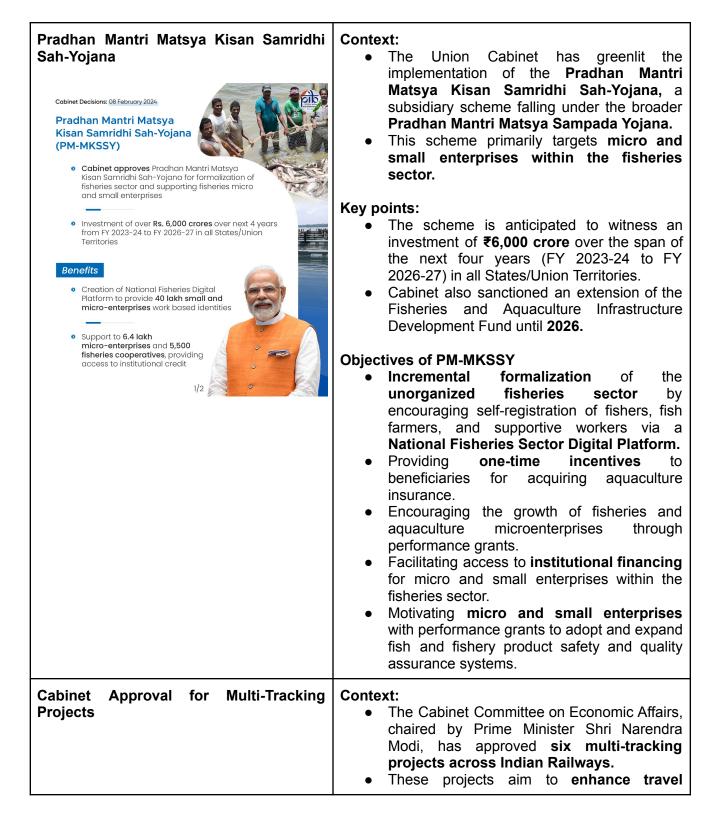








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	convenience, reduce logistics costs, decrease oil imports, and lower CO2 emissions.
	 Key points: During the construction phase, the projects are anticipated to generate approximately three crore man-days of direct employment. The financial outlay for these projects is estimated to be around Rs 12,343 crore, with an expected completion timeline by 2029-30. The projects span across 18 districts in six states—Rajasthan, Assam, Telangana, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and Nagaland—expanding the Indian Railways network by 1020 kilometers. The projects are part of the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multimodal connectivity, emphasizing integrated planning to facilitate seamless movement of people, goods, and services.
Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD)	 Context: The Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy has announced the installation of Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) equipment in thermal power plants to comply with emission norms set by regulatory bodies.
	Proposed norms: For TPPs installed prior to 31st December 2016: the permissible emission of SO2 - 600mg/Nm3 for < 500 MW TPPs;200mg/Nm3 for TPPs having > 500 MW capacity,For all TPPs installed after 1st January 2017: 100mg/Nm3.
	Installation Timelines for FGD Equipment To meet Sulphur dioxide (SO2) emission norms, thermal power plants are installing FGD equipment with specified timelines based on location categories:
	 Category A: Within 10 km radius of National Capital Region (NCR) or cities with a population of one million or more (as per 2011 census). Deadline: 31st December 2024.













	 Category B: Within 10 km radius of Critically Polluted Areas or Non-attainment cities as defined by CPCB. Deadline: 31st December 2025. Category C: Areas not included in Category A or B. Deadline: 31st December 2026.
Swadesh Darshan Scheme	 Context: The Ministry of Tourism has added the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Ajanta and Ellora caves in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar to the Swadesh Darshan Scheme II. This initiative aims to foster sustainable and responsible tourism destinations in India.
SWADESH BARSHAN 2.0	 About: The Swadesh Darshan Scheme, launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, focuses on developing sustainable and responsible tourism destinations nationwide. It operates on 100% central funding, assisting states, Union Territories, and Central Agencies in tourism infrastructure development.
	 Swadesh Darshan 2.0 SD2.0 seeks to attract private sector investments and foster Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in tourism, focusing on infrastructure operation and maintenance. Themes: Major tourism themes identified under SD2.0 include Culture and Heritage, Adventure Tourism, Eco-Tourism, Wellness Tourism, MICE Tourism, Rural Tourism, Beach Tourism, and Cruises – Ocean & Inland.
Kyasanur Forest Disease	 Context: Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), also known as monkey fever, is a viral infection first identified in 1956 in the Kysanur Forest area of Sorab Taluk in Shivamogga district, Karnataka. Since January 1 this year, two people have











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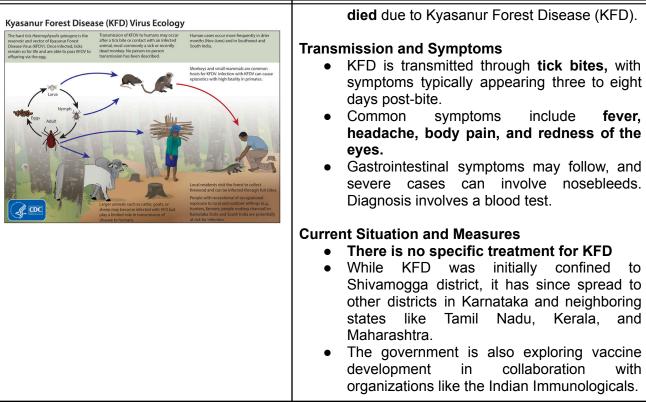
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