Introduction of HSR

What is the issue?

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Bullet trains are expected to transform rail travel and boost the economy.

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What is the status of HSR in India?

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- High speed rail or HSR, which basically means trains running on dedicated lines at 250 km/h or highest.
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- India’s pioneering 500-km ‘bullet’ train corridor between Mumbai and Ahmedabad.
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- It is being executed in collaboration with Gujarat and Maharashtra,
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- Japan’s offer of the $12 billion assistance at highly concessional terms is not transferable to other rail projects.
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What are the issues with Indian railway system?

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- The Railways had not segregated its passenger business from freight, for better focus and orientation.
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- There is lack of planning on upgrading the resources for ‘semi high speed’ inter-city trains.
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- They also have multiple stops and consume a substantial portion of scarce movement capacity, including on high density routes.
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- The Railways had not restructured its services and tariffs to be able to reposition rail travel in preference to car as well as airlines.
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- Its annual loss currently estimated at Rs.30,000 crore from the passenger business is untenable.
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- Suburban passenger traffic the ordinary second class fare is responsible for losses.
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What are the advantages of HSR?

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- **Climate Change -** A high-speed electric train emits an eight and a fifth of carbon dioxide as against automobiles and airplanes per passenger km, respectively.
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- **Efficient land usage -** A double-track rail line has more than thrice the passenger carrying capacity of a six-lane highway while requiring less than half the land.
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- **Faster connectivity -** HSR helps bring settlements 500 km apart within two hours of each other.
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- **Affordable -** Designed to be faster than a car, while also cheaper and more convenient than a plane.
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- **Economic growth -** It stimulus for the development of satellite towns, helping alleviate migration to metropolises.
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- **Safety -** HSR's unblemished safety record is an important benefit, ever since its inception in 1964 has maintained a unique record of no fatal accident.
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What are the things to be taken care?

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- The Railways must ensure the Ahmedabad-Mumbai HSR project is commissioned within stipulated time and cost.
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- It needs to keep the other six designated HSR corridors on radar, feasibility studies for which have already been completed.
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- The Railways for 350 km/h trains corridors on arterial routes along the golden quadrilateral and its diagonals are also required.
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Source: Business Line

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