



Prelim Bits 18-09-2018

World Ozone Day

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- 24th World Ozone Day is being celebrated with the theme "Keep Cool and Carry on" : The Montreal Protocol.

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- The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer has been recognized as the most successful international environment treaty in history.

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- It is the only environmental treaty which enjoys universal ratification of 197 UN members countries.

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- The protocol and its amendments have banned the use of ozone destroying chemicals and the rate of ozone depletion seems to have slowed.

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- Its implementation has not only led to the phase-out of around 98% of ozone depleting chemicals, but also averted more than 135 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions.

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India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)

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- Union Environment Ministry has recently released India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP).

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- ICAP addresses cooling requirement across sectors and lists out actions which can help reduce the cooling demand.

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- India is the first country in world to develop such a document.

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- Its goal is to provide sustainable cooling and thermal comfort for all while securing environmental and socio-economic benefits for the society.
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- This will help in reducing both direct and indirect emissions.
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- The interventions under the action plan includes,
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- (i) Recognition of “cooling and related areas” as a thrust area
- \n(ii) Reduction of cooling demand across sectors
- \n(iii) Reduction of refrigerant demand
- \n(iv) Reduction of cooling energy requirements
- \n(v) Training and certification of 100,000 servicing sector technicians by the year 2022-23, in synergy with Skill India Mission.

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Hydrogen Powered Train

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- Germany has rolled out the world’s first hydrogen-powered train.
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- Hydrogen trains are equipped with fuel cells that produce electricity through a combination of hydrogen and oxygen, a process that leaves steam and water as the only emissions.
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- Excess energy is stored in ion lithium batteries on board the train.
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- Thus, the technology is eco-friendly when compared to polluting diesel trains.
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Planet Hunter Telescope

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- NASA’s newest planet hunter telescope, the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), has recently shared the first science image capturing exoplanets.
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- The principal goal of the TESS mission is to detect small planets with bright host stars in the solar neighborhood
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- It will survey 200,000 of the brightest stars near the sun to search for transiting exoplanets.
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- The spacecraft will be looking for a phenomenon known as a transit, where a planet passes in front of its star, causing a periodic and regular dip in the star's brightness.
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- It will do an all-sky survey from an orbit between the Earth and the moon.
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- It is the next step in the search for planets outside of our solar system, including those that could support life.
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Rashtriya Poshan Maah

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- Ministry of AYUSH and Central Council of Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) celebrated Rashtriya Poshan Maah (National Nutrition Month).
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- PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) Abhiyan strive to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and low birth weight babies.
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- It targets to reduce stunting, undernutrition, anemia and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
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- Mission 25 by 2022 - Although it targets to reduce stunting by 2%, Mission would strive to achieve reduction in Stunting from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 25% by 2022.
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- It may include 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,

- \n5. dietary diversification
- \n6. maternal health

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- Behaviour change communication is the key component of POSHAN Abhiyaan for converting it into Jan Andolan (People's movement).
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- All the States and districts will be covered in a phased manner i.e. 315 districts in 2017-18, 235 districts in 2018-19 and remaining districts in 2019-20.
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- It will be funded 50% by the Government of India and 50% by World Bank or other Multinational Development Banks.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu

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