Prelim Bits 27-11-2018

PAISA

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- Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access was recently launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
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- It is a centralized electronic web platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).
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- Allahabad Bank is the nodal bank for this portal.
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- It enables the government to connect directly with the beneficiaries and ensuring greater transparency and efficiency in delivery of services.
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- All the States & UTs, all scheduled commercial banks, RRBs and Cooperative Banks are expected to deploy this portal.
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Virtual Climate Summit

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- It is an innovative climate summit which is an entirely online event to be a carbon neutral event.
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- It is the world’s first ever political global meeting to be held in online.
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- Its focus is on to renew political momentum in tackling climate change.
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- It was announced in the Global Environment Facility (GEF) assembly recently held in Vietnam.
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- It is the brainchild of Marshall Islands President who insisted upon such summit in the GEF assembly.
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- The summit is convened by the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) in its capacity as the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) chair.
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- Its main aim is to encourage the international community to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
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Climate Vulnerable Forum

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- The climate vulnerable forum is an international partnership of countries highly vulnerable to a warming planet.
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- The Forum serves as a South-South cooperation platform for participating governments to act together to deal with global climate change.
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- It brings together climate vulnerable developing countries from across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific.
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- The forum held its first meeting in Maldives in the year 2009.
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- CVF High-level meeting was last convened during the UNFCCC Climate Change Conference in Paris (COP21).
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- The Manila-Paris Declaration and the 2016-2018 Roadmap of the CVF, adopted at this meeting, spell out the CVF's planned efforts during this time period.
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- The forum has a rotating chairmanship that has been held by Maldives, Kiribati, Bangladesh, Costa Rica and Philippines, Ethiopia and currently held by Republic of Marshall.
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Hantaviruses

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- Hantaviruses are a group of viruses that may be carried by some rodents.
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- It was first identified in the year 1993.
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- It can cause severe and sometimes fatal respiratory infections and are known to infect lung cells.
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- It can cause a rare but deadly disease called Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS).
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- It is transmitted to humans who inhale the virus from the urine, faeces, or saliva of infected rodents.
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- No treatments or vaccines are available.
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- Infections caused by them are expected to increase in the coming decades as temperatures across the globe rise due to climate change.
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Migration Pact

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- The Australian government has recently decided to withdraw from the UN's Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.
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- Earlier, USA, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland had withdrawn from the agreement.
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- The agreement was signed in the UNGA by adopting a political declaration "New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants" in 2016.
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- The declaration pledged to uphold the rights of refugees, help them resettle and ensure they have access to education.
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- The pact is not binding on member countries.
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- It is aiming to make migration all over the world safer.
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- It addresses issues such as how to protect migrants and how to integrate them into new countries or how to return them to their original home countries.
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- Under the agenda, member States committed to cooperate internationally to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration.
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Hausla – 2018

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- It is the national festival for children of child care institutions (CCI) organized by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
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- The theme of the event is “Child Safety”.
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- It will host an inter CCI competition for children who reside in child care institutions to showcase their talents.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu

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