Prelim Bits 13-11-2017

Biomarker

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- Researchers have recently identified a peptide (biomarker) that could lead to the early detection of Alzheimer’s disease.
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- Biomarkers are indicators that help in determining the presence or severity of a disease.
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- The idea is to establish molecular signatures for complicated cases.
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- It is used to have a sound knowledge of the disease progression in different individuals suffering from the disease.
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- Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia, a general term for memory loss.
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- It is a progressive disease, where dementia symptoms gradually worsen over a number of years.
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Hausala 2017

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- Hausla 2017 is Child Rights Week.
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- It is being celebrated every year by the Ministry of Women and Child Development from 16th to 20th November, 2017.
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- It is the period between Children’s Day (14th November) and the International Child Rights Day (20th November)
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- It will host an Inter CCI Festival for the children who reside in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) to showcase their talents.
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- UNICEF will be supporting the event.
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Clouded Leopard

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- A Bornean Clouded Leopard (Neofelisdiardi), found only on Borneo and Indonesia's Sumatra were recently captured during daytime as a rare sighting.
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- It is a wild cat belongs to genus Neofelis. The other genus belongs to same family is Sunda Clouded Leopard (Neofelisdiardi).
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- It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and listed in CITES Appendix I.
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- The range of the clouded leopard extends from Nepal on the Indian subcontinent to southern China and throughout South-East Asia.
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- Clouded Leopard National Park is a national park in the Sipahijola Wildlife Sanctuary in Tripura.
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- It is the state animal of the Indian state of Meghalaya.
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Pacific Shadow zone

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- The shadow zone is an area of almost stagnant water sitting between rising currents caused by the rough topography and geothermal heat sources.
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- It is located at around **2km below the surface** of the Indian and Pacific Oceans with barely any vertical movement that suspends ocean water in an area, leaving the region directly above isolated for centuries.
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- The oldest water in the ocean in the North Pacific has remained trapped in it.
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- It traps millennia old ocean water, nutrients and carbon which have a direct impact on the capacity of the ocean to modify climate over centennial time scales.

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EkalSansthan

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- It is an autonomous organisation, drawing ideological inspiration from the RSS.
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- It sets up **one-teacher schools** across the country with a focus on rural and tribal areas.
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- It recently announced that such initiative will be extended to border areas.
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- The idea is to connect border areas with the national mainstream through education and better organize border villages which are vulnerable.
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- It will open 60 schools in the Lahul-spiti district of Himachal Pradesh as part of its initiative.
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Kakatiya-era temple

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- The 800 year old Sri Kasi Visweswara Temple, belongs to the kakatiya period, is located in Medak district in Telangana.
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- The capital of kakatiya dynasty is Warangal.
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- Eastern Chalukyas preceded kakatiyas and Bahmani sultanate succeeded it which was subsequently conquered by Vijayanagar Empire and Delhi Sultanate in the later period.
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- Rudrama Devi of this dynasty reigned around 1262–1289 CE.
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- The archaeological department has excavated the parts of the temple that remained buried.
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Source: The Hindu

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