Prelim Bits 14-03-2018

Fight against plastic pollution

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- A study stated that krill could prove to be a potent weapon in the fight against the growing threat of plastic pollution in the world's oceans.
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- The tiny zooplankton are capable of digesting microplastics – under 5 millimetres (0.2 inches) – before excreting them back into the environment in an even smaller form.
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- On average, the excreted fragments are 78 % smaller than the original beads with some reduced by 94 %.
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- Every year, more than eight million tons of plastics ends up in the ocean.
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- It costs billions of dollars in damage to marine ecosystems and killing an estimated one million sea birds, 100,000 sea mammals and untold numbers of fish.
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- Click here to know more about Antarctica krill.
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Bauxite

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- India with an estimate 3.48 billion tons of bauxite has 11 % ownership of the world bauxite resources.
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- Bauxite is a sedimentary rock with relatively high aluminum content.
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- Bauxite is found in two varieties- the metallurgical and non-metallurgical.
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- Aluminum is widely used by automobile industry, for making aircraft, among others.
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- The metallurgical grade is refined into alumina and the smelted into aluminum.
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- The non-metallurgical grade is used in abrasives, cement and refractories.
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- Orissa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh are the main bauxite producing states in India.
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Fisheries to get less productive by 2300

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- Global fisheries to be 20% less productive due to the increase in mean surface air temperature.
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- The future climate condition will be characterized by 9.6 degrees Celsius increase in mean surface air temperature.
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- The extended climate warming will drastically alter wind patterns, boost ocean surface temperatures and melt nearly all the sea ice in Polar Regions
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- Resulting in changes in the phytoplankton growth and ocean circulation around Antarctica, with the net effect of transferring nutrients from the upper ocean to the deep ocean.
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- Therefore, marine ecosystems to the north will be increasingly starved for nutrients, leading to less primary production (photosynthesis) by phytoplankton, which form the base of ocean food chains.
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Curbing Population Growth

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- Among the various reasons for most problems associated with providing

healthcare and employment, social security etc., population growth is one of the factors.
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- As per the 2017 revision of United Nations World Population prospects, India's population is projected to be 1.50 billion by 2030 only.
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- Government of India has taken various steps to curb the population growth such as Mission Parivar Vikas, new Family Planning media campaign , scheme to ensure spacing of births by ASHAs etc.,
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- As a result of Governments initiatives, the decadal growth rate has declined significantly from 21.15% in census 2001 to 17.64% in census 2011.
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\n\n	\nNFHS -3\n	\nNFHS-4\n
\nCrude Birth rate\n	\n23.1%\n	\n19%\n
\nTotal Fertility rate\n	\n2.6%\n	\n2.2%\n
\nTotal unmet contraceptive need\n	\n13.9%\n	\n12.9%\n

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- Click here to know about Mission Parivar vikas
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PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) Abhiyan

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- POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched by the Prime Minister recently in Jhunjhunu ,Rajasthan.
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- The abhiyan may include the following nutrition strategies and interventions
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1. supplementary nutrition,
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2. IYCF(Infant and Young Child Feeding)immunisation,
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3. food fortification,
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4. adolescent nutrition,
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5. dietary diversification
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6. maternal health
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- Behavior change communication is the key component of POSHAN Abhiyaan for converting it into Jan Andolan (People's movement).
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- The Executive Committee is the Apex body for all Nutrition related activities under the POSHAN Abhiyaan.
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- National Council on India's nutritional challenges under chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, has been set up under the POSHAN Abhiyaan.
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Strategic Partnership Model in Defense Acquisition

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- The policy on Strategic Partnerships in Defense sector was approved by Defence Acquisition Council last year.
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- The policy is intended to institutionalize a transparent, objective and functional mechanism to encourage broader participation of the private sector n the manufacture of defense platforms and equipment.
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- The following four segments have been identified for acquisition under Strategic Partnership (SP) route\n
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    a. Fighter Aircraft
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    b. Helicopters
    \n
    c. Submarines

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d. Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFVs) / Main Battle Tanks (MBTs).
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- The Strategic Partnership Model (SPM) is a different category of Capital Acquisition in addition to the existing categories such as 'Buy (Indian-IDDM)', 'Buy (Indian)', 'Buy & Make (Indian)', 'Buy & Make' and 'Buy (Global)'.
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- Click here to know more about SPM
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Map of the Day

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Europe

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- Greenland and Faroe Islands are autonomous constituent countries within the Kingdom of Denmark.
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- Norway, Sweden and Denmark are called Scandinavian Countries.
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- Scandinavia along with Finland and Iceland including Greenland and Faroe Islands are called Nordic Countries.
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- Balkan Peninsula is comprised of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia with portions of Greece and Turkey.

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- Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are called Baltic Countries.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu, Business Standard

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