



Confederation of Indian Industry

## International Rail Coach Conference 2026 (IRCC 2026)

### Shaping the Future of Rail Coaches: Innovation, Sustainability & Global Leadership

#### **Inaugural Session | India's Vision for Next-Generation Rail Coaches**

As Indian Railways accelerates its journey of large-scale modernisation, next-generation rail coaches are emerging as a strategic pillar for enhancing passenger experience, operational efficiency, and global competitiveness. This session will outline India's long-term vision for the evolution of rail coaches, anchored in innovation, sustainability, and self-reliance. It will highlight policy priorities, investment pathways, and technology enablers shaping the future of rolling stock.

The session will also highlight the Government of India's commitment to building globally competitive manufacturing capabilities, fostering international collaboration, and positioning India as a hub for advanced rail coach design and exports.

**Expected takeaway:** clarity on India's strategic vision, policy priorities, and investment direction for next-generation rail coach development.

#### **Session I | Future-Ready Rail Coach Design & Manufacturing**

As rail mobility evolves to meet higher performance, safety, and sustainability expectations, advanced coach design and manufacturing technologies are redefining the rolling stock landscape. This session will focus on the adoption of advanced materials, modular architectures, automation, and digital manufacturing to deliver lightweight, crashworthy, and energy-efficient rail coaches.

Discussions will also examine how indigenous capability building, supply-chain resilience, and standardised platforms can strengthen domestic manufacturing while enhancing export readiness and global competitiveness.

**Expected takeaway:** insights into future-ready design and manufacturing pathways that can strengthen indigenous capabilities and position Indian rail coaches for global markets.



Confederation of Indian Industry

## Session II | Policy, Standards & Regulatory Pathways for Global-Ready Rolling Stock

As India positions itself as a global supplier of rolling stock, alignment of technical standards, safety norms, and certification frameworks has become increasingly critical. This panel will deliberate on harmonising Indian standards with international regulatory regimes to enable interoperability, faster approvals, and seamless access to global markets.

The discussion will also explore the role of policy reforms, regulatory coordination, and certification agencies in supporting innovation, exports, and technology adoption.

**Expected takeaway:** clarity on regulatory and standards alignment required to enable globally compliant, export-ready rail coaches.

## Session III | Smart, Connected & Passenger-Centric Rail Coaches

As digitalisation reshapes rail transport worldwide, smart and connected coaches are becoming central to safer, more efficient, and passenger-centric operations. This session will explore the integration of IoT-enabled systems, digital twins, AI-driven predictive maintenance, and secure digital platforms into rail coaches to enhance reliability and lifecycle performance.

The session will also highlight how technology-driven solutions are improving passenger safety, accessibility, real-time information, comfort, and overall travel experience, while supporting data-driven decision-making for railway operations.

**Expected takeaway:** understanding how digital and connected technologies can enhance passenger experience, safety, and operational excellence in next-generation rail coaches.



Confederation of Indian Industry

## Session IV | Sustainable Rolling Stock & Global Competitiveness

As sustainability becomes a defining criterion in global rail procurement, rail coach design is increasingly driven by lifecycle energy efficiency, green and lightweight materials, circular economy practices, and responsible end-of-life management. This session will explore how sustainability-led innovation including hydrogen-powered trainsets can reduce environmental impact while improving cost efficiency, operational resilience, and global market acceptance.

The discussion will also focus on alignment with international standards, certification regimes, and interoperability frameworks as critical enablers for export-oriented growth and global competitiveness of Indian rolling stock.

**Expected takeaway:** Strategic insights on integrating lifecycle sustainability, hydrogen mobility, and international standards to position Indian rail coaches and trainsets as globally competitive and future ready.

## Panel V | Industrial Ecosystem, Skills, Procurement & Financing Models (*testing and Certification*)

A robust industrial ecosystem is essential for sustaining innovation and scale in rail coach manufacturing. This session will focus on strengthening localisation, MSME and vendor development, manufacturing clusters, and collaborative R&D with academia and startups. It will also address workforce skills required for advanced manufacturing and digital technologies.

The session will further explore innovative procurement approaches, leasing and availability-based contracts, and financing models involving financial institutions and multilateral agencies to support fleet modernisation and export growth.

**Expected takeaway:** understanding of ecosystem, skills, procurement, and financing enablers needed to accelerate sustainable and export-oriented rail coach manufacturing.