

Prelim Bits 19-12-2017

Global Innovation Index

\n\n

\n

- The index is released by Cornell University U.S, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and INSEAD (a France based International Business School).

\n

- It ranks world economies according to their innovation capabilities using more than 80 indicators.

\n

- India currently ranks **60th out of 127 countries** on the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2017 as compared to 66th rank in 2016 and 81st rank in 2015.

\n

- Switzerland remains the most innovative country followed by Sweden, Netherlands, US and UK.

\n

- China is the first middle-income country that entered the top 25 ranking.

\n

- It is computed based on the average of scores in two sub-indices i.e the Innovation Input Index & Innovation Output Index.

\n

\n\n

\n\nStrength	\n\nWeakness
\n\nICT services exports (1 st), \n\nCreative goods export (18 th) and \n\nGrowth rate of GDP per person (5 th)	\n\nEase of starting a business (114th), \n\nEase of resolving insolvency (111th), Ease of paying taxes (118th).

\n\n

\n\n

Government's initiatives in boosting innovation

\n\n

- \n
- NITI Aayog, DIPP and CII together launched “**India Innovation Index**”.
- \n
- It will rank states on Innovations through country's first online innovation index portal that will capture data on innovation from all Indian states.
- \n
- The **Smart India Hackathon** and Smart India Hardware Hackathon have been launched to improve the innovative abilities of the students in the Higher Education Institutions.
- \n
- Projects like **IMPRINT and Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY)** focusing scientific community in promoting research and innovation.
- \n
- The Start-up India initiative has also put in place a mechanism for identifying and incubating the innovative ideas.
- \n

\n\n

Mass Extinction Survivor

\n\n

- \n
- The fossil of an aquatic reptile - sauropterygian which survived the mass extinction has been found recently.
- \n
- The Triassic - Jurassic mass extinction has destroyed all aquatic species except this reptile clade.
- \n
- It is believed to have lived safe in the depths of the sea which enables it to survive.
- \n

\n\n

White Spotted Bush Frog

\n\n

- \n
- It is found only in the Western Ghats' Agastya Hills in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- \n
- It was rediscovered in 2011 after 125 years.

- \n
- It belongs to the category of tree frogs and breeds inside hollow bamboo stems.
- \n
- It is categorized as “Critically Endangered” in IUCN Red list.
- \n
- Male frogs watch over their eggs to guard them from cannibalizing by other male frogs.
- \n
- This is the first known instance of cannibalism among tree frogs of the Rhacophoridae family.
- \n

\n\n

Resolution in UNSC on Jerusalem’s Status

\n\n

- \n
- United States has recently recognized Jerusalem as the Israel’s capital, taking a stand against the two state solutions.
- \n
- Egypt has drafted a resolution in United Nation Security Council expressing deep regret at recent decisions concerning the status of Jerusalem.
- \n
- The resolution does not specifically mention about US President Donald Trump.
- \n
- The draft UN resolution had also called upon all countries to refrain from establishing diplomatic missions in Jerusalem.
- \n
- The resolution was voted in favor by all members of Security Council except the US which vetoed the resolution.
- \n
- Present ten non-permanent members (with end of term date) are Egypt (2017), Italy (2017), Japan (2017), Senegal (2017), Ukraine (2017), Uruguay (2017) Bolivia (2018), Ethiopia (2018), Kazakhstan (2018), Sweden (2018).
- \n

\n\n

Forest Fires

\n\n

- \n
- Forest Fires has been reported in Somanakadu valley, Charmadi range of

Western Ghats.

\n

- The range is located in Karnataka region of Western Ghats.
- \n
- It acts as a water source for **Netravathi River** which has many rivulets from this range as tributaries.
- \n
- Environmentalists have alleged that the forest fire is caused by estate owners to occupy the land after the region has completely been denuded.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Hindu, PIB

\n

