

## **Prelim Bits 19-04-2018**

### **National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges**

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• The first meeting of the National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges was held recently in New Delhi.

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• The Council was set up under POSHAN Abhiyaan which is the apex body to formulate overall policies, guide and monitor all nutrition based schemes.

• The mandate of the Council is:

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1. To provide policy directions to address India's Nutrition Challenges through coordinated inter-sectoral action

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2. To coordinate and review convergence among ministries  $\n$ 

3. To review programmes for nutrition on a quarterly basis  $\n$ 

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- The Council will submit its report to the Prime Minister every 6 months.
- The annual targets set under POSHAN Abhiyaan beginning 2017-18 are as below.

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S.No	Objective	Target
1.	Prevent and reduce stunting in children (0-6years)	By 6% @ 2% p.a.
2	Prevent and reduce under-nutrition (underweight prevalence) in children (0-6 years)	By 6% @ 2% p.a.
3	Reduce the prevalence of anemia among young Children(6-59 months)	By 9% @ 3% p.a.
4	Reduce the prevalence of anemia among Women and Adolescent Girls in the age group of 15-49 years.	By 9% @ 3% p.a.
5	Reduce Low Birth Weight (LBW).	By 6% @ 2% p.a.

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## **National Clean Air Program (NCAP)**

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• The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) released a concept note on the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) recently.

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- The NCAP aspires to overcome the deficits of the ongoing government initiatives targeted towards air pollution control.
- The NCAP was conceived as a detailed strategy to ensure that cities across
  the country meet specified air quality norms.
- It lays down a comprehensive strategy framework for enhanced management of air quality.

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• It also, for the first time, plans to set up pollution-monitoring stations in rural areas.

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• It envisions setting up 1,000 manual air-quality-monitoring stations and automatic stations.

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 $\bullet$  The document highlights lack of indigenous studies establishing the correlation between exposure to air pollution and human health. \n • A high-level apex committee and working group has, therefore, been constituted under the Indian Council of Medical Research and the MoEFCC to overcome this deficit.

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#### **Star rating of Garbage-Free Cities**

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- The 1st regional workshop on star rating of garbage- free cities was inaugurated recently.
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- It was organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in collaboration with the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)
- Along with the annual Swachh Survekshan activity, the star rating of garbage free cities will create a healthy competition among the cities to achieve the goals of cleanliness and 100% solid waste management.

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• The 7-star rating is innovatively designed on a SMART (Single metric, Measurable, Achievable, Rigorous verification and Targeted towards outcomes) approach.

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• It is the first-of-its kind rating tool for assessing cleanliness of cities and towns in India.

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- The system, based on 12 parameters, builds on the spirit of healthy competition among cities and the aspirations of cities to progress towards higher standards of "Swachhata" and its sustainability.
- Strengths of star rating protocol -\n

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- Outcome-based tool rather than process based \n
- 2. Designed to enable cities to gradually evolve into a model (7-star) city  $\n$
- 3. At the 7-star level, components of 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) are incorporated.

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#### **Hope spots**

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• In 2013 Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep islands were named as the "hope spots".

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 This recognition was given by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Mission Blue, an organization involved in the study of oceans.

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• A Hope Spot is any special place that is critical to the health of the ocean—Earth's blue heart.

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- It is an area of an ocean that needs special protection because of its wildlife and significant underwater habitats.
- $\bullet$  The two groups of islands are the first places in India to have been added in the list of global hope spots. \n

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## **Advanced Landing Grounds (ALG)**

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• Fighters, helicopters and transport assets have been deployed at the Advanced Landing Grounds (ALG) as part of the ongoing IAF exercise <u>'Gaganshakti-2018'</u>.

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• ALGs are **short prepared or unprepared airstrips** close to the borders in the valleys, which have limited rail or road connectivity due to challenging terrain.

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- ALGs located strategically offer an opportunity for swift mobility of troops and equipment close to our Northern and North Eastern borders.
- The challenges faced by pilots in landing at these ALGs are unpredictable weather, undulating terrain, narrow corridor of maneuvering and short runway lengths.

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 A large number of ALGs have been operationalized and are being utilized for conducting Inter Valley Troop Transfers (IVTT), Special Heliborne

# Operations, Air Landed operations and Special Operations.

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## **Groundswell Report**

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 World Bank released the Groundswell: Preparing for Internal Climate Migration report recently.

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• It examines the impacts of internal or in-country migration due to slow onset climate change events.

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• Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America could see more than 140 million people move within their countries' borders by 2050 due to climate change impact.

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• The report is the first to look at such possible population distributions within countries.

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• It estimates that up to 86 million people could be displaced in Sub-Saharan Africa, 40 million in South Asia, and 17 million in Latin America.

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• These regions are the major climate "hot spots" and account for 55% of the developing world's population.

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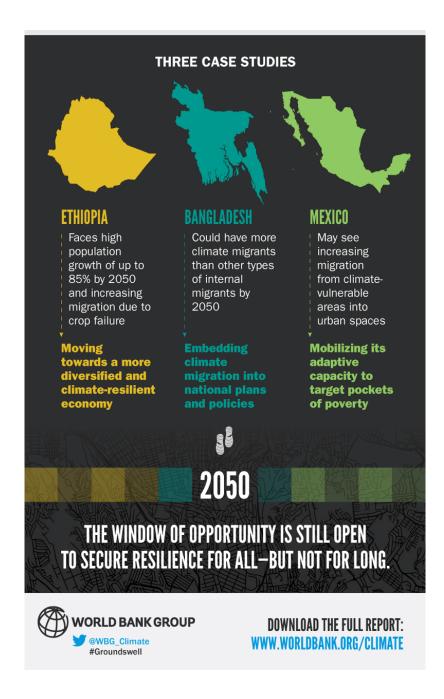
• The shift will likely involve the poorest people from the poorest countries moving in large numbers from rural regions to increasingly overburdened urban areas.

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• The report says that without prior planning, such dramatic swells of migration could lead to major disruption and instability.

• The World Bank urged cities to prepare infrastructure, social services and employment opportunities ahead of the predicted influx.

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Source: PIB, The Hindu, Business Standard

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