Prelim Bits 26-04-2018

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0

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- The second stage of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan was launched recently.
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- It is a flagship program of the Ministry of Human Resources Development, with the intention to enrich Rural India.
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- It aims to create a vibrant relationship between the society and the higher educational institutes.
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- It is aimed at making higher education institutions provide solutions to problems of villages.
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- Providing the knowledge and technology support to improve the livelihoods in rural areas and upgrading the capabilities of both the public and private organizations in the society are the means.
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- Both technical and non-technical institutions have been invited to build systems in villages as per their strengths.
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- IIT Delhi has been designated to function as the National Coordinating Institute for this program.
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- Each selected institute would adopt a cluster of villages / panchayats and gradually expand the outreach over a period of time.
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- The key points include
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i. helping villages achieve 100% school results
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ii. creating 25 jobs each in four sectors in each village where work would take place
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iii. increasing rural incomes
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iv. providing drinking water and sanitation to villages
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v. disposing village garbage, etc
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United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

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- Desertification was addressed for the first time in 1977 in the United Nations Conference on Desertification.
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- This was followed by the adoption of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Paris on 1994.
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- The Convention entered into force in 1996.
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- It is **one of the three Rio Conventions**, along with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
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- It is the **sole legally binding international agreement** linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
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- The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands.
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- This is where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and people can be found.
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- **India** became a **signatory** to the Convention on 1994 and ratified it on 1996.
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- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**) is the **nodal Ministry** to co-ordinate all issues pertaining to the Convention.
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- The Convention holds a biennial Conference of Parties (CoP) to the Convention and the last CoP was held in China in 2016.
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HARIMAU SHAKTI 2018

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- Harimau Shakti is a **joint training exercise conducted by India and Malaysia** in dense forests Hulu Langat in Malaysia.
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- The exercise is aimed at bolstering cooperation and coordination between armed forces of both the nations.
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- It will share the expertise of both the contingents in conduct of counter insurgency operations in jungle terrain.
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- Indian contingent is being represented by one of the oldest infantry battalions, Grenadiers.
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- This is the first instance wherein a joint training exercise of this magnitude involving Indian and Malaysian soldiers is being organized on Malaysian soil.
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Bhabha Kavach

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- Bhabha Kavach is an armour panel, which gives personal protection against bullets, of different threat levels.
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- It is developed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).
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- The jacket was developed at BARC’s Trombay centre in response to a request from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Ministry of Home Affairs.
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- It was named after nuclear physicist Dr. Homi J. Bhabha.
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- It is not only cheaper but also much lighter.
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- It is made of boron carbide and carbon nanotube polymer composite.
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- BARC has been using boron carbide in the control rods of its nuclear reactors.
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- It weighs just 6.6 kg in comparison to the 17-kg jackets in use, and use of boron carbide for jacket is the first in India.
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- The imported jacket costs Rs 1.5 Lakhs whereas Bhabha Kavach will cost Rs 60,000-70,000.
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- BARC has transferred the technology of Bhabha Kavach to Mishra Dhatu Nigam, Hyderabad, for its large-scale production.
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Predicament of Returning Mothers

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- The report titled “Predicament of Returning Mothers” highlights the challenges faced by women who are at high risk of dropping out due to pregnancy and child care.
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- The following are the key factors that help women return to work post-maternity leave:
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1. a strong sense of identity
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2. a precedence of women working in family
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3. presence of role models that they could relate to
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4. support from mothers-in-law, husbands and social circle
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5. financial instability at home that drives them to work and earn
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- From the employer’s perspective, managers validated that childcare and maternity are the key exit gates for women.
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- Also, demotion of returning mothers often leads to dissatisfaction at work and eventually leading to resignations.
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Atal New India Challenge

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- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under the NITI Aayog will be launching the Atal New India Challenge.
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- AIM will invite prospective innovators/MSMEs/start-ups to design market-ready products, using cutting edge technologies or prototypes across identified focus areas.
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- Climate Smart Agriculture, Smart Mobility, Predictive Maintenance of Rolling Stock, Waste Management etc. are some of the 17 identified focus areas.
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- The winning ideas will be granted up to Rs 1 crore and mentorship through the challenge.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu, Business Standard

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