

Prelim Bits 15-10-2017

INS Aridhaman

\n\n

\n

- It is India's second strategic **nuclear submarine** which is going to be launched soon.

\n

- Aridhaman belongs to Arihant class submarine, carrying ballistic missiles and powered by light water nuclear water.

\n

- It will carry K-15 and K-4 ballistic missiles as does INS Arihant.

\n

- K-4 is an intermediate range ballistic missile that can hit targets as far as 3500 km.

\n

- INS Arihant was inducted into service in 2016.

\n

- It made India the only country apart from the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to operate a homemade nuclear U-boat.

\n

- Nuclear submarines are those that are powered by onboard nuclear reactors whereas conventional submarines generate energy by burning diesel, which requires air.

\n

\n\n

Mahanadi River

\n\n

\n

- There is an ongoing dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh over Mahanadi River.

\n

- Chattisgarh is building barrages and dams in the upstream of the river and Odisha has moved to the court to stop the construction work.

\n

- The river originated in Sihawa Mountain in Chattisgarh.

\n

- Ong, Telen and Hasdo are some of the notable tributaries of the river.
\n
- Hirakud Dam is built across the river in the state of Odisha.
\n
- It was notorious for its devastating floods for much of recorded history. Thus it was called 'the sorrow of Orissa'.
\n
- However the construction of the Hirakud Dam has greatly altered the situation.
\n

\n\n

Free Trade Pact with Mauritius

\n\n

- 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).
\n
- DTAA was revised last year clearing the hurdle for the FTA.
\n
- This FTA isofficially referred to as the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA).
\n
- Mauritius is a FTA member of the Common Market for Southern and Eastern Africa and the Southern African Development Community.
\n
- Indian investors couldtake advantage of it once the FTA is in place.
\n
- 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.
\n

\n\n

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

\n\n

- 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.
\n
- Its aim is to reduce infant mortality, child malnutrition and to provide pre-

school education.

\n

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has the overall responsibility of monitoring the ICDS scheme.

\n

- Under the ICDS scheme, children under 6 and pregnant or lactating mothers can access four main services:

\n

\n\n

\n

1. Immunization

\n

2. Supplementary nutrition

\n

3. Health checkup

\n

4. Referral services

\n

\n\n

\n

- In addition, children aged 3-6 should be able to access **pre-school non-formal education** under ICDS.

\n

- 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.

\n

- All these services should be available from a local ICDS (or Anganwadi) centre by Anganwadi Workers.

\n

- There are reports saying that the ministry will discontinue Supplementary Nutrition Program under ICDS and replace it with conditional cash transfer.

\n

- However, the ministry has clarified that there is no proposal to discontinue it.

\n

\n\n

SampoornaBima Gram Yojana

\n\n

\n

- Ministry of Communications has recently launched SampoornaBima Gram Yojana to give rural people affordable life insurances services.
\n
- 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.
\n
- Coverage of all households in the identified SampoornaBima Gram village is the primary objective of this scheme.
\n
- All villages under the SaansadAdarsh Gram Yojana will be brought under its ambit.
\n

\n\n

SansadAdarsh Gram Yojana

\n\n

- \n
- 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.
\n
- The goal is to develop 3 Adarsh Grams by March 2019, of which one would be achieved by 2016.
\n
- Thereafter, five such Adarsh Grams (one per year) will be selected and developed by 2024.
\n
- 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.
\n
- MPs cannot pick villages which belong to themselves or their spouses
\n
- The main objectives are,\n
 - \n
 - Holistic development of the identified Gram Panchayats.
\n
 - Improving the standard of living and quality of life
\n
 - To generate models of local level development and effective local governance which can motivate and inspire neighbouring Gram Panchayats to learn and adapt.

\n

\n

\n

- District Collectors will carry ground-level surveys along with monthly review meetings to monitor progress.

\n

- 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.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: PIB, The Hindu, Indian Express

\n

