



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

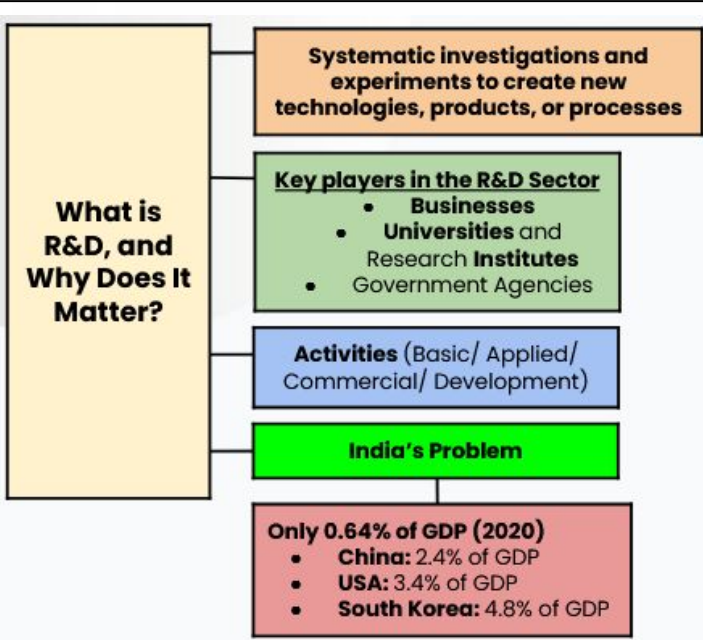
**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**10th February 2025**



# India and R&D

**CONTEXT:** A comprehensive insight into India's R&D sector.



Comparison of research productivity and innovation metrics in selected countries (2021-22)

Country	Researchers per million inhabitants (2021) (FTE)	PhDs produced annually (2021) (Rank)	Publication output (2022) (Rank)	Top 1% most cited articles (% share)	Patents granted (2022) (Rank)
India	262	40,813 (3)	3,06,800 (3)	0.7	30,490 (6)
The U.S.	4,452	69,525 (1)	15,06,000 (1)	1.88	3,23,410 (2)
The U.K.	4,491	27,366 (5)	2,87,200 (4)	2.35	10,578 (15)
China	1,687	53,778 (2)	9,78,100 (2)	1.12	7,98,347 (1)
S. Korea	9,082	13,882 (11)	1,09,200 (16)	1.02	1,35,180 (4)
Japan	5,638	15,804 (10)	1,71,000 (9)	0.88	2,01,420 (3)

Source: Publications data has been extracted from OpenAlex on February 7, 2024.

## Key Budget Announcements on R&D (2025-26)

**₹20,000 crore**

**Target: Build 5 SMRs by 2033 to enhance India's clean energy capacity**

### What Are Small Modular Reactors?

Advanced nuclear reactors with a power capacity of up to 300 MW(e) per unit, which is about one-third of the generating capacity of traditional nuclear power reactors

**SMRs CAN PRODUCE A LARGE AMOUNT OF LOW-CARBON ELECTRICITY**

**SMRs OFFER SAVINGS IN COST AND CONSTRUCTION TIME**

**FUEL REQUIREMENTS**  
Power plants based on SMRs may require less frequent refuelling, every 3 to 7 years, in comparison to between 1 and 2 years for conventional plants. Some SMRs are designed to operate for up to 30 years without refuelling.

**Advantages**

- SMALL** Physically a fraction of the size of a conventional nuclear power reactor
- MODULAR** Makes it possible for systems and components to be factory-assembled and transported for installation
- REACTORS** Harnesses nuclear fission to generate heat to produce energy
- Can be sited on** locations not suitable for larger nuclear power plants
- Prefabricated units** can be manufactured, shipped and installed on site
- Can be deployed** incrementally to match increasing energy demand
- In areas lacking sufficient** transmission lines and grid capacity, SMRs can be installed into an existing grid or remotely off-grid, providing low-carbon power for industry and the population

Source: IAEA

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**PM Research Fellowship Scheme**  
**10,000 Scholarships** to be provided over the next 5 years for research in IITs and IISc.

**Increased Research Funding**  
Allocation for research and innovation initiatives has been raised to create a stronger research ecosystem.

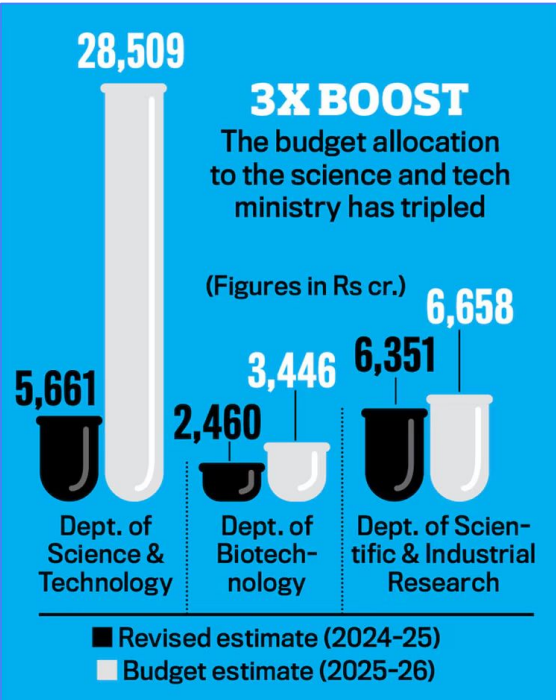


**CONTEXT:** A comprehensive insight into India's R&D sector.

## Research, Development, and Innovation Fund u/DST

### Objective:

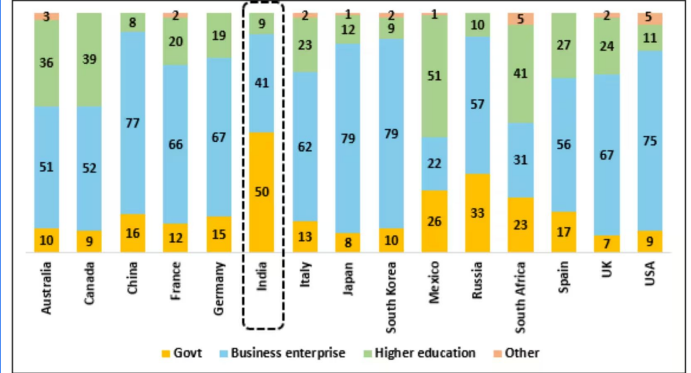
- Encourage **startups** and **sunrise sectors** (emerging industries).
- Provide **financial support** to private companies investing in R&D.
  - Increase **private sector participation** in research



## Challenges in India's R&D Ecosystem

- **Low Private Sector** Participation
  - ISRO, DRDO, CSIR
- **Weak Infrastructure** and Innovation Ecosystem
- **Not clarified** how private companies can access R&D funds
- **Large scale Brain drain**
- **Lack of inclusivity**
- **Translating research into successful technologies**

Business Sector in India contributes a much smaller % to GERD



Source: Department of Science and Technology  
GERD- Gross Expenditure on R&D

## Solutions & Recommendations

- **At least 2% of GDP** in R&D by 2030
- Strengthening **Core R&D Infrastructure**
- **Public-private partnerships**
- **Offer tax benefits** and incentives
- **Skill Development & Workforce Training**
- **Clear Implementation Roadmap**
- **Strengthening Foundational Infrastructure**
- **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**

## Cabinet approves unified Vigyan Dhara scheme

- Promotes **S&T capacity** building, research, innovation & **technology development**
- Collaborative Research through **International Co-operations**
- **Strengthens S&T infrastructure & STI ecosystem** in the country
- Focuses on **innovation & product development**
- **Internships & Fellowships**
- Follows **global yardsticks** aligned with **National Priorities**

**CONTEXT:** A comprehensive insight into India's R&D sector.

## Initiatives to promote R&D

- Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana
- IMPRINT Initiative
- Anusandhan National Research Foundation
- SPARC Scheme
- Atal Tinkering Labs
- Research Parks
- One Nation One Subscription

## UPSC PYQ 2015

**Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding National Innovation Foundation-India (NIF)?**

1. NIF is an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology under the Central Government.
2. NIF is an initiative to strengthen the highly advanced scientific research in India's premier scientific institutions in collaboration with highly advanced foreign scientific institutions.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

## UPSC PYQ 2019

**Atal Innovation Mission is set up under the**

- (a) Department of Science and Technology
- (b) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

## Mains Practise Question

**The Budget 2025-26 announcements represent a bold step toward boosting scientific research and development in India. However, the success of these initiatives depends on addressing structural challenges. Discuss.**

(15 Marks, 250 words)

## IMPRINT INFUSING INNOVATION IN RESEARCH & INVENTION

122 NEW RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSALS | RS 112 CRORE FUNDING

### RESEARCH PROJECTS PROPOSALS SELECTED :

- ICT :35
- Advanced Materials: 18
- Healthcare Technology:17
- Energy Security :12
- Security & Defence: 11
- Sustainable Habitat: 9
- Water Resource & River System: 7
- Environment & Climate:5
- Manufacturing: 4
- Nano Technology: 4



## Anusandhan National Research Foundation

Act  
Formalised



A transformational step towards achieving global R&D leadership and making India Atmanirbhar



Provides high level strategic direction for research, innovation, and entrepreneurship



Estimated budget is ₹50,000 crores for five years (2023-28)

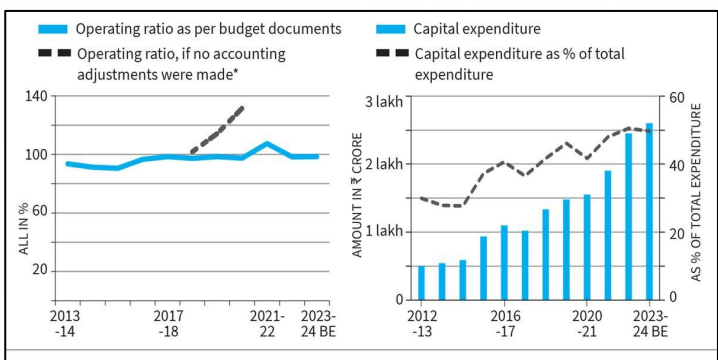


# What Budget offers Railways?

**CONTEXT:** Article offering crucial viewpoints of 2025-26 Union Budget considerations on Indian Railways.

### Significance of Indian Railways

- Colonial Legacy**
  - 1853: between Mumbai and Thane
- 3mn tonnes of freight per day
- 8th largest formal employer in world
- Economic Survey:** ₹1 increase in railway output increases Indian GDP by ₹3.3.
- Potential:** 40% of the total global share of rail activity by 2050
  - 100% FDI in the railway infra
- Revenue:** Freight @ 69%; Passenger @ 24%



### Indian Railway Budget Allocation

The Union Budget has allocated **₹2.52 lakh Cr** to Indian Railways.

- Vande Bharat trains - 200 (sleeper+chair)
- Amrit Bharat trains - 100
- Namo Bharat rapido rail - 50
- General non-AC coaches - 17,500 in 3 years.

### Track renewal

IR's network has **1,14,907 km** of total track length. **4,500 km** of track should be renewed annually.

Yet, track renewal targets were not met between 2017 and 2020

- 63% shortfall in track renewal in some zones.
- 26% of derailments are linked to track renewals.

**Allotment of funds for track renewal declined**

2018-19	9,607.65 cr
2019-20	7,417 cr

### OFF TRACK?

The Indian Railways (IR) is the **4th largest** rail network in the world.

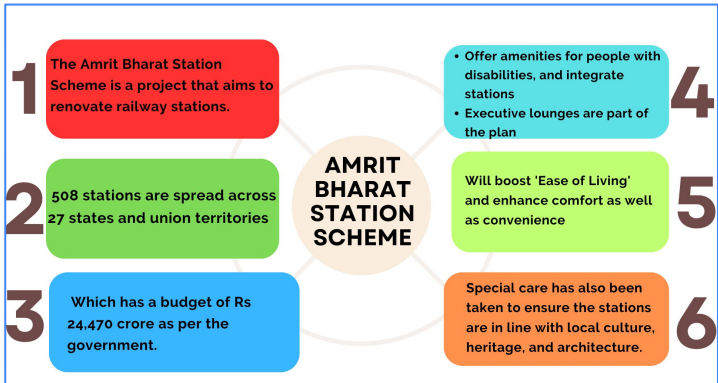
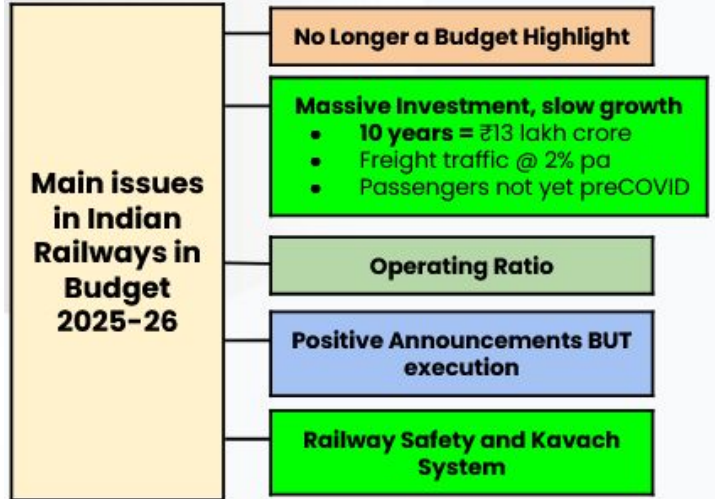
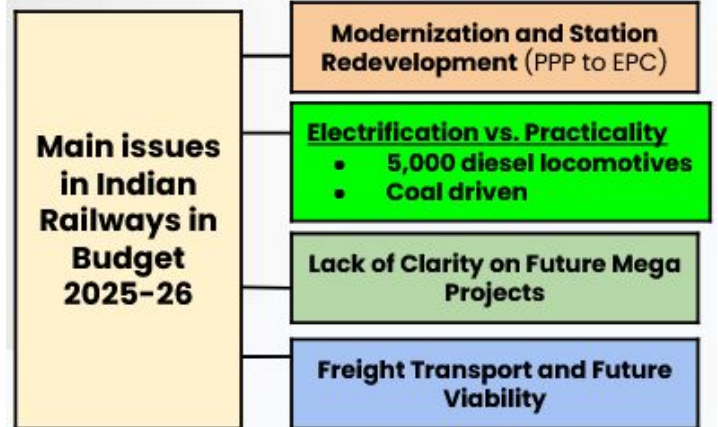
Over the past 10 years, the Indian Railways has... spent more than **Rs 2.5 lakh cr** on building infrastructure introduced around **200 trains** per year.

21,648 trains (approx.)  
22.15 mn passengers per day  
3.32 mn tonnes of freight per day

**Between 2017 and 2021**

- Shortfall of time given to integrated maintenance: **2,384 hrs**
- Fire extinguishers have not been provided in **62%** of trains
- Track maintenance machines remained idle for **16%** of working days

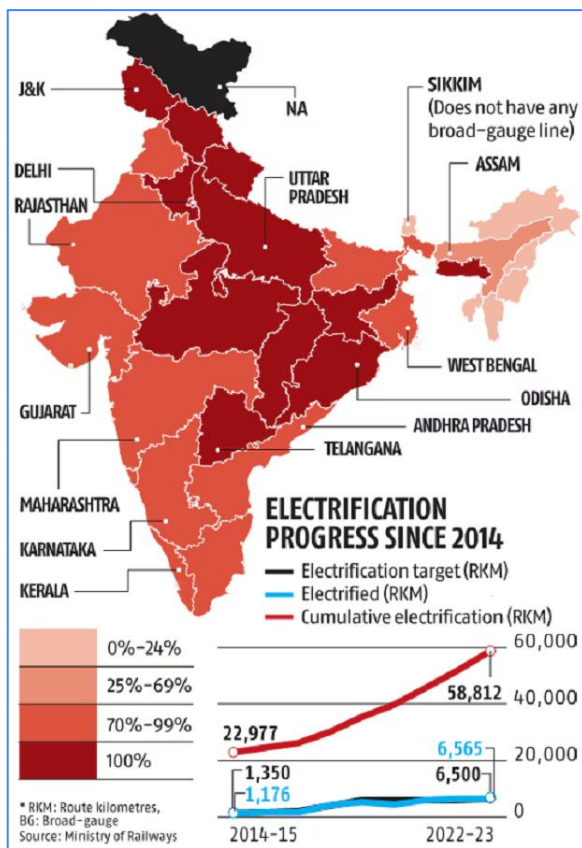
World map showing route km per million population and route km per square km area for various countries.



# What Budget offers Railways?



**CONTEXT:** Article offering crucial viewpoints of 2025-26 Union Budget considerations on Indian Railways.



## Recommendations for Tomorrow

- **Kakodkar Committee (2012)**
  - **Railway Safety Authority**
  - Non-lapsable **Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh** (Rs. 1 lakh crores over 5 years)
  - **Human resource development**
  - **Independent accident investigations**
- **Bibek Debroy Committee (2014)**
  - **Non-core activities**
  - **Railway Infrastructure Authority of India**

- **Vinod Rai Committee (2015)**
  - Independent **Railway Safety Authority**; statutory powers
  - **Railway Infrastructure Company**
  - **Railway Accident Investigation Board**
- **Rakesh Mohan Committee (2010)**
  - Reform **accounting system**
  - Diversify in **FMCG, Consumer Durables, IT, containerized cargo, and automobile segments**
  - **Long-distance and inter-city transport**
  - **High-Speed Rail corridors**
  - **Logistics parks**

## UPSC PYQ 2015

**With reference to bio-toilets used by the Indian Railways, consider the following statements:**

1. The decomposition of human waste in the bio toilets is initiated by a fungal inoculum.
2. Ammonia and water vapour are the only end products in this decomposition which are released into the atmosphere.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2



**CONTEXT:** Article offering crucial viewpoints of 2025-26 Union Budget considerations on Indian Railways.

## Mains Practise Question

**While progress is being made, serious financial and operational challenges remain in the Indian Railways. Comment.**  
(15 Marks, 250 words)

Strategy for  
New India @ 75

## 14. Railways

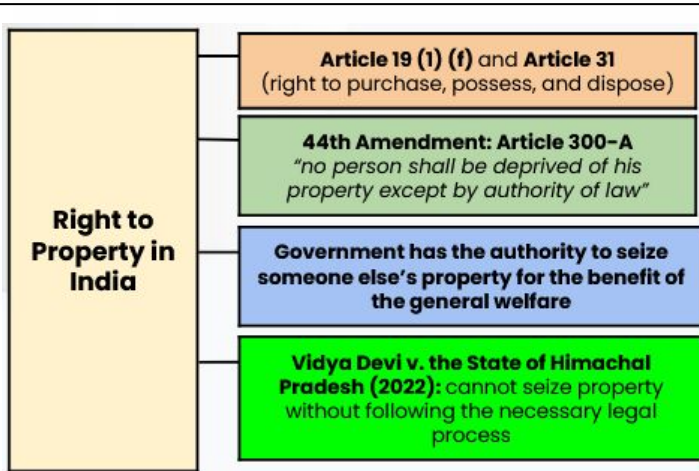
### Objectives

By 2022-23, India should have a rail network that is not only efficient, reliable and safe, but is also cost-effective and accessible, both with respect to the movement of people and goods. This requires achieving the following objectives:

- Augment the capacity of existing railway infrastructure.
- Increase the speed of infrastructure creation from the present 7 km/day to 19 km/day by 2022-23.<sup>1</sup>
- Achieve "100 per cent"<sup>2</sup> electrification of broad gauge track by 2022-23 from the 40 per cent level in 2016-17.
- Increase the average speed of freight and mail/express trains to 50 km/hr (from about 24 km/hr in 2016-17) and 80 km/hr (from about 60 km/hr), respectively.<sup>3</sup>
- Improve the safety of the railways, achieving zero fatalities from the 2016-17 level of 238 fatalities and reducing the number of accidents from the 73 recorded in 2017-18.<sup>4</sup>
- Enhance service delivery, achieving 95 per cent on-time arrivals by 2022-23.<sup>5</sup>
- By 2022-23, the railways should have a freight load of 1.9 billion tonnes and an improved modal share of 40 per cent of freight movement from the current level of 33 per cent.<sup>6</sup>
- Increase the share of non-fare revenues in total revenue to 20 per cent.



**SYLLABUS: GS Paper 2 : Indian Constitution**  
**Prelims: Indian Polity & Governance**  
**Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 17**



### Eminent Domain

Laws in South Africa, the United States, and India all have certain common roots in Europe. Laws in all these countries allowing compulsory land acquisition and expropriation by the state are also known as "eminent domain".

The expression can be traced to the legal treatise *De jure belli ac pacis* (On the Law of War and Peace)

### GLOBAL/LAW

written by the Dutch scholar Hugo Grotius in 1625. Grotius explained the term "*dominium eminens*" ("supreme lordship" in Latin) thus: "The property of subjects is under the eminent domain of the state, so that the state or he who acts for it may use and even alienate and destroy such property, not only in the case of extreme necessity...but for ends of public utility."

This concept travelled with the European colonists, and was eventually codified into written laws such as the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, in India and the Expropriation Act, 1975, in South Africa.

land be acquired only through a "due process of law" influenced property rights in the former colonies.

**UNITED STATES:** In the US, the Fifth Amendment (1791) stated that no person shall be deprived of their property "without due process of law", and that no private property shall be "taken for public use, without just compensation".

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Section 25 of the South African Constitution says: "No one may be deprived of property except in terms of law of general application, and no law may permit arbitrary deprivation of property". It clarifies that property can only be legally acquired if it is "for a public purpose or in the public interest", and the landowner is compensated.

**INDIA:** The Constitution of India initially

recognised the right to own property as a fundamental right under Article 19, which guaranteed all citizens the right "to acquire, hold and dispose of property". In addition, under Article 31, property could not be taken possession of or acquired for public purposes unless "the law provides for compensation for the property taken possession of or acquired".

In 1978, these rights were removed from the Fundamental Rights chapter. Article 300A was subsequently introduced, which said that, "No person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law."

The Constitutions of all three countries recognise/ previously recognised that governments must only acquire private property when it serves a public use or purpose, and landowners must be compensated.

### LAND ACQUISITION IN US & INDIA

- In the US, land acquisition has gradually moved towards encouraging private investment, with the intent to boost economic growth.
- In *Kelo v. City of New London* (2005), the US Supreme Court ruled that efforts to acquire property to

facilitate private economic development would fulfil the "public use" requirement.

- In response, several states, such as Alabama, Delaware, and Texas passed laws restricting the use of eminent domain to acquire private property.

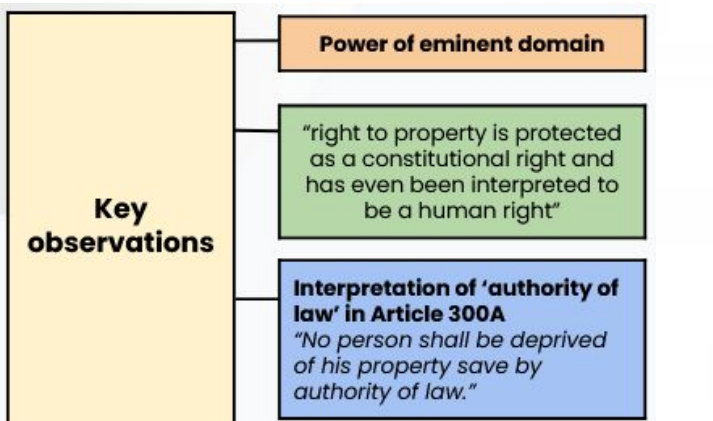
- In India, several laws detail land acquisition provisions in specific cases, including the construction of highways, atomic energy plants, and the preservation of national monuments.

- In 2013, the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act came into force to establish a "humane, participative, informed and transparent process for land acquisition".

- For more than a century, however, the subject was governed by the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, which allowed the government to acquire land for "a public purpose" in exchange for compensation to the landowner. However, this did not address the concerns of affected families other than the landowner.

- Besides compensating landowners, the Act requires authorities to conduct a Social Impact Assessment to determine who will be affected by the acquisition, with provisions on compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement.

### KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION V. BIMAL KUMAR SHAH (2024)



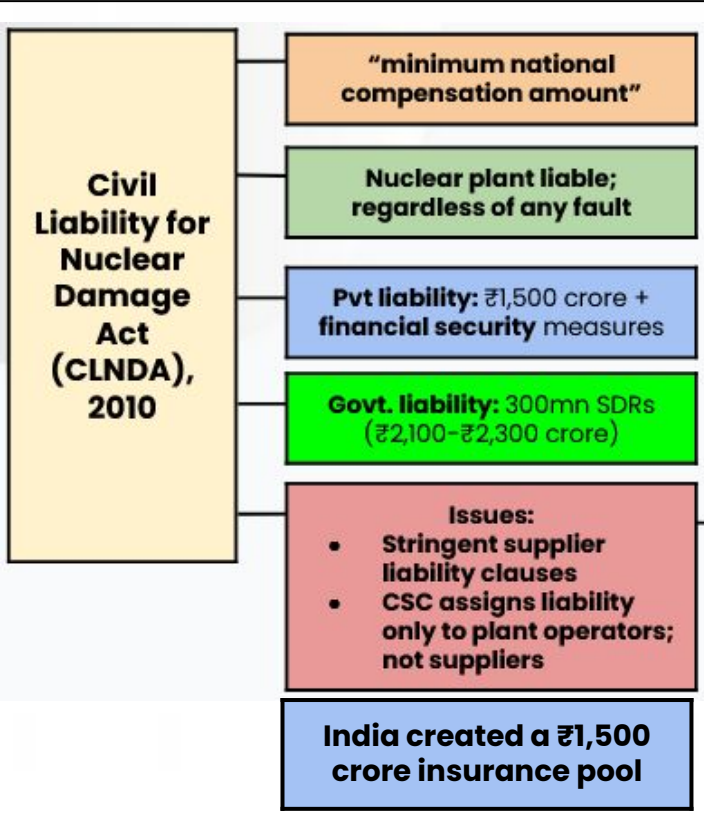
1. The right to notice or the duty of the state to inform a person that it intends to acquire his or her property
2. The right of the citizen to be heard or the duty of the state to hear the objections to the acquisition
3. The right of the citizen to a reasoned decision or the duty of the state to inform the person of its decision to acquire a property
4. The duty of the state to demonstrate that the acquisition is exclusively for public purpose
5. The right of the citizen to fair compensation
6. The duty of the state to conduct the process of acquisition efficiently and within prescribed timelines
7. The right of conclusion of the proceedings





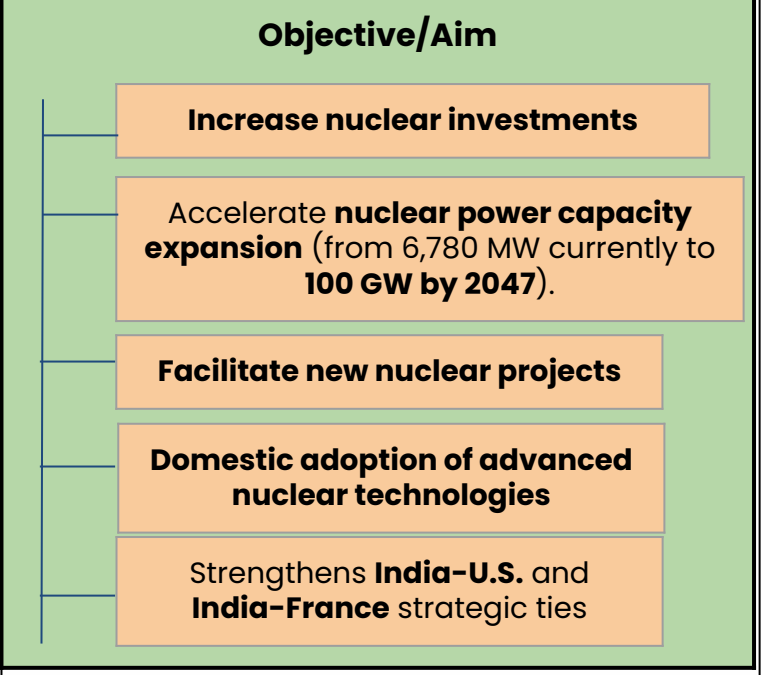
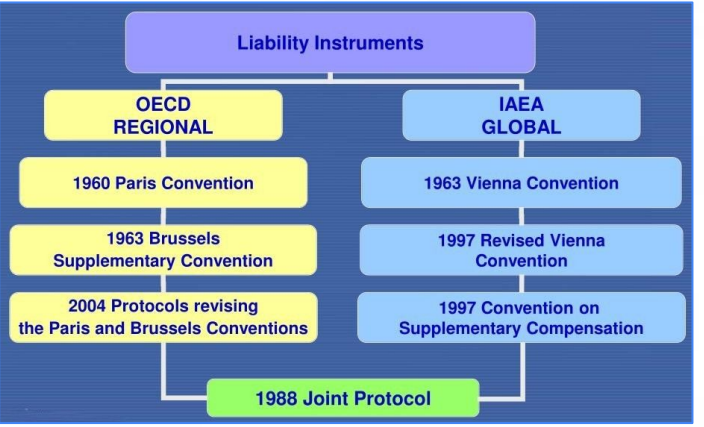
10 February 2025

**SYLLABUS: GS Paper 3 : Infrastructure: Energy**  
**Prelims: General Science**  
**Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 10**



**A**head of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Paris and Washington from Monday, the Union government's announcement that it would amend the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Act (CLNDA), 2010, and the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, is likely to enthrone American and French nuclear power companies, whose projects have been deadlocked due to legal concerns for more than 15 years. However, experts

particular, it is meant to help progress the Electricite de France (EDF) MoU to build six EPR1650 reactors at Jaitapur in Maharashtra that was signed in 2009 (with Areva), and American Westinghouse Electric Company's (WEC)



10 February 2025

**SYLLABUS: GS Paper 3 : Conservation**  
**Prelims: General issues on Environmental ecology**  
**Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 8**

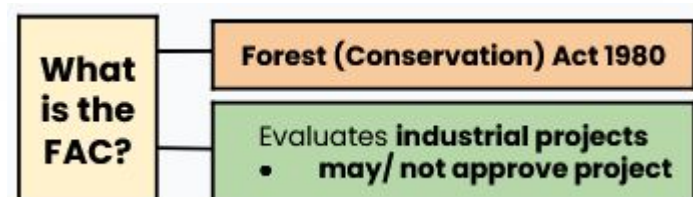
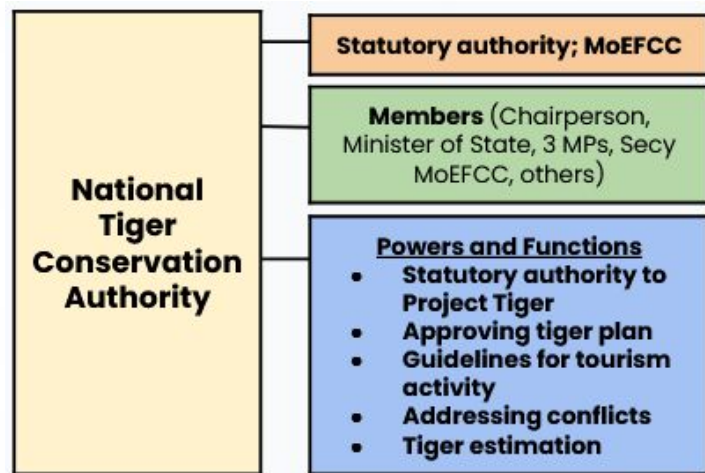
SOP adopted by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)/Project Tiger to address human-tiger/wildlife interface issues

- Developing a national repository of camera trap tiger photographs with IDs
- Active management for rescuing moving tigers from human dominated landscape
- Conducting country level assessment of tiger, co-predators & prey besides habitat status monitoring
- Conducting the independent management effectiveness evaluation
- Declaring & consolidating new tiger reserves
- Fostering research & awareness for eliciting local public support

Source: National Tiger Conservation Authority/Project Tiger



The project involves building two dams on the Morand and Ganjal rivers to improve irrigation in Hoshangabad, Betul, Harda, and Khandwa districts of the state.



THE NATIONAL Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has warned that the construction of the Morand-Ganjal Irrigation Project in Madhya Pradesh could submerge forested areas used by tigers to move between reserves and has strongly recommended exploring alternative sites, government records show.

The Environment Ministry's Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) discussed a proposal to divert 2,250.05 hectares of forest land for the project in a meeting on January 27.

According to the project proposal, the construction of the dams and related infrastructure will displace 644 families, including 604 tribal families, who rely on the forest for their livelihood. Over seven lakh trees will be affected at full reservoir level, with 5.75 lakh trees marked for felling.

The region is home to endangered species such as leopards, wolves, wild dogs, hyenas, and several herbivores. The habitat loss could have severe ecological consequences, the FAC noted.



10 February 2025

**SYLLABUS: GS Paper 3 : Conservation**

**Prelims: General issues on Environmental ecology**

**Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 8**

The NTCA's analysis, based on the **National Tiger Estimation 2022**, shows that the project site is part of a critical tiger-occupied habitat.

It said that the **dams would submerge forested areas essential for tiger movement between reserves, affecting "genetic exchange and population stability"**.

"Any disruption to this ecological connectivity will likely have long-term detrimental impacts on the viability of tiger populations and the broader wildlife community within this landscape," the NTCA said.

### **UPSC PYQ 2018**

**Consider the following statements:**

1. *The definition of "Critical Wildlife Habitat" is incorporated in the Forest Rights Act, 2006.*
2. *For the first time in India, Baigas have been given Habitat Rights.*
3. *Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change officially decides and declares Habitat Rights for Primitive and Vulnerable Tribal Groups in any part of India.*

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

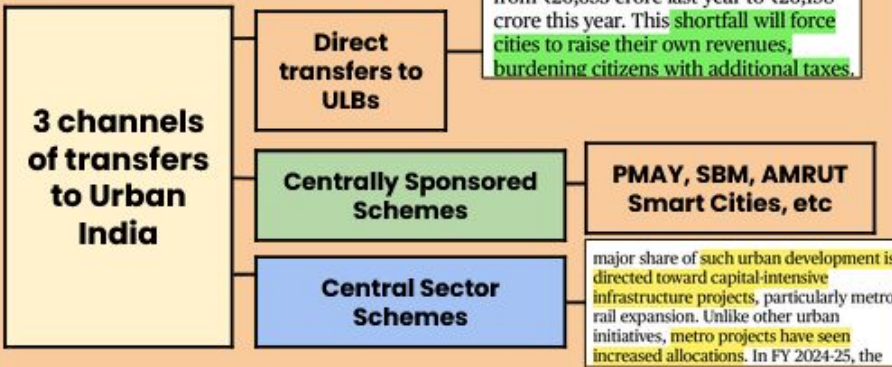


**SYLLABUS: GS Paper 2:** Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population  
**Prelims:** Economic & Social Development  
**Newspaper :** The Hindu, Page No : 8

## What was allocation for urban India?

The total outlay for urban development stands at ₹96,777 crore, higher than last year's Budget proposal of ₹82,576.57 crore. However, if a modest inflation rate is taken into consideration, there is actually a fall in the outlay. The Revised Estimate (RE) suggests that only ₹63,669.93 crore will be spent by March, reflecting an underutilisation rate of 22.9%. One of the biggest shortfalls is in

**Sector Schemes.** There has been a reduction in direct transfers to ULBs. With the abolition of octroi – a key revenue source for cities – the expectation was that the lost revenue would be compensated through central devolution. With the introduction of GST, the source revenue of ULBs fell by over 21%. But instead of increasing support, the share for ULBs has actually declined from ₹26,653 crore last year to ₹26,158 crore this year. This shortfall will force cities to raise their own revenues, burdening citizens with additional taxes.



CSS involve cost-sharing between the Union, States, and local governments. Some major urban programs under this category include PMAY, the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), and the Smart Cities Mission. However, the Budget allocations for these schemes fall flat. The PMAY (CSS component) saw a 30% reduction in allocation compared to last year, and while the SBM (Urban) retains the same outlay as last year at ₹5,000 crore, RE indicates that only ₹2,159 crore will be spent – 56% less than allocated amount.

Name of the Scheme	BE2024-25	RE2024-25	BE2025-26
Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) / National Rural Drinking Water Mission	70,163	22,694	67,000
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna Grameen (PMAY-G)	54,500	32,426	54,832
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY)-Urban	30,171	13,670	19,794
Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna	19,000	14,500	19,000
AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation)	8,000	6,000	10,000
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0)	-	1,500	3,500
Scheme for Industrial Housing (MoHUA)	-	-	2,500

A new Urban Challenge Fund of ₹10,000 crore has been introduced in the Budget. The government has set an ambitious target of ₹1 lakh crore to implement urban redevelopment programs. However, half of this funding is expected to come from private investments – an over-optimistic approach given the sector's negligible contribution to the Smart Cities Mission.

The Budget's approach to urban development is clear – emphasis on capital-intensive projects and less focus on employment generation, green jobs, and sustainable economic policies. While infrastructure investments are necessary, neglecting social and economic equity could widen existing disparities.



### KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Government to set up an 'Urban Challenge Fund' of ₹1 Lakh Crore
- The fund will implement proposals for cities as growth hubs, creative redevelopment of cities and water and sanitation
- The fund will finance up to 25% of the cost of bankable projects
- At least 50% of the cost is to be funded through bonds, bank loans and PPPs
- An allocation of ₹10,000 Crore proposed for 2025-26

**UNION BUDGET 2025**

**URBAN CHALLENGE FUND**

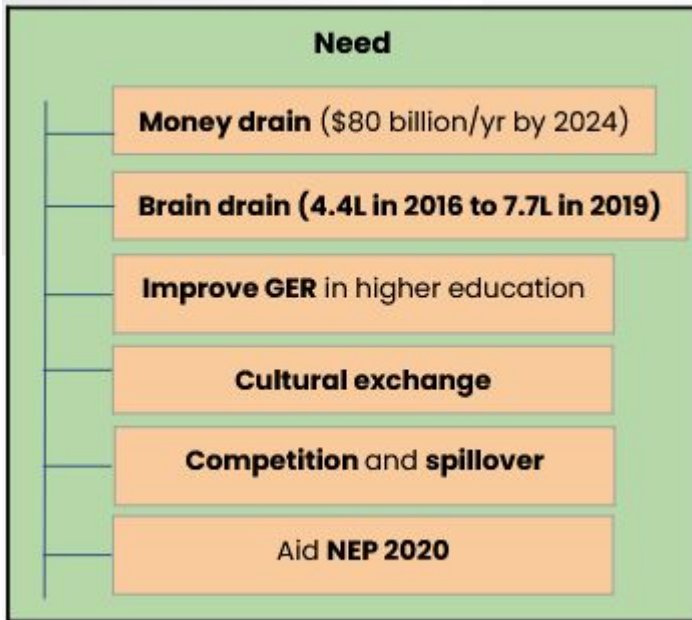
### UNION BUDGET 2025-26 KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### Other notable announcements:

- High-Level Committee for strategising regulatory reform
- Infrastructure ministries to develop a 3-year pipeline of PPP projects
- Geospatial Mission to support land record modernisation, urban planning, and infrastructure project design
- Framework to guide GCCs (Global Capability Centres) to second-tier cities
- Rs 15,000 crore SWAMIH (Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing) Fund 2
- Development of 50 tourist and 120 new flight destinations
- Scheme for strengthening urban livelihoods
- E-shram registration, health insurance for gig workers



**SYLLABUS: GS Paper 2 :** Management of Social Sector/Services relating to Education  
**Prelims:** Economic & Social Development  
**Newspaper :** The Indian Express, **Page No : 14**

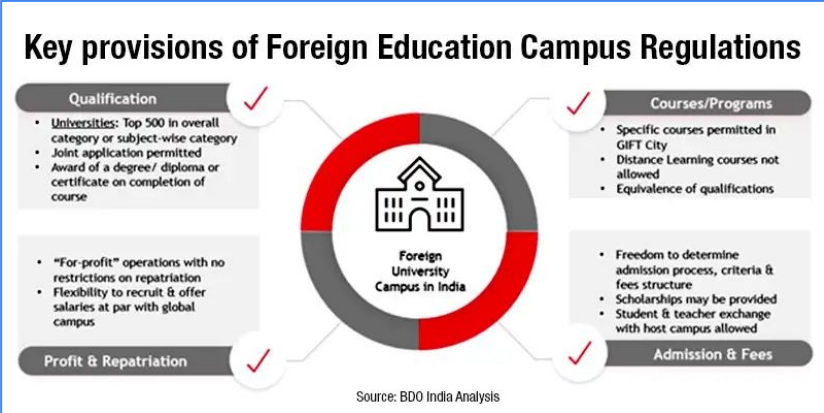


Surrey is the fourth university from the UK and seventh foreign university to announce an international branch campus in India. Since then, foreign universities (mainly from Australia and the UK) have announced plans to enter India either through GIFT City or elsewhere under regulations by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Australia's Deakin University (ranked 197th in QS World Rankings 2024), the University of Wollongong (ranked 162nd internationally), and Western Sydney University (375th position); and the University of Southampton (ranked 80th best university in the world), Coventry University (571st position internationally), Queen's University Belfast (202nd position worldwide) and the University of Surrey from the UK have announced plans to enter India.

“World Class Foreign University and Institutions will be allowed in the GIFT City to offer courses in Financial Management, FinTech, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, free from domestic regulations except those by the IFSCA to facilitate availability of high-end human resources for financial services and technology,” Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced in her Budget speech for Financial Year 2022-23.

GIFT City allows foreign universities 100% ownership of their India branch campuses and repatriation of profits to their parent campuses.



**UGC allows 18 Karnataka universities to collaborate with foreign universities**  
 UGC approves collaboration between 18 Karnataka universities and foreign institutions for twinning, joint, and dual degree programs, ...  
 24 May 2024

**First foreign university under UGC is Southampton, not Deakin**  
 Deakin is first in GIFT City, under IFSCA; Southampton in India, under UGC.  
 23 Sept 2024

**RANKED AMONG** the top 300 higher education institutions in the world, the University of Surrey will open its India campus in Gujarat's GIFT (Gujarat International Finance Tec) City in 2026-27, initially offering programmes in artificial intelligence, finance and cyber security, as per Vice Chancellor Gaoqing Max Lu.

There will be options to complete programmes along with semester exchange opportunities (in the UK). As for faculty, there will be a mix (of teachers from India and teachers from the UK campus),” Professor Lu said on the



**Q1. Consider the following statements:**

1. India's R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP was 0.64% in 2020.
2. South Korea has the highest R&D expenditure among India, China, and the USA.
3. The budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Science & Technology in 2025-26 has been doubled.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

**Answer: b**

**Q2. Match the following Indian Railway Committees with their key recommendations:**

S. No.	Committee	Recommendation
1	Kakodkar Committee	A. High-Speed Rail corridors
2	Bibek Debroy Committee	A. Non-lapsable Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh
3	Vinod Rai Committee	A. Railway Safety Authority
4	Rakesh Mohan Committee	A. Railway Infrastructure Authority of India

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below.**

- a) 1 → C, 2 → A, 3 → B, 4 → D
- b) 1 → D, 2 → C, 3 → A, 4 → B
- c) 1 → A, 2 → B, 3 → D, 4 → C
- d) 1 → B, 2 → D, 3 → C, 4 → A

**Answer: d**

**Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the NTCA:**

1. NTCA is a statutory authority under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

2. The NTCA approves Tiger Conservation Plans and conducts tiger population estimation.
3. The Prime Minister of India serves as the Chairperson of the NTCA.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2, and 3 only
- d) 1,2 and 3

**Answer: a**

**Q4. Which of the following is NOT a key feature of the newly proposed Urban Challenge Fund under Budget 2025-26?**

- a) The fund is ₹21 lakh crore.
- b) It aims to transform cities into growth hubs.
- c) A minimum of 50% of project costs must be funded through bonds, bank loans, and PPPs.
- d) 100% of the project cost will be covered by government funding.

**Answer: d**

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Article 300-A:**

1. The 44th Amendment made the Right to Property a Fundamental Right under Article 19.
2. Article 300-A ensures that no person shall be deprived of their property except by authority of law.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: b**





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