# MAHSR project

## Why in news?

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Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR), an Ind0-Japan collaborative project to be inaugurated shortly at Ahmedabad.

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## What are the significance of this bullet train initiative?

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- **Investments -**Japan will provide a soft loan of about Rs 90,000 crore at a minuscule interest rate of 0.1 per cent over 50 years.
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- More than 80 per cent of the project cost is being funded by the government of Japan.
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- The repayment of the loan is to begin after 15 years of receiving the loan.
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- **Manufacturing -**The MAHSR project has a twin objective of “localised manufacture” and “transfer of technology”.
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- **Employment -**This project is likely to generate employment for about 20,000 workers, who will then be equipped to take up construction of more such projects in India.
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- The new areas where construction skills would be developed are ballast-less track, under sea tunnelling
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- **Capacity building -**A dedicated High Speed Rail Training Institute is being developed at Vadodara, will be fully equipped with Japanese equipment and facilities.
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- This institute will be functional by the end of 2020, and train about 4,000 staff in the next three years, who will then be utilised for operation and maintenance.

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- **Faster Connectivity -**A “rapid train” service with only two stops at Surat and Vadodara and a slower service that halts at 10 stations en route.
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- The “rapid train” would complete the journey in 2 hours and 7 minutes, while the slower service would take 2 hours and 58 minutes.
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- **High-end technology -**The project is set to provide reliable and comfortable service with high standards of safety.
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- The technology regarding disaster predictions and preventions will also be acquired as part of the project.
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**Source: Indian Express**

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