Prelim Bits 19-10-2018

Global Competitiveness Index

\n\n

\n
- It is published by World Economic Forum annually.
\n
- The index covers 140 nations and it measures national competitiveness.
\n
- It accesses competitiveness through the factors that determine an economy's level of productivity.
\n
- According to the recent report, United States ranked first followed by Singapore, Germany, Switzerland and Japan.
\n
- India has become the most competitive economy on the Global Competitiveness Index 2018.
\n
- India's rank has been improved by five spots from last year.
\n
- India witnessed the largest gain among the G20 nations and highest among South Asian Countries.
\n
- As for the BRICS nations, China topped the list at 28th position followed by Russian Federation, India, South Africa and Brazil respectively.
\n
- The report stated that the global economy is projected to grow nearly 4% in 2018 and 2019.
\n

\n\n

Exercise Dharma Guardian

\n\n

\n
- It is a joint military exercise between India and Japan.
\n
- It is the first ever such exercise and the first edition is going to be held in India.

\n
- The exercise will execute a series of drills to neutralise the threats faced in urban warfare scenario.
\n
- This exercise is seen as a yet another step in deepening strategic ties between the countries.
\n

\n\n

Oneer™

\n\n

\n
- It is a water disinfection system developed by Council Scientific and Industrial Research and Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow.
\n
- The system will eliminate all disease causing pathogens such as virus, bacteria, fungi, protozoa to provide safe drinking water to communities.
\n
- It is useful for continuous treatment of water to meet National and International standards prescribed for potable water (BIS, WHO etc.).
\n
- The smaller unit of Oneer is particularly suitable for homes, street food vendors, and small establishments.
\n

\n\n

POSCO Act

\n\n

\n
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 defines a child as any person below the age of 18 years.
\n
- The act provides protection to all children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography.
\n
- 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.
\n
- Now, any victim, at any age, can complain the sexual abuse faced by him/her as a child.
\n

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

\n\n

ASEM

\n\n

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

\n\n

\n\n

Source: PIB, Economic Times

\n\n

\n\n

\n\n

\n\n

\n

