Prelim Bits 03-06-2017

Early Warning Dissemination System

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- The Odisha government is all set to commission the ambitious **Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS)** that would enable loud sirens go off simultaneously in the event of the occurrence of natural disasters from towers at 122 locations by July 2017.
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- Odisha is the **first State in India** to have developed an automatic public address system that can be activated along its entire coast.
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- The new system will also enable authorities to alert people in smaller pockets, depending on the severity of the disaster.
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- **The EWDS comprises of technologies** like Satellite-Based Mobile Data Voice Terminals (SBMDVT), Digital Mobile Radio (DMR), Mass Messaging System (MMS) and Universal Communication Interface (UCI) for inter-operability among different communication technologies.
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- The project, which is being implemented with **assistance from the World Bank,** will have towers in 22 blocks under six coastal districts at an estimated cost of Rs 82 crore.
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Second Scorpene-class submarine

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- **INS Khanderi,** the second of the six Scorpene class submarines, has sailed out from Mumbai harbour for its maiden sea sortie, in a step closer to its induction into the Indian Navy.
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- The first Scorpene-class submarine **INS Kalvari** has already undergone various trials and is expected to be inducted into the Indian Navy later this year.

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- Six Scorpene-class submarines are being built under **'Project 75'** of the Indian Navy.
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- The Project 75I-class submarine is a follow-on of the Project 75 Kalvari-class submarine for the Indian navy.
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- Under this project, the Indian Navy intends to acquire 6 diesel-electric submarines, which will also feature advanced **Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) systems** to enable them to stay submerged for longer duration and substantially increase their operational range.
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Global Peace Index 2017

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- The Institute for Economics and Peace (Australia) published its Global Peace Index for the 11th year running.
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- Their report found that the world became 0.28% more peaceful over the past year.
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- Iceland is joined at the top of the index by New Zealand, Portugal, Austria, and Denmark, all of which were ranked highly in the 2016 Global Peace Index.
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- **India has been ranked 137th** in the Global Peace Index 2017.
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- The GPI investigates the extent to which countries are involved in ongoing domestic and international conflicts. It also seeks to evaluate the level of harmony or discord within a nation; ten indicators broadly assess what might be described as a safety and security in society.
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SMARTGRAM initiative

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- The SMARTGRAM **initiative of Rashtrapati Bhavan** was inaugurated for five villages of Haryana i.e. Tajnagar, Dhaula, Alipur, Harchandpur and Rojka

Meo by the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee on July 2, 2016.
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- On May 1, 2017, it was approved that the initiative be extended to 100 villages in the vicinity of the initially selected five village of Haryana.
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- A large number of projects have been undertaken in the initially selected five villages of Haryana under the initiative in the fields of agriculture, skill development, energy, education, etc.,
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