



C.A Dated On 16th June 2018

General Studies-1

Par-Tapi-Narmada inter-state river link project

Gujarat government has expressed its inability to divert 434 MCM water for Maharashtra in Tapi basin as requested by Maharashtra as part of the Par-Tapi-Narmada inter-state river link project. The project has been mired in controversy for years now.

About Par-Tapi-Narmada inter-state river link project:

- The projects envisages transfer of surplus water of rivers in Maharashtra and south Gujarat to feed the command area of the Miyagam branch of Narmada canal. It will save water in Narmada dam, which will be taken to Saurashtra and Kutch.
- The project is aimed at diverting "surplus" water from parts of west flowing rivers like the Par, the Nar, the Ambika and the Auranga basins in Maharashtra.
- Besides providing irrigation benefits to the enroute command and Narmada command, the link will generate hydropower of the order of 93.00 Mkw through the power houses installed at four dam sites viz. Jheri, Paikhed, Chasmandva and Chikkar and in two feeder canals taking off from Dabdar and Kelwan dams. The reservoirs will also provide flood relief to the people residing in downstream areas.
- The project of Par-Tapi-Narmada link generally falls in the state of Gujarat except Jheri reservoir which falls in Maharashtra state. Jheri dam is located in Nasik district of Maharashtra, while remaining dams viz. Mohankavchali, Paikhed, Chasmandva, Chikkar, Dabdar and Kelwan dams are located in Valsad and Dang districts of Gujarat.

General Studies-2

Swajal Scheme

Why in News>



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The government recently launched Swajal schemes in 115 aspirational districts of the country. It will involve an outlay of Rs 700 crores through flexible-funds under the existing National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) budget.

About Swajal?

- Swajal is a community owned drinking water programme for sustained drinking water supply.
- Under the scheme, 90% of the project cost will be taken care by the Government and the remaining 10% of the project cost will be contributed by the community. The Operations and management of the project will be taken care by the local villagers.

About NRDWP:

The NRDWP was started in 2009, with a major emphasis on ensuring sustainability (source) of water availability in terms of potability, adequacy, convenience, affordability and equity. NRDWP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 50: 50 fund sharing between the Centre and the States.

General studies-3

Trade deficit widened

India's merchandise trade deficit widened to \$14.62 billion in May 2018, official data released on Friday showed. The shortfall was \$13.72 billion in April 2018 and \$13.84 billion in May 2017.

Exports during May 2018 were valued at \$28.86 billion as compared to \$24.01 billion during May 2017 exhibiting a positive growth of 20.18%.

Imports during May 2018 were valued at \$43.48 billion which was 14.85% higher in dollar terms."

Smart uptick



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In contrast, merchandise exports in April had grown by only 5.17%, while imports grew 4.6%.

The export growth in May 2018 was better than that seen in May last year, while the import growth was slower.

The major export groups that witnessed strong growth in May 2018 included engineering goods (14.8%), petroleum products (104.5%), organic and inorganic chemicals (34.2%), drugs and pharmaceuticals (25.7%), and cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups and handloom products (24.7%).

What is Trade Deficit?

A trade deficit is an economic measure of international trade in which a country's **imports** exceeds its **exports**.

A trade deficit represents an outflow of domestic currency to foreign markets. It is also referred to as a negative **balance of trade** (BOT).

Trade Deficit = Total Value of Imports – Total Value of Exports

Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array

Why in News?

Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array has uncovered convincing evidence for three young planets orbiting within a protoplanetary disk – or planet-forming disk – around an infant star. The star is called HD 163296. It's 330 light-years from Earth in the direction of the constellation Sagittarius.

About ALMA telescope:

The Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) is an international partnership of the European Southern Observatory (ESO), the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS) of Japan, together with NRC (Canada), NSC and ASIAA (Taiwan), and KASI (Republic of Korea), in cooperation with the Republic of Chile.



C.A Dated On 16th June 2018

- ALMA -the largest astronomical project in existence- is a single telescope of revolutionary design, composed of 66 high precision antennas located on the Chajnantor plateau, 5000 meters altitude in northern Chile.
- ALMA allows scientists to unravel longstanding and important astronomical mysteries, in search of our Cosmic Origins.

Apache helicopters:

Why in News?

The US has approved a deal to sell six AH-64E Apache helicopters to India for \$930 million as well as Hellfire and Stinger missiles to bolster the country's ability to defend its homeland and deter "regional threats".

About Apache helicopters:

- The AH-64 Apache is a multi-role combat helicopter and is used by the US Army and a number of international defence forces.
- It is equipped with all-weather and night-fighting features apart from an advanced weapons system.
- The Apache has advanced laser, infrared, and target acquisition designation, including other systems, to locate, track and attack targets.
- It also has stealth characteristics, advanced sensors and beyond-visual-range missiles.

Pinaka rocket:

Why in News?

The indigenous Pinaka rocket system of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is being evolved into a precision-guided missile, with enhanced range and accuracy to hit its targets.



C.A Dated On 16th June 2018

About Pinaka:

- The rocket has been developed by the Armament cluster of the DRDO, with a lead from Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE).
- It is used to neutralize the enemy's positions that are strategically important for the enemy. The advanced versions of this system can also be used to conduct surgical strikes even without entering into the enemy area.
- The launcher can fire 12 rockets with 1.2 tonnes of high explosives within 44 seconds and destroy a target area of 4-square km at a time.
- Pinaka is capable of working in different modes – autonomous mode, stand-alone mode, remote mode and manual mode.
- The second variant of Pinaka, known as Mark-II, has a maximum range of 75 km.
- DRDO is working with Israel's IMI to develop Pinaka Mark-III which will use IMI's Trajectory Correction System (TCS) that will enhance the accuracy of the attack.