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**General Studies-1**

**Jal Marg Vikas Project**

**Why in News?**

Even as the work on the development of Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) on Ganga is going on in full steam, a team of IWAI held a two day long intensive advocacy and communications outreach at Sahibganj and Rajmahal in Jharkhand.

**Objectives of Outreach:**

- The public meetings are being held as part of a month-long dialogue initiative on the entire stretch of JMVP (Varanasi to Haldia) that began in July.
- The IWAI is constructing a Rs 280. 90 crore multi modal terminal at Sahibganj in Jharkhand besides a proposed ship repair facility and a freight village.
- These interventions are set to change the socio-economic landscape of the land-locked region which has missed the development bandwagon.

**About JMVP:**

The Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) on NW-1 is being implemented with the financial and technical support of the World Bank.

The Project entails development of fairway with 3 meters depth between Varanasi and Haldia (Phase-I) covering a distance of 1380 km at an estimated cost of Rs. 5369 crore with target for completion in six years.



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**Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) – Overview (Haldia – Varanasi)**



**Key Objectives**

- 1390 KM navigable : **2.2m to 3m LAD & 45m bottom width**
- Critical part of development of **Eastern Transport Corridor** along with DFCC & NHAI.
- Alternate cheaper **modal choice** for cargo & passengers.
- **Socio Economic benefits** – business opportunity & employment generation (**Direct 45,000 & Indirect 90,000**) in the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, UP, & WB.
- **Environmental benefits** – reduced congestion on road & rail including urban municipal traffic
- Reduced emission & fuel consumption



**General Studies- 2**

**WHO lauds India’s Commitment to Accelerated Sanitation Coverage**

WHO lauds India’s commitment to accelerated coverage of safe sanitation services which, assuming 100% coverage is achieved by October 2019, could avert up to 300 000 deaths due to diarrheal disease and protein-energy malnutrition (PEM) since the country launched the Swachh Bharat Mission(SBM) in 2014.

**Benefits of SBM:**

- It will have a substantial effect on the *burden of diarrheal disease and PEM* by reducing mortality and accumulative *Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs)* – the sum of the years of life lost due to premature mortality and years lost due to disability or ill-health.
- According to calculations, if all sanitation services are used, the initiative could result in over 14 million more years of healthy life in the period measured, with the benefits accruing yearly thereafter.
- That is especially remarkable given that before 2014 unsafe sanitation caused an estimated 199 million cases of diarrhea annually.
- Helps to fulfill the Sustainable Development Goals, including Sustainable Development Goal 6, which obliges countries to ensure access to safe



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water and sanitation for all, and Sustainable Development Goal 3, which obliges them to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.

**Progress Made under SBM:**

- India's commitment and progress towards these outcomes is reflected in the fact that household sanitation coverage has dramatically increased from an estimated 2% per year before the initiative to more than 13% annually between 2016 and 2018.
- Notably, the broader health impact of India's commitment to accelerated sanitation coverage (which the present study does not consider) are likely to be significant.
- This includes *improved overall nutritional status and reduced incidence of infectious diseases* such as neglected tropical diseases and acute respiratory infections, as well as vector-borne diseases.

Moreover, the estimations apply to the health impacts from improvements in sanitation coverage only, meaning it is possible that the broader Mission has produced additional health gains through changes in personal hygiene and the consumption of safe drinking water.

**Role of WHO :**

- WHO has worked closely with the Government of India (GoI) to scale up access to sanitation services, including by providing technical assistance via India's 2017 participation in the Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water Survey (a tool to provide policymakers actionable data to help inform sound policy), as well as working with partners to support the GoI implement WHO's guidelines for safe water and sanitation planning.
- WHO has also supported the piloting of TrackFin (Tracking financing to sanitation, hygiene and drinking-water) in Rajasthan and West Bengal to utilize resources more efficiently to reach those under threat of being left behind.

**International Relations**

**Project Mausam**

**Why in News?**

An amount of Rs 60,039,297/- has been approved and allocated for Project Mausam. Expenditure for the project during 2017-18 and first three months of 2018-19 is Rs. 16,75,614.



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**About the project:**

- Project 'Mausam' is the initiative of Ministry of Culture to be implemented by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as the nodal agency with research support of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and National Museum as associate bodies.
- This project aims to explore the multi-faceted Indian Ocean 'world' – collating archaeological and historical research in order to document the diversity of cultural, commercial and religious interactions in the Indian Ocean.
- The main objective of the project is to inscribe places and sites identified under Project Mausam as trans-national nomination for inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage List.
- Action Plan for the year 2018-19 and 2019-20 has been initiated which includes certain activities such as holding an international workshop, event at UNESCO HQ, Creation of web platform, regional training programme and tentative list preparation for the Trans border nomination.



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**OCEAN'S ONUS**

CHINA  
IRAN  
IRAQ  
PAKISTAN  
UAE  
OMAN  
EGYPT  
LEBANON  
KENYA  
INDIA  
BANGLADESH  
MALAYSIA  
THAILAND  
SINGAPORE  
SRILANKA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**₹15 CRORE**  
HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FOR THE PROJECT, WHICH WILL REESTABLISH TIES BETWEEN COUNTRIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

**39 COUNTRIES**  
HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED TO BE BROUGHT ON BOARD FOR TRANS-NATIONAL NOMINATION FOR WORLD HERITAGE

Project Mausam involves the Archaeological Survey of India, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and National Museum. Countries include Bangladesh, Iran, China, Pakistan, Iraq, Egypt, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, the Maldives, Pakistan, Oman, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Thailand and the UAE.

The project started in April 2015. The deadline is March 2017, which will be extended.

The focus is on understanding national cultures in their regional maritime milieu

## **Ayushman Bharat**

### **Context:**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today reviewed the progress of preparations towards the launch of the Health Assurance programme under Ayushman Bharat.

### **About the Scheme:**

- The scheme will provide health assurance cover of upto Rs. 5 lakh per family.
- It will be targeted to cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families.
- Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country and a beneficiary covered under the scheme will be allowed to take cashless benefits from any public/private empanelled hospitals across the country.



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- Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission will be an entitlement based scheme with entitlement decided on the basis of deprivation criteria in the SECC database.
- The beneficiaries can avail benefits in both public and empanelled private facilities.
- One of the core principles of Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission is to co-operative federalism and flexibility to states.
- For giving policy directions and fostering coordination between Centre and States, it is proposed to set up Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission Council (AB-NHPMC) at apex level Chaired by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister.

## **Nirbhaya Fund**

### **Why in News?**

The Government has recently appraised projects on safe city worth Rs. 2,919.55 Crores under the Nirbhaya Fund for eight major cities of the country to make them safer for women.

### **About the Fund:**

- **Nirbhaya Fund** is an [Indian rupee](#) 10 billion corpus announced by [Government of India](#) in its [2013 Union Budget](#).
- According to the then Finance Minister [P. Chidambaram](#), this fund is expected to support initiatives by the government and NGOs working towards protecting the dignity and ensuring safety of women in India.
- Nirbhaya (fearless) was the pseudonym given to the [2012 Delhi gang rape](#) victim to hide her actual identity.
- The [Ministry of Women and Child Development](#), along with several other concerned ministries, will work out details of the structure, scope and the application of this fund.

## **General Studies- 3**

### **Strategic Investment Fund under NIIF**



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As on date, three funds have been established by the Government under the NIIF platform and registered with SEBI as Category II Alternative Investment Funds and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund II ("Strategic Fund") is one of those three funds.

The other two funds are National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (or Master Fund) and NIIF Fund of Funds – I.

### **About NIIF**

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) is a fund created by the Government of India for enhancing infrastructure financing in the country.

NIIF was proposed to be set up as a Trust, to raise debt to invest in the equity of infrastructure finance companies such as [Indian Rail Finance Corporation \(IRFC\)](#) and [National Housing Bank \(NHB\)](#).

The idea is that these infrastructure finance companies can then leverage this extra equity, manifold. In that sense, NIIF is a banker of the banker of the banker.

NIIF is envisaged as a fund of funds with the ability to make direct investments as required. As a fund of fund it may invest in other SEBI registered funds.

### **Objectives**

- The objective of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund II ("Strategic Fund") is to invest largely in equity and equity-linked instruments.
- The Strategic Fund will focus on green field and brown field investments in the core infrastructure sectors.

### **Benefits of NIIF**



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## Tackling Infrastructure Woes

Govt gets cracking on the National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF) | The governing council of NIIF meets to work out details

**₹20k cr** from govt

**₹20k cr** from other investors including SWFs

**₹40k crore** CORPUS

Govt stake would be below 50% to give fund private sector character

### MULTIPLIER EFFECT

- NIIF will be structured as fund of funds
- There will be multiple alternative investment funds underneath main fund
- There could be a stressed-assets fund, renewable energy fund, brownfield projects fund
- Each fund will be able to leverage NIIF contribution to raise more funds
- Contribution from NIIF to a project will give comfort to other investors as well

### TIMELINE

Sebi has already approved NIIF as an alternative investment fund | CEO of NIIF will be announced by Jan end