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GOVERNMENT POLICY REPORT

AUGUST 2026 EDITION





TECHNOLOGY

India Launches Its First Indigenous Hydrogen-Powered Train

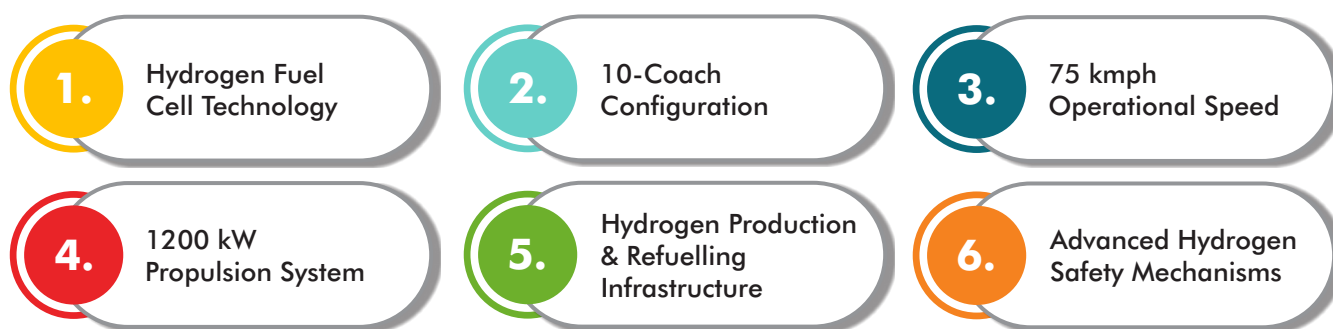
India achieved a milestone in sustainable transportation with the **launch of its first indigenous hydrogen-powered train on 17 July 2026**. Developed by Indian Railways, the initiative marks India's entry into hydrogen-based rail mobility and reinforces efforts to modernize transport infrastructure through cleaner energy solutions. **The train commenced operations on the Jind-Sonipat section of Northern Railway in Haryana**, demonstrating hydrogen fuel cell technology in passenger rail services.



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2285268®=3&lang=1>

The train operates using **hydrogen fuel cells** that generate electricity through an electrochemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen, producing water vapour as the by-product. Equipped with a **1,200 kW propulsion system**, the **10-coach train** comprising two Hydrogen Driving Power Cars and eight trailer coaches has been designed and manufactured domestically under **Research Designs and Standards Organization (RDSO)** specifications. Designed to operate at **75 kmph**, with a design speed of **110 kmph**, and a capacity of **2,600 passengers**, the train demonstrates India's progress in developing environmentally responsible railway technologies.

KEY FEATURES OF INDIA'S HYDROGEN RAIL INITIATIVE



HYDROGEN FACILITY AT JIND



Hydrogen Storage



View of Hydrogen Facility



H2 Compressor



Dispenser

Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2285268®=3&lang=1>

The initiative is in line with the Government's objective of advancing green hydrogen applications through the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**. By introducing fuel-cell technology into railway operations, the project aims to reduce fossil fuel dependence, lower carbon emissions, and promote alternative energy in the transport sector. It also contributes to India's net-zero emissions target for 2070 while supporting the **transition towards low-carbon infrastructure**.

The project includes **dedicated hydrogen production, storage, and refuelling infrastructure** at Jind, ensuring safe and efficient operations. It incorporates hydrogen leak detection, flame detection, continuous monitoring, automatic safety mechanisms, and standard operating procedures for hydrogen handling. Together, these measures are expected to strengthen operational reliability and facilitate the wider deployment of hydrogen-powered rail services.

INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS HYDROGEN TRAIN

A GREEN MILESTONE TOWARDS
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



ZERO EMISSIONS

Only water vapour emitted



HYDROGEN FUEL CELL TECHNOLOGY

Clean energy for a cleaner India



INDIGENOUSLY DESIGNED & DEVELOPED

Proudly Made in India



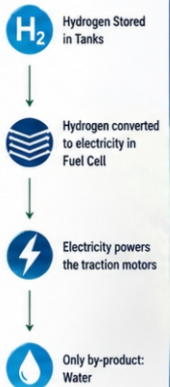
QUIET & SMOOTH RIDE

Enhanced comfort for passengers



H₂
CLEAN ENERGY
CLEAN FUTURE

HOW IT WORKS



KEY BENEFITS



Reduces Carbon Footprint



Reduces Dependence on Fossil Fuels



Supports India's Net Zero Goals



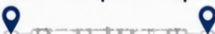
Promotes Clean Mobility & Green Jobs



Boost to Make in India & Aatmanirbhar Bharat

INAUGURAL ROUTE

Jind – Sonipat – Panipat



(Approx. 89 km)

SPEED

Up to
110 km/h

POWERING PROGRESS. PRESERVING OUR PLANET.

Cleaner. Greener. Smarter.

Indian Innovation. Global Inspiration.

Source: <https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/indias-first-indigenous-hydrogen-train-features-significance-and-challenges>

The introduction of this domestically developed train represents an advancement in India's sustainable mobility ecosystem. Beyond improving the environmental performance of the railway network, **the initiative will strengthen indigenous manufacturing, encourage innovation in hydrogen technologies, and create opportunities for green transport investments**. It also demonstrates Indian Railways' commitment to adopting next-generation propulsion technologies that enhance energy security and support environmental objectives.



DEFENCE

Indian Navy Launches ASW Machilipatnam to Strengthen Maritime Defence

The Indian Navy has launched **Machilipatnam (BY 529)**, the seventh of eight **Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)**, marking another milestone in India's indigenous naval shipbuilding programme. The vessel was launched at **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi**, reinforcing the country's efforts to modernize coastal defence capabilities under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative. More than 80 percent of the ship's components are sourced domestically, reflecting the growing strength of India's defence manufacturing ecosystem and the contribution of Indian industry, including MSMEs.



Source: <https://indiannavy.gov.in/content/launch-machilipatnam-seventh-mahe-class-anti-submarine-warfare-shallow-water-craft>

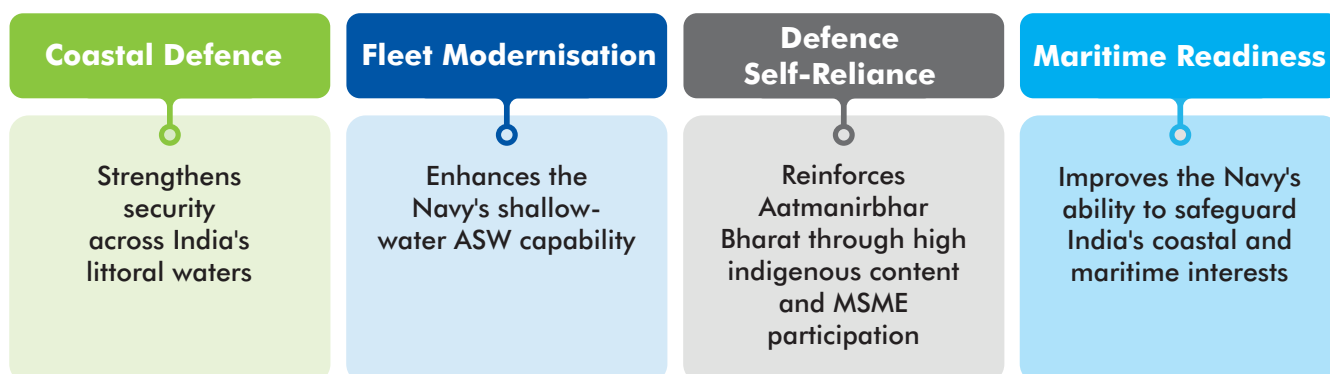
Named after the historic port city of Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh, the warship honours India's long maritime heritage while supporting the Navy's force modernization programme. It is part of an **eight-vessel project, with four ships being built by Cochin Shipyard Limited and four by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**. The launch ceremony was attended by senior officials from the Indian Navy, the Ministry of Defence, and Cochin Shipyard.



Source: <https://indiannavy.gov.in/content/launch-machilipatnam-seventh-mahe-class-anti-submarine-warfare-shallow-water-craft>

The Mahe-class ASW SWCs are specifically designed to undertake **underwater surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, low-intensity maritime operations (LIMO), mine-laying operations and coordinated anti-submarine missions** in coastal waters. Equipped with advanced sensors, modern combat systems, and specialized anti-submarine equipment, these vessels will strengthen surveillance against underwater threats and enhance maritime domain awareness. They are also intended to replace the Navy's ageing **Abhay-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvettes**, significantly improving India's coastal defence capabilities.

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF ASW MACHILIPATNAM



The vessel measures around **78 metres** in length, displaces approximately **900 tonnes**, and can achieve a **top speed of 25 knots** with an endurance of nearly **1,800 nautical miles**. Designed for operations in shallow coastal waters, it combines advanced propulsion with high manoeuvrability to undertake missions in areas that are difficult for larger warships to access. These capabilities enable sustained coastal patrols and rapid responses to emerging maritime security challenges.



Source: <https://www.thestatesman.com/india/machilipatnamlaunchedasindiastrengthensindigenouscoastaldefencefleet1503622186.html>

With the launch of Machilipatnam, the Indian Navy continues to strengthen its fleet through advanced, indigenously built platforms. Once commissioned, the vessel will enhance anti-submarine warfare preparedness, improve underwater surveillance, and reinforce India's ability to safeguard its maritime interests while advancing self-reliance in defence production.

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ECONOMY

India's Exports Reach an All-Time High of US\$863.1 Billion in FY 2025-26

India recorded its highest-ever annual exports in FY 2025–26, with **total exports reaching US\$863.1 billion**, reflecting robust growth in merchandise and services trade. **Merchandise exports stood at US\$441.8 billion, while services exports reached US\$421.3 billion**, demonstrating the resilience and global competitiveness of India's export sector. The achievement, recorded despite continuing global economic uncertainties, highlights the effectiveness of policy initiatives aimed at strengthening trade, improving market access and enhancing export capacity.



Source: <https://ddnews.gov.in/en/indias-exports-hit-record-863-1-billion-in-fy26-as-ftas-boost-trade-with-uae-uk-and-australia/>

The milestone reflects the Government's focus on expanding international trade partnerships through **Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)** and **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPAs)**. These agreements have strengthened India's integration with international markets by improving preferential market access, reducing trade barriers and facilitating participation in global value chains (GVCs). The evolving trade framework has created new opportunities for Indian exporters while supporting long-term export growth.

KEY EXPORT PERFORMANCE SECTORS AND MARKETS

High-Performing Export Sectors	Key Export Markets
• Engineering Goods • Electronics • Pharmaceuticals • Marine Products • Agricultural Products • Services Exports	• United Arab Emirates • United Kingdom • Australia • Singapore • ASEAN Region • Other FTA Partner Countries



Source: <https://www.trade-gov-in.com/pages/home>

To maximize the benefits of these agreements, the Government has strengthened implementation mechanisms and encouraged wider utilization of preferential tariff provisions. **Greater issuance of Certificates of Origin and increased utilization of FTA benefits** reflect improved awareness among exporters and more effective use of existing trade arrangements. These initiatives have strengthened export competitiveness while promoting market diversification and sustained trade growth.

The Government has also reinforced trade facilitation through coordinated efforts involving the Department of Commerce, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards, State Governments and Indian Missions abroad. **Digital initiatives such as Trade e-Connect and the Trade Intelligence and Analytics (TIA) Portal** have improved access to market intelligence, tariff information, trade analytics and FTA-related advisory services, enabling exporters to make informed business decisions.



Source: <https://economyindia.in/india-exports-record-usd-863-billion-fy-2025-26/>

The record export performance in FY 2025–26 demonstrates the impact of trade policy reforms, stronger institutional support and enhanced market access measures. By leveraging comprehensive trade agreements, digital trade facilitation and coordinated export promotion measures, **India continues to strengthen its participation in GVCs, diversify export opportunities and reinforce its position as a reliable partner in the international economy.**



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



सत्यमेव जयते
दिल्ली सरकार



Rekha Gupta
Chief Minister, Delhi



#CivicTechChallenge

INDIA'S LARGEST
CIVIC-TECH INNOVATION PROGRAMME

INFRASTRUCTURE

"Delhi Next" Initiative Advances Technology-Driven Approaches to Urban Challenges

The Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi has launched "**Delhi Next – Code, Create and Change**", a civic-tech initiative aimed at integrating technology-driven solutions into urban governance. The programme seeks to harness the capabilities of students, start-ups, researchers, educational institutions and innovators to **address civic challenges through practical, scalable and citizen-centric innovations**. The initiative encourages closer engagement between government departments and the innovation ecosystem to support evidence-based policymaking and more effective public service delivery.



Source: <https://newsable.asianetnews.com/india/delhi-next-code-create-and-change-cm-rekha-gupta-promotes-youth-innovation-for-governance-articleshow-l0fmfv0>

The programme received an encouraging response from across the country, **engaging more than one crore young people and attracting over 2.5 lakh registrations**. Participants submitted technology-driven solutions to address urban governance challenges. Following a multi-stage evaluation process, the **top 60 innovations have been selected** for pilot implementation within government departments, enabling the assessment of promising technologies under administrative conditions.

PRIORITY URBAN CHALLENGES UNDER THE INITIATIVE



Environmental Sustainability

Air pollution mitigation and efficient waste management



Urban Infrastructure

Waterlogging prevention, smart parking, traffic management



Digital Public Services

Digital governance, electric vehicle ecosystem, citizen grievance redressal

A distinguishing feature of Delhi Next is its emphasis on **bridging innovation and governance through pilot implementation**. Rather than limiting participation to idea generation, the initiative enables selected innovations to be tested in partnership with government departments. This approach **supports the evaluation of operational effectiveness, scalability and public utility** before wider adoption. The pilot projects are expected to generate implementation insights that can inform future policy decisions and facilitate broader deployment of effective civic-tech solutions.



Source: <https://www.prokerala.com/news/photos/delhi-next-initiative-opening-ceremony-3763566.html?page=2>

The initiative reflects the Government's focus on advancing digital governance through collaborative innovation. By creating opportunities for innovators to work directly with public institutions, **Delhi Next promotes the development of technology-driven solutions that enhance service efficiency, transparency and responsiveness.** The programme also strengthens the innovation ecosystem by supporting emerging technologies to address evolving urban development requirements.



Source: <https://indianmasterminds.com/news/delhi-next-code-create-change-civic-tech-innovation-programme-214587/>

Through structured pilot projects and institutional collaboration, **Delhi Next establishes a framework for integrating civic-tech innovations into governance processes.** The initiative is expected to generate implementation experience, facilitate wider adoption of successful solutions and contribute to more efficient, sustainable and citizen-focused urban administration. Its emphasis on technology-driven problem-solving reinforces the role of civic-tech innovation in supporting the long-term development and resilience of India's urban centres.

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NORTH-EAST CORNER

Mizoram Seeks UNDRR Partnership to Enhance Disaster Risk Reduction

The Government of Mizoram initiated discussions with the **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)** to **strengthen disaster resilience** through technical cooperation and knowledge exchange. The proposal was discussed during a meeting in New Delhi between Mizoram's Minister for Disaster Management and Rehabilitation and the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction. The engagement reflects the State Government's commitment to **improving preparedness against natural hazards and building resilient communities**.



Source: <https://nenews.in/mizoram/mizoram-seeks-enhanced-undrr-cooperation-to-strengthen-disaster-resilience/58879/>

During the meeting, the State highlighted **Mizoram's complex disaster risk profile, characterized by recurrent landslides, rockfalls, earthquakes, environmental degradation, and increasing climate-related hazards**. It noted that rapid urbanization, particularly in Aizawl, has heightened disaster vulnerability, underscoring the need for risk-informed urban planning and resilient infrastructure. To address these challenges, the government outlined measures including stronger building regulations through mandatory geotechnical investigations, and **developing Thenzawl in Serchhip district as a "Peace City" to ease pressure on Aizawl** while promoting balanced regional growth.



Source: <https://indigenoussherald.com/News/mizoram-seeks-to-fast-tracking-of-disaster-mitigation-projects-26197.html/>

KEY AREAS OF PROPOSED UNDRR-MIZORAM COOPERATION

Technical Expertise



Strengthen disaster risk assessment and resilient planning

Capacity Building



Enhance institutional capabilities and disaster management skills

Policy Support



Promote risk-informed governance and development planning

Climate Preparedness



Improve preparedness for climate-induced and emerging disaster risks

Global Knowledge Exchange



Facilitate access to international best practices and disaster risk reduction networks

The discussions reviewed **Mizoram's partnership with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on landslide mitigation initiatives**, expansion of early warning systems, resilient infrastructure development, and institutional capacity building for disaster preparedness. The State also sought UNDRR support to advance disaster risk governance, improve preparedness, and promote climate-resilient development across vulnerable regions.

UNDRR appreciated Mizoram's proactive initiatives and expressed willingness to facilitate international knowledge exchange, connect Mizoram with global experts, and showcase good practices on international platforms. **The meeting also discussed the proposed North-East Regional Disaster Management Conclave**, which Mizoram plans to host later this year to strengthen regional cooperation and promote coordinated approaches for disaster risk reduction and resilient development.



Source: <https://www.indiatodayne.in/mizoram/story/mizoram-seeks-to-fast-track-disaster-mitigation-projects-eyes-regional-leadership-in-disaster-resilience-1431298-2026-07-29>

The engagement concluded with a shared commitment to deepen cooperation in advancing disaster risk reduction, strengthen resilient infrastructure, and enhance preparedness for emerging climate and geological risks. **Both sides reaffirmed support for implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**, underscoring the importance of international partnerships, institutional capacity building, and risk-informed development in improving resilience and safeguarding sustainable development.

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www.aggrp.in



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As the **exclusive Indian business partner of Moody's** — backed by over **100+ years of global risk analytics** expertise — AG Horizon drives risk-informed development through advanced modelling monitoring and financial resilience capabilities.

Being a proud member of the **United Nations Global Compact Network India**, we are committed to strengthening communities and infrastructure with sustainability-led initiatives. Our solutions safeguard communities, infrastructure, livelihoods and economies through **risk anticipation, early alerting, rapid response capability and recovery support**.

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