



Raipur-Durg Metro Rail Project

Why in News?

The Chhattisgarh government has approved the **Raipur-Durg Metro Rail Project** to boost the [socio-economic development](#) of the state capital, Raipur.

Key Points

- **About:** This initiative is a part of the broader vision to establish a **State Capital Region (SCR)**, modeled after **Delhi's National Capital Region (NCR)**.
 - The SCR aims to integrate key urban areas such as Raipur, **Nava Raipur Atal Nagar**, and the **Durg-Bhilai corridor** into a unified, well-coordinated urban framework.
- **Objectives:**
 - **Efficient Transportation:** The metro rail system is designed to enhance the movement of people, **reduce road congestion**, and streamline transportation within the SCR.
 - **Regional Infrastructure Development:** It will contribute to **shared infrastructure development** across the region, ensuring more coordinated growth.
 - **Population Growth:** With an anticipated **population of over 50 lakh by 2031**, the metro system is being developed to cater to the growing demand for reliable and accessible [public transportation](#).
- **Funding and Initial Steps:** In the **2024-25 state budget**, the Chhattisgarh government has allocated an initial sum of **₹5 crore** for conducting a comprehensive feasibility survey. This marks the first step toward assessing the project's **technical, financial, and operational feasibility**.
 - Additionally, **Raipur Municipal Corporation** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the Ministry of Transport of the **Russian Federation** in August 2024 to explore the potential implementation of a [light metro system](#) in Raipur.
- **Establishment of Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA):** To ensure the successful planning and execution of the **Raipur-Durg Metro Rail Project**, the **Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA)** is being set up. The CRDA will oversee the development of the **State Capital Region (SCR)** and ensure that the project is carried out in a coordinated manner.
 - **Key Functions of the CRDA:**
 - **Urban Planning:** The CRDA will be responsible for **regulating land use**, developing infrastructure, and facilitating investments within the SCR.
 - **Environmental Management:** Ensuring [sustainable development](#) will be a core responsibility, with the authority managing environmental concerns across the region.
 - **Coordination and Implementation:** It will play a central role in integrating regional planning with actual implementation, promoting cohesive urban growth.
 - **Governance Structure:** The CRDA will be chaired by the [Chief Minister](#) and will include **cabinet ministers, senior bureaucrats, Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs)**, and **representatives from urban local bodies**.
 - The authority will guide and monitor the progress of the metro project, ensuring alignment with regional development goals.
 - **Funding and Budgeting:** The CRDA will have the authority to impose a **dedicated infrastructure cess** to support capital-intensive projects like the metro rail.

- It will also be responsible for preparing **annual budgets** and submitting regular progress reports to the state government.

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