Prelim Bits 06-10-2017

Report on Modern Slavery

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- A study on “Global Estimates of Modern Slavery” was conducted by a Walk Free Foundation (WFF), Australia based Human Rights Group.
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- The report was published on behalf of the global body International Labour Organisation (ILO).
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- The country wise figures are not mentioned in the report but it has revealed that 40.3 million people are victims of modern slavery in 2016.
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- Global Slavery Index is computed by WFF every year.
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Anna Politkovskaya Award

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- The award is given by a London-based non-governmental organisation “Reach All Women in War (RAW in War)”.
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- The organisation supports women human rights defenders and victims of war.
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- The award was instituted in the name of well-known Russian Journalist who was killed in 2006 in Moscow for uncovering state corruption and rights abuses.
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- Journalist-activist Gauri Lankesh becomes first Indian Journalist to win this award.
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- The award is also given to Gulalai Ismail, a Pakistani peace activist who has faced death threats for speaking out against the Taliban.
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- The institute also honoured Rohingya refugee Jamalida Begum, who spoke

out publicly about her rape by Myanmar security forces.
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Kaleshwaram Project

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- NGT has recently ordered an interim stay on Telangana government's Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project.
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- Pranahitha-Chevella Lift Irrigation Scheme was taken up in 2007 to utilise the water of Pranhita tributary of Godavari River.
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- After the formation of Telangana, the project was redesigned into two sections.
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- The original component serving the Adilabad area was called the Pranahitha project.
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- The second part is called Kaleswaram Project serving the Karimnagar, Warangal, Nizamabad and Medak districts.
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- Water from Godavari River after the confluence by the Pranahita tributary is lifted to provide lift irrigation facility.
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- Lift Irrigation project - Pumps are used to lift the water from canals or rivers at lower level to the area at higher level for irrigation purpose.
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Committee on Corporate Governance

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- Uday Kotak on corporate governance has proposed rules aimed at bringing more transparency to the functioning of boards in the listed companies.
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- The committee also proposed several measures to strengthen the role of independent directors.
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- One of the proposals is to keep out relatives of promoter group from occupying the independent director's place on the board.
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- It recommended an amendment to regulate the information rights of significant shareholders and promoters.
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- The other key proposal is to separate the role of Chairperson and MD/CEO at listed entities with more than 40 per cent public shareholding with effect from April 1, 2020.
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- SEBI regulations do not mandate a separation of these posts.
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Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI)

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- Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)'s International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) has bagged the 10th spot in GFCI.
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- GIFT IFSC is ranked tenth, ahead of Luxembourg, Seoul, Abu Dhabi, Toronto and Beijing in the list of the GFCI report.
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- The report presents parameter for measuring the attractiveness of financial centres and understanding the growth and competitiveness of financial centres.
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- It is produced bi-annually by the China Development Institute (CDI) in Shenzhen and a commercial think tank in London.
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Global Aurora

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- Recently, a strong solar storm hit Mars sparking a global aurora and doubling radiation levels on the red planet.
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- This aurora is 25 times brighter than any previously seen by the MAVEN orbiter.
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- The event has occurred strangely during the Sun’s 11-year sunspot and storm-activity cycle.
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- These events will improve the understanding the effects of solar storm on the

Martian environment.
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Source: The Hindu, BusinessLine, Business Standard

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