



Indore-Manmad Rail Project

Why in News?

Recently, the **Indore-Manmad Railway Project** has been approved, marking a historic milestone for railway development in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Key Points

- **Project Overview:** The project covers **309 kilometers (out of which 170.056 km will be covered in Madhya Pradesh and 139.376 km in Maharashtra)** with a total cost of **Rs. 18,036.25 crore**.
 - It will link Indore in Madhya Pradesh to Manmad in Maharashtra, connecting important districts (**Barwani, Khargone, Dhar, and Indore**) and enhancing regional connectivity.
- **Economic and Social Benefits:** Expected to generate direct employment during construction and after completion in underdeveloped districts **like Barwani and Khargone**, and enhance logistics for industries.
 - Railway line will greatly benefit the **Scheduled Tribe** communities in the **Malwa and Nimar regions**, driving positive change and opening new opportunities.
- **Agricultural Impact:** Improves transportation for **onion-producing** hubs (**Nashik, Dhule, and Nandurbar**) and other agricultural products.
- **Religious Tourism:** The rail line will facilitate easier access to major religious sites, including **Jyotirlingas**, promoting religious tourism.
- **Project Funding and Contributions:** **Madhya Pradesh will contribute Rs.1,362.80 crore (10% of the state's share), while Maharashtra will not contribute financially. The remaining funds are provided by the Central Government.**
- **Central Support:** Central Government has supported the project under the **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan**.

PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan

- **Aim:** To ensure integrated planning and implementation of infrastructure projects in the next four years, with focus on expediting works on the ground, saving costs and creating jobs.
 - The Gati Shakti scheme will subsume the **Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline** that was launched in **2019**.
 - Besides cutting logistics costs, the scheme is also aimed at increasing cargo handling capacity and reducing the turnaround time at ports to boost trade.
 - It also aims to have 11 **industrial corridors** and two new **defence corridors** - one in **Tamil Nadu and other in Uttar Pradesh**. Extending 4G connectivity to all villages is another aim. Adding 17,000 kms to the gas pipeline network is being planned.
 - It will help in fulfilling the ambitious targets set by the government for **2024-25**, including expanding the length of the national highway network to **2 lakh kms**, creation of more than **200 new airports, heliports and water aerodromes**.

