



Setu Bandhan Scheme: CRIF

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Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has disclosed the approval of seven crucial bridge projects in **Arunachal Pradesh under the Setu Bandhan Scheme under [Central Road and Infrastructure Fund \(CRIF\)](#)**.

- These projects, with a combined cost of Rs 118.50 Crores, are slated for implementation during the **fiscal year 2023-24**.

What is the Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF)?

▪ About:

- The Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (**earlier known as Central Road Fund**) was established in 2000 under **Central Road Fund Act, 2000**.
- The fund comprises **a cess imposed along with excise duty** on petrol and diesel.
- The administrative control of the CRIF falls under the Ministry of Finance.
 - Earlier it was under the domain of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

▪ Central Road Fund Act (Amendment), 2018:

- The amendment renamed the **Central Road Fund as Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF)**.
- It allowed using the **proceeds of the road cess under CRIF** to finance other infrastructure projects including waterways, some portion of the railway infrastructure and even social infrastructure including educational institutions, medical colleges etc.

▪ Setu Bandhan Scheme:

- The "Setu Bandhan Scheme" is a program initiated by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, aimed at facilitating the construction of **Rail Over Bridges (ROBs), Rail Under Bridges (RUBs), and Bridges on State Roads**.
- This program is designed to enhance **road safety by replacing existing level crossings with bridges**, ultimately reducing accidents at these locations.

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