

**14 MAY 2019****EXPERTS ASK NIN TO WITHDRAW REPORT FAVOURING AKSHAY PATRA****In News:**

Doctors, researchers and activists addressed an open letter to scientists at the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) urging them to withdraw a report that declared mid-day meals provided without onion and garlic by the Akshaya Patra Foundation (APF) as compliant with the government's nutritional norms on grounds that the conclusion is not based on empirical evidence.

**In Brief:**

The Karnataka government had sought a technical report from NIN following complaints by the State Food Commission as well as civil society groups about the foundation's refusal to provide onion and garlic in the food supplied to 2,814 schools in six districts in the State, which was in violation of norms prescribed by the local as well as the Central government.

The NIN was asked to look into four major issues viz, nutritional compliance, food safety measures, taste, and diversity of meals. Earlier, the Karnataka State Food Commission (KSFC), noted that the food provided by APF was bland and monotonous, as a result of which children were consuming less than the prescribed quantity of meals, defeating the purpose of the mid-day meal scheme.

Following the KSFC's findings, a specific menu was prescribed for contractors, but APF had violated these norms. They also say that APF's refusal to provide onion and garlic on religious grounds is a violation of the law.

In its report on February 14, 2019, the NIN had submitted that the nutritive value of APF's meals "certainly meet and often exceed the prescribed energy and protein requirements" and cited "convincing personal accounts" by scientists who visited APF's kitchens as proof of high safety standards. It concluded that the mid-day meals served by APF complied with nutrition norms laid down by the government.

**National Nutritional Mission****About NNM:**

- NNM is an apex body under Ministry of Women and Child Development
- It will monitor, supervise, fix targets and guide nutrition related interventions across the Ministries.
- It will monitor various schemes contributing towards addressing malnutrition.

**Why needed?**

- There are number of schemes directly and indirectly affecting nutritional status of children (0-6 years age) and pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- In spite of these, level of malnutrition and related problems in country is high.
- There are number of schemes but there is lack in creating synergy and linking between schemes to achieve common goal.
- NNM through robust convergence mechanism and other components will strive to create synergy.

**Function of NNM**

- Introducing a very robust convergence mechanism including ICT based Real Time Monitoring system.
- It will incentivize states/UTs for meeting the targets.
- It will also incentivize Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) for using IT based tools. It will eliminate registers used by AWWs.
- It will introduce measurement of height of children at the Anganwadi

**NOTE**

Centres (AWCs).

- It will aid to conduct Social Audits.
- It will set-up Nutrition Resource Centres, involving masses through Jan Andolan for their participation on nutrition through various activities, among others.

### Implementation strategy and targets

- It will be rolled out in three phases from 2017-18 to 2019-20.
- It will set targets to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia among young children, women and adolescent girls and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
- Its implementation strategy will be based on intense monitoring and Convergence Action Plan right upto grass root level.
- Though NMM has set target to reduce stunting is atleast 2% per annum, but it will strive to achieve reduction in stunting to 25% by 2022 (Mission 25 by 2022) from 38.4% (NFHS-4).

## CTBTO INVITES INDIA TO BE AN OBSERVER AT MEETINGS

### In News:

- The executive secretary of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), Lassina Zerbo, has invited India to be an observer in the CTBT.

### In Brief:

- Being an observer would give India access to data from the International Monitoring System — a network which when complete will consist of 337 facilities (321 monitoring stations and 16 radionuclide labs) located in 89 countries.
- This system can detect even small nuclear explosions using seismology, hydroacoustics, infrasound and radionuclide technology.

## Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty – CTBT

### India & CTBT

- India's commitment to a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing dates back to 1954 when Jawaharlal Nehru called for a "standstill agreement" whereby testing of all nuclear weapons was to be immediately suspended, pending an agreement on their complete prohibition.
- It was again at India's initiative that the item "Suspension of Nuclear and Thermo-Nuclear Tests" was included in the agenda of the UN in 1959.

### Background

- The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)—described as the "longest sought and hardest fought for arms control treaty in history"—was opened for signature in September 1996.
- The CTBT obligates countries that sign and ratify "not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion."
- It provides for an extensive verification regime including an International Monitoring System (IMS) to detect nuclear explosions, a global infrastructure for satellite communications from IMS stations to an International Data Center (IDC) that processes and distributes data to State Parties, and for on-site inspections, which may be requested by any State Party to determine whether suspected cheating has occurred.
- To implement these verification arrangements, the treaty establishes a Comprehensive Test Ban Organization (CTBTO) located in Vienna.

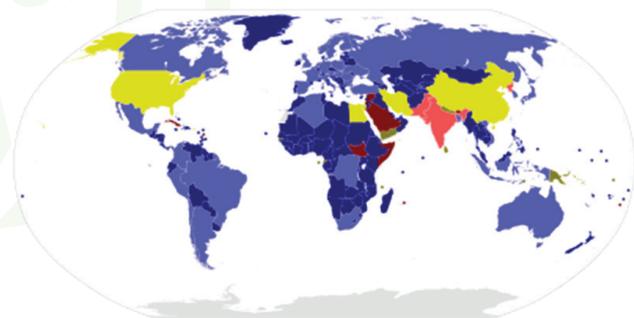
### NOTE



### Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

- To enter into force, the 44 countries that in 1996 possessed nuclear research or power reactors must ratify the CTBT.
- At present, 41 of these 44 countries have signed the treaty but only 31 have ratified.
- Non-signatories include India, North Korea, and Pakistan. The United States, which led the effort to conclude a CTBT and was the first to sign the treaty is, along with China, among those who have signed but not ratified.
- In 1999, the U.S. Senate, whose advice and consent is required for international treaties to become valid and binding, voted not to give its consent to ratify. Beside partisan considerations, this was prompted by concerns with the ability of the United States to maintain the safety, security, and reliability of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, and with the adequacy of the treaty's verification provisions to detect low-yield tests.

<b>Opened for signature</b>	<b>September 10, 1996 in New York</b>
<b>Entered into force</b>	Not Yet In Force
<b>Conditions for entry into force</b>	The treaty will enter into force 180 days after it is ratified by all of the following 44 countries: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, People's Republic of China, Colombia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Romania, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vietnam.
<b>Parties</b>	144, including 35 of the 44 countries (as of 1 February 2008)



### What is the CTBTO and what does it do?

- The abbreviation stands for the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. The organization promotes the Treaty so that it can enter into force. It also establishes a verification regime to monitor adherence to the Treaty. The organization was founded in 1996 and employs a staff of roughly 260 from the CTBT's Members States.

### OIL TANKERS ATTACKED NEAR HORMUZ STRAIT

- Two crude oil tankers owned by Saudi shipping firm Bahri, a UAE-flagged fuel bunker barge and a Norwegian-registered oil products tanker were attacked off the coast of the United Arab Emirates in Strait of Hormuz.
- No side has taken responsibility for the alleged acts of sabotage

#### NOTE



## DNA DATABASE FOR INDIAN RHINO

World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF-India) and the Centre-funded Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has embarked on a project to create DNA profiles of all rhinos in the country by 2021.

The exercise would be useful in curbing poaching and gathering evidence in wildlife crimes involving rhinos.

### About Indian one-horned Rhinoceros:

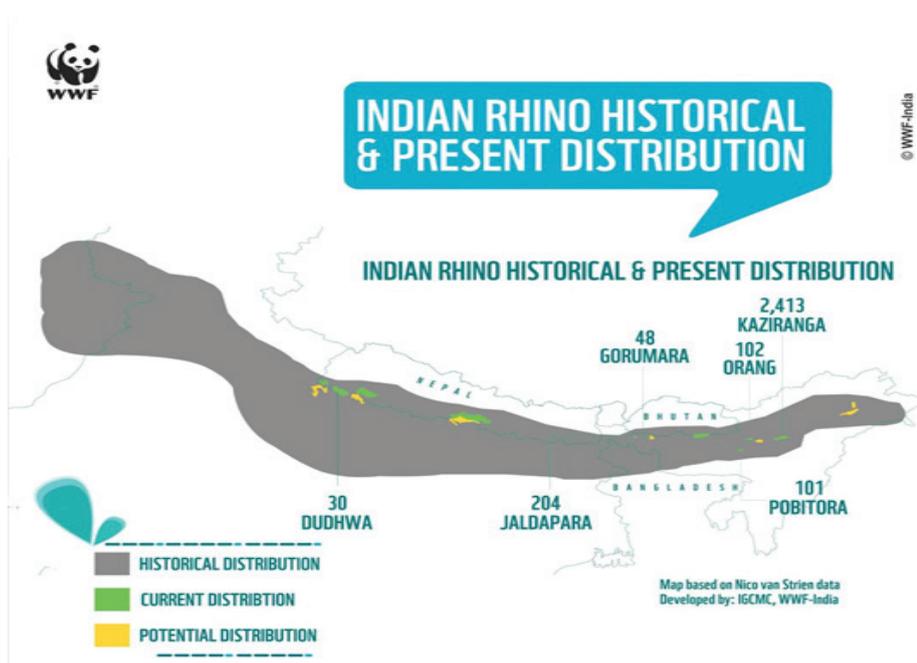
- It is also the second-largest living rhinoceros, behind only the white rhinoceros.
- There are about 2,600 rhinos in India, with more than 90% of the population concentrated in Assam's Kaziranga National Park.
- IUCN status: Vulnerable
- The rhino's most important habitat, alluvial grassland and riverine forest, is considered to be in decline due to human and livestock encroachment.

### About WWF:

- Founded in 1961 it is headquartered in Gland, Switzerland
- To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:
- Conserving the world's biological diversity
- Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption
- World's largest conservation organization with over five million supporters worldwide
- The Living Planet Report is published every two years by WWF

### About WII:

- It is an Autonomous Institution of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change established in 1982 in Dehradun.
- It offers training program, academic courses and advisory in wildlife research and management.
- WII has a research facility which includes Forensics, Remote Sensing and GIS, Laboratory, Herbarium, and an Electronic Library.



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