Prelim Bits 15-06-2017

Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight

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- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the IDCF in order to intensify efforts to reduce child deaths due to diarrhoea.
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- The Ministry has made it a national priority to bring health outcomes among children to a level equitable with the rest of the world.
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- Through this initiative, the Ministry will **mobilize health personnel,** State Governments and other stakeholders to prioritize investment in control of diarrhea.
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- It aims to create **mass awareness** about the most effective and low-cost diarrhoea treatment— a combination of Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) solution and Zinc tablets.
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- ASHA worker would undertake distribution of ORS packets to households with under-five children in her village.
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- Besides this, introduction of **Rotavirus vaccine** under UIP will also help in reducing diarrhoea mortality due to rotavirus disease.
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Emiliania huxleyi

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- A **sudden change in the colour** (blue waters to a milky turquoise) of the Bosphorus Strait that divides the continents of Europe and Asia in Turkey's largest city Istanbul has surprised residents.
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- NASA said the milky colouration is "likely due to the growth of a particular phytoplankton called a **coccolithophore**". Emiliania huxleyi is a species of coccolithophore.

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- This organism is plated with white calcium carbonate and, **when present in large numbers,** tend to turn the water a milky sheen.
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- One of the most successful life-forms on the planet, Emiliania huxleyi is a single-celled organism visible only under a microscope.
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- Its astonishing adaptability enables it to thrive in waters from the equator to the sub-Arctic.
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Rescue wards in Thar desert

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- With an average of nearly 1,000 injuries a year, **the wildlife in Thar desert has witnessed 60% mortality** because of lack of transport to the main rescue centre at the Jodhpur zoo.
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- This has led to the depletion of wildlife, mainly **chinkaras (Indian gazelles).**
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- The Forest Department’s move to set up 17 rescue wards has come as a much-needed support to the **Bishnoi community of western Rajasthan,** which has been in the forefront of wildlife conservation.
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- Bishnois risk their lives to save gazelles from poachers and transport injured animals to Jodhpur.
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Eklavya Model Residential Schools

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- Eklavya Model Residential School Scheme was started in 1998 and first school was started in the year 2000 in Maharashtra.
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- A total of 259 schools have been sanctioned during the last 17 years, out of which, 72 EMRS were sanctioned during last three years.
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- EMRSs have been functioning as **institutions of excellence for tribal students.** Results of these schools have been generally better than other

Government schools in the tribal areas.
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- As per existing EMRS Guidelines of 2010, **at least one EMRS is to be set up** in each Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) / Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) having 50% ST population in the area.
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- More than 52 thousand tribal students are taking education in 161 EMR Schools of 26 States.
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