



C.A Dated On 05-09-2018

General Studies-1

National River Linking Project

The [National River Linking Project \(NRLP\)](#) formally known as the [National Perspective Plan](#), envisages the transfer of water from water 'surplus' basins where there is flooding to water 'deficit' basins where there is drought/scarcity, through inter-basin water transfer projects.

Scope of the Project

The National River Interlinking Project will comprise of 30 links to connect 37 rivers across the nation through a network of nearly 3000 storage dams to form a gigantic South Asian Water Grid. It includes two components:

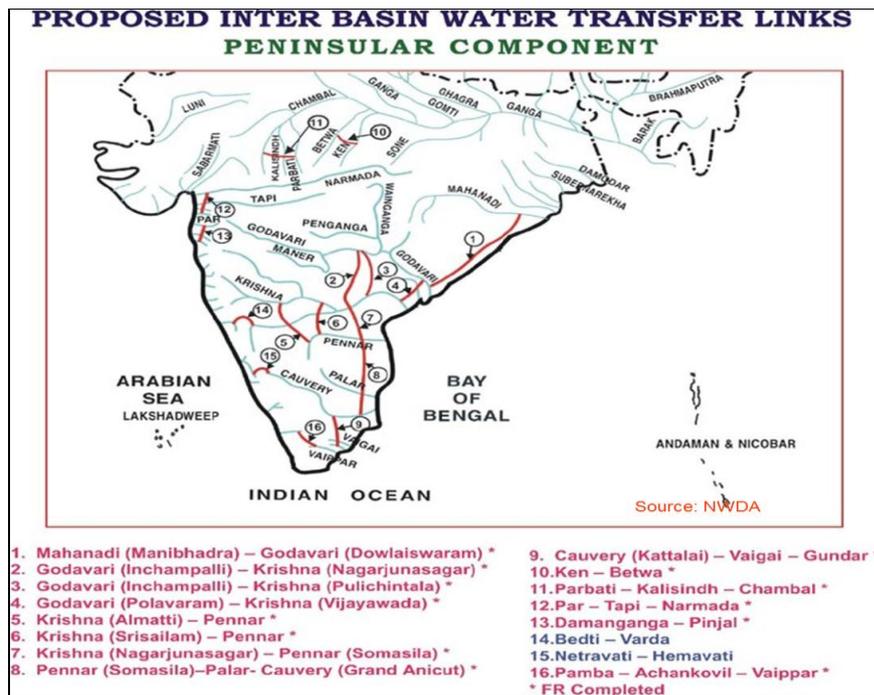


- Himalayan Rivers Development Component under which 14 links have been identified.
- This component [aims to construct storage reservoirs](#) on the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers, as well as their tributaries in India and Nepal.
- The aim is to conserve monsoon flows for irrigation and hydropower generation, along with flood control.
- The linkage will transfer surplus flows of the Kosi, Gandak and Ghagra to the west.



C.A Dated On 05-09-2018

- A link between the Ganga and Yamuna is also proposed to transfer the surplus water to drought-prone areas of Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat.



Projects in the peninsular component:

- Peninsular Rivers Development Component or the Southern Water Grid, which includes 16 links that propose [to connect the rivers of South India](#).
- It envisages linking the Mahanadi and Godavari to feed the Krishna, Pennar, Cauvery, and Vaigai rivers.
- This linkage will require several large dams and major canals to be constructed.
- Besides this, the Ken river will also be linked to the Betwa, Parbati, Kalisindh, and Chambal rivers.

Disadvantages of Interlinking:

- India's massive civil engineering project, the National River Linking Project (NRLP), will reduce inflow of the northern [rivers](#).
- It will significantly reduce the sediments deposited by the rivers in deltas, a study shows.



C.A Dated On 05-09-2018

- Fertile deltas will be under threat, with coastal erosion expected to threaten the land and livelihoods of local economies that support 160 million people.
- The NRLP, which comprises 29 canals totalling 9,600 km, will involve the movement of 245 trillion litres of water, the study shows.
- On implementation, water discharge in 23 out of 29 rivers will reduce considerably, they say.
- The Ganga will see a 24% decrease in flow. Its tributaries Gandak (-68%) and Ghaghara (-55%) will be the worst affected.
- In the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta, projected aggradation (the amount of silt deposited by rivers in its delta) will decrease by 30% to 2.5 mm per year on average.
- This will aggravate loss of land in a delta where sea level rise is estimated to be 5.6 mm on average annually.
- Rare ecosystems and vital agricultural areas would become more vulnerable to storm surges, river flooding, and heightened salinity, the system will push the deltas further in the wrong direction.

General Studies- 2

ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Conference

Why in News?

Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment left for Seoul (Korea) yesterday.



C.A Dated On 05-09-2018

He is heading a 3-member Indian Delegation to attend the 3rd ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Conference on 'Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons' jointly organised in Seoul during 5th to 7th September, 2018 by the Republic of Korea and the National Human Rights Commission of Korea.

About the Conference:

- The 3-day Conference will reaffirm the universal value of the human rights of older persons, share information on discrimination against the elderly and exemplary cases of long-term and palliative care in Asia and Europe.
- It will discuss operation and tasks of the ASEM Global Ageing Centre as an implementing institution for mutual cooperation among ASEM members for the protection and promotion of the human rights of older persons.

About ASEM:

- The **Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM)** is an Asian–European political dialogue forum to enhance relations and various forms of cooperation between its partners.
- It was officially established on 1 March 1996 at the first summit in [Bangkok, Thailand](#), by the then 15 members of the [European Union](#) (EU) and the [European Commission](#), the then 7 members of the [Association of Southeast Asian Nations](#) (ASEAN), and the individual countries of [China](#), [Japan](#), and [Korea](#).
- A series of enlargements saw additional EU members join as well as [India](#), [Mongolia](#), [Pakistan](#) and the [ASEAN Secretariat](#) in 2008, [Australia](#), [New Zealand](#) and the [Russian Federation](#) in 2010[2], [Bangladesh](#), [Norway](#), and [Switzerland](#) in 2012 as well as [Croatia](#) and [Kazakhstan](#) in 2014.

The main components of the ASEM process rest on the following 3 pillars:

- Political & Security Pillar
- Economic & Financial Pillar
- Social, Cultural & Educational Pillar

General Studies -3

Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Exercise KAZIND 2018



C.A Dated On 05-09-2018

Why in News?

Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Army Exercise 'KAZIND' will be conducted between the Indian and Kazakhstan Army from 10 to 23 Sep 2018 in Otar region, Kazakhstan.

About the Exercise:

- This is the third joint military exercise between the two countries which have a history of extensive cooperation in the defence arena.
- The second edition of the exercise was held in India last year.

Aims of Exercise:

- The aim of the exercise is to build and promote bilateral Army to Army relations and exchange skills and experiences between Kazakhstan Army and the Indian Army.
- The exercise will also serve as a platform for exchange of drills and procedures.
- The vast experience and expertise of Indian troops in counter insurgency operations holds special importance to the Kazakhstan Army.

The conduct of the joint exercise will set the stage for greater defence cooperation and consequently will manifest in stronger ties between the two great nations.

Rafale Jet:

Why in News?

Rafale once inducted into the Indian Air Force would "revolutionise airpower in our sub-continent" but is discussed for the wrong reasons, said Deputy Chief of IAF R. Nambiar on Wednesday. The comments come at a time of [claims by the Congress party of financial irregularities](#) in the deal.

About Rafale :



C.A Dated On 05-09-2018

- The **Dassault Rafale** (literally meaning "gust of wind", and "burst of fire" in a more military sense) is a French [twin-engine](#), [canard delta wing](#), [multirole fighter aircraft](#) designed and built by [Dassault Aviation](#).
- Equipped with a wide range of weapons, the Rafale is intended to perform [air supremacy](#), [interdiction](#), [aerial reconnaissance](#), [ground support](#), in-depth strike, anti-ship strike and [nuclear deterrence](#) missions.
- The Rafale is referred to as an "omnirole" aircraft by Dassault.

The Rafale Fighter Jet

With its French manufacturer, Dassault, agreeing to make India-specific modifications and with a capacity to shoot deep into enemy airspace or territory without crossing international boundaries, the Rafale fighter jets will soon become a lethal asset for the Indian Air Force

A look at its features

Primary function: Multi-role fighter	Propulsion: Two turbofan engines
Manufacturer: Dassault Aviation, France	Length: 15.3 m
First flight: July 4, 1986	Wingspan: 10.9 m
Crew: Single or twin-seater	Height: 5.3 m
Primary users: French Air Force and French Navy	Max speed: 2,200 km/hr (approx)
	Range: 3,700+ km
	Max takeoff weight: 24,500 kg



KBK Infographics

India to generate 100 GW solar energy by 2022



C.A Dated On 05-09-2018

Context:

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu said that demand for energy will increase due to rapid development taking place in India and fossil fuel is not going to last forever and therefore there is need for renewable energy.

India has set a target to generate 100 GW solar energy by 2022 for increasing share of carbon free energy in the energy mix.

About ISA:

- ISA stands for co-operation among 121 solar rich countries lying fully or partially between the tropics in order to promote massive deployment of solar energy and make solar energy affordable.

PLACE IN THE SUN International Solar Alliance takes shape

WHAT IS ISA?	HEADQUARTERS	WHAT ISA WILL DO
120-nations bloc between Tropics of Cancer & Capricorn Most countries in Africa or South America	200-acre NISE campus in Gurgaon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Promote solar technologies● Ensure solar light for households by 2022● Mechanisms to reduce cost of capital● e-portal to share experiences & practices

Current Account Deficit:

Why in News?

As the rupee is under pressure — it hit the 71-mark against the dollar on Friday — and oil prices are inching up, it will impact the current account. While the present depreciation is mainly due to external factors with the dollar



C.A Dated On 05-09-2018

strengthening against all emerging market currencies, the rising trade deficit is adding to the worry about the currency.

What is it?

- The current account measures the flow of goods, services and investments into and out of the country.
- We run into a deficit if the value of the goods and services we import exceeds the value of those we export.
- The current account includes net income, including interest and dividends, and transfers, like foreign aid.

Where do we stand?

- India's current account deficit (CAD) is pegged at \$13 billion or 1.9% of the GDP in Q4 of 2017-18, which increased from \$2.6 billion or 0.4% of the GDP in Q4 of 2016-17.
- For the full financial year, the CAD increased to 1.9% of the GDP in 2017-18 from 0.6% in 2016-17 on the back of a widening of the trade deficit.
- India's trade deficit increased to \$160 billion in 2017-18 from \$112.4 billion in 2016-17.

Why does it matter?

- The rupee is the worst performing currency among the emerging market economies in Asia, and depreciated over 9% against the dollar in the current financial year.
- The central bank is also not seen intervening aggressively, according to currency dealers.
- As a result, the rupee, in a short span of time, travelled from the mid-68 levels to 71 a dollar.
- The foreign exchange reserves, also seen as an important factor for currency stability, have depleted by \$26 billion since April, due to sporadic interventions by the central bank to control the pace of fall in the currency.

What lies ahead?

- The July trade deficit numbers have had an impact on the currency.



C.A Dated On 05-09-2018

- The government attributed the increase to a sharp increase in crude oil prices — global Brent crude prices increased 53.16% in July, compared to the same period the previous year.
- The oil import bill, which saw a 57% increase, and a 41% jump in gold imports to \$2.96 billion in July are seen as the main reasons for the high trade deficit.
- A huge current account gap could make the rupee depreciate further in the absence of meaningful intervention from the central bank.

Technology Initiatives for Coffee Stakeholders

Why in News?

Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu today launched Coffee Connect - India coffee field force app and Coffee KrishiTharanga - digital mobile extension services for coffee stakeholders at a function here today.

About the App:

- The mobile app Coffee Connect has been developed to ease the work of field functionaries and to improve the work efficiency.
- This application provides solution by harnessing the power of mobility comprising the latest technology in easing the whole process of the field activities like digitization of Coffee Growers & Estates with Geo Tagging, collecting the Plantation details.
- It will also help in transparency in the activities of the extension officers and officials, transparency in subsidy disbursement and real time report generation.
- The Coffee KrishiTharanga services are aimed at providing customized information and services to increase productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability.

Coffee plantation in India:

- Coffee is cultivated in India in about 4.54 lakh hectares by 3.66 lakh coffee farmers and 98% of them are small farmers.



C.A Dated On 05-09-2018

- Its cultivation is mainly confined to Karnataka (54%), Kerala (19%) and Tamil Nadu (8%) which form traditional coffee tracts.
- Coffee is also grown in non-traditional areas like Andhra Pradesh & Odisha (17.2%) and North Eastern states (1.8%), with main emphasis on tribal development and afforestation.

In line with the digital transformation initiatives of the Government of India, Coffee Board has taken key digital initiatives for the overall technological advancement of the coffee sector and value chain.

About the Coffee Board:

The *Coffee Board of India* is an organisation managed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the government of India to promote coffee production in India.

- It was established by an act of Parliament in 1942.
- Its duties included the promotion of the sale and consumption of coffee in India and abroad, conducting coffee research, financial assistance to establish small coffee growers, safeguarding working conditions for laborers, and managing the surplus pool of unsold coffee.