



CURRENT AFFAIRS



Argasia Education PVT. Ltd. (GST NO.-09AAPCAI478E1ZH)
Address: Basement C59 Noida, opposite to Priyagold Building gate, Sector 02,
Pocket I, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, 201301, CONTACT NO:-8448440231

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PM GATI SHAKTI PLATFORM

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "PM Gati Shakti Platform". The topic "PM Gati Shakti Platform" has relevance in the "Economy" section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

What is PM Gati Shakti? What is its institutional structure?

For Mains:

GS3: Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways.

Why in the news?

Recent news reports indicate that the **government is developing a system to facilitate the sharing of data on multi-modal connectivity**, as well as various physical and social infrastructure encompassed within the PM Gati Shakti platform.

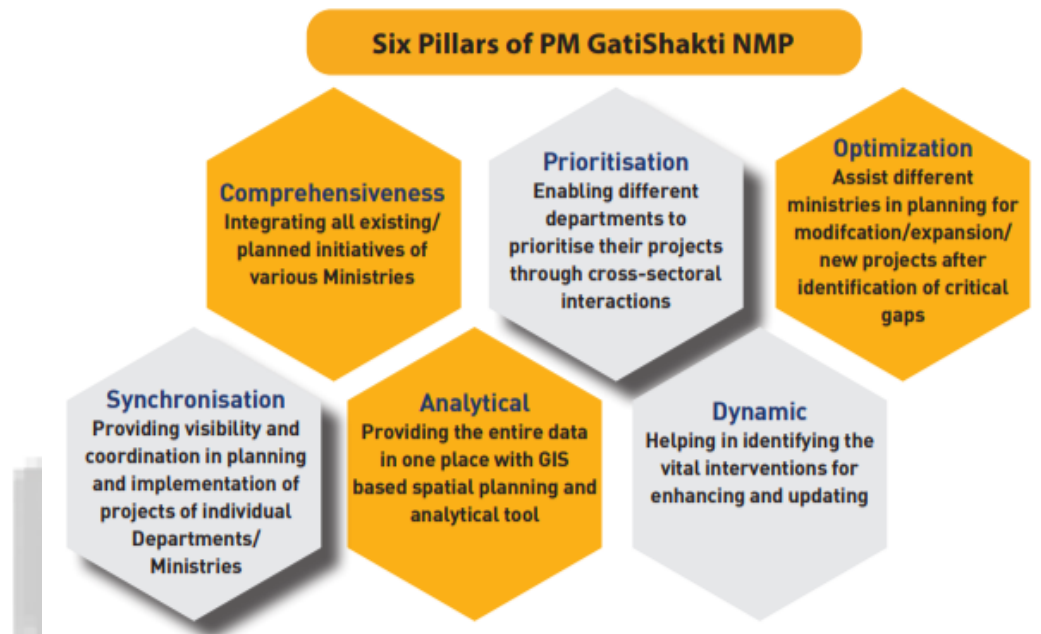
PM Gati Shakti Scheme:

- The Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti (PMGS) scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on October 13, 2021.
- Its main goal is to **eliminate inter-ministerial barriers and foster the integration of infrastructure project planning.**
- Through the Gati Shakti digital platform, 27 Ministries, including Railways and Roadways, will collaborate to achieve coordinated implementation and integrated planning of infrastructure connectivity projects.

The aims of PM Gati Shakti are:

- **Coordinate with different ministries** during the planning stage to identify areas of collaboration.
- **Schedule projects to avoid overlaps and delays.**
- **Develop standard designs for projects to expedite approval.**
- **Implement standardized procedures** across all agencies to reduce project delays.

PM Gati Shakti is based on six pillars:



Institutional Framework for PM GatiShakti:

- PM GatiShakti is a government program that coordinates 27 central government ministries under a single institutional structure. It aims to foster a **whole-of-the-government approach** to infrastructure development.
- An **Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS)** has been constituted to oversee the implementation of PM GatiShakti. The EGoS is **chaired by the Cabinet Secretary** and includes representatives from 23 infrastructure and user ministries of the Government of India.
- An **integrated multimodal Network Planning Group (NPG)** has been operationalised to examine projects and put them up to the EGoS for approval. The NPG is represented by heads of the Network Planning Divisions of 8 various infrastructure ministries.
- The **Logistics Division of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** is the **Secretariat of the NPG**.
- The **Technical Support Unit** provides technical support to the NPG, which includes a group of domain/subject matter experts who support the evaluation process.

Significance of PMGS

- **Inter-departmental coordination:** There is a lack of coordination between different Departments, for example, once a road is being constructed, other agencies dig up the constructed road again for activities like laying of underground cables, gas pipelines etc. This not only causes great inconvenience but is also a wasteful expenditure.
- **Reduce Logistic Costs:** India's logistics costs are 13% of GDP, compared to 8% in the rest of the world, making it difficult for Indian exports to compete globally. The PM Gati Shakti Master Plan will reduce logistics costs in India by improving infrastructure, streamlining processes, and promoting multimodal transportation. The plan will also help to reduce delays and improve efficiency.
- **Ease of Living:** Multi-modal connectivity will make it easier for people, goods, and services to move from one mode of transportation to another. It will also improve last-mile connectivity and reduce travel time.

- **Attracting Investments:** PM GatiShakti is a national infrastructure plan that will provide information about upcoming connectivity projects, business hubs, industrial areas, and the surrounding environment. This will help investors plan their businesses at suitable locations, leading to enhanced synergies.
- **Utilization of resources:** The plan will also create multiple employment opportunities and boost the economy. Additionally, it will lead to optimum utilization of the country's resources as everyone will be able to make their plans with complete information.
- **Improved Competitiveness:** It will improve the global competitiveness of local products by cutting down logistics costs, improving supply chains, and ensuring proper linkages for local industry and consumers.

How will PM GatiShakti Work?

- PM GatiShakti will address past issues by **institutionalizing comprehensive planning for stakeholders** involved in major infrastructure projects. Instead of separate and isolated planning and design processes, these projects will be **conceived and executed with a unified "silo-less" vision**.
- The initiative will integrate infrastructure schemes from various Ministries and State Governments, such as Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN, etc. Additionally, it will encompass Economic Zones like textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, defense corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters, and agri zones, thereby enhancing connectivity and improving the competitiveness of Indian businesses.
- The **extensive use of technology** will play a crucial role, including the utilization of spatial planning tools with ISRO imagery developed by BiSAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics).

Sources:

Govt to soon share infrastructure data from Gati Shakti portal with industry, investors – The Hindu doc20221124135401.pdf (pib.gov.in)

Q1. With reference to PM Gati Shakti Platform seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. PM Gati Shakti seeks to Coordinate with different ministries to ensure a silo- centric approach.
2. The Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGS) oversees the implementation of PM Gati Shakti which is chaired by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.
3. The Logistics Division of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is the Secretariat of the Network Planning Group (NPG).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c)

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. India's logistics costs are 8% of GDP, compared to 12% in the rest of the world.
2. PM Gati Shakti Portal envisages an monetisation through the leasing of core assets of the Central government and Public Sector Units.

3. The extensive use of technology with spatial planning tools will play a crucial role in PM Gati Shakti Portal.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (a)

Q3. What role does PM Gati Shakti and the National Monetization Pipeline play in India's future infrastructure development?

Gaurav Nikumbh

PANGONG TSO LAKE

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Pangong Tso Lake". The topic "Pangong Tso Lake" has relevance in the International Relations section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

About Pangong Tso Lake?

For Mains:

GS 2 : International Relations

India's Infrastructure Projects?

China's Infrastructure Efforts?

Way Forward?

Why in the news?

Three years after the violent clash between Indian and Chinese forces in Galwan followed by tanks facing each other around the Pangong Tso — a lake spanning eastern Ladakh and western Tibet — there is hectic activity in the area from both sides. While China is rushing to complete a bridge across the Pangong Tso, connecting the north and south banks, India is also building a black-topped road on its side on the north bank.

Pangong Tso Lake:

- Pangong Tso is a landlocked lake, approximately 135 km long, located at an altitude of over 14,000 feet (4350 m) above sea level.
- The lake is a glacial melt with mountain spurs of the Chang Chenmo range jutting down into it, forming fingers.
- It is one of the highest altitude lakes in the world filled with saline water.
- The lake freezes completely despite being saline.
- The brackish water of the lake has very low micro-vegetation and no aquatic life except for crustaceans during winters.
- Pangong Tso is known for its changing colors, ranging from shades of blue to green to red.

The Fingers of Pangong Tso:

- The Pangong Tso lake has a unique shape resembling a boomerang and is approximately 135 kilometers long.
- The lake is characterized by mountain spurs that into the water, known as “fingers.”
- The fingers of Pangong Tso are numbered from 1 to 8, with Finger 1 being the closest to the eastern end of the lake and Finger 8 the farthest.

India and China’s Share:

- India and China each control a portion of Pangong Tso.
- India has around 45 km of the lake under its control, while China holds the remaining two-thirds.
- The eastern end of Pangong Tso lies in Tibet.

Border Dispute at Pangong Tso:

- India claims control over the lake until Finger 4 but believes its territory extends up to Finger 8.
- The north bank, where the fingers are located, has been the center of clashes and tensions between India and China.
- Indian troops are stationed near Finger 3, while the Chinese have a base east of Finger 8, claiming territory up to Finger 2.

India’s Infrastructure Projects:

- A black-topped road is being constructed on the north bank of Pangong Tso, leading towards Finger 4.
- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is close to completing infrastructure projects, including the Sela, Nechipu, and Sela-Chhabrela tunnels.
- Advancing construction work on an alternate axis to the critical Darbuk-Skyok-Daulat Beg Oldie road through the Saser La.
- Implementation of the India-China Border Roads (ICBR) initiative, with three phases: ICBR-I, ICBR-II, and ICBR-III.
- Increased capital budget of the BRO by 43% to Rs 5,000 crore in 2023-24.
- Construction of roads under ICBR-III, with 70% focused on Arunachal Pradesh.
- Prominent Sela Tunnel Road project, connecting Arunachal Pradesh via a network of roads.
- Implementation of the Vibrant Villages Programme to improve infrastructure in border villages and enhance the quality of life.

China’s Infrastructure Efforts:

- Construction of a bridge across the Pangong Tso, connecting the north and south banks.
- Large-scale construction activity, including road connectivity towards Shandong village.
- Construction of a 22 km-long tunnel along the G-0177 expressway, connecting to the vital G-216 highway in Tibet.

Way Forward

- **Diplomatic Engagement:** Maintain open lines of communication and engage in diplomatic dialogues to address border disputes and ensure peaceful resolutions.
- **Confidence-Building Measures:** Implement confidence-building measures between India and China to reduce tensions and build trust, such as regular military-to-military dialogues, joint exercises, and information sharing.
- **Border Infrastructure Development:** Continue investing in border infrastructure development to enhance connectivity, security, and economic opportunities in the border regions, while keeping in mind the need for environmental sustainability.

- **Bilateral Agreements:** Work towards strengthening bilateral agreements and frameworks that promote peace, stability, and cooperation along the border, including border management and confidence-building measures.

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/both-china-india-ramp-up-infrastructure-on-north-bank-of-pangong-tso/article67034490.ece>

Q.1 Which lake has a unique shape with mountain spurs protruding into the water, known as “fingers”?

- (a) Dal Lake
- (b) Chilika Lake
- (c) Pangong Tso
- (d) Vembanad Lake

Answer: (c)

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. India and China have differing perceptions of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) around Pangong Tso.
2. The Indian government has implemented the Vibrant Villages Programme to improve infrastructure in border villages.
3. The Pangong Tso lake is characterized by mountain spurs called “fingers.”
4. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is primarily responsible for infrastructure projects in China’s border regions.

Options:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) All of the above

Answer: (d)

Q.1 Discuss the significance and challenges of infrastructure developments in the border regions of India, with a focus on their implications for border disputes and regional stability.

Rishabh