

# INFRA INSIGHTS

EDGE OF COGNIZANCE

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## PM Modi virtually flags off Howrah-NJP Vande Bharat express

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually flagged off the Vande Bharat express connecting Bengal's Howrah and New Jalpaiguri in the presence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The Vande Bharat Express will connect Howrah and New Jalpaiguri, the gateway to the northeast. The blue-and-white train, which covers a distance of 564 km in 7.45 hours, will save three hours of travel time compared to other trains on the route, officials said. It will have three stoppages at Barsoi, Malda and Bolpur. The Vande Bharat express with modern passenger amenities is likely to be preferred by regular passengers, tea industry executives and tourists traveling to the Himalayas in North Bengal and Sikkim. The state-of-the-art train has 16 coaches, including two for drivers. Vande Bharat Express is truly one of the most modern types of trains that are proudly owned by India.



The Vande Bharat Express is one of the prestigious and modern trains run and managed by the Indian Railways. It is considered a semi-high-speed train, which is the second fastest train in India, the first being the Gatimaan Express. Vande Bharat is also known as Train 18 and was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi in 2019.

# FINANCIAL INSTITUTES

## NIIF is urged by FM to assist in funding the National Infrastructure Pipeline

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has urged the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) to expand its operations and explore ways to crowd in private capital for projects under the National Infrastructure Pipeline, PM Gati Shakti and National Infrastructure Corridor. The loan book of two major infrastructure-focused non-banking finance companies, where the government-funded NIIF has a majority stake, has grown from ₹4,200 crore to ₹26,000 crores in three years with no loans turning into non-performing assets till date.

The NIIF has proposed setting up its first bilateral fund, an "India Japan Fund" with contributions from the government, and signed a memorandum of understanding on November 9 with the Japan Bank for International Development. Ms. Sitharaman also exhorted NIIF to explore opportunities under the National Infrastructure Pipeline and PM Gati Shakti, to try and crowd in commercial capital for the 'big pool of investible greenfield and brownfield investment projects' covered by these programs. The Finance Minister also asked the NIIF team to build on the work done so far and leverage India's attractive investment fundamentals to expand its operations, the Finance Ministry said in a statement on Thursday, adding that she also encouraged NIIF to continue discussions with investors from countries that are keen to invest in India.



The Vande Bharat was designed and manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) under the leadership of Sudhanshu Mani as part of the Make in India initiative.

The Governing Council of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) is chaired by the Hon'ble Finance Minister of India and has members from corporate bodies, investments and policy sectors.

# GREEN INDUSTRY

## India plans \$2 billion incentive for green hydrogen industry

By 2030, the Indian Government plans to invest US\$ 96 billion (Rs. 8 trillion) in green hydrogen and its derivative green ammonia. Moreover, the government is planning a US\$ 2.2 billion (Rs 180 billion) incentive in the upcoming budget, that aims to reduce the production cost of green hydrogen by a fifth, over the next five years. Green hydrogen is produced by splitting water using electrolysis.

The current cost of green hydrogen is around Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 per kg and the incentive provided by the government is expected to be Rs. 50 per kg for 3 years. Strategic Intervention for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT), a green hydrogen proposal would be divided into the manufacturing of electrolyzers for Rs. 45 billion in five years and Rs 135 billion for green ammonia and green hydrogen production for the next three years.



# HYDRO PROJECTS

## Centre to revive hydro projects in Arunachal Pradesh

With several hydro-power projects in Arunachal Pradesh remaining stalled, the Centre has identified around 10 to be taken over by state-run power developers soon. Two officials aware of the developments said tripartite agreements will soon be signed between the public sector units, the government of Arunachal Pradesh and the independent power developers that were originally awarded the projects. The plan is to take over the stalled projects and allow an exit for the companies which have made an investment and want their money back, through a litigation-free settlement, they said.



The state government is also looking at taking over the projects where no investment has been made, which will later be transferred to PSUs. Recent India-China clashes after Chinese incursion in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh have worsened ties. In a bid to strengthen its hydro infrastructure in the strategic state, the Centre has accelerated efforts to both revive stalled projects and build new dams.

# BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

## Pre-Engineered Buildings: The need of the hour to fulfil the burgeoning space demand quickly

India aims to become a US\$ 5 trillion economy by 2025, accomplish the grand vision of 'Housing for All-2022', develop 100 new cities over the next decade, and new airports under the UDAN Scheme. Thus, it cannot afford to squander time, especially regarding the infrastructure and construction, which comprise a sizable percentage of the nation's comprehensive growth strategy. It is high time we give the technology its due in the construction sector and bring the PEB and Prefab to the forefront as sustainable and durable practices.

If we talk about data, the PEB market in India is growing at a CAGR of 11.66% in the forecast period 2022-30. This clearly indicates that PEB construction is gaining popularity by the day in India.



# What's Trending

The United States and the European Union have already approved incentives worth billions of dollars for green hydrogen projects.

# What's Trending

Hydro power projects are classified as large and small hydro projects based on their sizes. Different countries have different size criteria to classify small hydro power projects. In India, hydro power plants with capacity of 25 MW or below are classified as small hydro.

# What's Trending

Pre-Engineered Buildings are metal enclosure buildings that contain factory-made structural frames, roof and wall support. The complete design of such buildings is created at a factory and the pre-designed components are brought to the site and installed.