



GOVERNMENT POLICY REPORT



SUSTAINABILITY
CARBON EMISSION
GREEN ENERGY
GREEN MOBILITY
WATER

SUSTAINABILITY

Sagarmanthan: A Dialogue to Focus on Sustainable Evolution of India's Maritime Sector

India hosted the first edition of “Sagarmanthan: The Great Oceans Dialogue” to discuss growing opportunities and associated responsibilities for the growth of its maritime sector. This crucial maritime thought leadership summit was the largest maritime forum of the South Asia region which was held on November 18-19, 2024, in New Delhi. It was organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), Government of India in association with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF). The forum brought together representatives from over 60 countries to deliberate on the sustainable evolution of India's maritime sector.



Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/delhi-hosts-south-asias-largest-maritime-thought-leadership-summit-sagarmanthan-2635831-2024-11-19>

India's maritime sector is a cornerstone of its economy, with a coastline exceeding 7,500 kilometres and 1,382 islands. This vast maritime expanse supports a blue economy that contributes approximately 4% to the nation's GDP and facilitates 95% of its trade by volume through sea routes.



The Prime Minister emphasized India's rich maritime heritage and the critical role of oceans in global trade and security. He highlighted the government's commitment to enhancing maritime capabilities through initiatives like the Sagarmala Programme and the Maritime India Vision 2030, aiming to modernize infrastructure, promote green shipping, and improve port connectivity.

FOUR CENTRAL THEMES UNDER SAGARMANTHAN 2024

NEW FRONTIERS

Focuses on connectivity, infrastructure, and development in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

BLUE GROWTH

Emphasizes building partnerships to advance progress in maritime trade and commerce.

GREEN AND BLUE

Highlights sustainability, technology, and innovation as critical factors for a greener maritime future.

COASTS AND COMMUNITIES

Explores maritime governance and its social impact, centering on coastal communities and sustainable development.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2074644>

Further, the Union Minister for the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways outlined a transformative vision for the maritime sector, proposing an investment of Rs. 80 lakh crore to augment port capacity, shipping, shipbuilding, and inland waterways. It has shown India's commitment to the sustainable development of its maritime sector which significantly facilitates Indian trade and commerce and serves as a backbone of the Indian economy. It will positively impact the development of India's 12 major and more than 200 minor/ intermediate ports to contribute to India's growing economy.

DISCUSSIONS UNDER SAGARMANTHAN

Decarbonization of
the Maritime Sector

Harit Sagar Guidelines

National Green
Hydrogen Mission

This ambitious plan aligns with India's goal of becoming a global maritime trade leader and achieving developed nation status by 2047. **The dialogue also addressed the socio-economic aspects of the blue economy, recognizing that the coastal economy supports over 4 million fisherfolk and coastal communities.** The government aims to enhance livelihoods while preserving marine ecosystems by promoting sustainable fishing practices and bolstering coastal infrastructure.



Source: <https://swarajyamag.com/insta/india-set-to-harness-vast-potential-of-its-ocean-resources-as-govt-invites-suggestions-on-blue-economy-policy>

Thus, Sagarmathan has reinforced India's commitment to a sustainable and inclusive maritime sector. By integrating traditional knowledge with modern technology and fostering international cooperation, India is poised to harness its maritime potential fully, ensuring economic growth and environmental stewardship for future generations.

CARBON EMISSION

Three Multi-tracking Projects Approved by Cabinet with the Aim to Lower Carbon Emission in Indian Railways

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved three multi-tracking projects worth approximately Rs. 7,927 Crore to enhance the infrastructure of Indian Railways. These projects are expected to reduce congestion, improve connectivity, and contribute to a greener, more sustainable railway transportation system.



Source: <https://www.businessworld.in/article/cabinet-approves-rs-7927-cr-rail-projects-to-boost-connectivity-cut-emissions-540305>

These projects include the 3rd line of Prayagraj-Manikpur (84 Km), the 3rd and 4th lines of Bhusawal-Khandwa (131 Km), and the 4th line of Jalgaon-Manmad (160 km) of Indian Railways. These projects are part of the broader vision of the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, which seeks to strengthen multi-modal connectivity across the country.

The infographic features the 'Gati Shakti' logo at the top left, with 'myGov' and 'मेरी सरकार' (My Government) to its right. Below this is the slogan 'Pragati Ki Gati Bharat Ki Shakti' (Progress is the power of India). The central theme is 'Making India the hub of world-class infra'. On the right side of the infographic is a portrait of Prime Minister Narendra Modi waving. The bottom section lists four key objectives: 1. Comprehensive master plan mapping all existing/planned initiatives of Ministries (with a book icon), 2. Guide the creation of economic zones & connectivity infrastructure (with a rupee symbol icon), 3. Help remove regional & sectoral imbalances in infrastructure & connectivity (with a telephone icon), and 4. Aid faster growth of key sectors, employment generation & spearheading growth (with an icon of three people).

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1763638>

The three projects, which span across Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, will enhance the existing railway network by about 639 kilometers. These upgrades will provide much-needed relief to the busiest sections of rail routes, including those between Mumbai and Prayagraj. The multi-tracking projects are expected to directly benefit millions, improving access to key regions like Khandwa and Chitrakoot, as well as facilitating religious tourism. This will allow more efficient transportation for pilgrims visiting sacred sites like Nashik's Trimbakeshwar, Khandwa's Omkareshwar, and Varanasi's Kashi Vishwanath, along with other important destinations such as Khajuraho and Ajanta-Ellora caves.

The enhanced rail infrastructure will also support the transportation of critical goods like coal, fertilizers, and cement, leading to an increase in freight capacity by 51 million tonnes per annum. Through this, Indian Railways' commitment to environmentally friendly, energy-efficient transportation will significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 271 crore kilograms annually. It is roughly equivalent to planting 11 crore trees.



Source: <https://infra.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/railways/cabinet-approves-multitracking-projects-worth-rs-7927-crore-to-boost-rail-connectivity/115681305>

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE APPROVED PROJECTS

Rs. 7927 crore approved for three multi-tracking projects to enhance Indian Railways' infrastructure.

Projects include Jalgaon-Manmad, Bhusawal-Khandwa, and Prayagraj-Manikpur rail lines, spanning 630 kilometers.

Initiatives aim to reduce congestion, improve connectivity, and support religious and freight transport.

Carbon emissions to drop by 271 crore kilograms annually, equivalent to planting 11 crore trees.

Boosts economic growth with increased freight capacity and reduced logistics costs.

Moreover, capacity expansion will lower logistics costs, boost economic growth, and reduce the country's reliance on oil imports. Thus, this is a crucial step in achieving the country's climate goals while enhancing the efficiency of one of the world's largest railway networks.

HOW AG GROUP CAN HELP YOU

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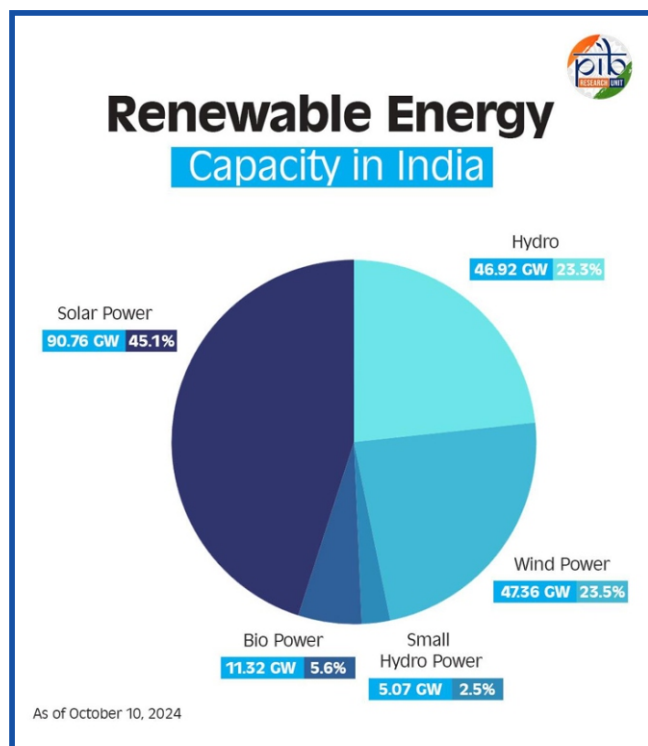
GREEN ENERGY

ASSET Platform Launched by NITI Aayog to Support India's Green Energy Quest

To achieve Net-Zero emissions by 2070, India took a significant step towards this aim on November 11, 2024, with the launch of the “**Accelerating Sustainable Solutions for Energy Transition**” (ASSET) platform by NITI Aayog. It was launched in collaboration with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, along with the Ministry of Power.



Source: <https://forumias.com/blog/accelerating-sustainable-state-energy-transition-asset-platform/>



Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?NotelD=153279®=3&lang=1>

It has been designed to assist Indian states in formulating and implementing comprehensive energy transition plans to meet the country's ambitious green energy goals. As per **recent government statistics**, India has surpassed its set target of 200 GW milestone and achieved 201.45 GW renewable energy capacity as of October 2024.

To accelerate this transition, the ASSET platform offers vital support to states in crafting detailed energy blueprints, developing bankable projects, and developing innovative solutions. It focuses on emerging technologies such as battery energy storage systems, green hydrogen, energy efficiency, offshore wind, and electric mobility. It aims to facilitate effective implementation by enabling states to align their energy transition efforts with national priorities and goals.

India's energy transition seeks sustainable economic growth while addressing environmental concerns. The platform addresses these challenges by fostering collaboration among states, central government, and private entities. It aims to attract investments through a pipeline of well-prepared projects and encourage adopting best practices. Efforts to commercialize advanced storage technologies and expand the use of alternative fuels are also emphasized under the platform.

MULTIFACETED SUPPORT TO STATES BY THE ASSET PLATFORM

1

Formulating Energy Transition Blueprints

2

Developing Bankable Projects

3

Showcasing Best Practices and Innovation

Source: <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/aspirations-must-be-backed-by-investments-for-the-energy-transition>

Additionally, initiatives promoting solar deployment in rural areas and enhancing solar PV manufacturing capacity are key areas of focus. Such measures are expected to mitigate challenges associated with renewable energy intermittency and scale up green energy adoption. Thus, the ASSET platform represents a transformative step toward accelerating India's green energy transition and ensuring long-term economic and environmental sustainability.

GREEN MOBILITY

India Launched its First Green Hydrogen Fuelling Station to Revolutionize the Green Mobility Sector

India took a significant step towards its ambitious commitment to sustainable transportation by launching its first green hydrogen fuelling station. Developed by Amara Raja Infra for NTPC Ltd, the station set up at Leh, Ladakh, underscores the government's vision towards green mobility and the National Hydrogen Energy Mission.

The station is situated at an altitude of approximately 3,400 metres and can produce 80 kilograms of green hydrogen every day. The project was completed over two years, overcoming key challenges such as temperatures ranging from -25°C to 30°C. The Union Minister for Power and Housing and Urban Affairs inaugurated the facility, marking a pivotal moment in India's clean energy saga.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ India's first green hydrogen station in Leh produces 80 kg daily.
- ✓ Supports five hydrogen buses for emission-free transport.
- ✓ Aligns with goals under the National Hydrogen Energy Mission



The station will support the operation of five hydrogen fuel cell buses in and around Leh, promoting emission-free transportation in this ecologically sensitive region. This initiative positions India among the few countries leading in green mobility. The project's scope encompassed the design, engineering, supply, construction, testing, and commissioning of the hydrogen station. Also, three years of operation and maintenance support will be provided for efficient functioning.



This development aligns with India's broader goals under the National Hydrogen Energy Mission, aiming to promote large-scale green hydrogen mobility and storage solutions. The Leh station serves as a precursor to future projects, offering valuable insights for deploying similar infrastructure nationwide.

Green hydrogen, produced through key renewable energy sources, is pivotal in reducing carbon emissions. When using renewable energy sources like solar and wind, promotes energy sector decarbonization and storage of excess renewable energy. **India plans to produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030**, with major corporations like Reliance Industries and the Adani Group investing heavily in this sector. It will foster a sustainable and resilient energy ecosystem and promote the circular economy in the country.



Reliance Industries

- **₹5.95 lakh crore** for developing 100 GW renewable energy plant and green hydrogen ecosystem in Gujarat over 10-15 years
- Dhirubhai Ambani Green Energy Giga Complex over **5,000 acres** in Jamnagar
- **₹60,000 crore** investment in PV, storage, hydrogen technologies, electrolyser manufacturing
- **₹15,000 crore** to develop value chain,



INDIA CAN BRING DOWN THE COST OF HYDROGEN TO \$1 PER KG. THIS WILL MAKE IT THE FIRST TO REACH \$1 PER ONE KG IN ONE DECADE"

Mukesh Ambani, chairman, Reliance Industries

Source: <https://www.fortuneindia.com/long-reads/mission-green-hydrogen/112968>



Adani Group

- **\$50 billion:** Adani New Industries Ltd's (ANIL's) investment in green hydrogen and associated ecosystems over next decade
- **1 million tonne/annum** green hydrogen production capacity before 2030
- TotalEnergies of France will acquire **25%** in ANIL to jointly explore the hydrogen market



WE WANT TO BECOME THE LARGEST GREEN HYDROGEN MANUFACTURER AND EXPORTER IN THE WORLD"

Gautam Adani, chairman, Adani Group

Source: <https://www.fortuneindia.com/long-reads/mission-green-hydrogen/112968>

The successful commissioning of the Leh fuelling station demonstrates India's engineering capabilities and reinforces its dedication to green development. **While the advantages are clear, challenges such as high initial costs, lack of infrastructure, and efficiency losses in hydrogen production need addressing for its country-wide adoption.** However, ongoing investments and innovations are rapidly overcoming these barriers along with advancements in green hydrogen infrastructure. Such initiatives and developments are expected to play a crucial role in achieving energy security and environmental sustainability together at the implementation level.

HOW AG GROUP CAN BE A HELP

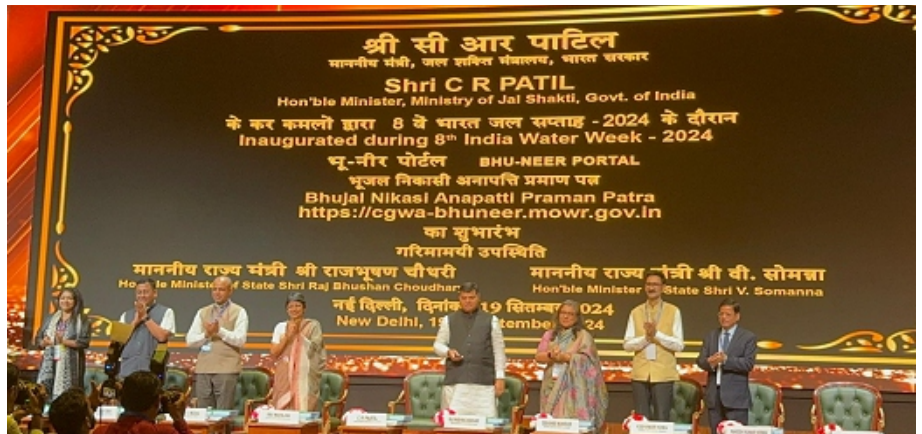
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WATER

India Launched "Bhu-Neer" Portal to Improve Groundwater Regulation

Recently the "Bhu-Neer" portal—a significant groundwater regulation effort by the Government of India has been made live for public use. **The portal was launched on September 19, 2024, during India Water Week 2024 by the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Government of India.**



Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2074919>

It will work on the data released under the "Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment Report" in 2023, which was assessed by the Central Ground Water Board and states. **The report indicates the country's annual groundwater recharge is 449.08 billion cubic metres, while groundwater extraction is 241.34 billion cubic metres as of 2023.**

MAJOR FINDINGS UNDER REPORT

Stage of ground water extraction stands at 59.23%.

Total annual ground water recharge for entire country is 449.08 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM), while extraction is 241.34 BCM.

Analysis indicates improvement in ground water conditions in 226 assessment units in the country compared with 2022 assessment data.

Earlier these joint exercises by CGWB & States/UTs were carried out in 1980, 1995, 2004, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2017, 2020 and 2022.

Developed by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), the Bhu-Neer portal serves as a centralized platform for managing and regulating groundwater resources across the nation. Its primary objectives are to enhance transparency, efficiency, and sustainability in groundwater usage.

The portal offers comprehensive information on the legal frameworks governing groundwater extraction, encompassing both state and national regulations. **Users can easily access the centralized database that offers useful insights into groundwater compliance, policies, and sustainable practices.** Further, various features of the portal empower stakeholders in the decision-making process regarding groundwater utilization.

Source: <https://cgwa-bhuneer.mowr.gov.in/>



Its data-driven decision-making process makes its operation user-friendly and helps streamline the process for project promoters who seek groundwater withdrawal permits. **It implements a Permanent Account Number (PAN) - based single ID system and issues No Objection Certificates (NOCs) embedded with QR codes, facilitating easy verification and tracking.** The portal is now live for public use, enabling project proponents to address groundwater withdrawal-related queries, seek clarifications, track application statuses, and pay statutory charges—all through a single, user-friendly interface.

By integrating advanced digital solutions into groundwater management, the Bhu-Neer portal represents a pivotal step toward sustainable water resource governance in India. Additionally, the portal aids in **disaster management** by predicting water scarcity, and ensuring timely intervention. It fosters transparency, enhances governance, and aligns with India's sustainability and climate resilience goals. It not only simplifies regulatory procedures but also fosters responsible groundwater usage, ensuring the long-term availability of this vital resource for the country's future generations.



Source: <https://universalinstitutions.com/bhu-neer-portal-revolutionising-groundwater-management-in-india/>

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