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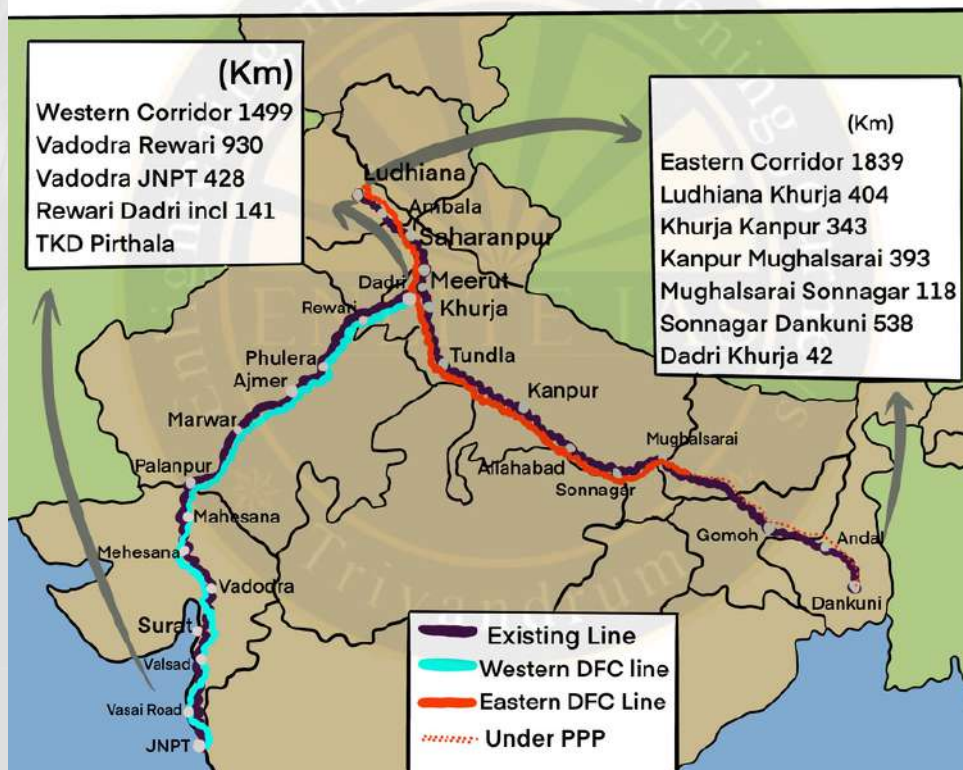
Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) (Source: The Hindu)

It is a high-speed and high-capacity railway corridor that is exclusively meant for the transportation of freight

Two Points

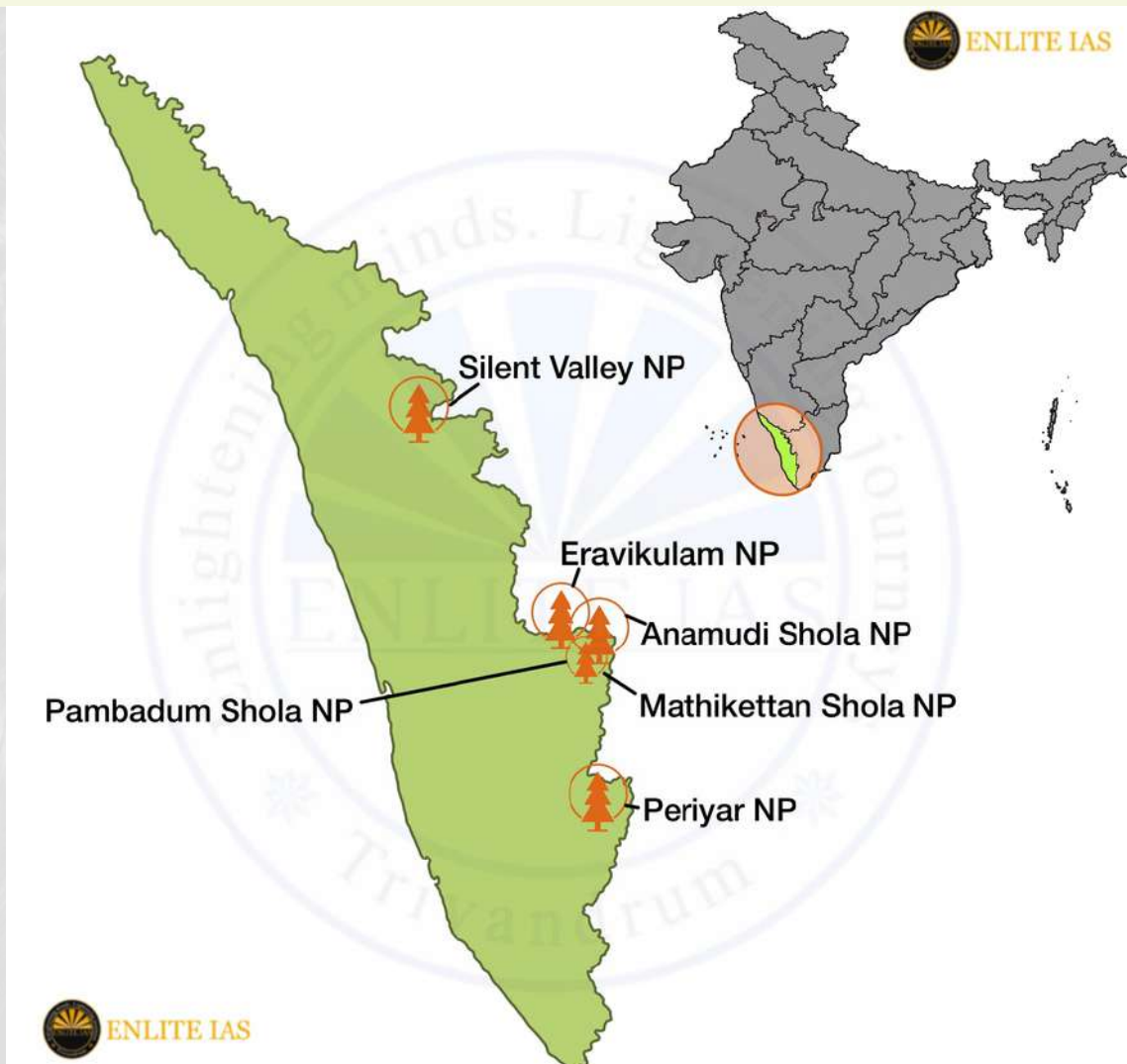
- **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC)**
 - It starts at Sahnewal (Ludhiana) in Punjab and ends at Dankuni in West Bengal.
 - The EDFC route covers Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal
 - The World Bank is funding a majority of the EDFC.
 - Major industries part of EDFC are World Bank-funded.
- **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC)**
 - WDFC run from Dadri in Uttar Pradesh to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in Mumbai, touching all major ports along the way.
 - The WDFC covers Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh.
 - It is being funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

EASTERN AND WESTERN DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDOR



2 Mathikettan Shola National Park (Source: The Hindu)

- **Location:** Idukki district, Kerala (Part of Western Ghats).
- **Vegetation:** Montane evergreen (shola) forests
- **Fauna:** Lion-tailed macaque, Nilgiri tahr, gaur, sambar, and elephants
- **Note:** One of the smallest national parks in Kerala.
- **Conservation:** Lies within the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Western Ghats.



3 Chagos Archipelago (Source: The Hindu)

The Chagos Archipelago consists of over 60 small islands located in the central Indian Ocean, south of the Maldives, and east of Seychelles.

- **The largest island, Diego Garcia, hosts a key US-UK military base.**
- It is the world's largest marine protected area.
- It is coral origin.

Archipelago

- An archipelago is a cluster or chain of islands located in a sea or ocean, often formed by volcanic activity, tectonic movements, or coastal erosion. Major examples include the Indonesian and Philippine archipelagos.

