



Projects to Increase the Network of Indian Railways

Why in News?

Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister **approved 6 projects of the Ministry of Railways with 100% funding from the Central Government.**

- The **projects covering 18 Districts in 6 States** i.e., Rajasthan, Assam, Telangana, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Nagaland will increase the existing network of Indian Railways and **will provide employment to the people of the States.**

Key Points

- The multi-tracking proposals **will ease operations and reduce congestion, providing the much-required infrastructural development** on the busiest sections across Indian Railways.
- The **projects are in line with PM's Vision of a New India** which will make people of the region "Atmanirbhar" by way of comprehensive development in the area which will **enhance their employment/ self-employment opportunities.**
- The projects are **result of [PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan](#)** for multi-modal connectivity which have been possible through integrated planning and will provide seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services.
- The routes **included in the approved projects will be used for transportation of commodities** such as food grains, food commodities, fertilizers, [coal](#), cement, iron, [steel](#), [fly-ash](#), clinker, limestone, Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants (POL), containers etc.
- The Railways being environment friendly and energy efficient mode of transportation, will **help both in achieving climate goals** and minimizing logistics cost of the country, **reduce oil import and lower [CO₂ emissions](#).**

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for Multi-Modal Connectivity

- PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for Multi-Modal Connectivity, **launched in October 2021**, is an initiative aimed at coordinated planning and execution of infrastructure projects.
 - The objective is to bring down logistics costs.
- GatiShakti is a **digital platform bringing development projects of 16 ministries**, including railways and roadways, together for integrated planning and implementation.
- When launched, the **GatiShakti scheme subsumed the Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline announced in 2019.**