STUDY NOTES · BASIC CONCEPT

What may be the features of New Wagon Policy of the Indian Railways?

Indian Economy

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Indian Railways is set to introduce a **new Wagon Design Policy** aimed at modernising freight operations and making the system more flexible, efficient, and industry-driven. The key reform allows industries and private players to design **customised wagons** based on the specific requirements of different commodities such as cement, steel, automobiles, and containers.

Under the new framework, Railways will move from a standardised wagon model to a **commodity-specific design approach**, encouraging innovation and improving freight handling efficiency. However, all designs will still require safety approval from the **Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO)** and oversight by the **Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety (CCRS)** to ensure operational safety and technical compliance.

The policy is also expected to boost **rail freight share**, reduce dependence on road transport, and lower logistics costs. By improving efficiency and capacity utilisation, the reform aims to make rail transport more competitive for industries.

Another important aspect is the push for **green logistics**, as rail transport is more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly compared to road transport. Increased freight movement by rail is expected to reduce carbon emissions and fuel consumption.

Overall, the policy represents a shift towards a more **industry-partnered, innovation-led, and sustainable freight ecosystem**, aligning with India’s broader goals of economic growth, infrastructure modernisation, and greener transport systems.