

Prelim Bits 19-12-2017

Global Innovation Index

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

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

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- 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.

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

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

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

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\n Strength \n	\n Weakness \n
\n ICT services exports (1 st), \n Creative goods export (18 th) and \n Growth rate of GDP per person (5 th) \n \n	\n Ease of starting a business (114th), \n Ease of resolving insolvency (111th), Ease of paying taxes (118th). \n

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Government's initiatives in boosting innovation

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- NITI Aayog, DIPP and CII together launched “**India Innovation Index**”.
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- It will rank states on Innovations through country's first online innovation index portal that will capture data on innovation from all Indian states.
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- 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.
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- Projects like **IMPRINT and Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY)** focusing scientific community in promoting research and innovation.
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- The Start-up India initiative has also put in place a mechanism for identifying and incubating the innovative ideas.
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Mass Extinction Survivor

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

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

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

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- United States has recently recognized Jerusalem as the Israel’s capital, taking a stand against the two state solutions.
 - Egypt has drafted a resolution in United Nation Security Council expressing deep regret at recent decisions concerning the status of Jerusalem.
 - The resolution does not specifically mention about US President Donald Trump.
 - The draft UN resolution had also called upon all countries to refrain from establishing diplomatic missions in Jerusalem.
 - The resolution was voted in favor by all members of Security Council except the US which vetoed the resolution.
 - 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).
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Forest Fires

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

Western Ghats.

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

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Source: The Hindu, PIB

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