

## Prelim Bits 28-09-2017

### World Tourism Day

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- World Tourism Day is commemorated every year on 27th September by United Nation - World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).

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- The event seeks to highlight the contribution of the tourism industry in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals.

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- It is celebrated this year with the theme Sustainable Tourism - a Tool for Development.

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- In December 2015, United Nation General Assembly designated 2017 as the International year of “Sustainable Tourism for Development”.

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### Incredible India 2.0 Campaign

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- President of India launched Incredible India 2.0 campaign and “Adopt a Heritage” project on the occasion of World Tourism Day.

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- The campaign will focus on developing at least 10 cities where the spirituality quotient, medical and wellness potential will be promoted.

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- At present cities from **UP** — Ayodhya, Agra, Mathura, Varanasi-Sarnath, and Gorakhpur, **Haryana** -Kurukshetra, **Assam** - Guwahati, and **Tamil Nadu** - Kanyakumari have been identified for developing tourist circuits.

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- The tourism ministry has set itself a target of completing this exercise of developing cities by October 2018.

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- “Adopt a Heritage” project entails encouraging students, public sector and private organisations to participate more actively in the maintenance of

Indian heritage.

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## Global Competitiveness Index

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- India has been ranked the 40th most competitive economy on the **World Economic Forum's** global competitiveness index.
- On the list of 137 economies, Switzerland emerged on top followed by the US and Singapore.
- India has slipped from the 39<sup>th</sup> position to 40<sup>th</sup>.
- Among the BRICS, China (27<sup>th</sup> rank) and Russia (38<sup>th</sup> rank) are placed above India.
- According to the report, India's performance improved in infrastructure, higher education and training, technological readiness and ICT indicators.
- A big concern for India is the gap between innovative strength (29<sup>th</sup> rank) and technological readiness (107<sup>th</sup> rank).

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## BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism

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- Union Cabinet has given its approval to EXIM Bank for signing Interbank Local Currency Credit Line Agreement.
- With this agreement, the bank can now enter into bilateral agreement for co-financing with large developmental institutions to ensure **lending in single currency**.
- Bank also signed MoU related to credit ratings, which would enable sharing of credit ratings amongst BRICS member banks.
- The agreement and the MoU have been highlighted in the BRICS leaders **Xiamen Declaration** adopted in BRICS summit, 2017.

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## **India Mobile Congress**

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- The first ever mobile, internet and technology event - India Mobile Congress 2017, was recently organised.
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- It is organised by the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), the industry association of mobile and telecom operators and internet firms.
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- Department of Telecommunication is the nodal ministry.
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- The event is seen as a true example of a public- private collaboration where the government and the industry have put together a world class event in India.

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## **Lunar Station**

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- Russia and the United States agreed to co-operate on a NASA-led project to build the first lunar space station.
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- The project envisages building a crew-tended spaceport in lunar orbit that would serve as a gateway to deep space and the lunar space.

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**Source: PIB, The Hindu, Business Line and Business Standard**

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