Prelim Bits 07-04-2017

Belmont Forum

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- The Belmont Forum, created in 2009, is a high level group of the world's major funders of global environmental change research and international science councils.
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- It provides an opportunity to identify, study and deliver international environmental research priorities.
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- India is a member of Belmont Forum, besides Australia, Brazil, Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Netherland, South Africa, UK and USA etc.
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- Ministry of Earth Science represents India in the Belmont Forum since 2012.
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- In order to coordinate the activities of the Belmont, a Full time Secretariat is hosted by one of the Belmont forum member on rotational basis.
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- National French Research Agency (ANR), France is hosting the Secretariat from January, 2015 to December, 2017.
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- Recently, India has approved the collaborative agreement with ANR France for supporting the Belmont Forum Secretariat from 2015 to 2017.
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Mahatma Bunker Bima Yojana

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- The Scheme is implemented by Ministry of Textiles.
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- The objective of the scheme is to provide **insurance cover to handloom weavers** in case of natural death (Rs. 60,000/-), accidental death

(Rs.1,50,000/-), total disability (Rs.1,50,000/-) and partial disability (Rs. 75,000/-).
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- In addition to above, a scholarship of Rs.300/- per quarter per child is available to students studying in standards IX to XII. The benefit is restricted to two children of the member covered.
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Water Management Index

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- The index is developed by **Niti Aayog.**
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- The index acts as a useful tool to assess and further improve the performance in efficient management of water resources.
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- The Index has 28 key Performance Indicators covering irrigation status, drinking water and other water-related sectors.
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- Niti Aayog will prepare the index for States/Union Territories from the current financial year (2017-18).
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- The index would provide useful information for the States and Central Ministries enabling them to formulate and implement suitable strategies for better management of water resources.
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