

NEWS TODAY

FOURTH TRANCHE OF AATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAAN

- It focused **more on structural reforms** as many **sectors need policy simplification** to make it simpler for people to understand what sector can give, participate in activities & bring transparency.
- **Policy reforms to fast track investment in an effort towards Aatma Nirbhar Bharat**
 - **Faster investment clearance** through Empowered Group of Secretaries
 - **Project Development Cell** in each Ministry to prepare investible projects, coordinate with investors and Central/State Governments.
 - **Ranking of States on investment attractiveness** to compete for new investment
 - Incentive schemes for **promotion of new champion sectors** such as solar PV manufacturing; advanced cell battery storage etc.

STRUCTURAL REFORMS ACROSS EIGHT CRITICAL SECTORS

Sector	Structural reform
Coal Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduce competition, transparency and private sector participation in the Coal Sector through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A revenue sharing mechanism instead of regime of fixed Rupee/tonne. Any party can bid for a coal block and sell in the open market. ○ Entry norms will be liberalised. There will not be any eligibility conditions, only upfront payment with a ceiling will be provided. ○ Production earlier than scheduled will be incentivized. ➤ Diversified Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coal Gasification/Liquefaction will be incentivised. This will assist India in switching to a gas-based economy. ○ Earmarking Rs 50,000 crore for infrastructure development in coal sector. ➤ Liberalised Regime in Coal Sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ease of Doing Business measures, such as Mining Plan simplification ○ Auctioning Coal Bed Methane (CBM) extraction rights in Coal India's mines.
Mineral Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction of a seamless composite exploration-cum-mining-cum-production regime. ➤ Introduce Joint Auction of Bauxite and Coal mineral blocks ➤ Remove distinction between captive and non-captive mines to allow transfer of mining leases and sale of surplus unused minerals.
Defence Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ FDI limit in the Defence manufacturing under automatic route will be raised from 49% to 74%. ➤ 'Make in India' for Self-Reliance in Defence Production will be promoted by notifying a list of weapons/platforms for ban on import with year wise timelines. ➤ Corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board.
Civil Aviation Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Easing of Restrictions on utilisation of the Indian Air Space to increase efficiency of passenger aircraft, save fuel and time. ➤ More World-Class Airports through PPP ➤ India to become a global hub for Aircraft Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO)
Power Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Privatization of DISCOMs in UTs ➤ Tariff Policy Reform like DISCOM inefficiencies not to burden consumers; DISCOMs to ensure adequate power; load-shedding to be penalized; Progressive reduction in cross subsidies; DBT for subsidy; Smart prepaid meter
Social Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Govt's share in Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for development of social infrastructure including hospitals hiked to 30% from 20%, with a total outlay of Rs 8100 crore.
Space Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Future projects for planetary exploration, outer space travel etc shall also be open for private sector. ➤ Private sector will be allowed to use ISRO facilities and other relevant assets to improve their capacities.
Atomic Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Technology Development-cum-Incubation Centres will be set up for fostering synergy between research facilities and tech-entrepreneurs. ➤ Research reactor in PPP mode for production of medical isotopes. ➤ Facilities in PPP mode to use irradiation technology for food preservation.

FIFTH AND FINAL TRANCHE OF AATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAAN

- **FM announced seven measures** for providing employment, support to businesses, Ease of Doing Business, and State Governments as well sectors such as Education and Health.
- **Key announcements**
 - > **Technology Driven Education with Equity post-COVID:**
 - **PM eVIDYA:** For multi-mode access to digital/online education.
 - **Manodarpan:** For psycho-social support for students, teachers and families for mental health and emotional well-being
 - **New National Curriculum and Pedagogical framework** for school, early childhood and teachers
 - **National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission (By December 2020):** To ensure that every child attains Learning levels and outcomes in grade 5 by 2025.
 - > **Decriminalisation of Companies Act violations** involving minor technical and procedural defaults such as shortcomings in CSR reporting, etc
 - Amendments will de-clog the criminal courts and National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
 - > **Ease of Doing Business reforms for Corporates:**
 - Direct listing of securities by Indian public companies in permissible foreign jurisdictions
 - Power to create additional/specialized benches for NCLT.
 - Lower penalties for all defaults for Small Companies, One-person Companies, Producer Companies & Start Ups.

FINAL DOSE

The fifth tranche of the economic package under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan was announced on Sunday

<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public spending to be increased; more health and wellness centres Infectious diseases hospitals and public health labs to be set up in all districts National Institutional Platform for One health by ICMR will encourage research. Implementation of National Digital Health Blueprint under the National Digital Health Mission. 	<p>States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre has decided to increase borrowing limits of States from 3% to 5% for 2020-21 only. Only a quarter of this hike is unconditional; rest are linked to reforms in specific areas
<p>Disinvestment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public sector firms in non-strategic sectors to be privatised No more than four public sector undertakings to remain in 'strategic' sectors; to be notified soon 	<p>Unemployment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MGNREGS allocation hiked by ₹40,000 crore to fund 300 crore person days Aimed at giving migrants who have returned home an income option <p>Industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fresh insolvency proceedings suspended for a year, eligible loan size to be hiked from ₹1 lakh to ₹1 crore COVID-19 related debt not to trigger defaults; firms can list abroad directly

NASA UNVEILS "ARTEMIS ACCORDS" FOR RESPONSIBLE SPACE EXPLORATION

- Artemis Accord are a **series of bilateral agreements between NASA and its international partners** that want to cooperate on Artemis program
 - > Artemis is NASA's moon mission under which it will land the first woman and the next man on Moon by 2024.
- It has been established to **create common set of principles** to govern the civil exploration and use of outer space at times when numerous countries and private sector players conducting missions and operations in cislunar space.
- The **agreement includes various norms** such as transparency, peaceful exploration, Interoperability of systems, Registration of Space Objects, Orbital Debris & Spacecraft Disposal etc.
- Accord is **based on the Outer Space Treaty of 1967** that was created to ensure fairness and peaceful relationships at a time when humans were first exploring the final frontier.
- France, Japan, Australia and Canada have already shown their support. **India has not clarified its stand yet.**

ALSO IN NEWS

<p>Lockdown extended till May 31</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre extended nationwide lockdown while giving considerable flexibility to States in deciding red, green and orange zones of COVID-19 intensity. • States will also decide activities allowed in these zones. Certain number of activities will continue to remain prohibited throughout the country. • National Directives for COVID-19 Management continue to be in force throughout the Country.
<p>Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre has released Rs 6,195.08 crore to 14 States as the second equated monthly instalment of the PDRD Grant as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission. • PDRD Grants is a mechanism provided by the Finance Commission for compensation of any loss incurred by states from the Centre. • It forms 2nd largest chunk of Finance Commission transfers after the assistance to local rural bodies. • Other FC grants are: Grants for rural local bodies, Grants for urban local bodies, Assistance to State Disaster Relief Funds (SDRF).
<p>National Migrant Information System (NMIS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NMIS is a central online repository on Migrant Workers to facilitate their seamless movement across States. • It would help in speedy inter-State communication/co-ordination. • It has additional advantages like contact tracing, which may be useful in overall COVID-19 response. • Developed by: National Disaster Management Authority
<p>Madhubani Painting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is also referred to as Mithila Art (as it flourishes in Mithila region of Bihar) and is characterized by line drawings filled in by bright colours and contrasts or patterns. • It uses tribal motifs and paintings are done with mineral pigments prepared by artists. • Themes: Hindu deities, court scenes, wedding scenes, social happenings etc. • Floral, animal and bird motifs, geometrical designs are used to fill up all the gaps.