



"INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL RENAISSANCE: THE NICDP AND THE RISE OF SMART CITIES" – PAPER - III



Yesterday, a significant milestone in India's economic evolution was achieved as the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the development of 12 new industrial smart cities under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP). This decision, involving an investment of Rs. 28,602 crore, is poised to revolutionize the industrial landscape of the country, aligning with the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat'—a developed India.

Strategic Vision and Investment

The NICDP aims to create a robust network of industrial nodes and cities, strategically located along six major corridors and spanning across 10 states. These locations include Khurpia in Uttarakhand, Rajpura-Patiala in Punjab, Dighi in Maharashtra, Palakkad in Kerala, Agra and Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, Gaya in Bihar, Zaheerabad in Telangana, Orvakal and Kopparthy in Andhra Pradesh, and Jodhpur-Pali in Rajasthan. The strategic placement of these industrial nodes is designed to optimize regional growth and economic integration.

This ambitious initiative is not merely about expanding industrial capacity; it is a strategic investment aimed at fostering a vibrant industrial ecosystem. By facilitating both large anchor industries and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), the NICDP seeks to catalyze India's manufacturing sector. The industrial nodes are expected to significantly contribute towards achieving the government's target of \$2 trillion in exports by 2030, reflecting India's commitment to becoming a self-reliant and globally competitive player in the international market.



World-Class Smart Cities

The new industrial cities will be developed as greenfield smart cities, incorporating advanced infrastructure and modern concepts. The 'plug-n-play' and 'walk-to-work' models will ensure these cities are ready to accommodate industrial activities ahead of demand, offering immediate readiness for investors. This forward-thinking approach is designed to enhance operational efficiency and support sustainable industrial operations.

The cities will feature state-of-the-art infrastructure, including ICT-enabled utilities and green technologies. This commitment to sustainable development is central to the NICDP's vision, aiming to minimize environmental impact while providing reliable and high-quality infrastructure. The development of these cities as smart, greenfield projects ensures they will serve as exemplary models of environmental stewardship.

Alignment with PM GatiShakti

The NICDP aligns with the **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan**, which emphasizes multi-modal connectivity and seamless movement of people, goods, and services. By integrating robust transportation and logistics infrastructure, the industrial cities are envisioned as growth centers that will drive regional transformation. The emphasis on connectivity is expected to streamline industrial operations and enhance the overall efficiency of the supply chain.

Economic Impact and Employment Generation

The NICDP is set to have a profound economic impact, particularly in terms of employment generation. The development of these industrial nodes is projected to create approximately 1 million direct jobs and up to 3 million indirect jobs. This job creation will not only provide livelihoods but also contribute significantly to the socio-economic upliftment of the regions where these projects are implemented.

By facilitating industrialization in various states, the NICDP will stimulate local economies, promote balanced regional development, and address disparities in economic growth. The projects are designed to integrate with regional economies, ensuring that the benefits of industrial growth are widely distributed.

Commitment to Sustainable Development

A key feature of the NICDP is its commitment to sustainable development. The projects will incorporate green technologies and sustainable practices, reflecting a broader commitment to environmental stewardship. By focusing on ICT-enabled utilities and sustainable infrastructure, the NICDP aims to set new standards for industrial development that balances economic growth with environmental responsibility.



The emphasis on sustainability is not merely a peripheral consideration but a central element of the NICDP's strategy. The goal is to create industrial cities that are not only economic hubs but also models of sustainable development.

Conclusion

The approval of 12 new industrial nodes under the NICDP marks a transformative moment in India's industrial and economic journey. By strategically investing in greenfield smart cities, the government is laying the groundwork for a future where India plays a pivotal role in global value chains. The NICDP's focus on advanced infrastructure, sustainable development, and employment generation underscores its potential to drive significant economic growth and regional development.

As these projects move forward, they will serve as a testament to India's commitment to becoming a global manufacturing powerhouse. The strategic investments and innovative approaches embedded in the NICDP will reshape the industrial landscape, fostering a more inclusive and sustainable economic future.

MAIN PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Question 1:

How does the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) align with India's vision of becoming a developed nation, and what are its strategic benefits for regional growth and economic integration?

Answer Guidelines:

1. Introduction:

- Briefly introduce the NICDP and its objective of transforming India's industrial landscape.
- State the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India) and how the NICDP aligns with this vision.

2. Strategic Benefits:

- **Industrial Nodes Placement:**
 - Explain the strategic locations of the 12 new industrial nodes and their distribution across 10 states.



- Discuss how the strategic placement optimizes regional growth and integration by connecting different parts of the country.

➤ **Economic Integration:**

- Describe how the NICDP aims to foster economic integration by creating a network of industrial hubs that enhance connectivity and regional development.

➤ **Support for Industries:**

- Detail how the NICDP supports both large industries and MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises).
- Mention the expected impact on India's manufacturing sector and export goals (e.g., achieving \$2 trillion in exports by 2030).

3. Conclusion:

- Summarize how the NICDP contributes to India's economic vision and its role in driving regional and national economic growth.

Question 2:

What are the expected economic and employment impacts of the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP), and how does the initiative incorporate sustainable development practices?

Answer Guidelines:

1. Introduction:

- Introduce the economic and employment goals of the NICDP, emphasizing its potential impact on India's industrial sector.

2. Economic Impact:

➤ **Job Creation:**

- Detail the projected job creation figures, including approximately 1 million direct jobs and up to 3 million indirect jobs.
- Discuss the implications of these job opportunities for regional socio-economic development.

➤ **Regional Economic Boost:**



- Explain how the NICDP is expected to stimulate local economies and address regional disparities.
- Mention the integration with regional economies and the anticipated economic upliftment.

3. Sustainable Development:

➤ Green Technologies:

- Describe the commitment to incorporating green technologies and sustainable practices in the development of the industrial cities.

➤ ICT-Enabled Infrastructure:

- Explain the use of ICT-enabled utilities and modern infrastructure to minimize environmental impact and enhance operational efficiency.

➤ Overall Sustainability Goals:

- Discuss how the NICDP aims to balance economic growth with environmental responsibility, setting new standards for industrial development.

4. Conclusion:

- Summarize the dual focus of the NICDP on economic growth and sustainability, and its potential to serve as a model for future industrial projects.