

PLUTUS IAS



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1.Union Cabinet: Capital Infusion of Rs 6,000 crores into NIIF approved

The Union Cabinet approved Rs 6,000 crores of capital infusion into the National Infrastructure Investment Fund. This is a part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The move will leverage to create a financial pipeline of Rs 1 lakh crore.

National infrastructure investment fund

The National Investment Infrastructure Fund was set up by Government of India in February 2015. The main objective of creating the fund was to increase the investment in Greenfield and brownfield projects. National investment and Infrastructure Fund manages three funds namely master fund, strategic fund, fund of funds. The master fund is primarily invested in building roads, airports, ports, power, etc. The fund of funds is managed by managers with good track records in infrastructure sectors. These funds mainly focus on infrastructure services and allied sectors, green infrastructure and mid income and affordable housing. Strategic investment fund is an alternative investment fund and is managed by SEBI. It mainly focuses on equity and equity linked instruments. This fund is often allocated to brownfield and Greenfield investment in the core infrastructure sectors.

National Infrastructure Pipeline

The National Infrastructure Pipeline includes social and economic Infrastructure Projects. A task force has been constituted in 2019 to draw up a national infrastructure pipeline for the years 2019 to 2025. The pipeline will mainly focus on projects that will enhance ease of living. It includes access to clean and affordable energy, safe drinking water, more than railway stations, bus terminal, airport and

world-class Educational Institutes. It is estimated that between 2020 and 2025 the sectors such as roads, energy, Urban and Railways will constitute to 70% of the total expenditure in infrastructure in India. The Government of India is planning to invest more than hundred lakh crores of Rupees in the infrastructure sector in the next five years.

These steps will help India achieve its goal of a 5 trillion USD economy by 2024-25.

2.SDG Investor Map for India launched by UNDP and Invest India

The Invest India and the United Nations Development Programme has launched the sustainable development goal investor map for India. It has laid out 18 Investment Opportunity Areas. These investment opportunity areas are in six critical sustainable development goals that were launched by the United Nations. The map will enable the factors that will help India in achieving its sustainable development goals. It will help India understand how it can reduce the SDG financing gap in the country.

Sustainable development goal investor map

The map has been developed in six sustainable development goal enabling sector such as Healthcare, education, financial services, agriculture and allied activities, renewable energy and alternative and sustainable environment.

Ten out of eighteen identified Investment Opportunity Areas have strong venture capital activity and private equity.

The sustainable development goals financing gap has widened by 400 billion USD due to the covid-19 pandemic in the developing countries. Even before covid-19 there was a shortfall of 2.5 trillion USD per annum of Financing gap.

SDG goals of India

India needs 2.64 trillion USD of investment to meet its United Nations sustainable development goals. According to the Standard Chartered, SDG investment map, India needs 1558 billion USD for clean energy, 377.4 billion USD for Digital access, 505 billion USD for Transport infrastructure and 192 billion USD for clean water and sanitation. According to the Standard Chartered, 7% of the country does not have access to Electricity.

Sustainable development goals

The sustainable development goals were launched by the United Nations in order to address the urgent political, environment and economic challenges faced by the world. As India is home to 17 % of the World Population it has a significant role in making a declaration of these goals. These scores were adopted at the 2015 United Nations

General Assembly. There are 17 sustainable development goals that aim to end poverty, tackle climate change and fight inequalities.

In order to achieve the sustainable development goals India introduced BS-BI petrol and diesel, pledged to eliminate single use plastic in the country by 2022, founded International solar Alliance that aims to deploy 2,000 gigawatts of solar energy by 2030, to reduce carbon emissions by 33 to 35% by 2030 as compared to the 2005 levels, to achieve 40% electric power installed from non-fossil fuel, to create a carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide through tree cover by 2030.

3.PM Modi launches “Har Ghar Nal Yojana” in Uttar Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, November 22, launched the ‘Har Ghar Nal Yojana’ (Tap Water to Every Household) for the residents of Uttar Pradesh’s Sonbhadra and Mirzapur district. Government was committed to solving the water scarcity problem and hence the scheme worth ₹5,555 crores was launched in the state.

Why was the region chosen?

This region is full of natural resources. Despite the region having many rivers like Ganga, the Ghaghara, the Yamuna and the Sarayu, water scarcity prevails in the region. Thus, “Har Ghar Nal Yojana” has been launched. Also, the the river water and the underground water in the region is getting polluted rapidly. Therefore, it is important to provide clean drinking water to the region.

What are the benefits?

The scheme will benefit 21,87,980 villagers in Mirzapur. In Sonbhadra, 19,53,458 families will be benefitted by the scheme. Rs 3212.18 crore and Rs 2343.20 crore will be spent under the scheme. The total cost of the scheme is Rs 5555.38 crore.

What is Har Ghar Nal Yojana?

The scheme was launched to provide tap water to every Household.

Objectives

The main objective of the scheme is to provide tap water for every household.

Benefits

The water of lakes and rivers will be purified and supplied to the families in Sonbhadra.

Eligibility

All households are eligible to claim the benefits of the scheme.

What are the main components of the scheme?

The following are the main components included in the scheme

- Development of drinking water sources, bulk water transfer, treatment plants and distribution network to every rural region.
- Removal of contaminants from the dirty water.
- Water Quality laboratories, training, HRD, retrofitting of completed and ongoing schemes to provide FHTCs at minimum service level, support IEC, development of utilities, water quality testing & surveillance, R&D, knowledge centre, capacity building of communities, etc.

4. India test fires Brahmos supersonic Cruise Missiles successfully

India successfully test fired the land attack version of Brahmos supersonic missile. It was test fired in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The range of the missile has been extended to 400 km from 290 km. Its speed has been increased to 2.8 Mach which is almost three times the speed of sound.

About Brahmos missile

The missile can be launched from ships, submarines, aircraft and from land platforms. Brahmos was a joint venture of DRDO and Russia. It was developed based on the Russian P-800 Oniks Cruise missile. The name of Brahmos missile was coined from the two rivers Brahmaputra of India and Moskva of Russia. It is the fastest anti-ship cruise missile in the world. Brahmos-II is currently under development with a speed of Mach 7-8. After India became a member of Missile Technology Control Regime in 2016, Russia is to jointly build a new version of Brahmos missile that has a range of 800 km.

India recently launched the first Varunastra torpedo, a heavy weight version.

Recent missile launches

On October 23, 2020, the Indian Navy released a video showing the INS Prabal launching a missile. Similar tests were conducted by Indian Navy on October 30, 2020 as well. On October 30, 2020, the Indian Navy tested an anti-ship missile from INS Kora in Bay of Bengal.

- The other recently conducted missile test fires of India are as follows
- RUDRAM anti-radiation missile
- A new version of shaurya missile
- LASER guided anti-tank missile
- Brahmos missile with an indigenous booster
- Prithvi II missile
- Test fire of RUSTOM II

- TORPEDO SMART
- Flight test of ABHYAS
- Test fire of Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle
- Flight Test of Naval Version of BRAHMOS
- Test fire of PRITHVI II
- Failed test of Nirbhay
- SANT Missile test
- Nag Missile
- Test Fire of Brahmos Supersonic Cruise Missile by the Indian Air Force
- First flight test of Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air-Missiles
- Second Flight Test of QRSAM Missile

5.DRDO launches first Varunastra, a heavy weight Torpedo

The Defence Research Development Organization recently flagged off the first Varunastra, the heavyweight torpedo. The torpedo was designed and developed by the BDL, Visakhapatnam Unit of Indian Navy.

About Varunastra

It is a ship launched electrically propelled heavyweight anti-submarine torpedo that is capable of targeting quiet submarines. It can be deployed in both shallow and deep-water environments. Varunastra is the first heavyweight torpedo of India.

It was first inducted into Indian Navy in 2016. The weight of the torpedo is 1500 kilograms. Operational range is 40 kilometres. The maximum speed of the torpedo is 74 kilometre per hour. Also, Varun Astra is the only torpedo in the world to have a GPS based locating aid.

The torpedo is capable of carrying a warhead of 250 kilogram. It is powered by Silver oxide zinc battery.

What is a torpedo?

It is an underwater weapon with an explosive warhead that is designed to detonate when in proximity to the target or on contact with the target.

Torpedoes of Indian Navy

Takshak, advanced light torpedo Shyena, SMART and Varunastra are the Torpedo of the Indian Navy. The Advanced Light Torpedo Shyena is an indigenous lightweight anti-submarine. It was developed by Naval Science and Technological Laboratory of DRDO. The manufacturing programme of Shyena was started by the DRDO in 1990s.

SMART is Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo. It is canistered hybrid system. The range of SMART system is 650 km. It is an advanced lightweight Torpedo

with two-way data link. It can be launched from a truck based coastal battery and also from a warship.

BDL

BDL is the production agency of DRDO manufacturing Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile. Also, it is a production agency for the Astra Air-to-air missile system.