Syllabus subtopic: Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

Prelims and Mains focus: about DFCs and their significance; about DFCCIL

News: The world’s second-biggest Operation Control Centre for goods trains, built in India by the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCCIL) is ready to begin operations.

About the centre

- The centre, built at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, will be the ‘nerve-centre’ of the over 1,800 km-long eastern dedicated freight corridor.

- The control centre has a theater which measures 1560 sq m, with a video wall of more than 90 m and will be used as a one-stop shop for controlling and monitoring rail systems, including train operations and the power supply system.

About Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC)

- The Dedicated Freight Corridor, touted as one of the biggest infrastructure projects in the country, is a 3,360 km stretch consisting of the Eastern and Western corridors.

- Upgrading of transportation technology, increase in productivity and reduction in unit transportation cost are the focus areas for the project.

- Carbon emission reduction from DFCs will help DFCCIL claim carbon credits.

- The Eastern corridor, which is being funded by the World Bank, will run from Ludhiana in Punjab to Dankuni near Kolkata, traversing Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand.
For the Eastern corridor, **targeted to be completed by December 2021**, The World Bank loan stands at about $1.86 billion.

The **Western corridor** will have a similar operation control system at Ahmedabad.

Once operational, the freight corridor will **help decongest the existing Indian Railway network**, while also helping **increase the average speed of goods trains to 70 kmph, from the existing 25 kmph**.

It will connect the existing ports and industrial areas for faster movement of good and will help **increase the rail share in freight transportation** from the existing 30% to 45%.”

**About Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCCIL)**

- DFCCIL is a **Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** corporation run by government of India’s **Ministry of Railways** to undertake **planning, development, and mobilisation of financial resources** and **construction, maintenance and operation** of the Dedicated Freight Corridors.

- The DFCCIL was registered as a company under the **Companies Act 1956** in 2006.

- It is **both enabler and beneficiary** of other key Government of India schemes, such as and Industrial corridor, Make in India, Startup India, Standup India, Sagarmala, Bharatmala, UDAN-RCS, Digital India, BharatNet.

- Carbon emission reduction from DFCs will help DFCCIL **claim carbon credits**.