Prelim Bits 14-04-2018

India Mobile Congress (IMC)

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- India Mobile Congress will be conducted this year end, at New Delhi.
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- India Mobile Congress is one of the biggest Mobile, Internet and Technology events in Asia.
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- This year’s theme “NEW DIGITAL HORIZONS: Connect. Create. Innovate.”
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- It is organized by Department of Telecommunications, Government of India and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).
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- India Mobile Congress 2018 will bring together the leading players from across the mobile ecosystem, as well as adjacent industry sectors such as automotive and consumer electronics.
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- The first edition of India Mobile Congress held in September 2017.
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- It aims at building ideas, forging lasting Industry relationships, showcasing leading-edge mobile technology and product trends, and providing sectoral insights and impactful solution.
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- The platform will witness participation from partner countries from the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) region.
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GreenCo rating

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- GreenCo rating was implemented recently in 42 production units and workshops of Indian Railways.
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- Indian Railways had entered into partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in 2016 by which CII is facilitating various railways' production units and workshops go the Green way.
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- The development of 'Green Company Rating system' (GreenCo rating) for companies was a step taken by CII to promote the greener ways of production in Indian companies.
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- GreenCo Rating System is a **first-of-its-kind rating in the world that facilitates companies** in improving their **overall green performance.**
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- GreenCo focus on major environmental areas including- energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, waste management, resource conservation, green supply chain, product stewardship and life cycle assessment.
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Elusor macrurus

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- Elusor macrurus is popularly known as Mary River's turtle.
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- It was added to the **"EDGE of Existence" list** of endangered species compiled by the **Zoological Society of London (ZSL)**.
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- It is a native of Queensland of Australia and lives only in the Mary River from which it takes its name.
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- They have specialized organs in their cloaca which process oxygen from the surrounding water.
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- The turtle's most distinguishing feature is the bright green, spiky Mohawks sprouting on the heads of some.
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- However they are not hair but algae that cover them as they are underwater for a long period of time.

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- According to IUCN Red List they are endangered species.
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- Destruction of the creatures' natural habitat through the building of dams, as well as the collection of its eggs for the pet trade, piled on the survival pressure
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Totoaba macdonaldi

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- The totoaba or totuava is a marine fish.
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- This species is endemic to the Eastern Pacific, and is only found in the central and northern Gulf of California, Mexico.
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- The totoaba is caught for its swim bladders which are smuggled to China for sale on the black market as traditional medicine and a delicacy.
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- The swim bladders are called as Maws and dubbed as aquatic cocaine.
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- It is listed as critically endangered according to IUCN red list.
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- Mexican fishermen are using huge nets, called gill nets, to catch totoaba and those nets accidentally kill the **vaquita porpoises**.
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- **Vaquita** Known as the **"panda of the sea"** for the distinctive black circles around its eyes which faces extinction is seriously impacted.
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- Vaquita is 30 in total in this area which is also a critically endangered

species.
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- Vaquita is the world’s most rare marine mammal, is on the edge of extinction.
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Influence of tiny sea algae over climate

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- NASA is conducting a study of the world’s largest phytoplankton bloom in the North Atlantic to see how the tiny sea algae influence the climate every season.
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- The study will track how phytoplankton give rise to small organic particles that leave the ocean and end up in the atmosphere, influencing cloud formation.
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- Phytoplankton responds much faster to processes that alter temperature than the temperature itself, which changes slowly due to water’s high heat capacity.
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- Therefore phytoplanktons are often early indicators of an impending change in temperature.
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- The depth to which solar radiation can penetrate affects the heating rate of the upper ocean down to a 100 metro or more.
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- This influences the warming of the sea surface which in turn alters the atmospheric winds, humidity and clouds and thus El Niño, La Niña and the monsoon.
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Views of study commissioned by Microsoft

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- Recently a study was commissioned by Microsoft that revealed the following points.
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- By the year 2021, around 60 % of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to be derived from digital products and services.
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- The products and services will be created through the use of technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things and cloud computing, among others.
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- Technology can play a role in providing facilities like preventive health care and augmented diagnosis to the needy in the health sector.
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- Similarly in agriculture, where productivity can be increased by 20-30 per cent, simply by using predictive technology.
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- The central government has formed **a committee on AI chaired by P P Chakraborty** to suggest a technical framework or platform for the emerging technology.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu, Business standard

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