

Prelim Bits 19-10-2018

Global Competitiveness Index

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- It is published by World Economic Forum annually.

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- The index covers 140 nations and it measures national competitiveness.

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- It assesses competitiveness through the factors that determine an economy's level of productivity.

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- According to the recent report, United States ranked first followed by Singapore, Germany, Switzerland and Japan.

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- India has become the most competitive economy on the Global Competitiveness Index 2018.

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- India's rank has been improved by five spots from last year.

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- India witnessed the largest gain among the G20 nations and highest among South Asian Countries.

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- As for the BRICS nations, China topped the list at 28th position followed by Russian Federation, India, South Africa and Brazil respectively.

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- The report stated that the global economy is projected to grow nearly 4% in 2018 and 2019.

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Exercise Dharma Guardian

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- It is a joint military exercise between India and Japan.

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- It is the first ever such exercise and the first edition is going to be held in India.

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- The exercise will execute a series of drills to neutralise the threats faced in urban warfare scenario.

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- This exercise is seen as a yet another step in deepening strategic ties between the countries.

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Oneer™

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- It is a water disinfection system developed by Council Scientific and Industrial Research and Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow.

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- The system will eliminate all disease causing pathogens such as virus, bacteria, fungi, protozoa to provide safe drinking water to communities.

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- It is useful for continuous treatment of water to meet National and International standards prescribed for potable water (BIS, WHO etc.).

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- The smaller unit of Oneer is particularly suitable for homes, street food vendors, and small establishments.

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POSCO Act

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- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 defines a child as any person below the age of 18 years.

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- The act provides protection to all children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography.

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- Ministry of Women and Child Development has recently clarified that the POSCO act does not provide for any period of limitation for reporting the child sexual offences.

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- Now, any victim, at any age, can complain the sexual abuse faced by him/her as a child.

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- This has strengthened the legal provisions for the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation.

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ASEM

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- The 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is going to be held in Brussels, Belgium.
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- The theme of this year's ASEM Summit is 'Global Partners for Global Challenges'.
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- ASEM is an exclusively Asian-European forum, established in 1996 at the first summit in Bangkok, Thailand.
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- It currently has 51 nations from the European Union and South Asia and 2 regional organisations (ASEAN, EU) as partners.
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- India is also a member.
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- The 3 pillars of ASEM are Political, Economic, Socio Cultural and Educational.
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- ASEM involves biennial meetings of Heads of State and Government, alternately in Europe and Asia, and biennial meetings of Foreign Ministers as well as political, economic, and socio-cultural meetings and events at various levels.
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- The grouping is a platform for non-binding discussion on economic and trade issues.

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Source: PIB, Economic Times

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