Prelim Bits 17-09-2017

Black Planet

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- Astronomers have discovered a black planet using hubble space telescope.
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- It is formally called as WASP-12b, an exoplanet that reflects almost no light, making it appear essentially pitch black.
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- It orbits its parent star WASP-12A, about 1400 light year away.
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- Its albedo is 0.064, whereas the albedo of earth is 0.3 and moon is 0.12.
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- It is categorized as a hot Jupiter since its radius almost twice that of Jupiter and a year of just over one Earth day.
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- Albedo – Fraction of light falling on a surface that is reflected.
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- Exoplanet – A Planet that orbits a star other than a sun.
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Global Burden of Disease Study – 2016

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- Recent global burden of disease study – 2016 report has put forth comprehensive data on the leading causes of deaths in India.
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- According to the report, cardiovascular disease was the leading killer in 2016 followed by Diarrhoea, lower respiratory and infectious diseases being the 2^{nd} cause.
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- In India and world over, lifestyle diseases have increased, while deaths due to curable diseases have come down because of better medical care.
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- Nearly 72% of all deaths in 2016 were from non-communicable diseases.
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- The report also highlighted that smoking and poor diet remains leading risk factors of ill health.
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ATAGS

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- Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) is a indigenous artillery gun which has set a new world record in range by hitting targets at a distance of 48 km.
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- It is being jointly developed by the DRDO and the private sector.
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- The development is being done through a consortium based model, similar to that adopted for the pinaka multi-barrel rocket launch system.
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- The Army has not inducted any new artillery gun since the Bofors in the 1980's.
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- Last year, India signed a contract for 145 M-777 Ultra-Light Howitzers from the US.
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Gharial Exchange Programme

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- Bangladesh Forest Department and IUCN have piloted the first ever gharial exchange programme to initiate the captive breeding of the species in Bangladesh.
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- The gharial is a crocodilian of the family Gavialidae, native to the northern part of the Indian Subcontinent.
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- It is listed as “Critically Endangered” in the IUCN red list.
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- The gharial is one of three crocodilians native to India, the other two being the mugger crocodile and the saltwater crocodile.
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Source: The Hindu

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