

Prelim Bits 22-12-2017

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DARPAN

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- Ministry of Communication launched “DARPAN - Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for A New India”.

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- The project aimed at realizing financial inclusion of un-banked rural population.

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- It is IT modernization project which intends to provide a low power technology solution to each branch postmaster to improve service delivery.

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- DARPAN offers core banking services such as cash deposit and withdrawal in savings bank and recurring deposit, mini statement, Aadhaar seeding and daily transaction report.

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- The application will also be used for the reimbursement of social security benefits such as MNREGS, old age pension and DBT.

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- It is targeted to complete the project by March 2018.

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SRISTI

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- SRISTI - Sustainable Rooftop Implementation for Solar Transfiguration of India is a proposed scheme by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

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- The proposed scheme will incentivise the installation of roof top solar projects in India.

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- It aims to achieve a national solar rooftop target of 40 GW by 2021-22.

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- Under SRISTI, a central financial assistance will be provided only for installation of roof top solar plants in residential sectors.
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- Once approved, the concept will act as a basis for phase - II of solar rooftop power programme.
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ICGS Sujay

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- Samarth Class OPV is a series of six 105m offshore patrol vessel (OPV) being built by Goa Shipyard Limited for the Indian Coast Guard.
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- Indian Coast Guard Ship Sujay is the sixth in the series of six OPV under Samarth class.
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- The other ships are ICGS Samarth, Shoor, Sarathi, Shaunak, Shaurya.
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- ICGS Sujay is based at Paradip, Odisha under the operational and administrative control of Commander Coast Guard Region (North-East).
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- It will be deployed extensively for EEZ surveillance and will give a fillip to the maritime protection in the state of Odisha and West Bengal in particular.
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Kimberly Process

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- The Kimberley Process (KP) is a joint Government, International Diamond Industry and Civil Society initiative to stem the flow of Conflict Diamonds.
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- Conflict Diamonds- Rough diamonds used by rebel movements or their allies to finance conflict aimed at undermining legitimate governments.
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- In its 2016 session held in Dubai, India was appointed as Vice Chair of KP for 2018 & Chair for 2019. The EU will be chair for 2018.
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- This year, the session was held at Brisbane, Australia.
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- It came into effect in 2003 with representation from 81 countries including

EU.

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- India is one of the founding members, which held chair for the year 2008.

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Ro - Ro services in India

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- In RO-RO service, vessels have either built-in or shore-based ramps that allow the cargo to be efficiently rolled on and off the vessel when in port.
- This is in opposite to the lift-on and lift-off (lo-lo) vessels, which use a crane to load and unload cargo.
- This service is currently in operational in two states - Gujarat and Assam.
- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) rolled out a regular RO-RO between Assam-Meghalaya connecting Dhubri and Hatsingimari.
- Dhubri and Hatsingimari are located in the north bank and south bank of River Brahmaputra.
- Recently, India's first RO-RO passenger (RO Pax) service was inaugurated between Ghogha in Saurashtra and Dahej in south Gujarat in the Gulf of Khambhat region.

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Mini-Earth like Planets

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- The Alpha Centauri system is located 24.9 trillion miles from Earth, which is the closest star system to our planet.

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- An Earth-like planet was discovered last year in the system.

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- Scientists have recently detected data from the observatory located in Chile.

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- The data shows that the planet orbiting around stars Alpha Centauri A and B would be almost small, rocky planets.

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- This new information will help astronomers narrow down the search area and prioritize their efforts to detect additional planets in the system.

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Source: PIB, BusinessLine, Economic Times

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