India - Rwanda

Why in news?

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India and Rwanda have signed 3 Memorandums of Understanding (MoU).

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What are the MoUs?

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- A bilateral **air services agreement** was signed, thus enabling direct flights between the two countries. Rwandan Airways will begin direct flights between Kigali and Mumbai from April 2017.
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- The other two MoUs are setting up of an **entrepreneurial development centre** in Rwanda and **exemption of visa** for entry of diplomatic and official passports.
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- Rwandan government also cited its desire of wanting many Indian pharmaceutical companies in Rwanda.
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- Indian government asked questions about President **'Paul Kagame's governance model'** that helped Rwanda become one of the cleanest and well-run states in Africa.
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- India also offered scholarships and fellowships to Rwandan students to enable them to pursue undergraduate, masters, and research courses in India.
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How the MoUs will be useful?

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- With direct flights between the two countries, the people to people

exchange will be more fruitful.
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- With the air services agreement, the tourism sector will get a major boost.
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- India-Rwanda **Innovation Growth Program** is being launched. It will expand ties in Science, Technology and Innovation.
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- Under the Programme, 20 demonstrated and validated Indian technologies and innovations are expected to be adopted over a period of two years.
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- The joint ventures created with Rwandan partners can **deliver many sustainable social enterprises** that will stimulate economic development in Rwanda.
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Source: The Hindu

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