

Prelims Bits 07-01-2018

National Clean Air Programme

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- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has formulated National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a medium term national level strategy to tackle the increasing air pollution problem across the country.

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- The overall objective is to ensure a comprehensive management plan for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution.

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- The NCAP focuses on collaborative and participatory approach covering all sources of pollution and coordination between relevant Central Ministries, State Governments, local bodies and other stakeholders.

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- A separate component on 'Technology Assessment Cell' has been envisaged under NCAP to evaluate the technologies for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution.

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National Tobacco Control Policy

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- Union government is planning to propose a policy for enforcing various provisions of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products.

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- As of now Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution Act, 2003 (COTPA 2003), lies with the States/Union Territories.

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- At present there is a National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) with one objective of ensuring effective implementation of the provisions under COTPA, 2003.

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- There are State and District Level Coordination Committees under NTCP to

oversee its implementation.

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Milk under price stabilisation fund

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- To create additional domestic demand for milk the agriculture ministry has sought inclusion of the milk under the Price Stabilisation Fund scheme.

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- If milk is included in the Price Stabilisation Fund, it would enable states to distribute milk through the public distribution system.

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- The Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) was set up under the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) and later transferred to Department of Consumer Affairs (DOCA).

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- It aims to help regulate the price volatility of important agri-horticultural commodities like onion, potatoes and pulses were also added subsequently.

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Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh

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- In the Budget 2017-18, an exclusive fund called “Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh” (RRSK) has been made.

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- The fund has a corpus of Rs.1 lakh crore over a period of 5 years.

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- This fund will be used for giving a major boost to safety related works for improving safety of tracks, rolling stock and proliferation of other safety technologies and training of staff.

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Bomb Cyclone

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- It's a weather term that applies to a massive winter storm that struck off the

U.S. Southeast, the storm has dumped freak snow in this region.

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- This storm will usually stay out to sea and blow with high winds gusts exceeding 100 kmph.

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- Bomb cyclones draw air from Polar Regions after they leave it means extra cold Arctic air this is based on polar vortex.

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- Storm intensity is measured by central pressure the lower the pressure, the stronger.

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- A storm is considered a "bomb" when the pressure drops rapidly at least 24 millibars in 24 hours, Millibar is the unit of atmospheric air pressure.

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Polar Vortex

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- The polar vortex is a large area of low pressure and cold air surrounding both of the Earth's poles.

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- It always exists near the poles, but weakens in summer and strengthens in winter.

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- The term "vortex" refers to the counter-clockwise flow of air that helps keep the colder air near the Poles.

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- Many times during winter in the northern hemisphere, the polar vortex will expand, sending cold air southward with the jet stream.

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- This occurs fairly regularly during wintertime and is often associated with large outbreaks of Arctic air in the United States.

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- Polar vortex is not a feature that exists at the Earth's surface and it is not confined to the U.S.

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- Portions of Europe and Asia also experience cold surges connected to the polar vortex.

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Source: PIB, The Hindu, Business Standard

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