Prelim Bits 24-12-2017

Huntington’s disease

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- Huntington’s disease (HD) is a fatal genetic disorder that causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the brain.
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- It deteriorates a person’s physical and mental abilities during their prime working years and has no cure.
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- It is known as the quintessential family disease because every child of a parent with HD has a 50/50 chance of carrying the faulty gene.
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- Researchers have recently reported that treatment with a compound called “CTEP” improved memory and also prevents harmful protein build ups in the brain.
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Tadoba Tiger Reserve

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- Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is located in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra.
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- It is Maharashtra’s oldest and largest National Park.
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- It is one of India's 47 project tiger reserves existing in India.
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- The word 'Tadoba' is derived from the name of God "Tadoba" or "Taru," which is praised by local tribal people of this region.
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- "Andhari" is derived from the name of Andhari River that flows in this area.
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- It is often referred to as “The Jewel of Vidarbha”.
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CRISPR

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- CRISPR stands for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats.
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- Researchers has recently used genome editing tool “CRISPR – Cas9” to partially treat the genetic deafness in mice.
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- A single mistake in “Tmc1 gene” causes loss of inner ear hair cells leading to deafness.
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- Scientists believe that the world could one day help treat certain forms of genetic hearing loss in humans.
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- CRISPR - Cas9 is a most prominent genome editing technique by targeting specific stretches of genetic code to edit DNA at precise locations.
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- The technique allows researchers to permanently modify genes in living cells and organisms and to correct mutations at precise locations in the human genome to treat genetic causes of disease.
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- It can be used to target multiple genes simultaneously and can also activate gene expression instead of cutting the DNA.
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Kaleswaram Project

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- Central government has recently granted environmental clearance to the Kaleswaram Project.
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- Pranahitha-Chevella Lift Irrigation Scheme was taken up in 2007 to utilise the water of Pranhita tributary of Godavari River.
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- After the formation of Telangana, the project was redesigned into two sections.
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- The original component serving the Adilabad area was called the Pranahitha

project.
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- The second part is called Kaleswaram Project serving the Karimnagar, Warangal, Nizamabad and Medak districts.
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- Water from Godavari River after the confluence by the Pranahita tributary is lifted to provide lift irrigation facility.
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- Lift Irrigation project - Pumps are used to lift the water from canals or rivers at lower level to the area at higher level for irrigation purpose.
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Ganga Gram

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- Ganga Gram is a project for sanitation based integrated development of all 4470 villages along the River Ganga.
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- Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation is the nodal agency for implementation of the Ganga Gram Project.
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Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY)

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- PMRPY Scheme has been designed to incentivise employers for generation of new employment.
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- Government of India will be paying the 8.33% EPS contribution of the employer for the new employment.
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- This scheme has a dual benefit, where, on the one hand, the employer is incentivised for increasing the employment base of workers in the establishment.
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- On the other hand, a large number of workers will find jobs in such establishments.
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- A direct benefit is that these workers will have access to social security benefits of the organized sector.

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Source: The Hindu, PIB

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