Gati Shakti National Master Plan

Why in news?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the ambitious Rs 100 lakh crore Gati Shakti Master Plan to provide multi-modal connectivity to more than 1,200 industrial clusters.

What is Gati Shakti?

- The plan aims to transfer India into a hub of world class infrastructure by providing integrated and seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services.
- A digital platform will be created to bring 16 ministries including rail and roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure projects.
- **Comprehensiveness:** It will incorporate the existing infrastructure schemes of different departments and state governments like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, UDAN etc.
- **Analytical** -It will offer 200 layers of geospatial data, including on existing infrastructure as well as geographic information about forests, rivers and district boundaries.
- **Dynamic:** The portal will allow various government departments to track the progress of various projects in real time and at one centralised place.
- **Prioritization:** Different Departments will be able to prioritize their projects through cross–sectoral interactions.
- **Optimization-** For the transportation of goods from one place to another, the plan will help in selecting the most optimum route in terms of time and cost.
- **Synchronization:** PM GatiShakti will help in synchronizing the activities of each department in a holistic manner by ensuring coordination of work between them.
- The project will be spearheaded by the logistics division in the commerce ministry and the implementation will be monitored by a monitoring group under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

What are the targets to be achieved under Gati Shakti?

- 11 industrial corridors and two new defence corridors in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh
- 4G connectivity in all villages
- Increasing renewable energy capacity to 225 GW from 87.7 GW
- Expanding the national highway network to 2 lakh km
- Increasing length of transmission network to 4,54,200 circuit km
- Creation of 220 new airports, heliports and water aerodromes
- Increasing cargo handling capacity of railways to 1,600 million tons from 1210 million tons
- Adding 17,000 km to gas pipeline network
- 202 fishing clusters/harbours/landing centres and more

What are the existing challenges in the infrastructure creation?

- Lack of coordination between different Departments
- Wasteful expenditure
- Time-taking approval process
- Multiplicity of regulatory clearances
- Hostile land acquisitions
- Difficulties in getting environmental clearance

What will be the benefits of the Gati Shakti plan?

- The plan aims to build Next Generation Infrastructure which will improve Ease of Living as well as Ease of Doing Business.
- It will facilitate the last mile connectivity of infrastructure and also reduce travel time for people.
- It will provide the public and business community information regarding the upcoming connectivity projects, other business hubs, industrial areas and surrounding environment
- The plan enables the investors to plan their businesses at suitable locations leading to enhanced synergies.
- It will create multiple employment opportunities and give a boost to the economy.
- It will improve the efficiency of port operations and cargo handling capacity and cut the vessel turnaround time.

Studies estimate that logistics costs in India are about 13-14% of GDP as against about 7-8% of GDP in developed economies.

- The plan will improve the global competitiveness of local products by cutting down the logistics costs and improving the supply chains.

Source: The Hindu, PIB

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