Prelim Bits 17-04-2018

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World Bank Report

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- The WB released its bi-annual **South Asia Economic Focus report** for 2018 titled ‘Jobless Growth?’ recently.
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- In its previous South Asia economic focus reports, it had focused on backlash of globalization, tepid investment growth, and fading global tailwinds in the South Asian context.
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- The WB report said there is an addition of 750,000 jobs in India per percentage point of GDP growth.
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- Female employment rate dropped by 5 per cent per year in India in 2005-2015, whereas male employment rate decreased very little.
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- Exports growth is the key to employment growth in India.
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- Though India has grown faster than before past 2005, the report says that job growth has rather reduced in the reference period 2005-2015.
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- The WB has put 2017-18 growth estimates for India at 6.7 %.
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Albania’s Wetlands and Pelicans

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- The Dalmatian pelican is back with a flourish in the Divjaka Lagoon in western Albania.
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- It is one of the most important wetlands in the Adriatic basin that is key for

migratory wildlife and is a breeding area for the pelican.
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- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has included the Dalmatian pelican (Pelecanus crispus) on its red list
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- About 80 % of its breeding sites in Europe have disappeared.
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- The basic feed of the Pelicans depleted by the night time fishermen with their nets and electric lamps.
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All India Tiger Estimation 2018

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- All India Tiger Estimation, which is conducted every four years since 2006, is underway.
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- The exercise will be hi-tech, and also will more accurate and precise than ever before.
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- The estimation will be conducted by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and Wildlife Institute of India.
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- The assessment will use Android phone-based application and desktop version of M-STrIPES (Monitoring System for Tigers-Intensive Protection and Ecological Status) for collecting, archiving and analyzing data.
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- The Tiger Estimation exercise is the world’s largest wildlife survey effort in terms of coverage, intensity of sampling and quantum of camera trapping.
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- Camera trap and Pugmark tracing are the common survey methods used.
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- Visibility of animals, Type and state of habitat, Animal behavior are the factors that affect the accuracy of the process.
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World Haemophilia Day 2018

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- Qutub Minar will be lit up with red lights to raise awareness about an inherited bleeding disorder called haemophilia.
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- World Hemophilia Day is an international observance held annually on April 17 by the World Federation of Haemophilia.
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- This year theme is "Sharing Knowledge Makes us Stronger"
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- Haemophilia is a genetic disease where the body’s ability to make blood clots is impaired.
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- In this case blood does not clot automatically when they get injured or even during a surgery leading to excessive bleeding.
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- The only treatment is to give the missing clotting factor to the patients, which can be extremely expensive.
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Plastic Waste Management (amendment) rules

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- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018.
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- The rules lay down the phasing out of Multilayered Plastic (MLP), which are “non-recyclable, or non-energy recoverable, or with no alternate use.”
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- Multi-layered plastics (MLP) are the shiny cover in which many ready-to-eat snacks and chips, as well as mouth-fresheners and tobacco products are sold.
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- The amended Rules also prescribe a central registration system for the registration of the producer or importer or brand owner.
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- The centralized registration system will be evolved by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for the registration of the producer, importer and brand owner.
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Small Hydro power Projects

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- The Ministry of New and Renewal Energy (MNRE) is the nodal agency for promoting small hydro power projects.
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- A major **roadblock** in converting the hydro power potential (an estimate of 20,000 MW of power in the country) to reality has been in terms of **testing of the hydro turbines that generate the electricity**.
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- The turbines can be tested for their efficiency in real conditions only after they are installed.
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- Even if there is a need for improvement it can’t be done once the machine is installed.
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- In order to overcome this hurdle, the Ministry has set up a dedicated fully automatic **SCADA-based hydraulic turbine research and development laboratory** at the Alternate Hydro Energy Centre (AHEC) at the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee.
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- The laboratory will act as a design and validation facility.
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- It also can conduct research on hydro turbines and other hydro mechanical equipment conforming to national and international standards.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu, Business Standard

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