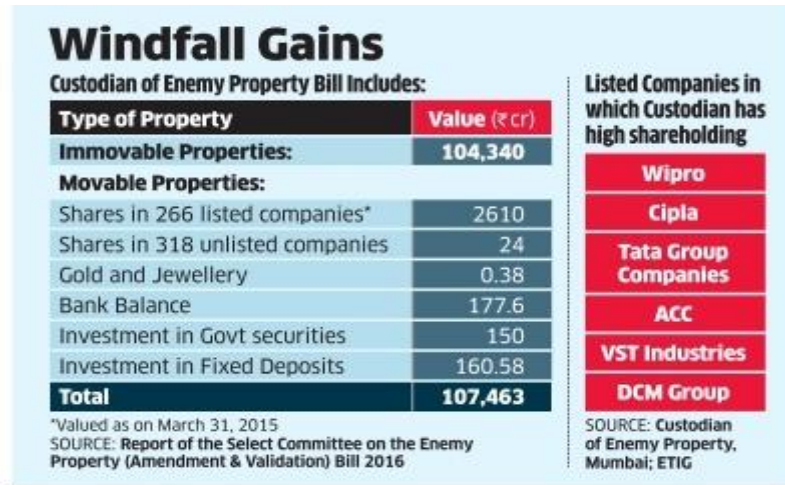


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226. [The Enemy Property \(Amendment and Validation\) Act 2017](#): empowers the government to sell off assets worth more than Rs.1lakh crore. There are 9,280 immovable properties belonging to Pakistani nationals encompassing 11,882 acres, valued at Rs 1.04 lakh crore in May 2016. Movable properties consist of shares in 266 listed companies valued at Rs. 2,610 crore; shares in 318 unlisted companies valued at Rs 24 crore; gold and jewellery worth `0.4 crore; bank balances of Rs 177 crore; investment in government securities of Rs.150 crore and investment in fixed deposits of Rs.160 crore. In addition, there are 149 immovable enemy properties of

Chinese nationals with the custodian in West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Delhi.

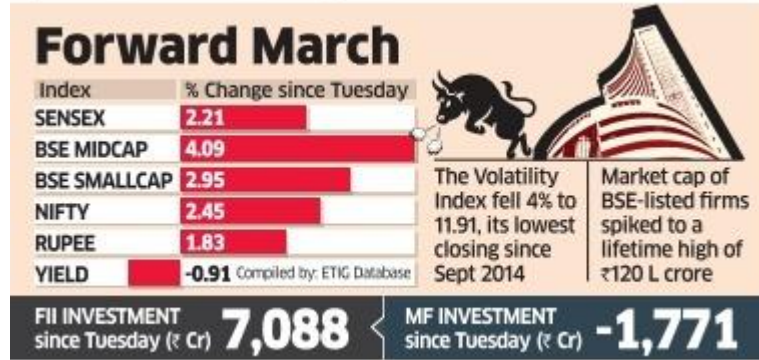
The Custodian of Enemy Property, under Ministry of Home Affairs, is now empowered to sell these assets. Sale was not permitted under the Enemy Property Act, 1968. The sale of these will help in controlling fiscal deficit.



227. **Four major challenges** for development in Uttar Pradesh include:
- Lack of Physical Infrastructure**, Specifically Access to Electricity: UP was ranked in the 2011 Census to be the lowest among the states, with only 36.8% of households having access to electricity.
 - Social Fault Lines**: Other than policy predictability, investors prefer a stable and secure operating environment.
 - 3 Crime and Politics**: According to data from the National Crime Records Bureau for 2015, the crime rate in UP was twice the national average. Extortion and violent crime are of particular concern for businesses, especially those engaged in politically exposed sectors such as infrastructure.
 - 4 Corruption**: corruption at the local level, especially in states like UP, remains endemic and poses significant integrity risks to businesses. Though international anti-corruption frameworks such as the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and the UK Bribery Act. These laws make Multinational companies extremely wary of investing in states with high levels of corruption, like Uttar Pradesh. Anti corruption drive needs to be taken ahead in the state

by increasing transparency in bureaucratic procedures and licensing requirements.

228. Impact of Uttar Pradesh election results on Sensex



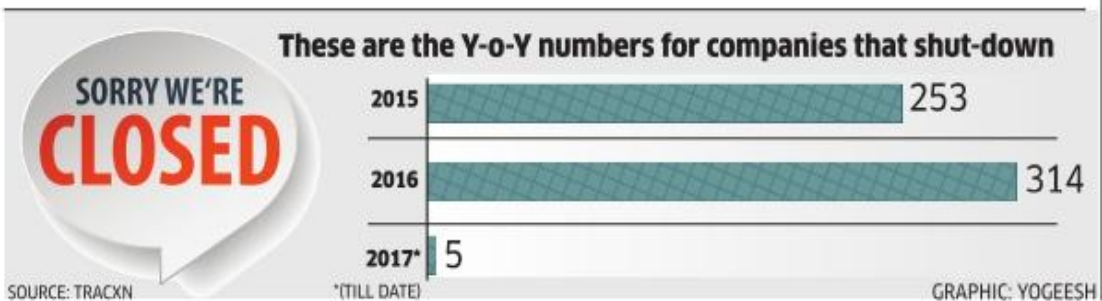
229. Number of Start ups that have shut down since 2015

INVESTORS AND DIRECTORS: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Investors and directors on the boards of startups have to guide entrepreneurs on their various liabilities, including on the need to keep aside cash for potential regulatory and contractual requirements.
- The board should, well in advance, discuss with entrepreneurs how the company can be prepared to handle different business scenarios, including the possibility of pulling down the shutters.
- Investors should routinely update themselves on the financials of their portfolio companies to understand the state of the businesses.

TOP 5 DEADPOOL COMPANIES

Company	Total Funding	Deadpooled	Latest Funded Date
PepperTap (2014) Overview: Closed Marketplace for hyperlocal grocery delivery	\$51.20 M	24 Apr- 2016	2015/12/21
Stayzilla (2005) Overview: Online aggregator of homestays	\$33.50 M	23 Feb- 2017	2016/05/13
GETIT (2005) Overview: Online search engine platform for local searches, classifieds, micro communities and deals	\$25.39 M	17 Aug- 2016	2010/08/08
Zovi.com (2011) Overview: Manufacturer of lifestyle apparel and accessory products with an online retail platform	\$15.50 M	2016	2012/06/01
iProf (2009) Overview: Mobile/tablet based education content delivery & exam preparation	\$15.50 M	Jun, 2016	2014/01/23



230. **Office of Profit:** The Election Commission is due to decide whether to disqualify 21 party MLAs, who were appointed parliamentary secretaries, for taking an office of profit. Their appointments were made by Delhi Government in March 2015, by amending the Members of Legislative Assembly (Removal of Disqualification) Act, 1997, in June 2015, to exempt the post of parliamentary secretary from the definition of office of profit, with retrospective effect.

231 **EVM tampering :** The Election Commission has clarified that EVM is a unique as a machine as every device is standalone and cannot communicate with any other EVM or device. It has no oscillatory circuit or any electric cable in it. It is not compatible with blue tooth or wi fi systems to enable any kind of communication with any other machine and every EVM is put through a meticulous drill before deployment in polls. Almost every losing side has alleged EVM tampering this season. On allegations of EVM tampering in Maharashtra local body polls The EVMs used in local body polls are not ours (of Election Commission of India). Local bodies come under the jurisdiction of State EC, which uses a different kind of EVMs that are multi-post (where the ballot unit contains provision for multiple posts). They procure their own machines and have their own handling system. ECI is not responsible for their use. In the coming MCD elections in Delhi, ECI EVMs will not be used. They have their own machines. In Maharashtra local body polls, too, state EC procured its own EVMs.

232 **Reforms proposed in India's Medical Framework:** Two new Acts to replace the Indian Medicine Central Council (IMCC) Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council (HCC) Act, 1973. Two separate new and transparent institutions to replace the existing institutions governing education in homeopathy and Ayurveda.

The Medical Council of India to be replaced by a National Medical Commission, to be called a National Commission for Indian Systems of Medicine (NCISM) . It shall comprise a chairperson, thirteen ex-officio members and fourteen part-time members. a National Commission for Indian Systems of Medicine (NCISM) will be the

policy-making body for medical education in the area of Indian Systems of Medicine. It shall comprise a chairperson, thirteen ex-officio members and fourteen part-time members. The Aayog has put up the draft bills on the website for stakeholder comments, following which the two bills will be finalised and sent for Cabinet's approval.

233 **National Healthy Policy 2017**: is comprehensive. It sets access to affordable, comprehensive and quality healthcare for all as a priority for the government. Focuses, on pathways to universalise affordable and quality healthcare. The policy commits the government to increase public spend on healthcare from the current 1.15% to 2.5% of GDP by 2025, and sets a floor of 8% of state budget for states to meet by 2020.

234 **To introduce paper trails on EVM** : Rs 3,400 crore To remove doubts in voters' minds, a paper based trail was introduced in 2013. If a voter finds any discrepancy, she can immediately object to the presiding officer. In the same year, the Supreme Court asked us to use VVPAT everywhere in a phased manner to increase transparency.

Since June 2014, we have written at least 10 letters to the Centre, asking for funds for paper trail. With the money we have received so far, we can buy VVPAT for 52,000 devices (about 10 lakh are needed for the general election, which calls for an additional `3,400 crore). We have conducted elections in 255 assembly constituencies and nine Lok Sabha constituencies using VVPAT. The voters are so convinced that none has asked for a recount there. The introduction of VVPAT and the use of new-generation M3 EVMs will enhance voters' confidence. Even now people have faith and confidence in EC, but these steps will enhance it further.

235 **India's blue economy initiative** launched in 2015 is a multi-disciplinary approach for the exploitation of hydrocarbons and other marine resources, deep sea fishing, preservation of marine ecology, mitigating climate change by addressing environmental issues and disaster management. With its advancement in science and technology, India is in a position to lend expertise in deep sea bed activities, hydro graphic surveys and weather predictions.

The Bay of Bengal leads to the Indian Ocean Region, which has several vital sea lanes of communication passing through it from the Hormuz Strait to the Suez Canal, Red Sea, Persian Gulf and Malacca Strait, extending up to the South China Sea. Security partnerships among the countries in the region, therefore, assume importance. India has more than 7,500 km of coastline, more than 2 million sq km of exclusive economic zone, more than 1,300 islands and network of rivers. Maritime trade accounts for about 75 per cent value and more than 90 per cent of volume of Indian trade, and the country is blessed with a strategic location within the Indian Ocean Region.

236 **Two year discussion on BREXIT** starts on March 29, starting the clock on two years of intense political and economic negotiations that will fundamentally change both the nation and its European neighbours. Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty, is a never before used mechanism for withdrawing from the 28 nation bloc. The article stipulates that the two sides will have until March 2019 to agree on a divorce settlement and, if possible, establish a new relationship between Britain, the world's No. 5 economy, and the EU, a vast single market contain. Leaders of the 27 other EU nations will meet by the month of May to finalize their negotiating guidelines.

237. **Childhood immunisations** provide excellent defence against infectious diseases. Many of these immunisations are among the most cost-effective health investments available to policymakers. The rotavirus, MR and pneumococcal conjugate vaccines are safe and highly effective. Each targets a disease that heavily burdens India's children. Pneumonia, for example, is a leading cause of child mortality across the country, responsible for nearly 30% of deaths of children aged 1-59 months.

238. **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Implementation:** IBBI is a unique regulator. It combines the role of a regulator as well as that of markets. Unlike other professions where the regulator only develops and regulates the profession, here we also write rules of transactions undertaken by the professionals.

The Bankruptcy Code has three elements: institutional infrastructure, transactions relating to corporate insolvency and transactions relating to individual insolvency. Institutional infrastructure includes IBBI, insolvency professional agencies, insolvency professionals and entities, information utilities, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) and Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal (DRAT). NCLT has now **11 benches across the country**. NCLAT is in place.

There are three registered IPAs (agencies) promoted by three statutory bodies, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, the Institute of Company Secretaries of India and the Institute of Cost Accountants of India.

There are 977 insolvency professionals registered for a limited period of six months. About 80 insolvency professionals, who have passed the limited insolvency examination, have got permanent registration. There are two insolvency professional entities which provide organisational support to professionals.

239. **The real issue in classification of a money bill** : What is at stake is the relevance of the Rajya Sabha to lawmaking. There is a purpose to having two Houses of Parliament. The Lok Sabha directly reflects the will of the people more impacted by the current situation only. The Rajya Sabha reflects the will of the people, indirectly, as articulated by the people's representatives in state legislatures. The composition of the Lok Sabha changes, once every five years. Rajya Sabha changes more slowly with one third its members retiring every two years.

In the 16th Lok Sabha, a question of what Bills get to be classified as Money Bills, is proving to be a foundational question. The Supreme Court of India may refer it to a Constitutional bench.

After passing the Aadhaar Bill as a Money Bill, the government, included certain vital amendments into the Finance Bill 2017 , including changes in the Representation of the People Act, and changes in laws relating to the appellate authorities of certain regulatory bodies. This has been passed by the Lok Sabha.

If any Bill can be classified as a Money Bill, then its passage by the Rajya Sabha becomes a meaningless exercise, and that ends the essential checks and balances built into the Constitution.

240. **Refugee Policy of India as in April 2017:** India, with its long tradition of providing a safe haven for the persecuted, whether Tibetans or minorities from neighbouring nations, must put in place a legal framework for refugees that is transparent and compassionate while being alive to national security concerns. As Europe accepts a flood of refugees, does India as a would be United Nations Security Council member not have a policy.

The Rohingyas, an ethnic Muslim minority in Myanmar, are among the world's worst persecuted. They have been systematically disenfranchised. 40,000 people have escaped persecution and reached India. The government plans to identify, arrest and deport them. This is not fair. The plight of Rohingyas, is no better than that of minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, who have been given refuge in India. The government needs to respond to this humanitarian crisis.

India also needs to sign the 1951 UN Refugee Convention on the Status of Refugees and ensuing 1967 protocol. India must codify the rights and duties of refugees, the services that the state will provide, and a process that takes on board considerations of national security. India, which sees itself as a global power, needs to acknowledge its place in the region, and ensure that it has the institutions and legal framework to deal with refugees.

As a democratic country and an aspiring global power, India cannot differentiate between persecuted groups on the basis of religion.

241. Procedures for **timely release of budgetary funds** have been put in place from 2017. This has been made possible by advancing the budget date to 1st February, from 2017, eliminating the distinction between plan and non plan expenditure and ending of 12th Plan on 31st March 2017. It will save one whole quarter of the financial year. 2017-18. Some schemes in education, healthcare and water management have frameworks for monitoring measurable progress. But such monitoring is needed for all schemes.

Also Government needs to consider adopting a recommendation that is pending, namely, to shift to a multi-year time horizon. This would enable budget outlays to be based on detailed project reports on which milestones could be set. Final targets and funding needed for every stage would be included. Governance reforms for effective delivery of services could easily be inbuilt into such milestones.

242. [Reforms in Ease of Doing Business for national ranking 2017](#): The reforms have been classified into 11 broad areas including labour regulation, contract enforcement, registering property, inspection enablers, single-window system, land availability and allotment, and construction permit. In addition, processes for environmental registration, obtaining utility permits for water and electricity, paying taxes and access to information and transparency, and certain sector specific reforms in health care and hospitality at the state level are also to be made easier.



243. [Transforming play of power politics into national political gains](#): transformation has happened within the BJP, along three broad contours, in the context of flawless party government coordination. Through this the unsettling tendencies of a transformation have either been handled or rendered meaningless by repeated electoral successes. [The first contour or axis](#) of reinvention has been the unmatched personal popularity of Prime Minister. The strategy that follows is to tie any campaign from the panchayat and civil polls to national polls to the Prime Minister.

Development is the other axis on which the new BJP is redefining its presence. `Sabka saath sabka vikas' Development does the political trick of conveying an inclusive message at socio economic level. This outweighs the exclusionary right wing core ideology of BJP . It asserts that regardless of ideology, governance will be value neutral, guided by development priorities.

Technology is the third vital axis. It is being used to dissolve divisions of old vote banks. Government has successfully enumerated those groups that have lost out or suffered from dominance by few. By using better data analytics, geospatial tagging and organising systemic central control, the government has been able to define, locate and target the poor better than any recent government of the past.

In sum, the mix of a hugely popular national leader, inclusive development logic and use of technology to steer clear of religious and social divisions is the new driving force of policies. It is also centred on winning and retaining power by adopting an inclusive and tolerant stand.

244. **Opening of legal overseas accounts by Indian:** Indians can legally open bank accounts overseas with tax paid income subject to limits. Transfers are permitted under LRS, which was introduced in 2004 with a cap of \$25,000 or Rs 1.63 crore. Remittance amount has since raised to \$ 2,50,000. Remittances up to that amount are allowed by a resident individual in a financial year for any permitted current or capital account transaction or a combination of both. Undisclosed accounts will face action under the black money law dealing with undisclosed foreign assets that was introduced last year.

In the decade to FY 2015, more than \$8 billion went out through this route, a substantial percentage of which was used for tuition fees and maintenance of close relatives

245. **Affordable drugs in India:** Government is bringing a law to ensure doctors prescribe low cost generic medicines. a switch to generics from expensive branded drugs would cut costs. Information asymmetry currently exists between those who prescribe medicines

and those who buy them, due to the absence of a comprehensive system of healthcare. Exorbitantly priced medicines have no place in a healthcare system in which all costs are prepaid and pooled. Need is for a robust legal and regulatory framework to fix drug quality. Quality can be assured by enforcing adherence to rigorously established technical standards, supplemented by competition among different manufacturers. Helping consumers find affordable drugs of assured quality would be to develop smart phone applications that can list different manufacturers' prices for the generic prescribed by a doctor as well as nearby pharmacists who stock them.

In 2016, the Medical Council of India (MCI) had reportedly amended the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations 2002 and issued directives to the physicians to prescribe medicines legibly and only in their generic names. Nothing has changed. Regrettably, MCI has failed as an apex regulatory authority and must be disbanded. The government's focus should be on implementing the national health policy it has proposed, after ironing out some glitches.

246. **Presidential Elections in 2017** : A group of six political parties, AIADMK (Tamil Nadu), BJD (Odisha), TRS (Telangana), YSRCP (Andhra Pradesh), AAP (Delhi & Punjab) and INLD (Haryana), cumulatively holds a 13% vote share in the Presidential Electoral College. These parties maintain equidistance from BJP as well as Congress in their domestic state level political considerations.

Theoretically, the contest between the ruling establishment and the opposition could become evenly poised if the Congress, led opposition manages to secure the support of these six parties. The opposition's 35.47% votes combined with the 13.06% vote share of these six parties give them a total of 48.53%, just short of the NDA's vote share of 48.64% in the presidential contest. However, the NDA needs the support of only one party, or two smaller ones from these six parties, to cross the majority mark.

Parties	MLAs	MPs	Assembly Votes	Parliament Votes	Total Votes	%age Vote
Grand Total	4,114	784	5,49,474	5,55,072	11,04,546	100
BJP	1,352	338	2,02,813	2,39,304	4,42,117	40.03
TDP	105	22	15,540	15,576	31,116	2.82
SS	63	21	11,025	14,868	25,893	2.34
SAD	15	7	1,740	4,956	6,696	0.61
NOMINATED	0	8	0	5,664	5,664	0.51
LJP	4	6	537	4,248	4,767	0.43
PDP	28	3	2,016	2,124	4,140	0.37
RLSP	3	3	519	2,124	2,643	0.24
BPF	12	1	1,392	708	2,100	0.19
NPF	42	2	414	1,416	1,830	0.16
AGP	14	0	1,624	0	1,624	0.15
SDF	22	2	154	1,416	1,570	0.14
AD	9	2	1,872	1,416	3,288	0.29
NPP	6	1	106	708	814	0.07
AJSU	5	0	880	0	880	0.08
SWP	0	1	0	708	708	0.06
RPI	0	1	0	708	708	0.06
SBSP	4	0	832	0	832	0.07
MGP	3	0	60	0	60	0.005
GFP	3	0	60	0	60	0.005
HAM	1	0	173	0	173	0.01
NDA TOTAL	1,691	418	2,41,757	2,95,944	5,37,683	48.64
INC	841	104	87,846	73,632	1,61,478	14.62
TMC	218	45	31,987	31,860	63,847	5.78
SP	47	23	9,776	16,284	26,060	2.36
CPM	140	17	15,033	12,036	27,069	2.45
BSP	19	6	3,952	4,248	8,200	0.74
JDU	73	12	12,439	8,496	20,935	1.89
RJD	80	7	13,840	4,956	18,796	1.7
DMK	90	4	15,520	2,832	18,352	1.66
NCP	53	11	8,069	7,788	15,857	1.44
JDS	43	3	5,696	2,124	7,820	0.71
JMM	17	3	2,992	2,124	5,116	0.46
CPI	23	2	3,285	1,416	4,701	0.43
IUML	19	2	2,912	2,124	4,328	0.39
AUDF	13	3	1,508	2,124	3,632	0.33
AIMIM	9	1	1,386	708	2,094	0.19
JVM	2	0	352	0	352	0.03
RLD	1	0	208	0	208	0.02
RSP	4	0	628	0	628	0.06
JKNC	15	1	1,080	708	1,788	0.16
AIFB	2	0	302	0	302	0.03
CPIML	1	0	176	0	176	0.02
UPA TOTAL	1,710	244	2,18,987	1,73,460	3,91,739	35.47
AIADMK	139	50	23,824	35,400	59,224	5.36
BJD	117	28	17,433	15,576	32,892	2.98
TRS	82	14	12,136	9,912	22,048	1.99
YSRCP	66	10	9,768	7,080	16,848	1.53
AAP	87	4	6,206	2,832	9,038	0.82
INLD	19	3	2,128	2,124	4,252	0.38
FLOATING	510	109	71,495	72,924	1,44,302	13.06

DISCLAIMER: The said calculations are based on information available in the public domain (websites of the Election Commission, Parliament and legislative assemblies). The accuracy is based on the last update of the information in these public domains. The calculation also leaves aside smaller parties whose affiliation is difficult to assess. Their vote accounts for less than 3% of total value of votes. Also, the vote values of Andhra and Telangana MLAs have been taken as the same as the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh.

ILLUSTRATION: ANIRBAN BORJA

247. **Difference between the five year plans and the new 3 year vision:**
 1. **How was the three year Vision prepared?** : The work for the 3 year vision began in May 2016 , with wide consultations with State Chief Ministers, economists, industry chambers, voluntary organisations and experts in virtually all individual areas, and journalists. The responses received were considered by six policy analysts, and then combined into one document. The document has been sent to State Governments for their comments. After comments are received and incorporated, implementation would be taken up. Work on the Vision, Strategy and Action Agenda was a parallel activity to this.

Action-packed Agenda
 Niti Aayog unveils plan for action...

- A 3-year action plan; 15-year vision document
- Action plan estimates 8% growth
- Plan to be adopted after states' nod

7 pillars of the plan

- Regional development: Urban & rural transformation
- Growth enablers: Transport, digital, PPP, science & tech, energy
- Governance reforms: Tax policy & rule of law
- Social sectors: Health, education & skill development
- Sustainability: Environment, forests & sustainable water usage
- Forecast for revenues and expenditure: Resources & allocation
- Transformation of key sectors: Agri, industry & services

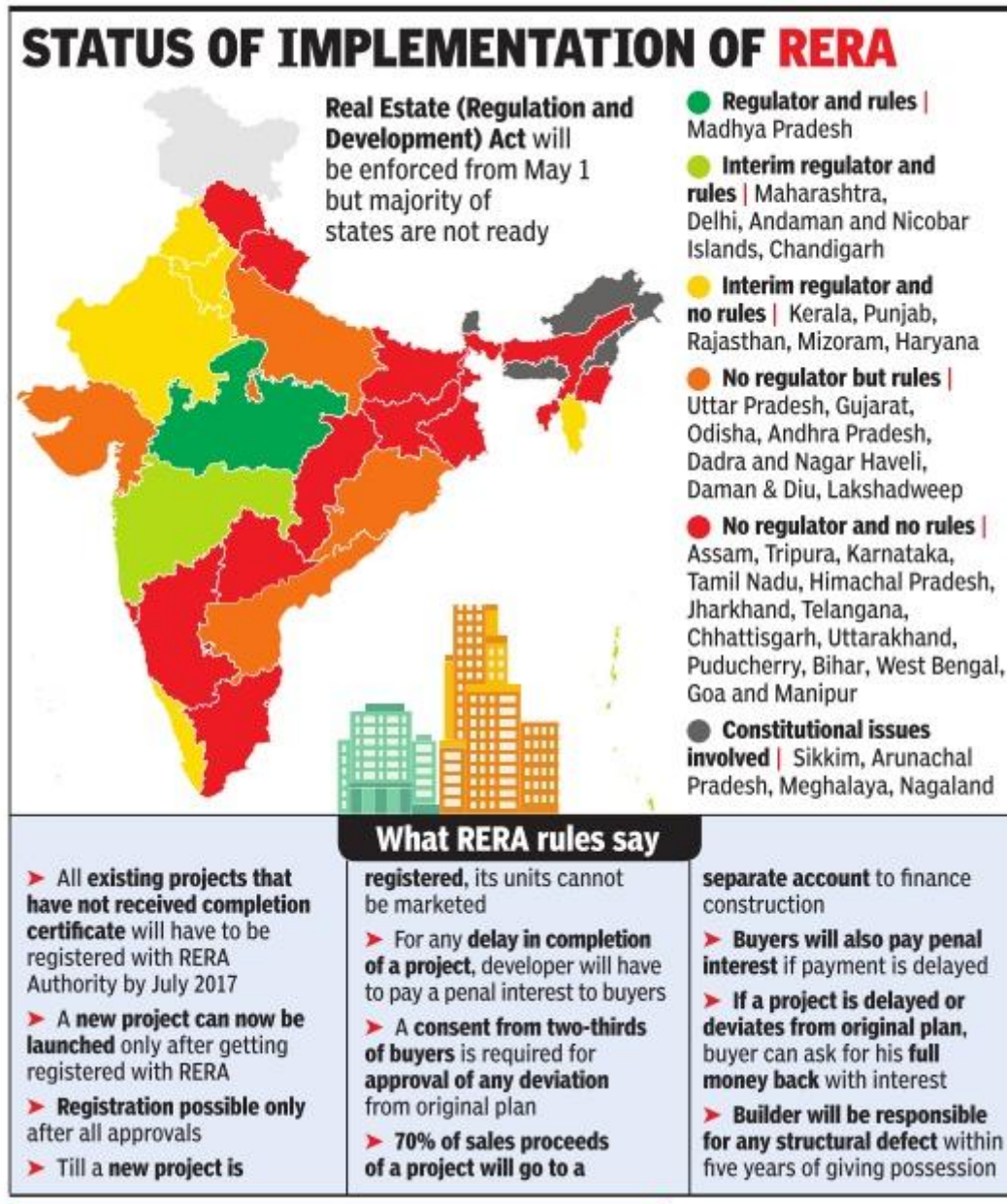
PM Outlines Work for Niti Aayog

- Highways**: Trying the 'challenge method' among states for road construction; use of technology for infra creation
- Railways**: Speeding up redevelopment of stations, more creativity in generation of non-fare revenue
- Ports**: Better outcomes for turnaround time of ships and clearance for exim cargo
- Airports**: Enhancing capacity at existing airports besides developing MRO facility
- Coal**: Efforts towards coal import substitution and application of new coal technologies, including coal gasification

The Prime Minister's vision is the idea is to transform India into a prosperous, highly educated, healthy, secure, corruption free, energy abundant, environmentally clean and globally influential nation by 2031-32.

As per Niti Aayog India will be a Rs. 469 lakh crore, or \$7.2 trillion, economy by 2030, growing at an average rate of 8%,

248. Status of Implementation of Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, at the beginning of Financial Year 2017 - 18:



249. India's Foreign Exchange Reserves eight largest in the world:

India's foreign exchange reserves reached a record \$372.7 billion for the week ended April 28, 2017 rising almost \$1.6 billion in one week. The previous high was at \$371.2 billion reported on September 9, 2016. India is now the eighth largest holder of foreign exchange reserves in the world, just ahead of Brazil and South Korea.

The RBI has been using the MSS (market stabilisation scheme) window. MSS is a liquidity management tool that helps the central bank absorb excessive liquidity out of the system through issuance of securities like treasury bills on behalf of the government. The regulator is also using OMO (open market operations) to manage liquidity, because the proposed SDF (standard deposit facility) is yet to be implemented.



250. New Financial institutions created include :

- The National Infrastructure and Investment Fund (NIIF)
- The Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF)
- The Higher Education Financing Authority (HEFA)
- The India Aspiration Fund (IAF)

These institutions empower key groups like students, farmers and job creators, and enhance the quality of hard and soft infrastructure available to the country.

