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Better infrastructure is about connecting dreams, accelerating progress: PM Modi
The Economic Times,
November 26, 2024

Synopsis

Prime Minister Modi announced Cabinet approvals for three railway projects worth ₹7,927 crore, benefiting Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh. A national mission to promote natural farming among one crore farmers was also approved, with a budget of ₹2,481 crore. 'One Nation One Subscription' received a nod, aiming to boost research and learning.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that the Union Cabinet's approval for three rail projects would benefit Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, and boost development along the busy section between Mumbai and Prayagraj. "Better infrastructure is about connecting dreams and accelerating progress," he said in a post on X.

Reacting to other Cabinet decisions, he said the National Mission on Natural Farming would mark a transformative shift in Indian agriculture.

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"Through this effort, we are nurturing soil health, protecting biodiversity and securing our agricultural future. It reaffirms our commitment to sustainable farming and prosperity for farmers," he said.

The Cabinet's nod to 'One Nation One Subscription', which will strengthen efforts to make the country a hub for research, learning and knowledge, will encourage interdisciplinary studies. It is a game-changer for Indian academia and youth empowerment, he added.

In another post, Modi said, "The Cabinet decision relating to the continuation of the Atal Innovation Mission reflects our government's unwavering commitment to fostering innovation."

This mission continues to enhance India's progress in sectors like science, technology and industry, he said.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Modi on Monday approved three rail ministry projects at a total cost of Rs 7,927 crore.

The projects are the Jalgaon-Manmad fourth line (160 kilometres), Bhusawal-Khandwa third and fourth lines (131 kilometres), and the Prayagraj (Iradatganj)-Manikpur third line (84 kilometres).

The government also announced a national mission to promote natural farming among one crore farmers on 7.5 lakh hectares with an outlay of Rs 2,481 crore over the next two years.

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India-UK investment bridge: Focus on roads, renewables, and rapid transit projects

The Economic Times,
November 26, 2024

Synopsis

India and the UK are partnering on infrastructure projects, focusing on roads, rapid transit, and renewables. The collaboration aims to attract UK investment and expertise to support India's growth, with initial plans to identify three projects by March 2024. Building confidence among UK firms wary of past challenges is key to the partnership's success.

India is pitching roads, renewables and rapid transit projects for development under the India-UK investment bridge, according to a report in the Times of India. As per the report, India is willing to tailor the design for greater participation from global investors.

A discussion on potential projects was held also where representatives from the City of London Corporation, officials from Niti Aayog and other ministries and companies from the UK and India, including foreign companies operating in India participated.

Quoting govt sources, ToI claimed that the participation will be open to global bidding, not nomination. This comes as foreign companies have largely exited India's road sector, leaving smaller Indian developers to fill the gap.

Chris Hayward, policy chairman of the City of London Corporation, outlined the plan: "We are receiving presentations from Indian partner companies and also from the UK companies. We have got major engineering firms like Mott Macdonald and Arup, which have global companies with huge global

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experience in infra projects. The plan is, between now and March next year, we are going to identify three projects with Indian govt which are likely to be in the sectors of roads, rapid transit and renewables.”

The partnership will initially focus on identifying three projects by March 2024, with UK firms offering project management expertise. The long-term goal is to attract capital investment from the UK to support India's sustainable transport strategy. Hayward expressed hopes for a lasting partnership: “Once those are agreed, we will be bringing to the table the expertise that the project management firms can supply. In due course, we expect that to expand to capital investment and capital coming out of London and out of the UK to support PM Modi's sustainable transport strategy. This is a two-year agreement initially, but we hope that it would blossom into a long-term partnership between London and the Indian govt because the growth in India is so spectacular and so fast that India needs friend and partners to support in delivering infrastructure ambitions.”

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UP Cabinet Approves 17.4 Km Aqua Line Metro Project, Set To Link Noida Sector-51 To Knowledge Park-5 For Greater Noida West Expansion

Swarajya,

November 26, 2024

The Uttar Pradesh cabinet has approved the detailed project report (DPR) for the expansion of the Aqua Line metro in Noida and Greater Noida.

The new corridor will connect Sector-51 in Noida to Knowledge Park-5 in Greater Noida West. The corridor will span 17.435 km with 11 stations and is estimated to cost Rs 2,991.60 crore.

Currently, the Aqua Line has one operational corridor with 21 stations, running from Sector-51 in Noida to Depot in Greater Noida, which has been functional since 2019.

The Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) has proposed additional corridors, including the newly approved route and another connecting Botanical Garden to Noida's Sector-142, to enhance connectivity with the Delhi Metro network.

Last year, the DPR for the Sector-51 and Knowledge Park-5 corridor went for revision after the Noida Authority sought permission from the state government to explore alternative routes based on interchange stations.

The approved corridor now links Sector-51 with Knowledge Park-5, with Noida Sector-61 Station serving as a seamless interchange hub between the Aqua Line (NMRC) and the Blue Line (DMRC), as per reports.

Funding for the project includes Rs 394 crore each from the central and state governments. Noida will allocate 40 per cent of the state's contribution, while the Greater Noida Authority will fund 60 per cent.

According to the original DPR, construction will occur in two phases. The first phase will span 9.6 km with five stations in Sectors 122, 123, Sector-4 in Greater Noida West, Ecotech-12, and Sector-2 in Greater Noida West.

The second phase will cover four stations in Greater Noida Sectors 3, 10, 12, and Knowledge Park-5.

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Bihar Cabinet Approves Rs 197 Crore for Infrastructure Projects

Construction Week online,
November 26, 2024

The Bihar Cabinet has approved Rs 197 billion for several key infrastructure projects across three districts to improve connectivity and educational facilities. The approval includes Rs 109.21 billion for the construction of a road overbridge (ROB) between Dumri Halt and Pothahi railway stations in Patna and Rs 43.40 billion for two road projects in Chhapra. Additionally, Rs 44.91 billion has been allocated for upgrading NH-80 between Rampur and Shringi Rishi Dham, improving access to several important towns.

The cabinet also approved Rs 107.12 billion for two residential schools for minorities in Patna and West Champaran districts. These schools will help improve educational opportunities, with one school in Masaurhi block, Patna, costing Rs 56.65 billion and another in Chanpatia block West Champaran, requiring Rs 50.47 billion. These initiatives aim to drive regional development and support inclusive growth in Bihar.

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