Prelim Bits 26-08-2017

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Hurricane Harvey

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- Harvey is a tropical cyclone that recently made landfall in Texas .
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- It is the first Category 4 hurricane to make a landfall in US since 2004 with powerful winds of up to 130 miles per hour.
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- The Saffir–Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale (SSHWS) classifies hurricanes in western hemisphere into 5 categories distinguished by the intensities of their winds.
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- The wind scale is used only to describe hurricanes forming in the Atlantic Ocean and northern Pacific Ocean east of the International Date Line.
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\n**Category**\n	\n**Wind speed (Miles Per Hour)**\n
\nI\n	\n**74-95 mph**; Dangerous winds with no significant structural damage to most well-constructed permanent structures.\n
\nII\n	\n**96-110 mph**; Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage.\n
\nIII\n	\n**111-129 mph**; Category 3 and higher are described as major hurricanes.\n
\nIV\n	\n**130-156 mph**; It tends to cause more structural damage.\n

\n V \n	\n **>157 mph**; Highest category in the scale cause more catastrophic damage. \n

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Tropical Cyclone

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- A tropical cyclone is a rapidly rotating storm system characterized by a low-pressure center, a closed low-level atmospheric circulation, strong winds, and a spiral arrangement of thunderstorms that produce heavy rain.
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- Depending on its location and strength, a tropical cyclone is referred to by different names.
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- A **hurricane** is a storm that occurs in the Atlantic Ocean and north eastern Pacific Ocean, a **typhoon** occurs in the north western Pacific Ocean, a **cyclone** occurs in the south Pacific or Indian Ocean, a **willy-willy** in south-west Australia
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Washington Consensus

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- It is a set of neoliberal economic prescriptions made by the IMF, the World Bank, and the U.S. Treasury to developing countries that faced economic crises.
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- It recommended structural reforms that increased the role of market forces in exchange for immediate financial help.
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- While few have argued that the reforms was used to impose harsh conditions that were unhelpful for economic recovery; others have argued that, it was favourable to long-term economic growth in developing economies.
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Globefish

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- Globefish is the unit within the FAO of United Nation responsible for information and analysis on international fish trade and markets.
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- Globefish's flagship reports cover over 14 of the most major traded seafood commodities, including shrimp, tuna, salmon, small pelagics and other species with detailed statistics.
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- According to its latest report, India is the largest sea food exporter in 2016.
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- The top five shrimp exporters to the international market in 2016 were India, Vietnam, Ecuador, Indonesia, and Thailand.
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- India's top export markets included the US, Vietnam, the EU and Japan.
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Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

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- It was established in 1945 with the objective of eliminating hunger and improving nutrition and standards of living by increasing agricultural productivity.
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- Its secretariat is located in Rome, Italy.
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- Some of the important key programmes of FAO are Food Security Programmes, Codex Alimentarius, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) etc.,
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Science Ministers' Conclave

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- The conclave is part of the India International Science Festival (IISF).
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- It is organised by the Ministry of Science and Technology and Vijnana Bharati, a not for profit organisation working for science popularization.

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- The conclave is a 3 year-old mela of students and scientists that showcases contemporary and historical achievements of Indian science.
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- It will be held in Chennai this year and the Science and Technology Ministers from neighbouring countries were invited, including China.
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Task Force on Artificial Intelligence

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- Ministry of Commerce and Industry has constituted a task force headed by Kamakoti of IIT Madras to explore possibilities to leverage artificial intelligence for development across various fields.
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- The 18 member task force will submit its recommendations to the government, industry and research institutions.
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Increasing trade deficit with ASEAN

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- Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce has questioned the trade deficit with ASEAN countries and recommended better market access for its products and services.
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- India has suffered a trade deficit in respect of five ASEAN members — Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei and Lao PDR.
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- India has **FTA with ASEAN** countries and the least tariff elimination by Indonesia has resulted in biggest trade deficit amongst all ASEAN member States.
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- ASEAN comprises of Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam.
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- Its principal aim is to accelerate economic growth, social progress, promote South East Asian studies, alongside the protection of regional stability.
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