

Prelim Bits 05-09-2017

SmartE

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- The first batch of E-rickshaws under the brand name of “SmartE” was launched in Gurugram by Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways.

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- The E-rickshaws have been manufactured in India and are fitted with GPS and tracking system.

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- It has established strategic partnerships with the Haryana government and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation to launch 1000 vehicles in Gurugram and Faridabad in 2017.

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- It will provide the last mile transport connectivity in the area and meaningful self-employment for marginalised youths in next 4-5 years.

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SAUNI Yojana'

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- Saurashtra Narmada Avataram Irrigation Yojna is a project to divert flood waters of Narmada to Saurashtra region and fill up the reservoirs through giant pipelines.

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- There are 4 link canals through which the water is diverted.

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- Link I takes water to Jamnagar and Dwarka districts and Link II to Botad, Bhavnagar and Amreli Districts.

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- These two pipelines are designed to pump Narmada water in 17 identified dams in the regions such as Krushnasagar dam, Bhimdad dam (Botad), Bhogavo dam etc.

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- Recently, President of India laid the foundation stone of SAUNI Phase-II

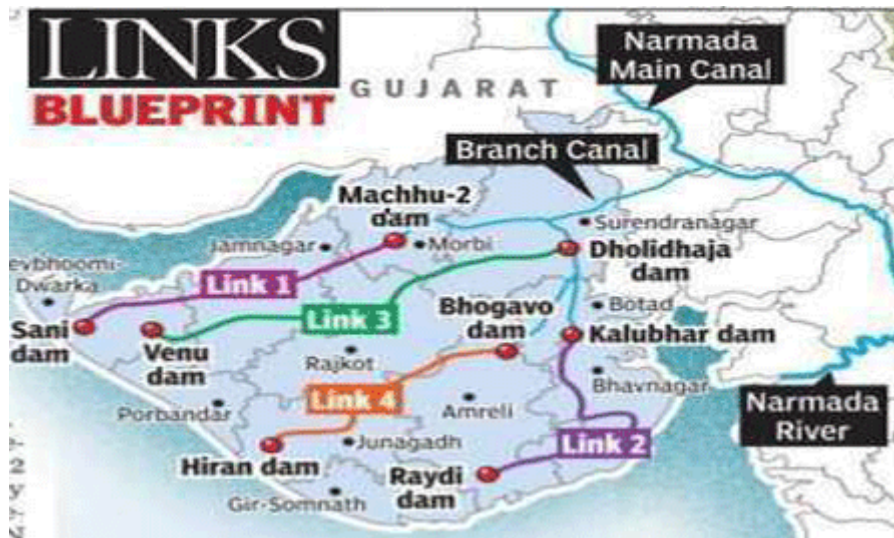
Link-4 canal in Rajkot.

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- The project targets to provide irrigation water for 10.22 lakh acres of land in Saurashtra region.

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Geographical Indicators

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- The Cell for IPR Promotions & Management (CIPAM) has launched a social media campaign to promote Indian Geographical Indicators (GIs) with #LetsTalkIP.

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- It is initiated to make more people aware about the importance of Intellectual Property Rights.

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- A Geographical Indication or a GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

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- It conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness which is essentially attributable to its origin in that defined geographical locality.

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- Darjeeling Tea, Mahabaleshwar Strawberry, Blue Pottery of Jaipur, Banarasi Sarees and Tirupati Laddus are some of the GIs.

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Polavaram Project

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- It is a multi-purpose irrigation project in East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh State.

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- The dam across Godavari River is under the construction and it aims to transfer the surplus water from Godavari to Krishna river basin.

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- The project is considered as “lifeline of the State” and has been declared as a national project under the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014.

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- As per the act, the central government shall execute the project and obtain all requisite clearances, including forest, environmental and rehabilitation and resettlement.

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- The regulation and development of the project is under the control of Union government and accordingly it constituted the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) for the purpose.

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- Recently, NGT has directed the Environment Ministry and the AP government to examine about huge quantity of waste material being dumped in agricultural lands near Polavaram project.

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Initial Coin Offering

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- China has recently banned individuals and organisations from raising funds through initial coin offerings (ICO) saying the practice constituted illegal fund-raising.

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- ICO is an unregulated means of crowd funding for a project via use of Cryptocurrency.

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- The right of ownership or royalties of a project is offered to investors in the form of digital coins in exchange for legal tender or other cryptocurrencies (usually bitcoin).

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- The value of the coin will appreciate if the business is successful.
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- Presently, there is no regulator for this kind of crowd sourcing.
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Secure mobile phones

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- There is a wave of concerns over the security of mobile phones being sold by foreign firms in the country.
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- Thus it has decided to secure its communication network by offering customised mobile phones to top officers in rank of Joint Secretaries and above.
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- The mobile phones run on Android OS and have a pre-stored directory that contains the number of all officials above the rank of joint secretary.
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- The Government already operates a secure landline communication network called RAX. But it has certain limitations.
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Source: PIB, Business Line

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