

Initiatives announced on 75th Independence Day

August 17, 2021

In news- To mark the occasion of 75th Independence Day, the Prime Minister announced a number of new initiatives to be applicable in the country.

Key initiatives announced are-

Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti National Master Plan(PMGNMP):

- It is a **100 lakh crore national infrastructure master plan** which will create a foundation for holistic infrastructure and give an integrated pathway to our economy.
- Gatishakti will **help local manufacturers turn globally competitive and develop possibilities of new future economic zones.**
- Rs 100 lakh crore Gatishakti initiative will bring employment opportunities for youth, help in holistic infrastructure growth.

Rice fortification:

- The Prime Minister announced that rice provided under any scheme **will be fortified by 2024.**
- **It would include Public Distribution System, Mid-Day Meals in schools and Integrated Child Development Scheme(ICDS).**
- To address anaemia and micro-nutrient deficiency in the country, Government of India approved the Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on “Fortification of Rice & its Distribution under Public Distribution System.
- Fortification is the addition of key vitamins and minerals such as Iron, Iodine, Zinc, Vitamins A & D to

staple foods such as rice, wheat, oil, milk and salt to improve their nutritional content.

- **Fortified rice include:** Iron, Folic Acid, Vitamin B12.
- **Examples of fortified Rice:** CR Dhan 310, DRR Dhan 45 which contain high protein and high zinc in polished grain.

Roadmap for next 25 years:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that we have to ensure we **meet our goal of building Aatmanirbhar Bharat when we celebrate 100 years of India's Independence.**
- He said the **next 25 years were 'Amrit Kaal' for India and its citizens** and it would be the priority of the government to ensure that essential services reach the last person seamlessly.
- The **purpose of Amrit Kaal is to better the lives of citizens, lessen the development divide between villages and cities, reduce government interference in people's lives,** and have the latest technology so that we are not behind any country in the world.

Sainik schools for girls:

- The Prime Minister also said **girls would now be given entry into all Sainik schools across the country.**
- At present, 33 Sainik schools are operating in the country.
- The prime minister said two-and-a-half years ago, the experiment of admitting girls in Sainik schools was carried out in Mizoram.
- Sainik schools are run by the Sainik Schools Society, which is **under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence.**
- **The aim of establishing Sainik schools** is to prepare the students from an early age for their entry into the Indian armed forces.

Hydrogen Mission:

- Announcing a National Hydrogen Mission in view of climate change, the Prime Minister said the government would aim **to make India a hub for production and export of green hydrogen.**
- The Prime Minister gave a call **to make India self-reliant in energy production before completing 100 years of Independence.**
- He said India has moved towards electric mobility and work is underway on **100% electrification of Indian Railways** with the aim of becoming a net-zero carbon emitter by the year 2030.

E-commerce platform for SHGs:

- The government will establish e-commerce platforms to provide a market for the products made by self help groups (SHGs) to get a big market in the country and abroad.
- There are more than 8 crore women in the village who are associated with self-help groups, who make products.

Vande Bharat Trains:

- **Seventy five Vande Bharat trains** will connect every corner of India in 75 weeks of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence.
- The Indian Railways is planning to roll out the new Vande Bharat Express trains from March 2022.
- These trains with maximum design speed of 180 kmph would be operational by August 2023.

Other announcements:

- To honour the pain and suffering faced by people during the partition, **August 14 will now be observed as "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day".**
- The Prime Minister gave a call for '**Sabka Prayas**' along with 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' for building a new India.

- The prime minister said the capitals of **northeast states will soon be connected with the railways** and is also getting connected with Bangladesh, Myanmar and southeast Asia.