

UPSC Civil Services Examination

UPSC Notes [GS-II]

Topic: Setu Bharatam Project

The Setu Bharatam Project was launched on 4th March 2016 by PM Narendra Modi. This project was started as an initiative to make all the national highways free of railway crossings by the year 2019. According to PM Narendra Modi, the total budget of this project was Rs. 102 billion with an aim to construct around 208 rail over and under bridges.

Some of the highlights of the Setu Bharatam Project have been discussed in the table below:

Setu Bharatam Project	
Date of launching	4th March 2016
Launched by	PM Narendra Modi
Government Ministry	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
Year of completion of Setu Bharatam	2019

What is Setu Bharatam?

The Government of India launched the Setu Bharatam project considering the importance of road safety. Setu Bharatam aims in developing a strong infrastructure that will contribute towards the growth of the country through proper planning and implementation of this project.

A total of Rs. 102 billion was sanctioned by PM Narendra Modi for completion of this project.

The Setu Bharatam focuses on the construction of new bridges along with the renovation of old ones.

An Indian Bridge Management System (IBMS) was also established by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways at the Indian Academy for Highway Engineer in Noida. The primary aim of this project is to conduct surveys and inventions of all the bridges on the national highways through mobile inspection units. There are around 11 firms that have been set up for this purpose. This project has been

successful in inventing 50,000 bridges till now and the first cycle of this survey was completed in June 2016.

Objectives of Setu Bharatam Project

The Setu Bharatam launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi aimed to make all the national highways free from railway crossing by the year 2019. Some of the major objectives of the Setu Bharatam Project were:

- Construction of bridges in the national highways across the country.
- Construction of around 280 under and over railway tracks bridges by the Government with an expense of around Rs. 100 Crore.
- Around 64 bridges would get the green signal at the end of the year 2016.
- Use of scientific techniques such as measurement of distance, longitude, latitude, material, designs etc. during the construction of bridges.

To know about the 208 over bridges constructed across the country, refer to the table given below:

Setu Bharatam Project	
States	Number of over bridges
Andhra Pradesh	33
Assam	12
Bihar	20
Chattisgarh	5
Gujarat	8
Haryana	10
Himachal Pradesh	5
Jharkhand	11
Karnataka	17

Kerala	4
Madhya Pradesh	6
Maharashtra	12
Odisha	4
Punjab	10
Rajasthan	9
Tamil Nadu	9
Uttarakhand	2
Uttar Pradesh	9
West Bengal	22

The Sethu Bharatam project laid emphasis on the construction and repairing of the old bridges and also reduced the overall cost of the project. The project was implemented quickly and was successfully completed by the year 2019.