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The Road Map to Mussoorie...

PRELIMS EDGE 2025

08-10-2025

PM GATI SHAKTI

Context: The Union Govt. plans to map all drinking water assets including pipelines created under its Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) on PM Gati Shakti, a GIS-based platform.



About PM Gati Shakti Master Plan:

- It is a **comprehensive infra development plan announced in Nov 2021** to improve economic growth and sustainable dvpt. by focusing on infra such as **roads, railways, airports, ports, mass transport, waterways, and logistics.**
- It is a **National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity** that aims to incorporate infra schemes of various union govt Ministries such as **Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, land ports, UDAN** etc.
- Under it, **100 critical infrastructure gap projects have been prioritized in FY24** for development with an **allocation of Rs. 75,000 crores.**

- It subsumes the Rs 110 lakh crore **National Infrastructure Pipeline** that was launched in 2019.
- Besides **cutting logistics costs**, the scheme is also aimed at **increasing cargo handling capacity** and **reducing the turnaround time at ports** to boost trade.
- It also aims to have **eleven industrial corridors and two defence corridors** - in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Extending 4G connectivity to all villages** is another aim of the project.
- **Adding 17,000 kms to the gas pipeline network** is being planned under PM Gati Shakti.
- It will help in fulfilling the ambitious targets set by the govt for 2024-25, including **expanding length of national highway network to 2 lakh kms, creation of more than 200 new airports, heliports and water aerodromes.**
- The overall co-ordination of the scheme will be handled by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**

Plan includes the development of **five main corridors:**

- **East-West Corridor:** Stretching from Silchar to Porbandar.
- **North-South Corridor:** Stretching from Srinagar to Kanyakumari.
- **North-East Corridor:** Stretching from Imphal to Kohima.

- **South-West Corridor:** Stretching from Ratnagiri to Kanyakumari.
- **East Coast Corridor:** Stretching from Kolkata to Kanyakumari.

Aims of PM Gati Shakti Master Plan:

- **Integrated planning and coordinated implementation** of infrastructure connectivity projects.
 - For example: Centralized portal to include all updates regarding existing & planned initiatives.
- **Multi-modal connectivity** for the movement of people, goods, services, etc. - facilitate **last mile connectivity**.
 - For example: **400 Vande Bharat trains** are to be manufactured and **200 PM Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals** are to be built.
- **Reducing logistics costs** by filling critical infrastructure gaps, thus improving supply chains.
 - Government aims to bring down **logistics costs from 13% to 8% of GDP**.
- **Making India the Business capital of the world** by providing proper linkages between local industry & and consumers.
 - For example: Economic Zones like pharma clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, agri zones, industrial corridors, etc.

Railways. GSV aims to create high-quality talent for the transportation and logistics sectors.

Source: All Jal Jeevan mission pipelines to be mapped on PM Gati Shakti portal (Indian Express)

ROOFTOP SOLAR POWER

Context: The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY) has achieved a major milestone with >5.79 lakh sanctioned loans amounting to ₹10,907 crore since its launch.



- Rooftop solar is a photovoltaic system that has solar panels mounted on the rooftop of a residential/commercial building.
- It is smaller when compared to ground-mounted photovoltaic power stations and has capacities in the megawatt range.

About Rooftop Solar Scheme:

- **Launched in 2014** to boost rooftop solar installations in residential sector.
- **Financial Assistance:** It offers **Central Financial Assistance and incentives** to distribution companies (DISCOMs).



The Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) is a Central University established through an Act of Parliament in 2022. It replaces the National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI) and is sponsored by the Ministry of Railways. The Chancellor of GSV is the Union Minister of

- The programme aims to achieve a total of **40 GW of rooftop solar capacity by March 2026.**

Consumer Benefits:

- Consumers can access the scheme through DISCOM tendered projects or the National Portal.
- They have the flexibility to select vendors and solar equipment.
- Subsidies are directly transferred to their bank accounts & surplus power can be exported to the grid.

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

- Announced in January 2024 and aims to install rooftop solar systems on **1 crore residential rooftops by 2027.**
- **Urban Local Bodies and Panchayats are incentivized** to promote rooftop solar systems.
- **Subsidies will be directly credited** to bank accounts of beneficiaries and highly concessional bank loans shall be provided.
- It is expected to generate annual savings of ₹15,000 to ₹18,000 for households, **boost the market for EVs,** and boost entrepreneurship and employment.
- **60% of installation costs** will be covered for 2 kW capacity systems and **40% of installation costs** shall be covered for systems of 2-3 kW capacity

India's Current Solar Power Capacity

- ✓ Total rooftop solar installed capacity is around 11.08 GW as of Dec 2024.
- ✓ Gujarat tops the list with 2.8 GW, followed by Maharashtra by 1.7 GW.

- ✓ Total solar power installed capacity in India crossed 100 GW as of February 2025.
- ✓ In total solar capacity, Rajasthan is at the top with 18.7 GW. Gujarat is at the second position with 10.5 GW.



As per a recent report by Council on Energy, Environment and Water, only around 20% of rooftop solar installations are in residential sector. The report suggests that India's 25 crore households could deploy 637 GW solar energy on rooftops, and just one-third of this could meet the entire residential electricity demand in India.

Source: Over 5 Lakh Loan Applications amounting to ₹10,907 crore Sanctioned by PSBs under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PIB)

PLACES IN NEWS

Syria



- Syria has signed a ceasefire agreement with the Kurdish insurgent forces operating in its territory.

- Syria, officially known as the Syrian Arab Republic, is a country in West Asia in the **Eastern Mediterranean and the Levant region**.
- It is bounded by the **Mediterranean Sea** to the west, **Turkey** to the north, **Iraq** to the east, **Jordan** to the south, and **Israel and Lebanon** to the southwest.
- The capital and largest city is **Damascus**.
- Syria is home to **diverse ethnic and religious groups**, including the majority Arabs, Kurds, Turkmens, Assyrians, Circassians, Armenians, Albanians, Greeks, and Chechens.
- Religious groups include Muslims, Christians, Alawites, and Yazidis.
- The country has been **embroiled in a civil war since 2011**, which has resulted in one of the most violent and longest conflicts in the world.

with a fish harbour, cargo jetty, and a Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) base.

- Originally designed for **fisheries and coastal trade**, it now figures in Pakistan’s proposal as a strategic **mineral export terminal**.
- It is **situated on the Arabian Sea**, about 70 miles east of China-backed Gwadar Port and 100 miles from the **Iran-Pakistan border**.
- Its **proximity to India’s Chabahar Port in Iran** (≈300 km) places it at the heart of an emerging geostrategic maritime triangle — Chabahar (India-Iran), Gwadar (China-Pakistan), and Pasni (US-Pakistan).
- Pakistan seeks to **reduce dependence on China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and attract US investment** through a purely commercial project. It aims to export critical minerals such as copper, antimony, and neodymium, essential for defence and green technologies.

Port of Pasni



- Pakistan has **proposed allowing the United States to build and operate a commercial deep-water port at Pasni**, Balochistan, aimed at exporting critical minerals.
- It is a small deep-water harbour in **Balochistan’s** Gwadar district, equipped

TERMS IN NEWS

Tigers Outside Tiger Reserves (TOTR) Project



- It is a **new national-level initiative** by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and

Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.

- It will be **implemented over 2025–28**, with a total outlay of ₹88.7 crore, coordinated centrally by NTCA and executed through state forest depts.

Aim:

- To **reduce human–tiger conflicts in non-reserve landscapes** by ensuring safe coexistence between people and dispersing tigers.
- **Protect tigers that move beyond reserve boundaries** due to habitat fragmentation, growing populations, and shrinking corridors.
- **Foster a landscape-level conservation approach**, balancing ecological sustainability with human safety and livelihoods.

Key Features of the Project:

- **Encompasses 80 forest divisions in 17 tiger-range states**, including Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Focuses on **buffer and corridor areas** adjoining high-density tiger reserves.
- Deployment of **AI-based early warning systems**, camera traps, GPS-enabled patrolling, and data analytics for wildlife tracking.
- Formation of **Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) with local youth**, equipped with rescue tools, tranquilization gear, and vehicles.

- Launch of **“Bagh Mitra” (Tiger Friends) outreach programmes** and jungle camps for students to promote coexistence.

General Anti-Avoidance Rules



- General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR) was first **introduced in 2012 in the Income Tax Act of 1961**.
- Its operation commenced on April 1, 2017, and the provisions are outlined in **Chapter X-A of the Income Tax Act of 1961**.
- GAAR authorizes tax authorities to reject tax advantages on **transactions lacking commercial substance and aiming solely to evade taxes**.
- GAAR allows tax authorities to look **beyond the legal form of transactions and assess their true economic substance**. If a transaction is deemed to be primarily motivated by tax avoidance rather than legitimate commercial reasons, tax authorities **can deny the tax benefits associated with it**.
- If a transaction is found to contravene GAAR, tax authorities can disregard or recharacterize it for tax purposes. This may result in the denial of tax benefits, imposition of additional taxes, interest, and penalties. Additionally, reputational

damage & legal consequences may also arise.

NAVYA Initiative



- The NAVYA (Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescents) is the joint pilot initiative of the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)**, in convergence with the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**.

Features of NAVYA Initiative:

- It is a pilot initiative aimed at equipping adolescent girls aged 16–18 years with a minimum qualification of Class 10, with **vocational training mainly in non-traditional job roles**.
- It will be implemented in **27 Districts of the country which include Aspirational districts and districts of North-eastern States** spanning across 19 States, reflecting the Government's inclusive and targeted approach to reaching underserved regions and vulnerable populations.
- As part of the launch, both Ministries will formalize their collaboration to institutionalize convergence on skilling efforts for adolescent girls.
- The programme will draw upon the strengths of **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana**

(PMKVY) and other flagship skill development schemes.

- Significance:** Through NAVYA, the Government of India will reaffirm its commitment to empowering girls with skills, confidence, and opportunities—ensuring that every young woman becomes a catalyst in India's journey towards a developed, self-reliant, and inclusive future.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. Consider the following nations located in West Asia:

- Lebanon
- Iran
- Turkey
- Saudi Arabia
- Jordan
- Israel
- Armenia

How many of the above nations share a border with Syria?

- Only two
- Only three
- Only four
- Only five

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding “General Anti Avoidance Rules” (GAAR), recently seen in the news:

- They are used to deny tax benefits to transactions by judging their true economic motive instead of their legal status on paper.
- It is currently being implemented in India by virtue of the provisions in the Customs Act of 1962.

Which of the afore mentioned statements are correct ?

- (a) Only statement 1
- (b) Only statement 2
- (c) Both the statements
- (d) None of the statements

Q3. The Tigers Outside Tiger Reserves (TOTR) Project was recently launched by which of the following bodies:

- (a) Central Zoo Authority
- (b) National Tiger Conservation Authority
- (c) Forest Survey of India
- (d) Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the status of rooftop solar power installations in India:

1. The Union Govt. aims to achieve a total rooftop solar power installed capacity of 40 GW by 2026.
2. The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana aims to install rooftop solar power on residential buildings only & not commercial buildings.
3. Over half of all rooftop solar power installations in India are in the residential sector.
4. Gujarat accounts for the highest share of rooftop solar power installations in the country.

Which of the afore mentioned statements are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 1, 2 and 4
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the PM Gati Shakti Master Plan:

1. Extending 5G connectivity to all villages is also part of the aims of the Master Plan.
2. The overall co-ordination of the Master Plan will be handled by the Prime Minister's Office.
3. The Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya was set up via gazette notification in 2022 to create a skilled workforce for the logistics sector.

How many of the afore mentioned statements are correct ?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answers:

1. C
2. A
3. B
4. C
5. D