Prelim Bits 08-04-2017

Travel and Tourism Competitive Index

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- The index is prepared by **World Economic Forum**.
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- The Index measures the set of factors and policies that enable the sustainable development of the travel and tourism sector, which in turn, contributes to the development and competitiveness of a country.
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- India has moved 12 places up in this ranking from **52nd to 40th position** in 2016 among 136 countries.
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- India has moved from 65rd position to 52nd position in 2015. In all, in last three years India has cumulatively improved its ranking by 25 places which is a significant achievement.
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- India's jump in rankings is attributed to the pro-active steps in terms of development of tourism infrastructure, easing of entry formalities for tourists by introducing the e-visa facilities in November 2014.
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Technology Development Fund & Defence Innovation Fund

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- Technology Development Fund (TDF) aims at funding the development of defence and dual use technologies that are currently not available with the Indian defence industry.
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- The TDF scheme is implemented by DRDO and provides for assistance in the form of grant to public and private industries for design and development of key defence technologies.
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- Defence Innovation Fund (DIF) aims at creation of ecosystem to foster

innovation and technology development in Defence.
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- The DIF is funded by two Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), grants from Government and from other not-for-profit organisations in public or private sector.
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Green Growth Equity Fund

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- India and the UK announce joint **UK-India Fund**, Green Growth Equity Fund.
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- The fund aims to leverage private sector investment from the City of London to invest in Green Infrastructure Projects in India.
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- Both governments reaffirmed their commitment to invest up to 120 million each (i.e. totally 240 million) in the joint fund.
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- The fund will be established under the National Infrastructure Investment Fund framework.
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