

11 March 2023

[GS-3] - Infrastructure

3. Increased adoption of railways for cargo movement is crucial to improve the country's logistics competitiveness. Comment

Budget 2023 has increased allocation upto 224 LCr <sup>PM Matsali master plan</sup> to Indian Railways & to boost logistics sector to improve logistics competitiveness.

Railways importance.

1. Indian railways - efficient & economical means of transportation of passengers & goods and services.

2. Contributes 1.5% of Gross domestic product in.

45% of Infrastructure building.

3. National Railplan  $\rightarrow$  also plans to Increase passenger services & boost freight movement to 40-45%.

Road vs Railway freight

currently  $\Rightarrow$  Road freight  $\Rightarrow$  >65% of total freight.

Issue is High transportation cost - affecting logistics efficiency

world bank's - Logistics performance Index - India

13-14% logistics cost

Challenges  $\rightarrow$  Faced by Railway Sector:

It faces Infrastructure, operational & procedural bottlenecks

1. pre - movement & post movement procedural delays increasing transit time eg: waiting unloading wagon movement

2. Terminal Infrastructure is lacking - leading to. increased congestion & low service level.  
eg: warehouse.

3. Absence of 1st & last mile connectivity - increasing multiple handling.

need of home

1. upcoming Dedicated freight corridors in Eastern western corridors - may ease oversaturation line

2. Special entity within Railway for Intermodal

logistics handling - participation of private.

Reduce. multiple handling] eg: warehouse management

3. Uber-like - online booking for wagon services to improve usage rate of wagon.

4. Boosting Infra → Policy tool → to increase private participation

Increased multimodal connectivity policy

Infrastructure in Railways - will increase the logistics efficiency & also exports to neighbouring countries