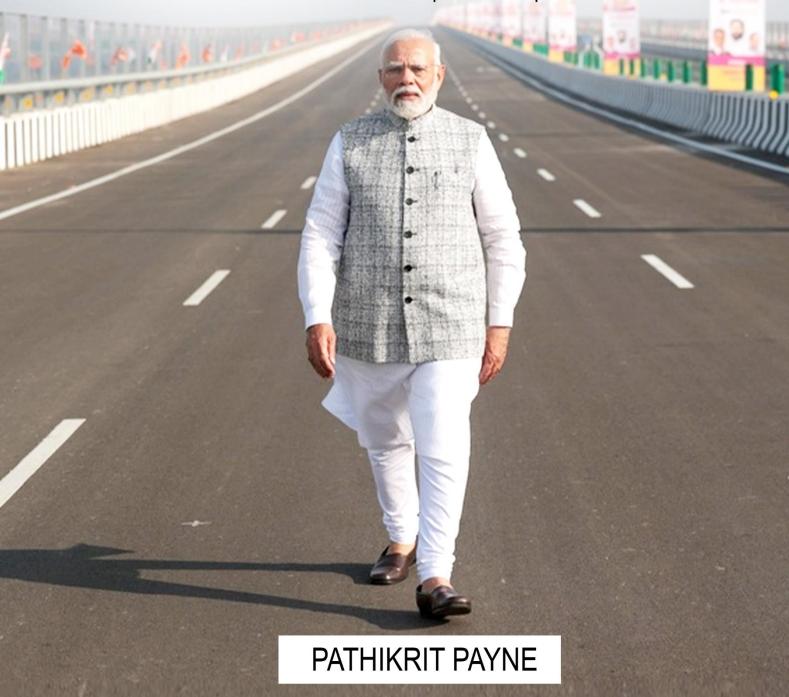


MODI GOVERNMENT'S FIVE FRONTIERS OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Through focused investments in India's industrial, physical, digital, health and social infrastructures, Modi Government has laid the foundation for India's quantum leap in next decade



MODI GOVERNMENT'S FIVE FRONTIERS OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



DISCLAIMER: Adequate efforts have been made to cross check every data and source of information. However, any inadvertent, technical, or typos error would be duly rectified if notified. Infographics with PIB Logo need no reference as they are self-explanatory.

In May 2023, Morgan Stanley stated in a report,

"This India is different from what it was in 2013. In a short span of 10 years, India has gained positions in the world order with significant positive consequences for the macro and market outlook,".

The report further mentioned unequivocally, "India has transformed in less than a decade."

Interestingly, this transformation also defines India's journey from being among 'Fragile Five', to emerge as one of 'Major Five' economies in just a decade. The term 'Fragile Five' too was coined by the same Morgal Stanley, which had put India in that list in 2013. Among many, one fundamental reason for this metamorphosis is the incredible amount of focus that was put by PM Modi led NDA Government on development of physical, social, digital and industrial infrastructures in India. This played a pivotal role in altering the landscape of India's economic turnaround.

Laying the Foundation

The first five years of Modi Government focused, among others, on development of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) pivoted on JAM Trinity, i.e. opening of Jan Dhan bank accounts, almost 49 crores now, followed by its linkage to Aadhar and mobile numbers of account holders, initiating key structural reforms, and further followed by a massive revolution in India's digital landscape by bringing down the price of broadband.

The second half focused more on development of physical infrastructure, to enhance productivity of Indian economy. In 2019, for example, during his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that Rs 100 lakh croreⁱⁱⁱ would be spent over the next five years on building modern infrastructure.

To give shape to this pledge, the **National Infrastructure Pipeline**^{iv} was created in 2019 for making the roadmap for building world class infrastructure in India. In October 2021, PM Modi launched the **Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti National Master Plan**^v to create an integrated approach to infrastructure building thereby breaking away from the culture of 'inter-ministerial' silos that was the hallmark of Indian style of functioning for long.

PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan Explained



Source: PIB

PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan Explained



Source: PIB

PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan Explained

A Giant Stride in India's \$5 Trillion Economy Goal

Gati Shakti National Master Plan

Multimodal Connectivity Infrastructure to various Economic Zones



Targets upto 2024-25 for Ministry of Shipping



Increase in Cargo capacity at the Ports to 1,759 MMTPA from 1,282 MMTPA in 2020



Cargo movement on all National Waterways will be 95 million MT from 74 million MT in 2020

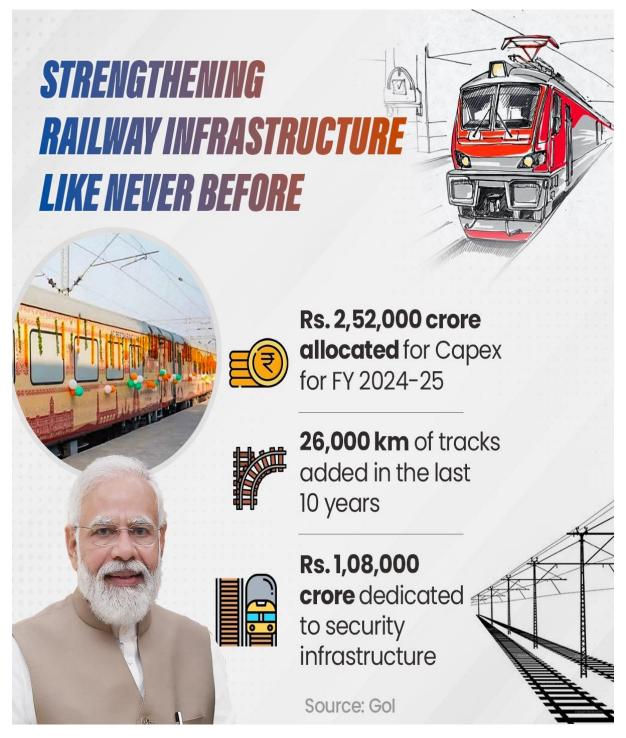


Cargo movement on Ganga to be increased from 9 to 29 million MT



Source PIB, 13 October, 2021

Rail Infrastructure Development Landscape



Source: BJP4India Twitter Handle, Date taken from Government of India

The National Infrastructure Pipeline

	Sector & its	s investment
1	Energy	Rs 2,454,249 crore
A	Road	Rs 1,963,943 crore
	Railways	Rs 1,368,523 crore
ZI.	Irrigation	Rs 772,678 crore
峥	Rural infrastructure	Rs 772,765 crore
	Urban infrastructure	Rs 1,629,012 crore
	Industrial infrastructure	Rs 307,462 crore
Á	Social infrastructure	Rs 356,701 crore
IÀ.	Ports	Rs 100,923 crore
á	Airports	Rs 143,398 crore
	Telecommunications	Rs 320,498 crore
6	Agriculture & Food processing infrastructure	Rs 60,553 crore
		NIP – National Infrastructure Pipeline Source: Govt of India

Data Published in 2019

Modi Government's precision focus on infrastructure development can be gauged from an RBI report in 2022, which stated that the total amount spent on the same by Modi Government from 2014-15 to 2021-22 was almost Rs 91 lakh crore^{vi}.

Likewise, a CRISIL report^{vii} published in October 2023, had stated that while Rs 67 lakh crore was spent on infrastructure development during the period 2017-2023, the same would be doubled to Rs 143 lakh crore between 2024-2030.

The Infrastructure Blitzkrieg

Even without these figures, one can simply gauge the breakneck speed at which infrastructure has been built in the last one decade by Modi Government. From ports to rail network, from airports to road network, from convention centres to industrial zones and state-of-the-art trading hubs, from long delayed and stalled projects including strategic bridges and tunnels getting completed, to a massive push to India's digital infrastructure build up, India has seen a paradigm shift in the intent with which infrastructure is being built now, and being finished within stipulated time frame.

One key reason for this focus on infra push is that if India has to breach the threshold of a \$5 trillion economy by 2026-27, and eventually emerge as a \$7 trillion economy by 2030, it does need the infrastructural capacity to absorb investments. The right kind of infrastructure plays a critical role in enhancing productivity of an economy. And for India, infrastructural bottlenecks had been for long, a serious impediment to productivity boost in the past.

Reports also indicate that between FY22 and FY24, Modi Government is in the process of spending Rs 23.3 lakh crore on capital expenditure^{viii}. This can be easily gauged by the fact that while for FY2023-24, Rs 10 lakhs crore^{ix} was allocated for capital expenditure, the same provided in the interim budget of FY2024-25 is Rs 11.11 lakh crore^x, while the provision in the revised estimates of FY2022-23 was Rs 7.28 lakh crore.

The net result of this sustained push towards infrastructure buildup is that India's ranking in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index for 2023 witnessed an elevation by six places to be ranked at 38, out of 139 countries in the fray.

The Infra Push in Numbers

Apart from almost a 500% increase, since 2014, in allocation for budget for construction of highways and roads, Vande Bharat is metamorphosing train travelling in India. With India on course to have 400 Vande Bharat trains, to be operational in due course of time, and a record 1749 km of tracks constructed under Dedicated Freight Corridor since 2014, the addition of 74 new airports that have been operationalised since 2014, and declaration of 111 waterways as National Waterways, have brought about a paradigm shift in the manner infrastructure development has been prioritised now.



Infographics Published in 2023 by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt of India

While official reports indicate that highways are now being built at a breakneck speed of 37 km per day, and more than 4800 urban development projects under AMRUT have been completed by end of 2022, what is also noteworthy is that rural road infrastructure development has not been left behind, and more than 3.28 lakh km roads have been since 2014.

The Push for Whole-Of-Govt Approach

An important aspect of infrastructure development under Modi Government has been that it is no more ad-hoc in its approach. Instead, apart from synergy among various inter-related projects that is now being created through *Gatishakti*, a critical aspect of it is its long-term perspective. This means such projects like Bharatmala, Sagarmala and Parvatmala would take time to materialise but from a long-term perspective, these are pathbreaking initiatives that would act as force multipliers in terms of removing accessibility challenges, enhancing productivity and helping products from rural India to reach urban hotspots or ports for exports.

Additionally, India's massive infrastructure development push under Modi Government also ensured a quantum jump in India's demand of core sector products including steel, cement, and other allied commodities that also played a key role in keeping the growth rates on a higher momentum. This is one of the key reasons as to why India emerged as the fifth largest economy globally, at a time when even the developed countries have been grappling with pandemic triggered economic challenges.

The Push for Digital Infrastructure Buildup

In the realm of development of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), it is important to mention about the 25 lakhs km of Optical Fibre Network that has been laid since 2014, and up till 2023. BharatNet in this regard is playing a key role in paving the way for creating a digital infrastructure highway in rural India. A drastic reduction in price of Broadband resulted in a meteoric rise in the number of broadband users in India to more than 90 crore^{xi} by 2023, while the total mobile connection in India stood at more than 1.2 billion^{xii}, and is expected to breach the 1.4 billion mark by end of 2024.

It must be mentioned that the combination of access to both mobile connectivity and bank accounts, played key roles in ensuring that over the Rs 34 lakh crore^{xiii} has been transferred by Government of India to Aadhar linked accounts as part of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), since 2014. This also resulted in India saving more than \$27 billion^{xiv} by plugging loopholes and bypassing middlemen. The pandemic phase showed how critical this digital revolution has been, as it facilitated a significant portion of India's service sector to allow its staff to work from home, helped India catapult its ecommerce market, and gave shape to a manpower intensive gig economy, which is now one of the fastest growing segments of the economy.

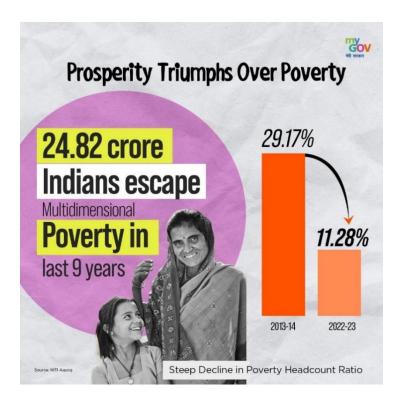
Digital Infra Paved Way for Social Infra Development

Along with DBT, facilitated by digital infra, Modi Govt prioritised focussing on access to finance for those aspiring to start their microenterprises through Mudra, access to sanitation through Swachh Bharat, access to clean water through Jal Jeevan Mission, access to quality healthcare through Ayushman Bharat, access to electricity and LPG connection, and finally access to free additional rations and tap water, all of which ensured that not only almost 25 crore people have been brought out of multidimensional poverty, even during the most difficult and tortuous times of Covid pandemic, but have also transformed almost a quarter of India from being defined as underprivileged, who were perpetually dependent on the state, to one which is now emerging as a strong consumer base, as well as a major contributor and building block of the economy. The results of the same are for everyone to see, especially how every section of the society, have now been actively transacting through UPI, which has turned itself into a great financial leveller, and how Mudra Yojana created 8 crore new entrepreneurs^{xv}, while 93,000 microenterprises^{xvi} have evolved into small enterprises, while 10,000 small enterprises emerged as medium enterprises^{xvii}. Additionally, the Common Service Centres enabled Grameen estores had Rs 581 crore turnover, which are essentially driven by more than 4 lakh village level entrepreneurs^{xviii}.

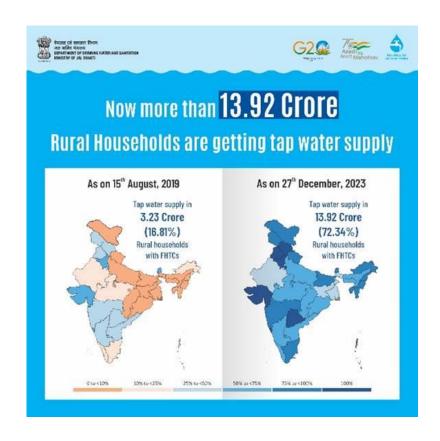
MODI GOVERNMENT'S CORE FOCUS ON DIGITAL & SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT LEADING TO MASSIVE SUCCESS OF DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER, PLAYED A CRITICAL ROLE IN BRINGING 24.82 CROREXIX PEOPLE OUT OF MULTI-DIMENSIONAL POVERTY

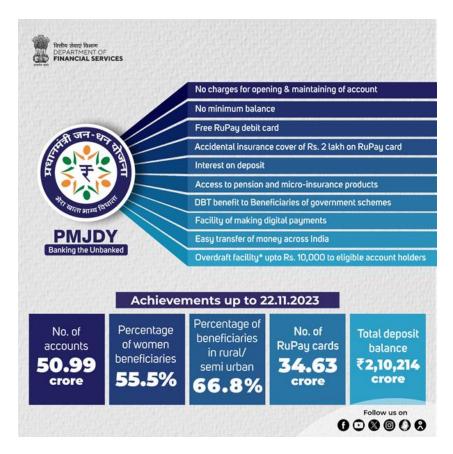
Modi Government's Social Infrastructure Matrix in Infographics





The Social Sector Infrastructure Landscape





The Social Sector Infrastructure Landscape



Source: PIB, https://pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?NoteId=151861&ModuleId=3



The Fourth Triad: Building Industrial Scalability & Atmanirbharta

The fourth triad of PM Modi's infrastructure development is the focus on development of resilient supply chains and leveraging India's industrial infrastructure.

For far too long India was content by being a service sector driven economy, with the contribution of the manufacturing sector perpetually remaining below par. For decades, and even after India adopted a liberalised economic policy from early 1990's, lack of structural reforms and absence of intent of successive regimes to transform India's industrial landscape, resulted in India failing to leverage the true potential of its domestic manufacturing capability.

Modi Government through implementation of GST, Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code Act, reducing corporate tax rates, now comparable to global rates, allowing 100% FDI in contract manufacturing, and by doing away with more than 39,000 needless compliances^{xx} and 1500 redundant laws^{xxi}, had already paved the way for India's real push towards to becoming a key player in the global manufacturing supply chain. The first major success was how India, from nowhere emerged as the second largest manufacturer of mobile phones during Modi era.

Covid Pandemic Phase: Transforming Crisis into National Opportunity

What transpired interestingly is how Modi Government optimally leveraged the Covid crisis to unleash India's actual manufacturing proficiency and industrial scale resilience. From a net importer of N-95 masks and PPE kits, when the pandemic struck the world, to emerging as the second largest manufacturer of both products in just a matter of few months, producing 2 lakh each of PPE kits and N-95 masks every day, India showed its real potential when Government plays the role of a catalyst to synergise the supply chains and provides a vision.

Further, India battled the entire pandemic crisis and vaccinated more than 100 crores of its eligible population with domestically manufactured vaccines, which it also supplied as part of Vaccine Maitri, to 98 other countries^{xxii}. More than 23.5 crores^{xxiii} of such vaccines were given, especially to countries of Global South.

Realising the critical importance of developing resilient supply chains that would not be impeded by global disruptions be it due to any pandemic or conflict, Modi Government initiated a series of policies from *Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan* to

Production Linked Incentive Schemes, as well as allocating funds for development of domestic capabilities in critical and emerging areas such as semiconductors, green hydrogen, quantum computing, and various other kinds of deep techs that are critical to overall development of self-reliance of a country.

Production Linked Incentive Scheme

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme initiated by Modi Government, and initially spread over 13 critical sectors (later extended to drone sector) to boost domestic manufacturing, entails an overall outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crorexxiv. It includes sectors like Active Pharma Ingredients, Medical Device Manufacturing, Specialty Steel, Telecom, Electronic Products, Textiles and Solar PV modules, to name a few. As of November 2023, xxv the scheme has resulted in garnering investments worth Rs 1.03 lakh crore that has resulted in cumulative sales and production worth Rs 8.61 lakh crore, while generating employment for over 6.78 lakh personnel. Interestingly, the PLI scheme also had an export component of Rs 3.2 lakh crore with major contribution from Electronics, Pharmaceuticals. Food Processing, as well as Telecom and Networking products. It is also to be mentioned that 746 applications have been approved across 14 sectors with investment potential to the tune of Rs 3 lakh crore. Additionally, a key beneficiary of the PLI scheme has been the MSME industry across sectors who invariably are becoming key foundations of the overall supply chain as India unleashes its real potential in the manufacturing sector. Also, since 2018, some major policy initiatives have been undertaken by Modi Government to strengthen MSME sector as well.



https://twitter.com/mygovindia/status/1326509930623332352

The Game Changing PLI Scheme of Modi Government

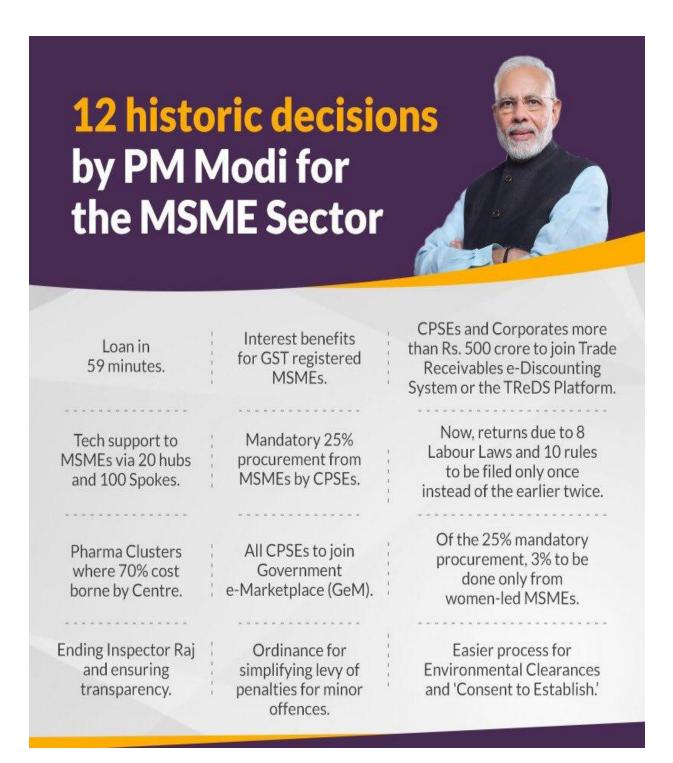
TRANSFORMING INDIA INTO A MANUFACTURING HUB CABINET APPROVES PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR 10 SECTORS				
	WITH AN OUTLAY OF NEARLY RS 2 L Sectors	ARH CRORE Approved financial outlay for 5 years		
	Advance Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery	Rs 18,100 crore		
	Electronic/Technology products	Rs 5,000 crore		
	Automobiles & Auto components	Rs 57,042 crore		
B	Pharmaceutical drugs	Rs 15,000 crore		
	Telecom & Networking Products	Rs 12,195 crore		
	Textile products	Rs 10,683 crore		
	Food products	Rs 10,900 crore		
	High-efficiency solar PV modules	Rs 4,500 crore		
ي ر	White goods (ACs & LED)	Rs 6,238 crore		
	Specialty Steel	Rs 6,322 crore		
		al - Rs 1,45,980 crore		
	Already notified sectors Mobile manufacturing and specified			
ريكا	electronic components	Rs 40,951 crore		
区	Critical Key Starting materials/Drug Intermediaries & Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients	Rs 6,940 crore		
	Manufacturing of medical devices	Rs 3,420 crore		
	Tota	l – Rs 1,97,291 crore		
	make Indian manufacturers globally competitive Itting-edge technology while ensuring efficienci India a key part of the global supply cl	es, pushing exports and making		
3 ○ ○ ③/BJP4India ⊕ www.bjp.org Read full at bitly.ws/ax				

Source: https://twitter.com/BJP4India/status/1326757950594174976

Date: Nov 12, 2020

^{**}Drone and Drone Components were added to PLI Scheme in September 2021

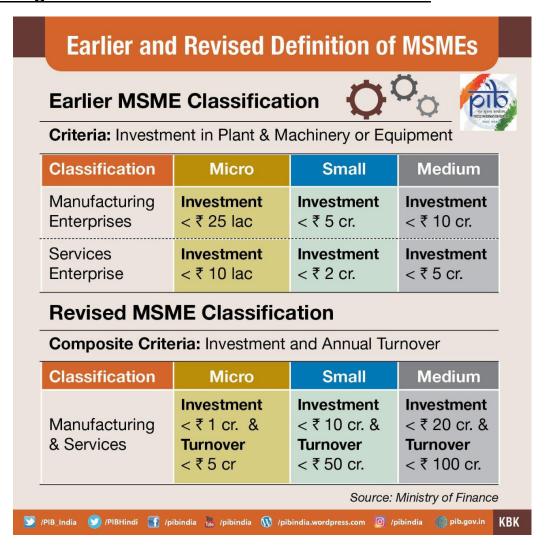
Strengthening the MSME Sector Through Policy Interventions



Source:https://twitter.com/BJP4India/status/1058395906423341058/photo/1

PS: These initiatives were taken in November 2018.

Revised Classification of MSME Segments: A Great Initiative to Strengthen Structural Foundation of MSME Sector



PIB Tweet Dated May 13, 2020

Recognising the Critical Importance of Startups in Indian Context

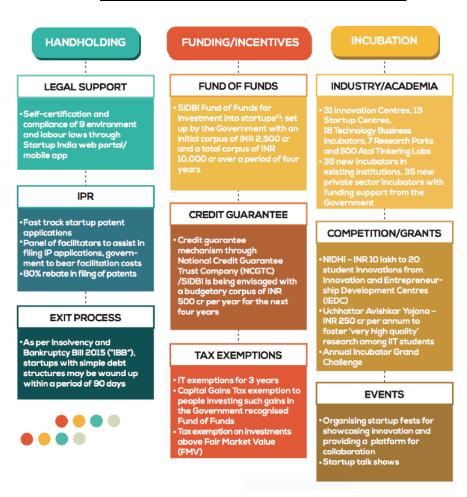
It was in 2015 that Startup India was launched by Prime Minister Modi, thereby giving the institutional recognition to the critical importance of startups that play a pivotal role in unleashing, nurturing and mentoring enterprises started by bright minds in India that eventually not just help in creation of jobs but also helps in fostering an environment of innovation to create new age entities that not just create solutions but also emerge as a critical player in the economy.

Thanks to the initiatives and handholding of Indian startups by Startup India, the nation is now host to the third largest ecosystem for startups in the world, has

given a unique opportunity to job seekers to emerge as job providers, and is helping in creating an ecosystem where it is no more needed for bright Indians to go abroad to fulfil their dreams. Instead, they can do the same now from India itself, and with right kind of facilitation by Government, a stark contrast of the past, when for decades India witnessed brain drain due to an anti-Entrepreneurial attitude of Government and Bureaucracy. This is where Modi Government differs from the rest.

Interestingly, these startups, facilitated by Modi Government, are now playing a key role in helping India develop resilient supply chains, and Atmanirbharta across Industries and inspiring a whole new generation to opt for entrepreneurship and instead of merely seeking a job. Not just that, even during the tumultuous times of Covid pandemic, Indian starts showed tremendous strength of character, and adaptability, to survive, thrive and emerge stronger.

Startup India Support System Explained



Source: https://www.startupindia.gov.in/

<u>Creating a Vibrant Ecosystem for Startups: A Critical Element of Modi</u> <u>Government's Quest for Industrial Resilience</u>



Rise of the

Indian Startup Ecosystem

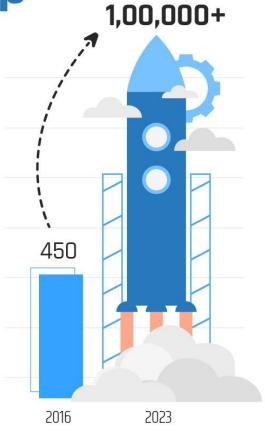


India registered 1,00,000+ startups by 2023*





India today is the **third-largest** startup ecosystem globally



No. of Startups vs. Years

Recognised by DPIIT

Development of National Industrial Corridors

A critical part of Modi Government's focus on development and expansion of India's industrial infrastructure is the National Industrial Corridor Development Program.

NCIDC, the nodal agency, for developing various Industrial Corridor Projects as part of India's flagship 'National Industrial Corridor Programme'. Its website states,

India's National Industrial Corridor Development Program (NICDP) aims at developing world-class industrial nodes. Under NICDP, key supporting features of these industrial nodes would be efficient urban agglomeration, climate-resilient, sustainable infrastructure, and multimodal connectivity including airports, ports, etc.

The NICDP will also be seeking strong institutional and regulatory frameworks. As a part of NICDP, India is also developing initiatives for green corridor frameworks, climate-resilient infrastructure, and skill enhancement for enabling the participation of female labour.

Government of India is developing various industrial corridor projects as part of the National Industrial Corridor Programme which is aimed at development of futuristic industrial cities in India which can compete with the best manufacturing and investment destinations in the world. The same will create employment opportunities and economic growth leading to overall socio-economic development.

Source: nicdc.in

List Of Upcoming National Industrial Corridors

A Critical Foundation by Modi Govt for Atmanirbhar Industry

32 Projects in 4 Phases under 11 Corridors forming part of National Infrastructure Pipeline

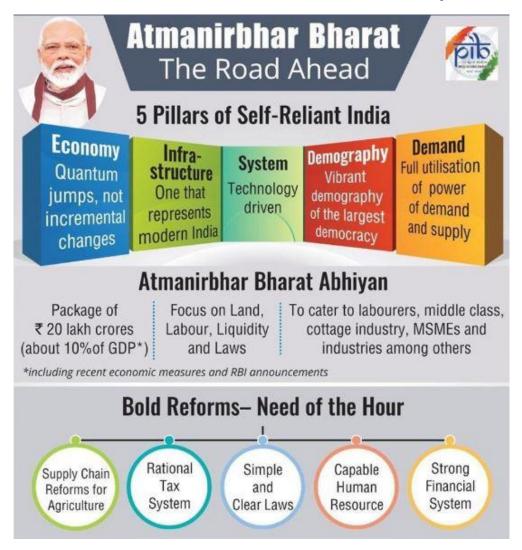
- Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC)
- Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC)
- Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC)
- Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC)
- Bengaluru-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (BMIC)
- Odisha Economic Corridor (OEC)
- Hyderabad Nagpur Industrial Corridor (HNIC)
- Hyderabad Warangal Industrial Corridor (HWIC)
- Hyderabad Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (HBIC)
- Extension of CBIC to Kochi via Coimbatore
- Delhi Nagpur Industrial Corridor (DNIC)

Source: nicdc.in

The National Industrial Corridor Landscape

Source: https://www.nicdc.in/index.php/about/overview.html

The Macro Picture of Atmanirbhar Bharat Policy Pillars



Published in 2020

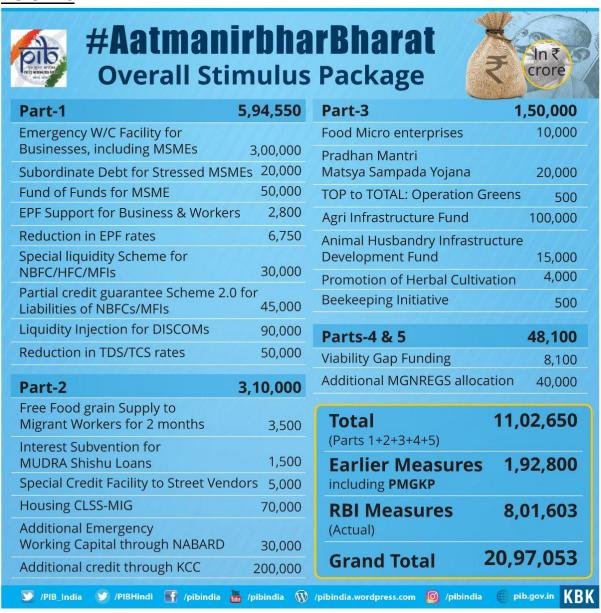
Creating Supply Side Reforms

An interesting aspect of Modi Government's push for supply chain resilience and *Atmanirbharta*, is that at a time when in the middle of the Covid pandemic crisis, when economic challenges, supply chain disruptions, along with an unprecedented healthcare scare were besieging the world, and most countries, especially from the West were resorting to printing of currency notes to boost demand, Modi Government, instead of taking short cut populistic routes, rightfully went ahead with streamlining supply side issues. This included a massive stimulus package for the MSME sector, and other allied sectors, to enhance their capacity buildup, and embracing of modern production systems, among others. As a result, an important positive derivative of India's emergence

from the pandemic crisis is how India became more resilient from economic perspective when the rest continued to grapple with economic woes.

Further, since Modi Government did not distribute currency notes among people, and instead gave free additional rations along with free vaccines, India therefore did not face the wrath of galloping inflation followed by recessionary trends that most nations in Western Hemisphere have been facing because of the short cuts they resorted to, during pandemic phase.

Revamping Supply Side Issues Through Stimulus Package and Policy Reforms



Twitted on May17, 2020, Source: https://twitter.com/PIB_India/status/1262005061720276998

The MAKE IN INDIA Landscape



Revamping the National Health Infrastructure

What must also be remembered is that while vaccinating more than 100 crore people with indigenously manufactured vaccines, was a vindication of India's industrial scale proficiency and supply chain competence, it also proved India's ability to deal with major healthcare challenges, something even the developed nations with much bigger economies struggled to cope with.

While vaccine administration was one part of it, a comprehensive restructuring of the national health infrastructure was undertaken by Modi Government to ensure that the rural-urban divide in healthcare sector is bridged. While *Ayushman Bharat Abhiyan* in its original avatar ensured affordability of healthcare facilities, most of which in India are centred around major cities and townships, the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission ensured people don't need to commute from distant villages and towns to main cities for treatment, and can avail most of the same within the same Block and District level public health facilities.

For any nation to be a vibrant economy, physical infrastructure development has to go hand in hand with ensuring that the most fundamental building block of any nation, i.e. the human resource, is adequately well taken care of. It is from this perspective, the focus of Modi Government to upscale India's rural health infrastructure is so very crucial. If Mudra Yojana ensured access to institutional finance to India's rural lot, Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission is ensuring access to institutional healthcare facilities to a large repository of valuable human resource of Bharat.

The development of rural health infrastructure has to be seen from the larger context of construction of more than 11 crore toilets as part of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan as well construction of a large number of new hospitals across India by Modi Government, in addition to now more than 14 crore households having access to clean tap water, as part of Jal Jeevan Mission.

The Health Infrastructure Landscape





- Creation of health records for individuals across healthcare providers
- Improve clinical decision making
- Improve equitable access to quality healthcare
- Encourage use of technologies like telemedicine
- Enable national portability of health services
- Generate employment across healthcare ecosystem

The Health Infrastructure Landscape

PM AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE MISSION

Largest Ever Scheme to Scale-up Health Infrastructure



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

has ensured a transformation in healthcare in the past seven years

Ayushman Bharat PMJAY & Ayushman Bharat Health & Wellness Centers brought scale while Ayushman Bharat – Digital Mission brings technology to healthcare

Every Indian deserves accessible, affordable and high-quality healthcare. We have worked to ensure this through multi-dimensional interventions.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi



Rs 64,000 crore

to be invested in building healthcare infrastructure

PM AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE MISSION

Multi-dimensional and Multi-modal Interventions

- ·Focus on critical and primary care
- Network of 29,000 Health and Wellness Centers
- Specialized Critical Care Hospital Blocks in all districts with 37,000 beds with ICUs, ventilators and oxygen support
- Over 4,000 Block & District level Public Health Units & Labs
- •Full range of diagnostic services in all districts
- •IT-enabled disease surveillance system

Institutional Approach to Holistic Healthcare

- ·National Institution for One Health
- •4 New National Institutes for Virology
- •Regional Research Platform for WHO South East Asia Region
- •15 Biosafety Level 3 Labs
- •5 New Regional National Centre for Disease Control
- Public health units at 50 international entry points preventing public health emergencies and disease outbreaks

A HEALTHY FUTURE BECKONS!





Know about PM Modi's transformative vision for healthcare in his own words by scanning this QR code

The Push for Defence Industrial Infrastructure Development

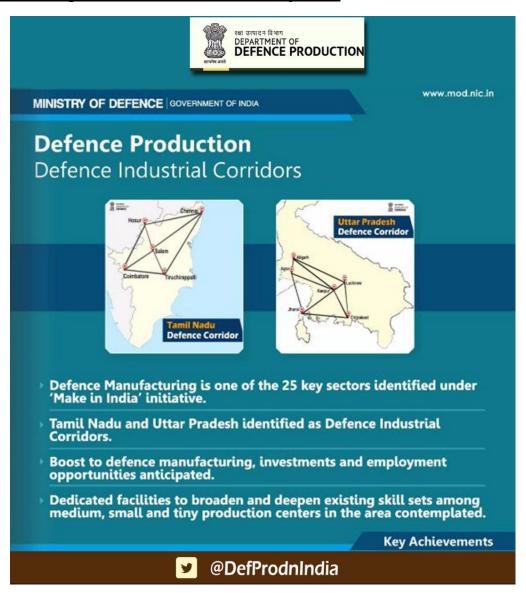
In the same league, the decision of Modi Government to give shape to a resilient defence industrial ecosystem by phasing out imports in calibrated manner, is giving a major fillip to domestic industry to leap into this arena and prove their mark. Over the last three years several thousand items have been identified and put into the negative import list that includes an entire spectrum of weapon systems of armed forces, and subcomponents. Around 2500 such items have already been indigenised**xvi* while the rest are in the process of being done over the next few years. At least 606 industrial licenses**xvii* have been issued to 369 companies for participating in defence component production.

The restructuring of Ordnance Factory Board into seven Defence PSUs preceded by abolishing of the monopoly of OFB in production of ammunition and all kinds of non-core items, worked as a magic wand in terms of ensuring a competitive environment in defence sector manufacturing, which promotes innovation. It must be understood that defence sector is not just for production of equipment for armed forces but is also a major component of any country's industrial ecosystem, and can play a stellar role in facilitating economic growth, industrial research, and development of various kinds of dual use products with multiplier positive impact in civilian applications as well. It is happening now.



Further, to facilitate the development of a robust defence industrial ecosystem, smoother Transfer of Technology, Modi Government has also given red carpet for FDI in defence industry by allowing 74% in the automatic route and 100% through Government route. Meanwhile Modi Government has also been working on development of two defence industrial corridors in UP and Tamil Nadu respectively

<u>Creating Defence Industrial Corridors for Seamlessly Giving Shape to</u> a Flourishing Defence Industrial Ecosystem



Further, a significant portion of capital expenditure for armed forces are now being earmarked for domestic industry. For FY 23-24 a record 75% or around Rs 1 lakh crore xxviii was earmarked for capital procurement from domestic industry, while the same for 2022-23 was 68%. In the Interim Budget for 2024, the Finance Minister has also allocated Rs 1 lakh crore xxix for research in deep tech for defence sector, in areas such as robotics, Al powered missiles and various other such disruptive technologies that have the potential to alter the threshold of conflicts in future. The manner in which Modi Government has been supporting startups in the defence and aerospace arena over the last few years, is extremely commendable and encouraging.

A critical element of how Modi Government has been working on developing self-resilience in the realm of defence is its eagerness of engaging India's startups and young minds through SPRINT. As per a Press Information Bureau release,

'SPRINT is a collaborative initiative being undertaken in conjunction with the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) and stands for Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), NIIO and Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC).' SPRINT aims at inducting 75 products or technologies into Indian Navy. Reports state over 100 developmental agreements have already been signed between iDEX and industry partners.

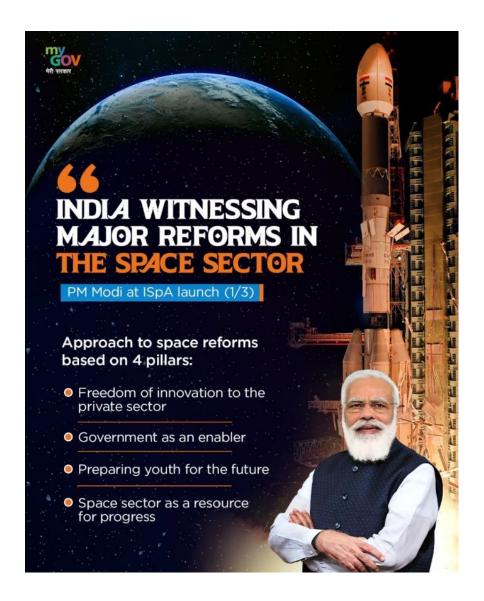
Likewise, preceding SPRINT, was Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) that was launched by Defence Innovation Organisation, which was formed as a "not for profit" company as per Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013 for this purpose.

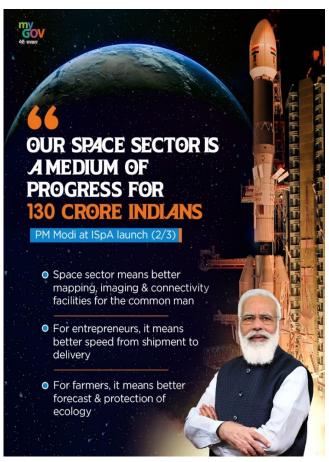
iDEX formation was followed by launch of Defence India Start up Challenge. As per IDEX website^{xxx}, 'Defence India Startup Challenge "has been launched by Ministry (Defence) in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, aimed at supporting Startups/MSMEs/Innovators to create prototypes and/or commercialize products/solutions in the area of National Defence and Security'.

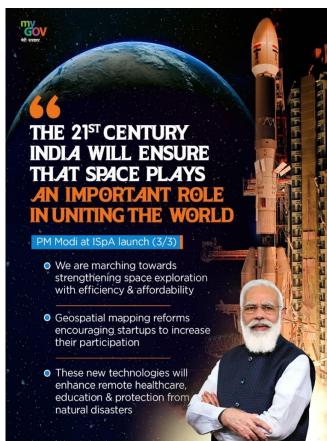
The success of this initiative can be gauged by the fact that a PIB press release dated December 1, 2023 stated that Ministry of Defence has already signed 300 contracts^{xxxi} with private sector startups and innovation companies in various fields of defence innovation, component development, and critical subcomponent production. Further, a significant number of drones, loitering

munitions and anti-drone systems are now being procured by Indian Armed Forces from Indian startups.

The same is the case with India's space sector which was hitherto a monopoly of ISRO but now has been opened up to Indian private sector companies as well, in which ISRO has been playing a stellar role in handholding and mentoring a large array of Indian startups in the realm of satellite launching vehicle development, as well as satellite development. If India has to create its own version of space entrepreneurs like Elon Musk in future, then liberalisation of the space sector by Modi Government has been one of the most profound reforms in the recent past that is unleashing the development of a new wave of space startups. That day perhaps is not far when launch of nano and polar satellites would entirely be handed by India's private sector while ISRO focuses on outer space research and exploration, along with development of India's own space station.







Overall, Modi Government, through its five frontiers of infrastructure development in the realm physical infrastructure, digital public infrastructure, social infrastructure, health and industrial infrastructure, has ensured that the seeds have been sown for India's quantum leap to emerge as a \$7 trillion economy before 2030.

The Interconnect of Five Frontiers

The most critical aspect of these five frontiers of infrastructure development, and policy initiatives by Modi Government is the intrinsic connect between all of them. In a way, each complements the other in a symbiotic relationship. Without healthcare and social infrastructure development, a considerable portion of the population can neither be uplifted as key economic contributor or as key consumers of the economy. Likewise industrial and infrastructural reforms are necessary to enhance the potential of the economy to absorb investments and produce wealth for the economy.

For far too long the bottlenecks remained as stumbling blocks and no one was interested in removing them. However, Modi Government, both through bottom-up approach of social development, and structural reforms for industrial investments have transformed India like never before, Modi Government 3.0 would be all about leveraging these investments to catapult India to the next dimension of economic and social growth that would be a template for others to emulate.

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40