Prelim Bits 15-10-2017

INS Aridhaman

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- It is India’s second strategic **nuclear submarine** which is going to be launched soon.
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- Aridhaman belongs to Arihant class submarine, carrying ballistic missiles and powered by light water nuclear water.
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- It will carry K-15 and K-4 ballistic missiles as does INS Arihant.
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- K-4 is an intermediate range ballistic missile that can hit targets as far as 3500 km.
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- INS Arihant was inducted into service in 2016.
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- It made India the only country apart from the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to operate a homemade nuclear U-boat.
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- Nuclear submarines are those that are powered by onboard nuclear reactors whereas conventional submarines generate energy by burning diesel, which requires air.
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Mahanadi River

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- There is an ongoing dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh over Mahanadi River.
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- Chattisgarh is building barrages and dams in the upstream of the river and Odisha has moved to the court to stop the construction work.
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- The river originated in Sihawa Mountain in Chattisgarh.
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- Ong, Telen and Hasdo are some of the notable tributaries of the river.
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- Hirakud Dam is built across the river in the state of Odisha.
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- It was notorious for its devastating floods for much of recorded history. Thus it was called 'the sorrow of Orissa'.
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- However the construction of the Hirakud Dam has greatly altered the situation.
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Free Trade Pact with Mauritius

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- India and Mauritius are negotiating to revive efforts for a free trade agreement that was suspended in 2013 due to disagreement over the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA).
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- DTAA was revised last year clearing the hurdle for the FTA.
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- This FTA isofficially referred to as the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA).
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- Mauritius is a FTA member of the Common Market for Southern and Eastern Africa and the Southern African Development Community.
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- Indian investors couldtake advantage of it once the FTA is in place.
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- The revised DTAA gives India the right to tax capital gains arising from sale or transfer of shares of an Indian company acquired by a Mauritian tax resident from April 1, 2017.
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Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

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- ICDS scheme was launched in 1975 as an initiative for the all-round development (health, nutrition and education) of children under the age of 6.
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- Its aim is to reduce infant mortality, child malnutrition and to provide pre-

school education.
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- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has the overall responsibility of monitoring the ICDS scheme.
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- Under the ICDS scheme, children under 6 and pregnant or lactating mothers can access four main services:
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1. Immunization
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2. Supplementary nutrition
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3. Health checkup
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4. Referral services
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- In addition, children aged 3-6 should be able to access **pre-school non-formal education** under ICDS.
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- Women and adolescent girls (aged 15-45) should also be able to access **nutrition and health education** as well as that of their children and families.
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- All these services should be available from a local ICDS (or Anganwadi) centre by Anganwadi Workers.
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- There are reports saying that the ministry will discontinue Supplementary Nutrition Program under ICDS and replace it with conditional cash transfer.
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- However, the ministry has clarified that there is no proposal to discontinue it.
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SampoornaBima Gram Yojana

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- Ministry of Communications has recently launched SampoornaBima Gram Yojana to give rural people affordable life insurances services.
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- Under the scheme, at least one village (having a minimum of 100 households) will be identified in each districts and provide with a minimum of one **RPLI (Rural Postal Life Insurance)** policy for each households.
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- Coverage of all households in the identified SampoornaBima Gram village is the primary objective of this scheme.
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- All villages under the SaansadAdarsh Gram Yojana will be brought under its ambit.
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SansadAdarsh Gram Yojana

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- It is a village development project under which each MP will take the responsibility of developing physical and institutional infrastructure in three villages by 2019.
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- The goal is to develop 3 Adarsh Grams by March 2019, of which one would be achieved by 2016.
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- Thereafter, five such Adarsh Grams (one per year) will be selected and developed by 2024.
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- Gram Panchayat would be the basic unit for development. It will have a population of 3000-5000 in plain areas and 1000-3000 in hilly, tribal and difficult areas.
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- MPs cannot pick villages which belong to themselves or their spouses
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- The main objectives are,\n
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    - Holistic development of the identified Gram Panchayats.
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    - Improving the standard of living and quality of life
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    - To generate models of local level development and effective local governance which can motivate and inspire neighbouring Gram Panchayats to learn and adapt.

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- District Collectors will carry ground-level surveys along with monthly review meetings to monitor progress.
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- The scheme requires MP to draft a village development plan, identify gaps in funding and mobilizing MPLAD funds to create additional resources specifically from CSR initiatives in areas of sanitation and water supply.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu, Indian Express

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