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**.