

1. Why PPP has not been successful in case of development of railway infrastructure, while the same model did well for highways? Analyze with suitable examples? (150 Words)

Answer:

- Physical infrastructure, such as roads, water and sanitation networks, and transportation systems, involve large investments that can put a strain on the public purse. This strain is especially great for countries, such as India, whose economies is undergoing rapid development and urbanization and has a great need for expanded infrastructure.
- Public-private partnerships (PPPs) are increasingly being used by governments and public sector authorities throughout the world as a way of increasing access to infrastructure services for their citizenry and economies at a reduced cost.
- In Indian context, PPP means an arrangement between a government or statutory entity or government owned entity on one side and a private sector entity on the other, for the provision of public assets and/ or related services for public benefit, through investments being made by and/or management undertaken by the private sector entity for a specified time period, where there is a substantial risk sharing with the private sector and the private sector receives performance linked payments that conform (or are benchmarked) to specified, pre-determined and measurable performance standards.
- The PPP model has not been successful in Railways, because of three major issues:
 - Too much interference of politicians, as railways is used for populist sentiment. This drives the profits down and forces operator to adopt some of the inefficient practices.
 - Very long gestation period, while infrastructure projects generally have very long gestation period, railways is much longer than them. Most private companies don't want to work in such uncertain environment as profit can't be predicted for too foreseeable a future.
 - BoT model that worked in case of highways is not possible for railways as railways can't work in multi-fare format. Neither a differential fare policy possible given the political scenario and similarly, nor a toll can be levied.
- Very few railway PPP projects have been signed so far and all of them have been in the area of freight and commercial lines around ports or some sections in dedicated western freight corridor. But, response is still far from encouraging and even 10% of targeted investment couldn't be met in 12th FYP. One of the few successful projects is Pipavav railways in Gujarat, which was developed for a modernization of pipavav port. Even this project had to face too many problems and red tapes and took double time then stipulated.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Answer the following Questions

1. Separation, and not divorce, is the dominant form of marriage dissolution for most women in India. What could be the possible reasons behind this? Also, discuss why there are striking differences in divorce rates between the different regions in India. (150 words)
2. Giving an account of their impact, mention the reasons for increased frequency of dust storms as observed in the last few years. (150 words)

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