

Concept Note

Shape the Future of Mobility: Join the International Rail Conference (IRC) 2025

15-16 October 2025, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, India

(Co-located with the International Railway Equipment Exhibition - IREE)

The Global Rail Revolution: Your Opportunity to Lead and Partner

The world stands at a transformative crossroads in transportation. As nations worldwide commit to net-zero emissions, enhanced connectivity, and robust economic growth, railways are no longer just a mode of transport – they are the vital arteries of a sustainable and prosperous future. The International Rail Conference (IRC) 2025, hosted in New Delhi alongside the prestigious International Railway Equipment Exhibition (IREE), offers a unique and timely platform for you to directly influence this global revolution. This flagship event will convene senior government officials, global rail ministries, multilateral institutions, visionary industry leaders, pioneering innovators, and influential thought leaders for an immersive dialogue focused on the future of railways.

Strategic Objectives: Catalyzing Collaboration and Progress:

IRC 2025 is strategically designed to:

- **Position India as a Global Leader:** Showcase India's advancements and potential in sustainable and smart railway development through innovation, localization, and proactive international engagement.
- **Facilitate Cross-Border Cooperation:** Foster robust collaborations among governments, rail agencies, and industry leaders to address shared challenges and unlock collective opportunities within the global rail ecosystem.
- **Accelerate Technology Adoption and R&D:** Drive the adoption of cutting-edge technologies, digital solutions, and green infrastructure through high-level dialogues and knowledge sharing.
- **Promote Inclusive Growth:** Address critical aspects of regional connectivity, capacity building, and access to affordable mobility, ensuring that railway development benefits all segments of society.
- **Catalyse Investment and Financing:** Engage multilateral development institutions, financial organizations, and private investors to unlock the capital required for large-scale railway infrastructure projects.
- **Showcase Indian Manufacturing and Services:** Provide a platform to highlight India's growing capabilities in railway manufacturing and services, fostering deeper integration into global value chains and empowering Indian enterprises to become global solution providers.

Purpose and Objectives

IRC 2025 is designed to:

- Position India as a global leader in sustainable and smart railway development through innovation, localisation, and international engagement.
- Facilitate cross-border cooperation among governments, rail agencies, and industry stakeholders to address shared challenges and opportunities in the rail ecosystem.
- Accelerate technology adoption and R&D through dialogues on emerging technologies, digital systems, and green infrastructure.
- Promote inclusive growth by addressing regional connectivity, capacity building, and access to affordable mobility.
- Catalyse investment and financing for large-scale infrastructure by engaging multilateral agencies, development banks, and private investors.

The conference will also act as a conduit for showcasing India's capabilities in railway manufacturing and services, encouraging deeper integration with global value chains, and enabling Indian enterprises—both large and small—to become global suppliers and solution providers.

Core Themes

At its heart, IRC 2025 revolves around three interconnected pillars:

1. **Manufacturing & Indigenisation for a Self-Reliant Future:** This theme will explore advancements in railway manufacturing technologies, the drive towards indigenisation of components and systems, fostering local innovation, and positioning domestic players as global suppliers. It will delve into topics like advanced materials, digital manufacturing, skill development for local production, and the role of government policies in promoting self-reliance.
2. **Technology & Safety: Intelligent and Secure Rail Networks:** This theme will focus on cutting-edge technologies transforming railway operations and safety. Discussions will include AI-powered predictive maintenance, IoT-enabled asset monitoring, advanced signalling and communication systems (like 5G and FRMCS), cybersecurity in rail infrastructure, autonomous train operations, and innovative solutions for enhanced passenger and freight safety.
3. **Freight & Logistics: Smart, Efficient, and Intermodal Solutions:** This theme will explore the future of railway freight transport and its integration into the broader logistics ecosystem. Discussions will cover digital freight platforms, real-time tracking and monitoring, automated loading/unloading, the development of dedicated freight corridors, intermodal connectivity, and strategies to enhance efficiency, reduce transit times, and optimize the environmental footprint of freight movement.

These pillars align with India's national goals as well as global commitments under the SDGs, COP climate goals, and regional connectivity agendas such as BIMSTEC and G20 initiatives.

Global Relevance: Fostering International Partnerships:

In an era where infrastructure diplomacy and seamless connectivity are increasingly shaping international relationships, railways are emerging as powerful increasingly becoming instruments of strategic cooperation. cross-border rail projects, technology transfers agreements, or harmonisation of safety and operational standards, international partnerships are vital to unlocking the full potential of rail transport on a global scale.

IRC 2025 provides a unique opportunity for countries to:

- Engage in focused discussions on high-speed rail deployment, advanced freight logistics solutions, and innovative approaches to sustainable mobility. Identify and cultivate opportunities for collaborative projects, co-development initiatives, and the establishment of industry-wide standards.
- Building Global Rail Capabilities Together: Establish mutually beneficial capacity-building programs and knowledge transfer initiatives that empower railway professionals across South Asia, Africa, and beyond, fostering a globally skilled workforce and promoting shared standards.
- Promoting Regional Connectivity and Economic Integration: Leverage India's railway expertise to support and collaborate on cross-border rail projects that enhance regional connectivity, facilitate trade, and drive economic growth for all participating nations.

A Multi-Stakeholder Convergence

- The success of railway transformation depends on the collaborative efforts of multiple stakeholders. IRC 2025 seeks to convene:
- National and State Governments to align policy frameworks, regulatory environments, and implementation strategies for seamless railway development.
- Multilateral Development Institutions to explore innovative financing mechanism, knowledge partnerships and sustainable development initiatives within the rail sector.
- Global Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to facilitate technology infusion and manufacturing collaboration.
- MSMEs and Start-ups To champion disruptive innovations, promote the localization of rail technologies, and inject agility into the sector.
- Academic and Research Institutions to develop future-ready talent and support evidence-based policymaking, and drive advancements in railway technology and operations.

Expected Outcomes and Lasting Impact

IRC 2025 is expected to yield the following outcomes:

- Policy frameworks and recommendations to modernise rail systems and improve ease of doing business in the sector.
- International MoUs and collaboration agreements formal agreements to drive joint research initiatives, facilitate capacity building programs, and accelerate infrastructure development projects across borders.
- Knowledge dissemination on emerging technologies, sustainability practices, and operational excellence in the railway domain.
- Investment mobilization Enhanced exposure to innovative business models, Public-Private Partnership (PPP) frameworks, and diverse financing instruments to attract crucial investments.
- A future-forward vision document A collaborative document outlining India's strategic commitment and roadmap towards becoming a global leader in sustainable rail transport.

An Invitation to Shape the Future - On Rails

The International Rail Conference 2025 is not just a forum, it is an initiative to reimagining how we move people and goods in a fast-changing world. By bringing together the collective strength of collaboration, technological innovation, and strategic policy vision, IRC 2025 will chart a definitive path towards railway systems that are not only modern and efficient but also inherently inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and globally connected.

We invite you to be an integral part of this transformative journey. Explore opportunities to contribute as a speaker, sharing your expertise and insights, or as a sponsor, aligning your organization with the forefront of railway innovation and progress.

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Seize this opportunity to connect, collaborate, and contribute to the future of global rail at IRC 2025.