

# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210818-india-infrastructure.html>

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a huge financial package for his country's economy. Mr Modi outlined plans for spending \$1.35 trillion on infrastructure at an Independence Day speech on August the 15th. The huge investment will focus on the economy, youth employment opportunities, and on ways to tackle climate change. Modi hopes the gargantuan injection of cash will provide a boost to the economy. He said the spending plans will "create job opportunities for hundreds of thousands of young people". He added that the stimulus would help local manufacturers to become "globally competitive," and develop new "economic zones" in India.

Mr Modi focused on plans to make India a carbon-neutral country. He gave his speech as part of India's 75th Independence Day celebrations. He vowed that before India turned 100, the country would be "energy independent". Modi pledged to invest more in sustainable resources such as solar technology and "green hydrogen". He wants the country to move away from its reliance on oil. India is the world's third-largest oil importer. In particular, he outlined ambitious plans for transforming India's vast railway network - the largest in the world. He said he wants the whole network to be a net-zero carbon emitter by 2030. Modi said his country is "moving fast towards achieving its climate goals".

Sources: <https://news.sky.com/story/indias-972bn-infrastructure-plan-to-boost-economy-and-tackle-climate-change-12382193>  
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/pm-modi-says-1-35-trillion-infrastructure-plan-to-be-unveiled-soon/articleshow/85342765.cms>  
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/15/modi-unveils-infrastructure-plan-on-indias-75th-independence-day>

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. package        | a. Help or encourage something to increase or improve.  |
| 2. infrastructure | b. A person or company that makes goods for sale.   |
| 3. tackle         | c. A set of proposals or terms offered or agreed as part of a plan.   |
| 4. gargantuan     | d. The basic physical and organizational structures and facilities (e.g. buildings, roads, power supplies) needed for the operation of a society or business. |
| 5. boost          | e. Enormous; huge.  |
| 6. stimulus       | f. A thing that starts activity or energy in someone or something.  |
| 7. manufacturer   | g. Make big efforts to deal with a problem or difficult task.   |

## Paragraph 2

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 8. carbon-neutral | h. Of very great extent or quantity; immense.  |
| 9. vowed          | i. Having or showing a strong desire and determination to succeed.                                       |
| 10. sustainable   | j. Dependence on or trust in someone or something.   |
| 11. reliance      | k. Making no net release of CO <sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere.   |
| 12. ambitious     | l. A machine, device, country, etc., that sends out things like radiation, light, noise, pollution, etc. |
| 13. vast          | m. Promised.   |
| 14. emitter       | n. Able to be maintained at a certain rate or level.   |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210818-india-infrastructure.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. India's Finance Secretary announced a huge financial package. **T / F**
2. An infrastructure plan was announced on India's Independence Day. **T / F**
3. Part of the plan includes cash to fight climate change. **T / F**
4. The package will provide job opportunities for millions of young people. **T / F**
5. India's leader wants the country to be carbon neutral in 100 years. **T / F**
6. India's leader wants to invest in green hydrogen. **T / F**
7. India is the world's third-largest importer of oil. **T / F**
8. India's leader said India has achieved its climate goals. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>announced</b>     | a. address    |
| 2. <b>outlined</b>      | b. entire     |
| 3. <b>gargantuan</b>    | c. summarized |
| 4. <b>boost</b>         | d. makers     |
| 5. <b>manufacturers</b> | e. dependence |
| 6. <b>speech</b>        | f. enormous   |
| 7. <b>vowed</b>         | g. huge       |
| 8. <b>reliance</b>      | h. declared   |
| 9. <b>vast</b>          | i. promised   |
| 10. <b>whole</b>        | j. lift       |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                   |                      |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. announced a huge financial     | a. to the economy    |
| 2. ways to tackle                 | b. railway network   |
| 3. provide a boost                | c. zones             |
| 4. the stimulus would help local  | d. neutral country   |
| 5. develop new economic           | e. manufacturers     |
| 6. plans to make India a carbon-  | f. emitter by 2030   |
| 7. move away from its reliance    | g. package           |
| 8. transforming India's vast      | h. its climate goals |
| 9. be a net-zero carbon           | i. on oil            |
| 10. moving fast towards achieving | j. climate change    |



# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210818-india-infrastructure.html>

- 1) Who introduced a financial package?
  - a) India's finance ministry
  - b) the IMF
  - c) India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi
  - d) the Central Bank of India
- 2) When was the announcement made?
  - a) August the 15th
  - b) August the 14th
  - c) August the 12th
  - d) August the 11th
- 3) What does the package hope to tackle?
  - a) discrimination
  - b) climate change
  - c) rising inflation
  - d) corporate corruption
- 4) What will the package provide a boost to?
  - a) confidence
  - b) the financial markets
  - c) regional trade
  - d) the economy
- 5) What will the package make more globally competitive?
  - a) Indian cars
  - b) tech companies
  - c) local manufacturers
  - d) jobs
- 6) By when does Narendra Modi hope India will be energy independent?
  - a) by the end of the decade
  - b) before India turns 100
  - c) some time next century
  - d) 2025
- 7) What kind of hydrogen does Mr Modi hope to invest in??
  - a) nice hydrogen
  - b) high-level hydrogen
  - c) pure hydrogen
  - d) green hydrogen
- 8) What does India want to rely less on?
  - a) loans
  - b) oil
  - c) other countries
  - d) the World Bank
- 9) What does the article say is vast in India?
  - a) its deserts
  - b) its railway network
  - c) its potential
  - d) landscapes
- 10) What did Mr Modi say India is moving fast towards achieving?
  - a) its climate goals
  - b) full employment
  - c) fuel self-sufficiency
  - d) technology goals

# INDIA DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'India'?
3. What do you know about India?
4. What is the infrastructure in your country like?
5. What would you spend your government's money on?
6. How could you improve your country's economy?
7. What can your country do to tackle climate change?
8. What are local manufacturers in your town like?
9. How globally competitive are companies in your country?
10. What would you do with a gargantuan injection of cash?

*India to launch \$1.35 trillion infrastructure plan – 18th August, 2021*  
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# INDIA DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'infrastructure'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think about India?
15. How far away is your country from being carbon neutral?
16. What sustainable resources are the most effective?
17. How reliant is your country on oil?
18. What infrastructure in your town needs some money?
19. What will India be like in 50 years from now?
20. What questions would you like to ask India's leader?