

Prelim Bits 28-01-2018

Assumption Island - Seychelles

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- Assumption Island is one of the 115 islands constituting Seychelles archipelago.

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- India signed a pact to develop Assumption Island, during PM Modi's visit to Seychelles in 2015.

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- Ironing out the earlier differences, India has now signed a revised agreement with Seychelles.

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- Assumption Island is leased to India for the operation of a naval base and air strip by the Indian navy.

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- The agreement will enable India to help Seychelles build military infrastructure for the Seychelles People's Defence Forces.

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- Seychelles has said it would "suspend" the use of military facilities on Assumption Island in case if India is at war.

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- This is because it is not a military base.

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- Also, other "international partners" can also use the facilities being developed by India on the island.

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- It is being financed entirely by India; but Seychelles retains full ownership of the facilities and sovereign rights over the island.

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Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)

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- The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) has recommended the introduction of HPV vaccine in the UIP.
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- NTAGI is an advisory body that recommends vaccines for India's Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).
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- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is a group of more than 150 viruses. It is usually harmless and goes away by itself.
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- However, some types cause papilloma or warts in parts of the body.
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- HPV spreads by skin-to-skin contact and is the most common sexually transmitted infection.
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- HPV is commonly associated with cervical cancer.
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- India has one of the world's highest burdens of HPV-related cancer and around 67,000 women die from this disease each year.
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- HPV vaccines offered by private firms face clinical trial issues in India on concerns of side-effects; Supreme Court is yet to decide.

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Objectionable Content

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- The Ministry of Electronics and IT has highlighted that around 1300 social media URLs were blocked or removed in the last year.
- These were based on the recommendation of a government committee to deal with “objectionable content”.
- The Information Technology (IT) Act 2000 and Indian Penal Code provides for dealing with “objectionable content” posted online.
- Blocking is a sovereign power that is given to the government by virtue of Section 69A of the IT Act.
- There are concerns with the parameters on deciding a particular content as 'inappropriate' or 'objectionable'.

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Pulse Polio Immunisation (PPI)

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- As part of the National Immunisation Day observed on 28 January, PPI programme for 2018 was launched.
- More than 17 crore children of less than 5 years across the country will be given polio drops.
- The polio virus causes paralysis, known as an acute flaccid paralysis (AFP).
- This is characterised by sudden muscle weakness, and fever in one or more limbs.
- India reported its last polio case in 2011 and is also declared polio-free by WHO in 2014.
- However, the immunisation drive continues as polio virus is still circulating in other parts of the world.

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- The injectable Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) has also been introduced recently into the Universal Immunisation Programme.
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- IPV is an injectable form of polio vaccine administered alone or in combination with other vaccines including the OPV (oral polio vaccine).
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Universal Immunization Programme

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- Universal Immunization Programme was launched in 1985.
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- The program now consists of vaccination for 12 diseases:
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1. tuberculosis
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2. diphtheria
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3. pertussis (whooping cough)
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4. tetanus
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5. poliomyelitis
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6. measles
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7. Hepatitis B
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8. diarrhoea
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9. Japanese Encephalitis
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10. Rubella
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11. Pneumonia(Heamophilus Influenza Type B)
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12. Pneumococcal diseases (Pneumococcal Pneumonia and Meningitis)
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- The Indradhanush mission, launched in 2014, is to fast track the universal immunization programme.
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- The mission aims at increasing the immunisation coverage to 90% by 2018.
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Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)

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- The Union Home Ministry is planning to set up the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre in Delhi.
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- It would deal with cyber crimes such as financial frauds, circulation of communal and pornographic contents.
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- The centre would maintain a list of suspects and the leads generated during investigations in cyber crime cases.
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- This would be shared with law enforcement agencies through a "secured internal network".
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- The ministry has asked states to establish a similar mechanism in every district.
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- The ministry has also released a sum of Rs 83 crore in this regard.
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- This would fund the setting up of a cyber forensic training laboratory-cum-training centre for police officials in each state.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu

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