



Prelim Bits 30-01-2018

Super Blood Blue Moon

\n\n

\n

- “Super Blood Blue Moon” is a rare cosmic event that combines an extra big Super moon, a Blue moon and a total lunar eclipse.

\n

- **Super moon** – It occurs when the full moon coincides with the Moon’s closest orbit point (perigee) to Earth.

\n

- During a super moon, the moon appears 14% larger and 30% brighter.

\n

- The farthest distance between the moon and the Earth is termed ‘apogee’, while the perigee is the nearest point.

\n

- **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.

\n

- The moon gliding into Earth’s shadow will gradually turn in to orange or red.

\n

- This is because the sunlight passing through the Earth’s atmosphere breaks down and the red part gets scattered by the atmosphere and falls on the Moon’s surface.

\n

- For this reason, a totally eclipsed moon is called a “**Blood Moon**”.

\n

- **Blue Moon** – It refers to the second full moon (or second lunar eclipse) in a month.

\n

- The Moon does not turn blue but historically the second full Moon of an English calendar month is termed as a Blue Moon.

\n

- Typically, it happens every two years and eight months.

\n

- The world is going to witness this event on Jan 31st in parts of western North

America, Asia, the Middle East, Russia and Australia.

\n

\n\n

VINBAX - 2018

\n\n

\n

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

\n

\n\n

India - Vietnam relations

\n\n

\n

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

\n

\n\n

Meghadootam

\n\n

\n

- Meghadootam (meaning cloud messenger) is a lyric love poem composed by Kalidasa about the 5th century AD.
- The poem recounts the expression of love by Yaksha to his wife at Alaka, Mt. Kailash through the cloud as a messenger.

- \n
- Most of the poem consists of a description of the landmarks, cities, and sights on the cloud's journey to Alaka.
- \n
- Chhattisgarh state artistes performing dance based on Meghadootam in Republic day won prize in best tableau category.
- \n

\n\n

Kalidasa

\n\n

- \n
- Kalidasa is a great Sanskrit poet who lived in the court of Chandragupta II around 4th-5th century AD.
- \n
- He wrote plays, poems such as
- \n

\n\n

- \n
- i. 3 plays - Malavikagnimitram, Abhijnanasakuntalam, vikramaorvasiyam
- \n
- ii. 2 epic poems - Raghuvamsa, Kumarasambhava
- \n
- iii. 2 minor poems - Ritusamhara, Meghadootam
- \n

\n\n

Asia's largest drip irrigation project

\n\n

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

\n\n

Udangudi Power Project

\n\n

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

\n\n

Source: The Hindu, BusinessLine, Business Standard

\n



IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative