



Infrastructure Status for Convention Centres

Why in News

The Finance Ministry has granted **'Infrastructure' status** for **exhibition and convention centres**.

- In 2020, the government had added [affordable rental housing projects](#) to the list of sectors recognised as infrastructure.

Key Points

▪ Infrastructure Status to Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre:

- Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre has been **included in the Harmonised Master List of Infrastructure sub-sectors** by insertion of a new item **in the category of Social and Commercial Infrastructure**.
- However, the benefits available as 'infrastructure' projects **would only be available** for projects with a minimum built-up floor area of 1,00,000 square metres of exclusive exhibition space or convention space or both combined.
 - This **includes primary facilities** such as exhibition centres, convention halls, auditoriums, plenary halls, business centres, meeting halls etc.
- This move will **enable more such projects to come up across India's tourist destinations**.

▪ Need for the Infrastructure Status:

- **India doesn't have large convention centres** or single halls with capacities to hold 7,000 to 10,000 people, **unlike countries like Thailand** that is a **major global MICE destination**.
- Becoming a **MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) destination** can **generate significant revenue with several global companies active in India**.

▪ Harmonised Master List of Infrastructure sub-sectors:

- The list is **notified by the Ministry of Finance** and included following **categories**:
 - **Transport and Logistics:** Roads and bridges, Inland waterways, Airport, etc.
 - **Energy:** Electricity Generation, Electricity Transmission, etc.
 - **Water and Sanitation:** Solid Waste Management, Water treatment plants, etc.
 - **Communication:** Telecommunication, etc.
 - **Social and Commercial Infrastructure:** Education Institutions (capital stock), Sports Infrastructure, Hospitals (capital stock), Tourism infrastructure, etc.
- **Inclusion in the list** implies access to **concessional funds, promotion of projects and continuity of construction for the specified sub-sectors**.
- However, the infrastructure tag **now does not include vital tax breaks**.

[Source: TH](#)

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