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## Important Facts for Prelims (7th February 2019)

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### Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog

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- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for the establishment of **Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog for Conservation protection and development of cows and their progeny** in pursuance of the announcement in the Union Budget 2019-20.
- Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog will lead to **conservation, protection, and development of the cattle population in the country** including the development and conservation of indigenous breeds.
- It will result in **increased growth of the livestock sector** which is more inclusive, benefiting women, and small and marginal farmers.
- The Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog will work **in collaboration with Veterinary, Animal Sciences or Agriculture University or departments or organizations of the Central/State Government** engaged in the task of research in the field of breeding and rearing of the cow, organic manure, biogas etc.

### Sri Lanka To Re-introduce Death Penalty

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- **Sri Lanka has decided to end the country's moratorium on capital punishment** due to an upsurge in drug-related crimes.
- Sri Lanka had imposed a moratorium on the capital punishment penalty in 1976.
- Human rights groups have criticized the decision and said that there is no evidence that carrying out executions would serve as a deterrent to drug use or trafficking.
- **Global Trends**
  - As of October 2018, 170 States have either abolished the death penalty or introduced a moratorium on its use.
  - However, 23 states including India, have carried out at least one execution in the past decade.

[Death Penalty Debate](#)

## 2018 Was the 4th Hottest Year

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- According to U.N.'s **World Meteorological Organisation**, report **2018 is set to be the fourth warmest year in recorded history**, stressing the urgent need for action to rein in runaway planetary warming.
- **WMO concluded that average global surface temperature in 2018 was 1°C (1.8°F) above pre-industrial baseline levels.**
- 2016, boosted by a strong El Nino remains the hottest year on record.
- The WMO said that the 20 warmest years in history all occurred within the last 22 years.
- The WMO said heightened temperatures also contributed to a number of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, droughts and flash flooding.

### **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**

- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** is an intergovernmental organization with a membership of 192 Member States and Territories.
- It originated from the **International Meteorological Organization (IMO)**, which was established after the 1873 Vienna International Meteorological Congress.
- **Established by the ratification of the WMO Convention on 23 March 1950**, WMO became the specialized agency of the United Nations for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.
- WMO is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland.**