



GOVERNMENT POLICY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2025 EDITION



GST 2.0

01 SUSTAINABILITY

India Commissions its First Port-Based Green Hydrogen Plant under Make-in-India

India has marked a significant milestone in clean energy by commissioning its **first indigenously built 1 MW green hydrogen plant at Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) in Kandla, Gujarat**. Launched on July 31, 2025, this pioneering project significantly strengthens the nation's long-term vision of sustainable ports and net-zero commitments.

Developed using Indian expertise, modern technology, and locally produced electrolyzers, the plant **stands as a testament to the “Make-in-India” vision**. Designed with efficiency, sustainability, and innovation at its core, it was **executed in just four months** from foundation to commissioning, setting a benchmark for speed, efficiency, and innovation in the renewable energy sector.



Source: <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/indias-first-make-in-india-green-hydrogen-plant-commissioned-at-kandla/>



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2150882>

In its first phase, the plant will **generate nearly 140 metric tonnes of green hydrogen annually**, equivalent to around 18 kg per hour. The initial production will **fuel 11 hydrogen-powered buses and support street lighting** within the port premises. As the project expands, the hydrogen output is expected to power additional port operations and vessels, significantly reducing dependence on fossil fuels.



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2150882>

This installation serves as the foundation for **an upcoming 10 MW green hydrogen initiative. Another 5 MW capacity is planned by the end of the current fiscal year**, with full operational capacity expected by the middle of the next fiscal year. Once completed, the plant will stand as one of the largest and most-strategically important port-based green hydrogen projects in India.

KEY STATISTICS

- 1 **1 MW green hydrogen plant built in 4 months**
- 2 **~140 metric tonnes annual output (~18kg/hour)**
- 3 **Scalable to 10MW project**
- 4 **5 MW capacity targeted this fiscal year**
- 5 **11 hydrogen-powered buses in first phase**
- 6 **Hydrogen to power port street lighting**
- 7 **Set to be one of Asia's largest port-based hydrogen plants**

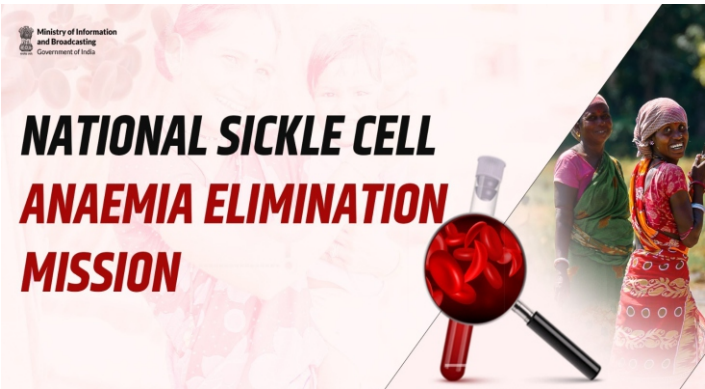
The achievement has been hailed as a **model of “speed, scale, and skill,”** showcasing India's ability to execute transformative projects swiftly. It reflects a strong commitment to advancing clean energy infrastructure while promoting indigenous innovation, collaborative research, and technological excellence. This approach also strengthens international competitiveness and inspires **future large-scale renewable projects across diverse sectors of the economy.**

By commissioning the country's first green hydrogen plant at a port, **DPA has taken a pioneering step toward sustainable maritime growth.** This milestone strengthens India's renewable energy leadership, demonstrates global competitiveness, and provides a scalable blueprint for other ports nationwide to adopt eco-friendly solutions that align with global climate targets.

02 HEALTH

Government's Drive for a Sickle Cell-Free India by 2047

India has set its sights on becoming a **Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)-free nation by 2047**, an ambition outlined under the **National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (NSCAEM)** and is steadily progressing toward this vision. Inaugurated by the Prime Minister in July 2023 in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh, this mission is part of the National Health Mission and underscores a long-term strategy to eradicate SCD by India's Amrit Kaal, 2047.



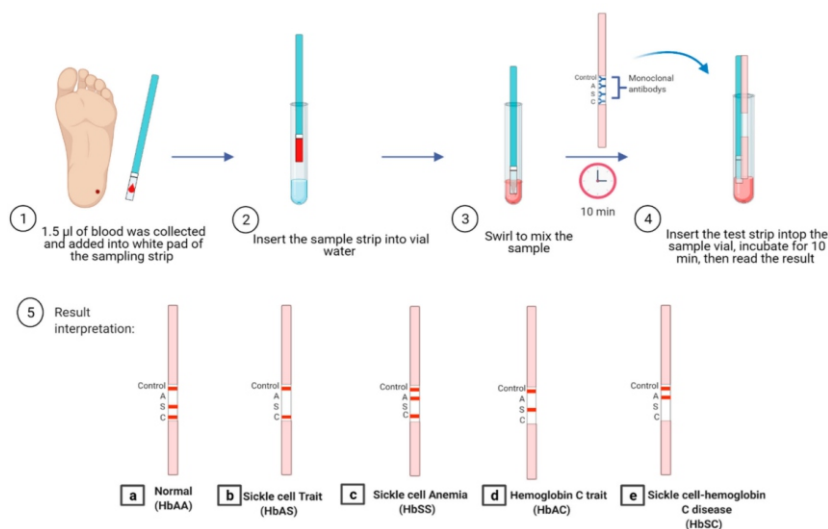
Source: <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/india-achieves-milestone-of-6-crore-screenings-under-national-sickle-cell-mission/>

In **July 2025**, the mission marked a major achievement with the **screening of 6 crore individuals** through validated **Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) kits**, **approaching the seven-crore target** for individuals aged 0–40 in tribal regions. As a result of the screenings, **2.15 lakh cases** and **16.7 lakh carriers** were confirmed, and **2.6 crore health cards** were provided to individuals. The integration of digital health records has further strengthened monitoring and follow-up, ensuring that patients receive timely interventions and long-term care.

STATES CONSIDERED UNDER NSCAEM	
SCREENING COVERAGE	HIGHER INCIDENCE RATES
MADHYA PRADESH	CHATTISGARH
GUJARAT	MADHYA PRADESH
RAJASTHAN	MAHARASHTRA
TELANGANA	GUJARAT
KARNATAKA	
UTTARAKHAND	

Amid this public health push, scientific innovation is advancing in parallel. The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** has spearheaded the **Sickle Cell Anaemia (SCA) Mission** since 2017, long before NSCAEM's launch. CSIR's efforts have included large-scale screening, genetic testing, prenatal diagnosis, and counselling. Notably, CSIR-CCMB developed an **affordable PCR-based molecular test** using a single drop of blood, boasting **100% sensitivity and specificity**, validated by ICMR—half the cost of traditional tests and enabling immediate counselling.

Additionally, CSIR has created three point-of-care diagnostics, including a **CRISPR-based paper strip test**, and facilitated approval of **hydroxyurea formulations** in India for managing symptoms in both children and adults. Research and innovation are being coupled with awareness campaigns, counselling services, and capacity-building of healthcare workers to ensure holistic coverage of tribal and rural populations.



Source: <https://www.mdpi.com/2072-666X/12/5/519>

On **August 12, 2025**, the Prime Minister emphasized the mission's transformative nature, describing it as **“a new era in public health”** that tackles a genetic disorder while ensuring equity and dignity. With continued coordination between government, scientists, and communities, India's drive for a **sickle cell-free future by 2047** is steadily gathering momentum.



Source: <https://www.news-medical.net/news/20231123/Sickle-Cell-Disease-patients-and-the-use-of-disease-modifying-treatments.aspx>

HOW AG GROUP CAN HELP YOU

To get assistance in project management under healthcare infrastructure
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03 ECONOMY

GST 2.0 To Reduce Tax Burden in the Country

The 56th meeting of the GST Council, held in New Delhi on September 3, 2025, marked a milestone in India's tax reforms with the approval of GST 2.0. The reform is designed to streamline the indirect tax system, adjust rate structures, and reduce the overall pressure on individuals and enterprises. By restructuring the earlier complex system of multiple slabs into a leaner model, GST 2.0 is expected to make taxation more transparent and predictable.



Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/gst-rate-cuts-announced-by-fm-sitharaman-5-and-18-to-be-two-main-slabs-new-rates-effective-september-22/articleshow/123681380.cms>

Historic Diwali Gift for the Nation
NEXT-GEN GST REFORM
 for Ease of Living & to build Aatmanirbhar Bharat

From farmers to enterprises, from households to businesses, the Next-Gen GST brings happiness for all!

Items	From	To
Save Big on Daily Essentials		
Hair Oil, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toilet Soap, Bar, Tooth Brushes, Shaving Cream	18%	5%
Butter, Ghee, Cheese & Dairy Spreads	12%	5%
Pre-packaged Namkeens, Bhujia & Mixtures	12%	5%
Utensils	12%	5%
Feeding Bottles, Nappies for Babies & Clinical Diapers	12%	5%
Sewing Machines & Parts	12%	5%
Uplifting Farmers & Agriculture		
Tractor Tyres & Parts	18%	5%
Tractors	12%	5%
Specified Bio-Pesticides, Micro-Nutrients	12%	5%
Drip Irrigation System & Supplies	12%	5%
Agricultural, Horticultural or Forestry Machinery for Soil Preparation, Cultivation, Harvesting & Threshing	12%	5%
Relief in Healthcare Sector		
Individual Health & Life Insurance	18%	Nil
Thermometer	18%	5%
Medical Grade Oxygen	12%	5%
All Diagnostic Kits & Reagents	12%	5%
Glucometer & Test Strips	12%	5%
Corrective Spectacles	12%	5%
Affordable Education		
Maps, Charts & Globes	12%	Nil
Pencils, Sharpeners, Crayons & Pastels	12%	Nil
Exercise Books & Notebooks	12%	Nil
Eraser	5%	Nil
Automobiles made affordable		
Petrol & Petrol Hybrid LPG, CNG Cars (not exceeding 1500 cc & 4000mm)	28%	18%
Diesel & Diesel Hybrid Cars (not exceeding 1500 cc & 4000mm)	28%	18%
3 Wheeled Vehicles	28%	18%
Motor Cycles (350 cc & below)	28%	18%
Motor Vehicles for transport of goods	28%	18%
Save on Electronic Appliances		
Air Conditioners	28%	18%
Television (above 32") (including LED & LCD TVs)	28%	18%
Monitors & Projectors	28%	18%
Dish Washing Machines	28%	18%

PROCESS REFORMS

Registration
 Automatic registration within 3 working days for applicants:
 • Identified by the system based on data analysis
 • Wholly determined that he would not pass Input Tax Credit exceeding ₹2.5 Lakh per month and opts for the Scheme

Refund
 Sanction of Provisional Refunds by proper officer, through system based risk evaluation for:
 • Zero Rated Supplies
 • Supplies with Inverted Duty Structure

Next-Gen GST - Better & Simpler!

The next generation of GST reforms are a gift for every Indian this Diwali. Taxes for the general public will be reduced substantially. Our MSMEs & small entrepreneurs will get huge benefit. Everyday items will become cheaper and this will also give a new boost to the economy.

Narendra Modi
 Prime Minister

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/business/story/gst-20-cuts-prices-on-tvs-cement-bikes-milk-paneer-now-tax-free-check-full-list-2781590-2025-09-03>

The revised structure introduces a **two-tier model** with a **5% "merit rate"** for essential goods and services, and an **18% standard rate** covering most categories. A **higher 40% "demerit rate"** will be applied selectively to luxury and "sin" goods, replacing the earlier four-tier system of 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%. With effect from **September 22, 2025**, the updated tax structure is projected to reduce costs on several daily-use items and food essentials. Articles such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, bicycles, and tableware now fall under the 5% bracket, alongside processed food products like paneer, butter, chocolates, noodles, cornflakes, dried fruits, and nuts.

The benefits extend beyond households to vital economic sectors. Agricultural machinery, fertilizers, medicines, diagnostic kits, and renewable energy equipment have seen tax reductions, in some cases down to nil. The automobile industry also gains relief, with lower GST rates on two-wheelers, small cars, electric vehicles, and components, while larger luxury vehicles move to the 40% slab. **This rationalization**

is designed to stimulate demand across priority sectors while discouraging high-end consumption.



Source: <https://knnindia.co.in/news/newsdetails/economy/gst-appellate-tribunal-to-digitise-dispute-resolution-process>

GST 2.0 further emphasizes compliance ease and institutional strengthening. **Automated refunds, reduced paperwork for MSMEs, and the establishment of a dedicated GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)** are expected to improve dispute resolution and build trust in the system.

By cutting costs, widening accessibility, and reducing complexity, GST 2.0 is poised to bring relief to households and boost investor confidence and accelerate economic activity. In the long run, the reforms are expected to strengthen competitiveness, foster ease of doing business, and support sustainable growth in evolving global economy.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF GST 2.0

LOWER COST OF LIVING



BOOST TO SMALL BUSINESS



INCREASED INVESTOR CONFIDENCE



HIGHER CONSUMER DEMAND



ENHANCED EASE OF DOING BUSINESS



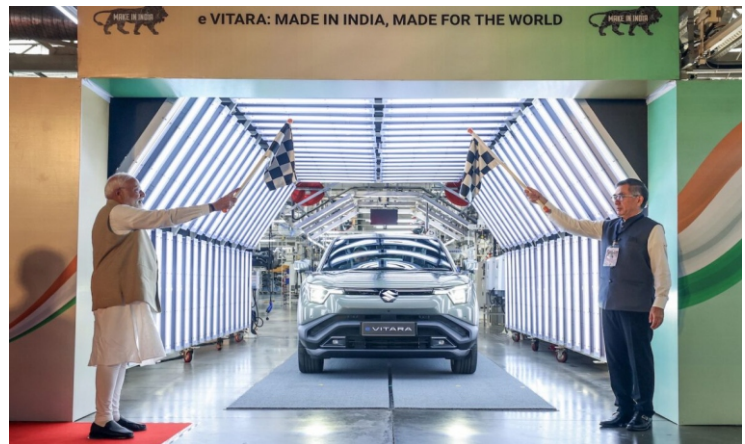
LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH



04 EV

e VITARA Unveiled as Suzuki's First Made-in-India Global Electric Vehicle

On **August 26, 2025**, the much-anticipated **e VITARA** was officially unveiled, marking a significant milestone as **Suzuki's first Made-in-India global Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV)**. The grand event, held at the Hansalpur facility in Gujarat, also witnessed the launch of a modern lithium-ion battery manufacturing plant, further strengthening India's transition towards clean mobility, under the theme **"Made in India, Made for the World"**.



Source: <https://motoring-trends.com/manufacturing/pm-modi-flags-off-maruti-suzukis-first-made-in-india-ev-e-vitara/>

The e VITARA is strategically positioned as Suzuki's global electric vehicle hub. With **exports targeted for more than 100 countries worldwide**, including advanced markets in Europe and Japan, the model clearly underscores India's growing role in the international automotive industry and its potential to drive sustainable innovation globally. The launch highlights the fact that vehicles manufactured domestically—irrespective of foreign investment—demonstrate India's self-reliant capabilities in next-generation mobility solutions.



Source: <https://www.energetica-india.net/news/pm-modi-unveils-suzukis-e-vitara-ev-and-battery-manufacturing-in-gujarat-strengthening-india-japan-ties>

A major highlight was the **commencement of production at the Toshiba-Denso-Suzuki (TDSG) joint venture's battery facility**. This state-of-the-art unit will manufacture hybrid battery electrodes within India, ensuring that **over 80 percent of the battery value is created domestically** through localized technology, skilled labour, and sustainable practices. Such advancements significantly reduce import dependence while strengthening the country's EV supply chain.



Source: <https://ddnews.gov.in/en/made-in-india-made-for-the-world-pm-launches-maruti-suzuki-e-vitara-lithium-battery-facility/>

India's competitive advantages—ranging from its skilled workforce and manufacturing ecosystem to its expanding domestic market—are attracting global automobile leaders to establish electric vehicle production bases. The e VITARA and its associated battery plant symbolize how policy support and industry collaboration can accelerate the nation's clean mobility transition. The model also integrates advanced safety measures and efficient battery technology, making it globally competitive while reflecting India's commitment to green innovation and sustainable growth.

The launch of the e VITARA establishes India as a leader in **sustainable vehicle manufacturing** while reinforcing its role as a trusted hub for global electric vehicle exports. With rising domestic capacity, sustainable infrastructure, and expanding international outreach, India is set to emerge as a leader in the global shift towards green mobility.

INDIA'S STRENGTHS THAT ATTRACTED SUZUKI

Skilled Workforce



Growing EV Market



Government Policy Support



Global Export Potential



HOW AG GROUP CAN BE A HELP

To formulate strategies regarding the increasing demand of electric vehicles
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05 NORTH-EAST CORNER

Rising Northeast Investors Summit to Boost Economic Growth

The **Rising Northeast Investors Summit 2025**, held on **May 23–24** at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, marked a turning point for India's North Eastern Region (NER), highlighting its vast economic opportunities, rich cultural diversity, and strategic location. The summit served as a platform for policymakers, entrepreneurs, and global investors to explore ways of transforming the region into a hub of growth and connectivity.

The event emphasized the **NER as the “Ashta Lakshmi” of India**—symbolizing eight forms of prosperity—and outlined the vision of **EAST: Empower, Act, Strengthen, Transform**. This framework seeks to boost confidence, improve connectivity, and expand commerce across the region. It also encourages sustainable industries while ensuring inclusive development in agriculture, renewable energy, digital innovation, trade, and traditional sectors that define the Northeast's distinctive economic identity.



Source: <https://risingnortheast.in/>

FOCUS AREAS UNDER SUMMIT



**Agri, Food Processing
& Allied Sectors**



**Textiles, Handloom
& Handicrafts**



**Entertainment and
Sports**



**Education & Skill
Development**



Tourism & Hospitality



**Infrastructure and
Logistics**



Healthcare



IT & ITES



Energy

Corporate commitments reflected this optimism and demonstrated rising confidence in the region's potential. **Reliance Industries** pledged **Rs 75,000 Crore**, while the **Adani Group** committed **Rs 50,000 Crore** for projects in infrastructure, green energy, logistics, and digital services. State-level agreements also stood out—**Arunachal Pradesh** signed MoUs worth **Rs 6,357 Crore**, covering biofuels, renewable energy, tourism, education, and healthcare, highlighting a new wave of growth

opportunities. These investments are expected to generate large-scale employment and significantly strengthen state-level and regional economies

Overall, investment proposals and MoUs announced during the summit amounted to **Rs 4.3 lakh crore**, with interest rising to **Rs 4.48 lakh crore** when combined with pre-summit roadshows. **More than 80 countries participated**, reaffirming the NER's growing global relevance. To further accelerate business activity, supportive measures such as the **UNNATI scheme**, state-level investment promotion agencies, and single-window clearance systems were highlighted as key enablers for ease of doing business.

The Rising Northeast Investors Summit reinforced the region's transition from a frontier area into a dynamic growth engine. With strategic investments, cross-sectoral partnerships, and enhanced international collaboration, the **Northeast is now poised to emerge as a key driver of India's sustainable and inclusive economic future.**



Source: <https://swarajyamag.com/news-brief/rs-43-lakh-crore-investment-proposals-received-during-rising-north-east-investors-summit-2025-scindia>

Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI-2024)

- Cabinet approves UNNATI – 2024 for a period of 10 years for development of Industries and generation of employment in North East Region
- Scheme will be effective from the date of Notification and up to 31.03.2034 along with 8 years of committed liabilities
- Financial outlay of Rs.10,037 crore for the scheme period from the date of notification for 10 years. (Additional 8 years for committed liabilities)
- Eligible Industrial Units to commence their production or operation within 4 years from the grant of registration
- Districts categorized into Zone A (Industrially Advanced Districts) & Zone B (Industrially Backward Districts)
- Scheme envisages approximately 2180 applications

1/2



Cabinet Decision: 07th March, 2024

Source: <https://www.thestudyias.com/blogs/unnati-scheme/>

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