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.
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- On the list of 137 economies, Switzerland emerged on top followed by the US and Singapore.
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- India has slipped from the 39th position to 40$^{th.}$
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- Among the BRICS, China (27th rank) and Russia (38th rank) are placed above India.
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- According to the report, India's performance improved in infrastructure, higher education and training, technological readiness and ICT indicators.
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- A big concern for India is the gap between innovative strength (29th rank) and technological readiness (107th 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.
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- With this agreement, the bank can now enter into bilateral agreement for co-financing with large developmental institutions to ensure **lending in single currency**.
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- Bank also signed MoU related to credit ratings, which would enable sharing of credit ratings amongst BRICS member banks.
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- 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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