Indian Economy · GS - III

Examine the significance of modernising Indian Railways through premium intercity and overnight train services. What challenges must be addressed to ensure inclusive and sustainable railway development?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 02/11/2026	GS - III	Indian Economy

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Railway modernisation; passenger amenities; intercity connectivity; economic integration; safety; affordability; infrastructure capacity; regional inclusion

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Model Answer

Introduction

Indian Railways is a major public transport network supporting economic activity, passenger mobility and national integration. Modern train services aim to improve travel comfort, efficiency and connectivity.

Significance of Modernisation

1. Improved Connectivity

Premium intercity and overnight services can reduce travel inconvenience between major economic centres, supporting business, tourism and labour mobility.

2. Better Passenger Experience

Modern coaches, improved onboard amenities and technology-enabled operations can enhance comfort and service quality.

3. Economic Benefits

Reliable rail connections can strengthen links between commercial centres and improve access to employment, education and markets.

Challenges

Infrastructure constraints, congestion, safety risks, maintenance requirements and uneven regional connectivity remain important concerns. Premium services may also be inaccessible to lower-income passengers if affordability and ordinary train capacity are neglected.

Way Forward

Investment should combine modern trains with track expansion, signalling upgrades, safety systems, accessibility, maintenance and improved regional connectivity. Transparent performance monitoring and balanced investment across passenger categories are essential.

Conclusion

Railway modernisation should improve speed and comfort while preserving safety, affordability and equitable access. A balanced approach can make rail transport more efficient, inclusive and sustainable.

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