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** in September 2016.
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Meghadootam

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- Meghadootam (meaning cloud messenger) is a lyric love poem composed by Kalidasa about the 5th century AD.
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- The poem recounts the expression of love by Yaksha to his wife at Alaka,Mt. Kailash through the cloud as a messenger.
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- Most of the poem consists of a description of the landmarks, cities, and sights on the cloud’s journey to Alaka.
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- Chhattisgarh state artistes performing dance based on Meghadootam in Republic day won prize in best tableau category.
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Kalidasa

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- Kalidasa is a great Sanskrit poet who lived in the court of Chandragupta II around 4th-5th century AD.
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- He wrote plays, poems such as
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i. 3 plays - Malavikagnimitram, Abhijnanasakuntalam, vikramaorvasiyam
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ii. 2 epic poems - Raghuvamsa, Kumarasambhava
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iii. 2 minor poems – Ritusamhara, Meghadootam
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Asia’s largest drip irrigation project

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- Ramthal Marola project in Karnataka is the Asia’s largest drip irrigation project implemented with the help of technology from Israel firm.
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- As a part of this drip irrigation scheme, every farmer will receive water through a cylinder installed in their respective farmlands.
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- It also enables them to mix fertilisers and pesticides in the cylinder.
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- The technology used in this project will also purify the wastage that flows in the backwaters of River Krishna.
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Udangudi Power Project

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- Coal-based supercritical Udangudi thermal power project is set to come up in Thoothukudi district of southern Tamil Nadu.
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- BHEL and the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) had signed a MoU to develop this power project in 2007.
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- The estimated Rs.100-billion project is to be funded by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).
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Source: The Hindu, BusinessLine, Business Standard

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