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Hydrogen Mobility And Stainless Steel: Driving The Next Transportation Revolution



The global mobility landscape is undergoing one of the most significant transformations in its history. As countries race towards decarbonization, hydrogen is emerging as a clean and efficient fuel capable of reshaping transportation systems across railways, heavy commercial vehicles, shipping and even aviation. At the centre of this transition lies a material that often goes unnoticed but remains indispensable to the success of the hydrogen economy: stainless steel.

India's first hydrogen-powered train, commissioned on the Jind–Sonipat route in Haryana, represents far more than a technological achievement. It symbolises the convergence of clean energy, advanced engineering and high-performance materials. Designed and manufactured indigenously by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, the train demonstrates how Indian industry is preparing for the next generation of sustainable mobility solutions.

While much of the public attention has been focused on hydrogen fuel-cell technology, the project is equally a testament to India's growing self-reliance in advanced materials and manufacturing. The stainless steel used in the train has been sourced entirely from domestic producers, highlighting the country's expanding capabilities in high-performance materials. Leading Indian manufacturers, including Jindal Stainless Limited and the Salem Steel Plant (SSP) of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), have played an important role in supplying indigenous stainless steel for railway applications. Grade 304 (X5CrNi1810) stainless steel has been extensively used in the coach body and structural components. Hydrogen-powered mobility systems demand materials capable of withstanding demanding



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environmental conditions while ensuring high levels of safety, reliability and efficiency. Stainless steel fulfils these requirements exceptionally well because of its superior corrosion resistance, high strength, excellent weldability, impact resistance and long service life. In hydrogen-powered trains, stainless steel serves much more than a structural material which is an essential framework of safety, efficiency and long-term reliability. The stainless steel used in the coach structure provides exceptional corrosion resistance, high mechanical strength and excellent crashworthiness while significantly reducing maintenance requirements. Its favourable strength-to-weight ratio helps lower the overall weight of the train, thereby improving energy efficiency and extending the operational range. These advantages are especially important in hydrogen-powered rail systems, where maximising efficiency and minimising life-cycle costs are

considerations. The hydrogen-powered train consists of two Hydrogen Driving Power Cars and eight passenger coaches which is capable of carrying approximately 2,600 passengers. Powered by a 1,200 kW Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) fuel-cell system, it generates electricity through a reaction between hydrogen and oxygen, producing only water vapour and heat as by-products. Yet the significance of hydrogen technology extends well beyond railways. Across the world, governments and manufacturers are investing heavily in hydrogen-powered trucks, buses, mining equipment, ships and aircraft. Hydrogen-powered heavy-duty trucks are expected to transform long-distance freight transportation because of their longer driving range and faster refuelling capabilities compared with conventional battery-powered alternatives. Urban transport systems are increasingly incorporating hydrogen-powered buses to reduce emissions and improve air quality. In the railway sector, hydrogen-powered trains offer an attractive solution for routes where full electrification is difficult or economically unviable. They have the potential to replace diesel locomotives while significantly reducing carbon emissions. India, with one of the world's largest railway networks, is therefore uniquely positioned to become a major player in this emerging field.



The expansion of the hydrogen economy will also create new opportunities for stainless steel. Storage tanks, pipelines, cryogenic systems, fuel-cell components, refuelling infrastructure and transportation equipment all depend heavily upon specialised grades of stainless steel to ensure safety, durability and operational efficiency. For the stainless steel industry, the message is clear. Stainless steel is no longer simply a material of construction; it has become an enabling technology for the clean-energy transition. Whether in hydrogen trains travelling across the countryside, buses navigating urban streets or trucks transporting goods across vast distances, stainless steel will remain a silent but indispensable partner in the mobility revolution. The future of transportation will undoubtedly be cleaner, smarter and more sustainable. Hydrogen may provide the energy, but stainless steel will provide the foundation upon which this new era of mobility is built.

Don't Blame the QCO, Blame the Fear of Compliance

For much of the post-liberalisation era, India's industrial policy has grappled with a difficult balancing act: how to integrate with global markets while simultaneously strengthening domestic manufacturing capabilities. The debate surrounding Quality Control Orders (QCOs), particularly in sectors such as stainless steel, must be viewed through this broader national objective rather than through the narrow lens of short-term trade convenience.

When India embarked on economic liberalisation in the 1990s, the primary focus was understandably on opening markets, encouraging competition, and ensuring access to globally available products. Over the following decade, however, a less discussed consequence emerged. Instead of steadily building domestic manufacturing capabilities across the value chain, many sectors became increasingly dependent on imports—not only for specialised grades and products that were difficult to manufacture domestically, but also for commodity products that Indian industry was fully capable of producing.

The result was a gradual erosion of manufacturing competitiveness in several segments. Domestic producers often found themselves competing against imports entering under varying quality regimes, while investment in technology, process improvements and quality enhancement remained uneven. This experience is not unique to India. Across the world, nations that developed strong manufacturing ecosystems did so by first developing strong standards ecosystems. National standards are far more than technical specifications. They are instruments of industrial development. They define quality benchmarks, encourage innovation, build consumer confidence and create a level playing field for manufacturers.

The world's leading industrial economies did not become manufacturing powerhouses by importing standards from elsewhere. They built robust national standards systems, enforced compliance, and continuously upgraded quality expectations. Over time, these standards became the foundation upon which domestic industries innovated, improved productivity and expanded into global markets.

Countries that consistently strengthened their standards architecture created industries capable of supplying high-quality products across the world. Those that merely followed external standards without building domestic compliance ecosystems often remained dependent on imports and struggled to move up the manufacturing value chain.

Recognising this reality, the Government of India has, over the last decade, placed significant emphasis on quality, standardisation and manufacturing excellence. Initiatives such as Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat and strengthening of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) framework all stem from a common objective: improving India's manufacturing competitiveness through better quality systems.

The introduction of Quality Control Orders in 2017 was an important step in this direction. Contrary to some perceptions, QCOs were never designed as trade barriers. Their primary objective was to ensure that products sold in the Indian market—whether manufactured domestically or imported—meet prescribed quality and safety standards.

For domestic manufacturers, particularly MSMEs, the QCO regime created an incentive to improve processes, invest in quality systems and compete on uniform standards. By requiring compliance from all market participants, QCOs sought to eliminate the unfair advantage often enjoyed by sub-standard products entering the market at lower prices.

In principle, this represents exactly the kind of industrial discipline that successful manufacturing nations have historically adopted. Yet much of the recent debate surrounding QCOs has focused less on quality and more on compliance. Sections



of the trading community have expressed concerns regarding certification requirements, approval timelines, procedural complexities and supply disruptions. These concerns are genuine and definitely deserve attention.

However, it is important to distinguish between opposition to standards and challenges associated with compliance. Many global suppliers producing material that met or exceeded Indian quality requirements successfully obtained BIS certification and continued serving the Indian market. For such suppliers, compliance represented a business process, and not a barrier.

The difficulties arose primarily where compliance mechanisms were perceived as cumbersome or where certain market participants found it difficult to align their sourcing practices with the prescribed quality framework. As with any regulatory system, enforcement also required checks and balances. Since the same rules must apply to both domestic producers and overseas suppliers, government agencies had to ensure that loopholes were not exploited to introduce sub-standard material under the guise of exemptions or procedural interpretations. This inevitably led to enhanced scrutiny in certain cases. Unfortunately, the resulting delays and procedural challenges often created a narrative that QCOs themselves were responsible for supply shortages, market disruptions or downstream industry concerns.

The reality is more nuanced.

The challenge was not the existence of standards. The challenge lay in ensuring efficient implementation, faster approvals, transparent processes and robust monitoring mechanisms that distinguish genuine compliance from attempts to circumvent the system. In many discussions, the focus shifted from improving compliance administration to questioning the very necessity of the standards framework.

That would be a strategic mistake.

If India's long-term ambition is to become a global manufacturing hub, strengthen domestic capabilities, reduce dependence on low-quality imports, and create globally competitive industries, then retreating from quality standards cannot be the answer.

The solution lies in improving the compliance ecosystem—not abandoning it.

Government, regulators, industry associations, domestic manufacturers, importers, and downstream users must work together to identify procedural bottlenecks, streamline certification processes, digitise approvals, enhance transparency and ensure predictable implementation. Where genuine supply gaps exist, targeted mechanisms can be developed to address them without weakening the broader quality framework.

But dismantling or diluting standards because compliance is difficult would send precisely the wrong signal at a time when India is striving to build a world-class manufacturing ecosystem. Every major manufacturing nation that successfully transformed its industrial base passed through a phase where quality compliance became non-negotiable. India is no exception.

The question before policymakers is therefore not whether standards should exist. The real question is whether India has the determination to strengthen compliance systems while preserving the quality architecture necessary for long-term industrial growth.

Quality Control Orders are not the problem: The fear of compliance is.

And if India wishes to emerge as a trusted manufacturing destination for the world, it must choose stronger compliance over weaker standards.

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Sabarmati High-Speed Rail Hub: Where India's Bullet Train Dream Meets Stainless Steel



India's first bullet train corridor is much more than a transportation project. The Sabarmati High-Speed Rail (HSR) Hub in Ahmedabad has emerged as a symbol of the country's ambition to create world-class infrastructure while simultaneously celebrating India's history, culture, sustainability goals and advanced materials engineering.

At the centre of this transformation stands a remarkable feature: a giant stainless steel mural depicting the historic Dandi March led by Mahatma Gandhi from Sabarmati Ashram. The mural elegantly combines modern engineering with India's freedom movement and demonstrates how stainless steel is increasingly becoming the material of choice for landmark infrastructure projects.

The gateway to India's first bullet train

The Sabarmati High-Speed Rail Hub forms a crucial component of the 508-km Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) corridor being developed by the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL). The corridor represents India's first experience with Japanese Shinkansen technology and is expected to redefine intercity travel standards in the country.

The terminal station at Sabarmati has been inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's spinning wheel (charkha), creating an architectural connection with the nearby Sabarmati Ashram

A new model of integrated transport

The Sabarmati Hub has been designed as a fully integrated transport centre linking The Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Station, Indian Railways services, Ahmedabad Metro, The Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS), commercial, retail and hospitality facilities.

The project is India's first large-scale transit-oriented development (TOD) centred on a high-speed rail network.

Stainless steel takes centre stage

Perhaps the most striking feature of the building is the enormous stainless steel mural installed on the façade.

The artwork depicts the Dandi March of 1930, one of the defining moments of India's independence movement. By selecting stainless steel as the medium, the designers created an installation that simultaneously reflects India's heritage and its technological aspirations.

Sustainability

The use of stainless steel, solar energy systems, efficient lighting, natural ventilation and landscaped terraces aligns the project with long-term sustainability objectives. The project has already earned an Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) Gold Rating.

Looking ahead

As India's first bullet train moves closer to operation, the Sabarmati High-Speed Rail Hub will stand as an enduring example of how infrastructure can combine engineering excellence, sustainability, cultural heritage and advanced materials.

The gleaming stainless steel mural of the Dandi March reminds visitors that India's journey towards the future remains firmly connected to its history.

In many ways, the Sabarmati Hub tells the story of modern India itself rooted in tradition, driven by innovation and built to last.

Why India Needs a Separate Stainless Steel Policy

India's stainless steel industry has evolved into a strategic sector that supports critical applications ranging from railways and defence to healthcare, food processing, water treatment, chemical processing and the emerging hydrogen economy. Yet, despite its unique characteristics, the industry continues to be governed largely under the framework designed for the wider steel sector.

This approach often overlooks the fact that stainless steel is fundamentally different from conventional carbon steel. Its production depends upon chromium, nickel, molybdenum and stainless steel scrap rather than simply iron ore and coking coal. Similarly, its principal strengths lie in corrosion resistance, hygiene, durability, recyclability and long service life rather than low initial cost.

The consequences of a common policy framework have become increasingly evident over the years. One of the clearest examples was the imposition of export duties on products classified under Chapter 72 of the customs tariff. The primary objective was to control domestic prices of conventional steel products and ensure adequate domestic availability. However, few stainless steel products, which operate in a very different market environment, were also affected.

Many type of stainless steel products have a relatively small domestic market and depend heavily upon exports for their growth and competitiveness. Nevertheless, these products were subjected to the same measures that had been designed primarily for the carbon steel industry. As a result, export-oriented manufacturers suffered a loss of competitiveness despite having little influence on domestic steel prices.

This episode highlighted an important reality: policies framed for the broader steel industry can sometimes produce unintended consequences for the stainless steel sector.

The industry faces several other challenges that require dedicated attention:

General steel sector priorities	Stainless steel sector priorities
Iron ore and coking coal	Nickel, ferrochrome and specialised scrap
Bulk construction applications	Healthcare, energy, railways and defence
Conventional grades	Advanced and specialised grades
Volume-based growth	Value-added manufacturing
Short-term cost considerations	Life-cycle performance and sustainability

India's ambitions in green hydrogen, clean energy, water security, advanced manufacturing and high-quality infrastructure will depend increasingly upon the wider adoption of stainless steel. A dedicated national policy could therefore focus on raw material security, quality standards, research and development, trade facilitation, export promotion, skill development and greater use of stainless steel in public infrastructure. Stainless steel should no longer be regarded merely as a subset of the steel industry. It should instead be recognised as a strategic material that deserves a focused policy framework of its own. **India has a National Steel Policy The next step should be a National Stainless Steel Policy.**

Weaving the Future: How Stainless Steel Wire and Mesh Are Reshaping India's Urban Landscape



India's cities are changing at a remarkable pace. New airports, metro systems, railway stations, zoological parks, commercial developments and public spaces are redefining the country's architectural identity. Alongside concrete, glass and aluminium, another material has quietly emerged as an essential element of modern urban design—stainless steel wire and wire mesh.

Once regarded primarily as industrial products, stainless steel wire ropes and woven mesh systems have evolved into sophisticated architectural materials capable of performing structural, aesthetic and environmental functions simultaneously. Today, they can be found on building façades, bridge railings, bird aviaries, green walls, security barriers, suspended walkways and large public spaces across the country.

This transition is being driven by a simple reality. Indian cities need materials that can withstand pollution, humidity, intense solar radiation, monsoon conditions and heavy public usage while maintaining their appearance over several decades. **(Stainless steel has proved to be an ideal solution.)**

From Utility to Design Excellence

Modern stainless steel mesh systems are no longer hidden behind walls. Instead, they are becoming prominent architectural features.

Architects use them to create transparency without compromising safety, improve natural ventilation, reduce solar heat gain and introduce texture and movement into building façades. Unlike conventional materials, stainless steel retains its strength and appearance while requiring minimal maintenance.

The material's high strength-to-weight ratio also allows engineers to create large-span structures with comparatively lower structural loads.

The Façade Revolution

One of the most significant developments in recent years has been the increasing use of stainless steel mesh in building façades.

These systems act as secondary skins that reduce heat gain while allowing natural airflow and daylight penetration. Such applications are particularly attractive in tropical regions, where cooling costs represent a substantial portion of a building's operating expenditure.

Architectural mesh systems have become increasingly common in airports, commercial developments, sports complexes and transport infrastructure.

Landmark applications

The Yamuna Sports Complex in New Delhi incorporated stainless steel mesh as part of its external envelope, combining visual appeal with environmental performance. Similar concepts are now being adopted in commercial developments in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Ahmedabad.

High-end residential projects are increasingly incorporating decorative stainless steel screens, balcony enclosures and sun-control systems to improve both appearance and durability.

Creating Invisible Boundaries

Perhaps the most fascinating application of stainless steel mesh in recent years has been in zoological parks and wildlife facilities.

Unlike conventional cages, modern mesh systems provide an unobstructed viewing experience while maintaining high levels of safety. Their flexibility and strength enable the construction of large enclosures that better replicate natural habitats.

The bird aviary at Mumbai's Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan represents one of the most prominent examples of this trend. Stainless steel cable mesh systems create expansive spaces while preserving visual openness.

Similar concepts have also been adopted at Rajgir Zoo Safari in Bihar and are expected to influence future developments in Hyderabad and Jamnagar.

Supporting the Green City Movement

The growing emphasis on sustainable urban development has created additional opportunities for stainless steel mesh systems.

Green façades and vertical gardens are becoming increasingly popular because they improve thermal performance, reduce the urban heat-island effect and enhance air quality. Stainless steel mesh serves as an ideal support system because of its durability and resistance to environmental degradation.

As Indian cities expand, the integration of greenery into urban infrastructure is expected to become increasingly important.

Railway Stations, Airports and Public Infrastructure

India's rapidly expanding transportation infrastructure has become another major driver of demand. Metro rail systems, airports and railway stations require materials capable of performing reliably under constant exposure to



millions of passengers. Stainless steel mesh is now widely used in safety barriers, escalator enclosures, ceilings, façades and architectural partitions.

Its low maintenance requirements make it particularly attractive for public infrastructure projects, where maintenance costs can become substantial over time.

Opportunities

The next decade is expected to witness strong growth in the following sectors:

- Airports and railway stations.
- Metro rail systems.
- Zoological parks and aquariums.
- Commercial office developments.
- Data centres.
- Educational institutions.
- Hospitals.
- Sports complexes.
- Urban renewal projects



With increasing awareness of life-cycle costs, architects and project owners are recognising that the lowest initial cost does not necessarily translate into the lowest cost over the life of a structure.

Building the Cities of Tomorrow

Every generation leaves behind a distinct architectural legacy. Stainless steel wire and mesh systems are gradually becoming part of India's own architectural vocabulary.

Whether in a soaring aviary in Mumbai, a modern façade in Ahmedabad, a green wall in Bengaluru or an iconic public structure in Hyderabad, these materials are demonstrating that engineering performance and architectural elegance can co-exist.

As Indian cities continue to evolve, stainless steel wire and mesh will undoubtedly become indispensable components of the nation's urban future.

STAINLESS STEEL WIRE & MESH IN ARCHITECTURAL APPLICATIONS

Versatile. Durable. Sustainable. Built for India's Urban Future.



1. ARCHITECTURAL FAÇADES

Stainless steel mesh façades add texture, reduce heat gain, allow natural ventilation and create iconic building identities.



2. AVIARIES & ZOO ENCLOSURES

Strong, safe and almost invisible enclosures offer animals freedom and visitors an unobstructed, immersive view.



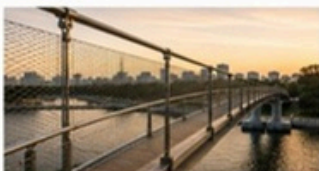
3. METRO STATIONS & AIRPORTS

Used in ceilings, balustrades, escalator enclosures and partitions, enhancing safety, light flow and modern aesthetics.



4. GREEN WALLS & VERTICAL GARDENS

Durable mesh systems support climbing plants and help create greener, cooler and healthier urban spaces.



5. BRIDGES & WALKWAYS

Stainless steel cable mesh railings and infill panels ensure safety, strength and durability without compromising the view.



6. INTERIORS & PARTITIONS

Decorative mesh partitions bring light, transparency and elegance to ceilings, walls and interior spaces.



7. STADIUMS & PUBLIC SPACES

Mesh panels create dynamic façades, improve ventilation and withstand large crowds and harsh environmental conditions.



8. WIRE ROPE MESH SYSTEMS

Flexible, strong and long-lasting systems for safety netting, balustrades, animal enclosures and architectural detailing.

From iconic façades to green walls, from aviaries to public infrastructure – stainless steel wire and mesh are shaping the future of India's cities.

Book Review

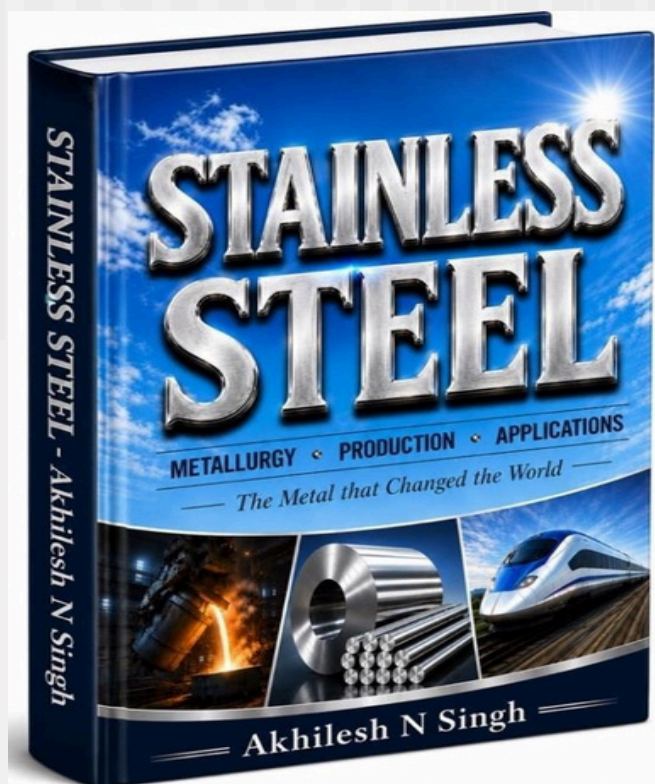
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4. **Production of Long Products** – Bars, wires and specialised products
5. **Manufacturing Excellence** – Lean, Green and Smart Manufacturing
6. **Fabrication & Shaping** – Fabrication, deep drawing and welding
7. **Selection & Applications** – Choosing grades and applications across industries
8. **Stainless Steel Shaping the Future** – Sustainability, EVs, nuclear energy, space, smart cities and emerging applications



Essential Reference for:

- Stainless Steel Industry Engineers & Managers
- Students & Faculty of Metallurgy & Materials Science
- Designers & Fabricators of Stainless Steel Products

The Author: Akhilesh N Singh, B.Tech from IIT-Banaras Hindu University, with specialisation in Stainless Steel from Materials Engineering Institute, USA. having over 50 years' experience in production and development of silicon steel, stainless steel, and management consulting. Trained in Japan, USA & UK. Worked with SAIL and Jindal Stainless Ltd. Author of 20 Books.

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Gandhi Smriti: A Heritage Staircase Reimagined in Stainless Steel



At Gandhi Smriti, formerly known as Birla House in New Delhi, one of India's most significant historical landmarks has undergone a remarkable transformation. The staircase leading to the building, an essential component of the memorial and an important emergency exit route for visitors, has been renovated using high-quality stainless steel. The project is an excellent example of how heritage conservation and modern engineering can work together to preserve history while meeting contemporary requirements for safety, durability and sustainability.

The earlier staircase had deteriorated over the years because of constant exposure to the environment. Corrosion had become a persistent concern, and the structure required regular maintenance and repeated painting to maintain both its appearance and structural integrity. Since thousands of visitors pass through the memorial every year, it became increasingly important to replace the ageing structure with a more durable and dependable solution that would require minimal maintenance while preserving the character of the site.

Stainless steel was chosen because of its excellent resistance to corrosion, superior strength and exceptionally long service life. The new installation incorporates SS 304 structural sections, stainless steel columns, tubular handrails, chequered anti-skid plates, fasteners and decorative architectural elements.

Unlike conventional carbon steel, stainless steel forms a protective passive layer on its surface that continuously shields the material against corrosion. This property makes it particularly suitable for public infrastructure and heritage buildings that are expected to remain in service for generations.

One of the most distinctive features of the renovation is the manner in which architecture has been combined with Gandhian philosophy. Rather than creating a purely functional structure, the designers transformed the staircase into a medium through which visitors can experience the values and principles associated with Mahatma Gandhi. Laser-cut stainless steel panels have been incorporated into the structure, while carefully designed lighting systems illuminate these elements after sunset, creating a striking visual effect.

The panels display some of Gandhi's most enduring messages, including "My Life Is My Message," "There Is No Religion Like Truth" and "Satya Ahimsa", or truth and non-violence. The design also incorporates the spinning wheel, or charkha, one of the most recognisable symbols of India's struggle for independence. Together, these elements transform the staircase into a symbolic journey that celebrates the life, ideals and teachings of the Father of the Nation.

The photographs of the installation reveal the extensive use of stainless steel throughout the structure. Circular columns support the elevated walkway, while chequered plates provide enhanced grip and safety for visitors. Stainless steel railings contribute to the elegant appearance of the structure while ensuring durability and strength. A canopy framework has also been incorporated into the design, providing the foundation for future protective installations.

The renovation of the staircase at Gandhi Smriti demonstrates that preserving history does not mean resisting innovation. Instead, it highlights how advanced materials and modern engineering techniques can be carefully integrated into heritage sites while maintaining their historical significance and architectural character.

The finished structure is far more than a staircase. It is a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's enduring legacy and a reminder that materials chosen today will help preserve India's history for generations to come. The gleaming stainless steel installation stands as a symbol of resilience, permanence and progress, reflecting the timeless values that Gandhi dedicated his life to promoting.

Fabricated by:

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ISSDA Seminar on Stainless Steel Application in Indian Railways



As Indian Railways accelerates its transformation towards faster, safer, and more sustainable transportation, the role of advanced materials has never been more critical. Stainless steel, with its exceptional strength, corrosion resistance, fire safety, and long service life, has become a cornerstone in the design of modern railway coaches and infrastructure. Against this backdrop, the Technical Conclave on "Stainless Steel Applications in Indian Railways," held on 9–10 April 2026 at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, emerged as a significant platform for charting the future of stainless steel in India's railway ecosystem. Jointly organised by the Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA), Integral Coach Factory (ICF), and the Nickel Institute, the two-day conclave brought together policymakers, railway officials, metallurgists, design engineers, researchers, fabricators, and stainless steel manufacturers under one roof. The objective was clear—to foster technical collaboration, exchange global best practices, and explore innovative solutions that can further strengthen Indian Railways' journey towards world-class rolling stock.

The event was inaugurated in the presence of Mr. Subba Rao U, General Manager, ICF, whose vision for innovation and indigenous manufacturing set the tone for the discussions. The conclave also witnessed the active participation of Mr. N. S. R. Prasad, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer (PCME), ICF, and Mr. T. Dilip Kumar, Chief Design Engineer/Mechanical



(CDE/M), ICF. Their perspectives reinforced ICF's commitment to adopting advanced materials and manufacturing technologies that enhance safety, reliability, passenger comfort, and lifecycle performance.

One of the defining strengths of the conclave was its blend of international expertise and Indian engineering experience. Renowned specialists from across the stainless steel value chain shared knowledge on emerging technologies, design practices, and material innovations that are shaping railway systems worldwide.

Prof. Dr. Santanu Ray highlighted the evolving science of stainless steel and its engineering advantages for railway applications. Ms. Catherine Houska of the Nickel Institute

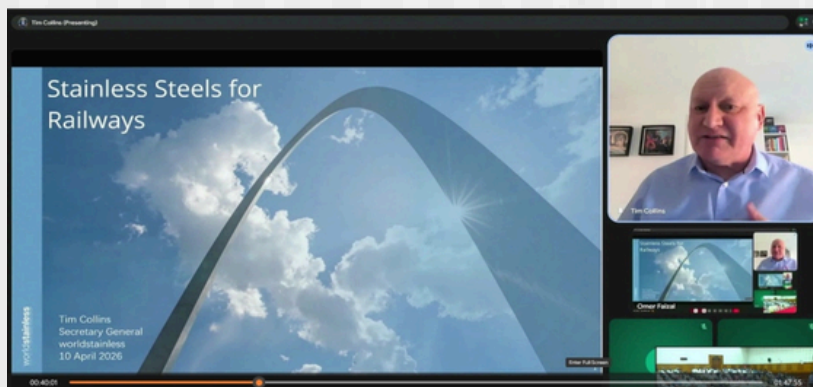
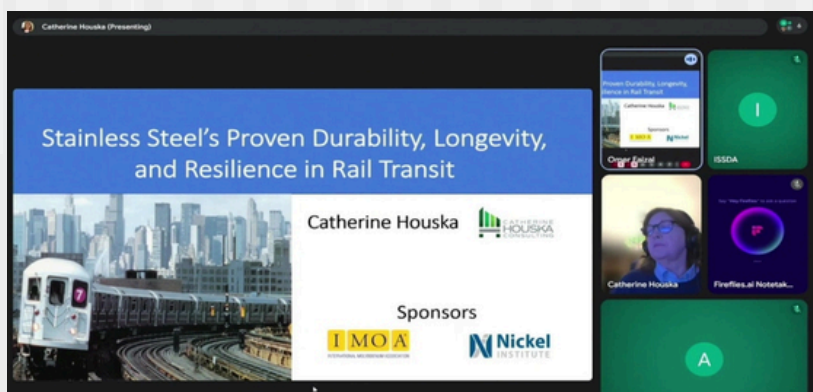
presented global experiences demonstrating how nickel-containing stainless steels deliver superior corrosion resistance, durability, and long-term value. Dr. T. V. Prabhu from IGCAR discussed advances in metallurgy and material performance, while Mr. Tim Collins of worldstainless showcased international trends and successful case studies illustrating the growing adoption of stainless steel in modern rail transportation.

The industry perspective was equally compelling. Mr. Ranit Rana and Mr. Payoj Jindal from Jindal Stainless Ltd. shared insights into manufacturing capabilities, material development, and India's expanding capacity to support advanced railway projects. Mr. Parag Panchal from Fronius India Pvt. Ltd. highlighted cutting-edge welding technologies that improve fabrication quality, structural integrity, and production efficiency for stainless steel railway coaches.

Throughout the two-day programme, discussions centred on themes that will define the next generation of railway manufacturing—advanced welding practices, lightweight coach design, fatigue and corrosion resistance, fabrication excellence, lifecycle cost optimisation, sustainability, and global benchmarking. Participants engaged in meaningful technical dialogue, exchanging practical experiences and identifying opportunities for wider adoption of stainless steel across rolling stock and railway infrastructure. The conclave also reflected a broader industry trend: the growing recognition that material selection must be evaluated over the entire service life of railway assets rather than merely the initial procurement cost. Stainless steel's ability to reduce maintenance requirements, extend service life, improve recyclability, and enhance passenger safety positions it as a strategic material for India's expanding railway network.

ISSDA expresses its sincere appreciation to Integral Coach Factory (ICF), the Nickel Institute, worldstainless, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Jindal Stainless Ltd. and Fronius India Pvt. Ltd. for their invaluable partnership and continued support in making the conclave a resounding success. Their collective commitment to knowledge sharing and technological advancement has created a platform that will contribute significantly to the future of railway engineering in India.

As Indian Railways moves towards high-speed connectivity, energy-efficient mobility, and world-class passenger experience, collaboration between research institutions, industry, and railway manufacturers will be essential. The ICF Technical Conclave demonstrated that stainless steel is no longer just a construction material—it is an enabler of innovation, sustainability, and long-term performance. Through continued technical engagement and collaborative innovation, stainless steel will remain at the forefront of building the railways of tomorrow.



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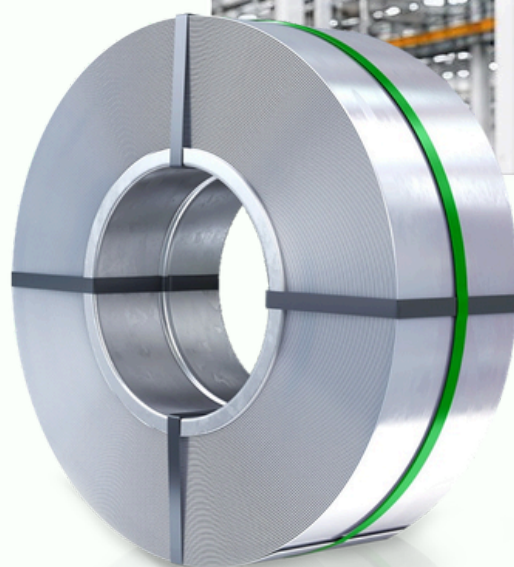
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Advanced technology ensuring better accuracy and finish.



ABOUT SAMBHV

Sambhv Steel Tubes Limited is one of India's leading manufacturers of ERW steel pipes and structural tubes and is also among the select producers of stainless steel coils. Since commencing operations in 2018, the company has steadily expanded its manufacturing capabilities and value-added product portfolio.

Sambhv Stainless Steel is backed by a backward-integrated manufacturing process, covering stainless steel slabs, Hot Rolled Coils, Hot Rolled Annealed and Pickled Coils, and Cold Rolled Coils. Advanced manufacturing technology and stringent process controls enable better control over chemical composition, dimensional accuracy, surface finish and product consistency.

GOVERNMENT APPROVALS



MHADA



DELHI PWD



CG HOUSING BOARD



RAJKIYA NIRMAN NIGAM



MADHYA PRADESH HOUSING BOARD



RAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



DELHI CPWD



NPCC



MPPWD

The coils are available across the 200, 300 stainless steel series, with customised widths and coil sizes to meet diverse customer requirements. Sambhv's HAGC-enabled rolling process supports uniform thickness, precise dimensions and consistent mechanical properties.

KEY STRENGTHS



ADVANCED BACKWARD-INTEGRATED MANUFACTURING



STRINGENT PROCESS CONTROL



CONSISTENT PRODUCT QUALITY



CUSTOMISED COIL SOLUTIONS



STRONG SUPPLY NETWORK

WIDE RANGE OF APPLICATIONS



PIPES & TUBES



INDUSTRIAL FABRICATION



ARCHITECTURE & CONSTRUCTION



AUTOMOBILE COMPONENTS



RAILWAY COMPONENTS



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Sambhv Steel Tubes Limited

5th Floor, Harshit Corporate, Amanaka, Raipur,
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Toll-Free: 1800 208 9990



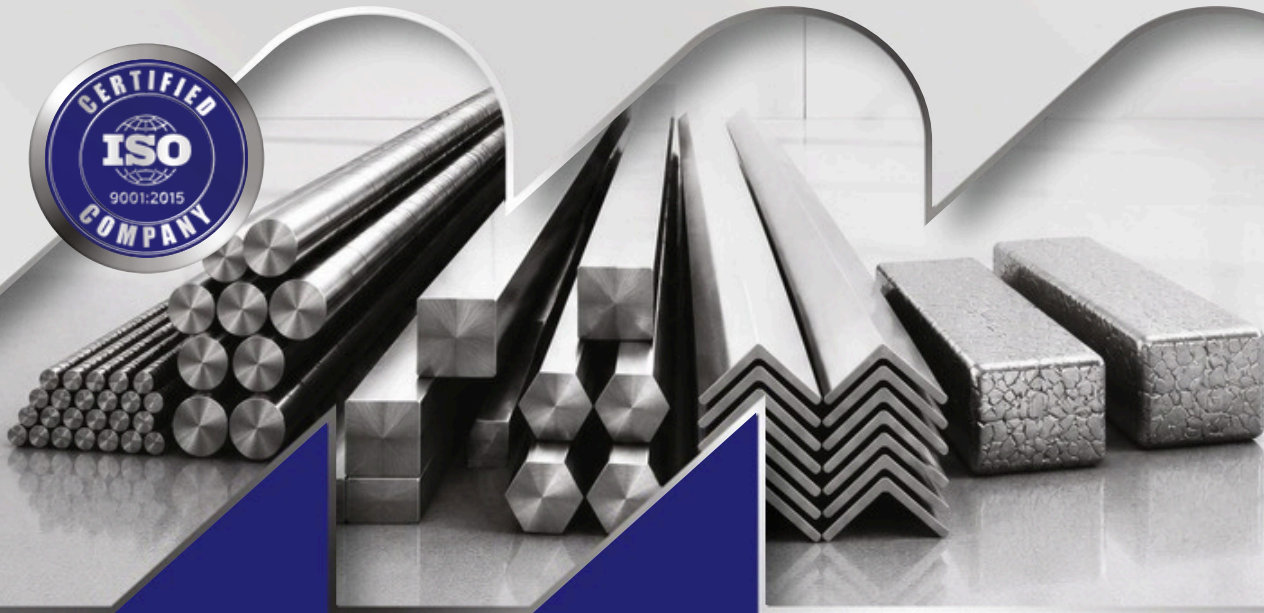
Website: www.sambhv.com



TO KNOW MORE

New Primary Member-Maruti Inox India Pvt. Ltd.

YOUR TRUSTED ALLY



Maruti Inox India Private Limited is a distinguished name in India's stainless steel industry, celebrated for its expertise in manufacturing premium stainless steel long products of exceptional quality. Since its inception in 2006, the company has relentlessly pursued excellence seamlessly integrating certified recycled raw materials with state-of-the-art manufacturing technologies to deliver unmatched quality, precision, and performance.

Anchored by an unwavering commitment to sustainability, innovation, and customer satisfaction, Maruti Inox blends responsible manufacturing practices with uncompromising reliability and timely delivery. With an expanding footprint across domestic and international markets, the company continues to elevate its capabilities, cementing its reputation as a trusted partner and a benchmark for excellence in stainless steel solutions worldwide.

Engineered in diverse grades, sizes, and specifications to meet demanding industrial and engineering applications.
Built for precision, consistency, and performance across industries.

COMPLETE RANGE OF PRECISION-ENGINEERED STAINLESS STEEL LONG PRODUCTS

Hot Rolled Round Bars | Bright Bars | Flat Bars
Square Bars | Hexagonal Bars | Angles | RCS Bars | PSQ Bars



MELTING
36,000
MTPA



ROLLING MILLS
60,000
MTPA



BRIGHT BAR
PROCESSING
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POWERED**

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+91 98252 39909 / +91 93213 12978
info@marutiinox.in www.marutiinox.in

United for Stainless Steel: One Industry, One Architectural Vision

Design with Stainless Steel. Build with Stainless Steel. Build for the Future.

India's architectural landscape is changing rapidly. Airports, metros, railway stations, commercial buildings, residential towers, smart cities and homes are creating an enormous opportunity for stainless steel. Yet, in important applications—particularly railings and balustrades—**aluminium is increasingly becoming the preferred specification.** This is more than a material shift. **It is a wake-up call for the stainless-steel industry.**

UNITED FOR STAINLESS STEEL: ONE INDUSTRY, ONE ARCHITECTURAL VISION.

DESIGN WITH STAINLESS STEEL. | BUILD WITH STAINLESS STEEL. | BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.



India is designing its future. Let stainless steel be the foundation of strength, beauty and sustainability behind every iconic space.



We Need to Move From Competition to Collaboration

Stainless steel offers architects a compelling combination of strength, durability, corrosion resistance, low maintenance, aesthetics and recyclability. Wide variety of grades, together with brushed, satin, mirror and PVD finishes, provide considerable design flexibility. But good material properties alone do not create markets. Specifications do. Architects, façade consultants, engineers and developers influence material selection long before procurement begins. The industry therefore needs to move upstream from selling products to influencing design and creating complete architectural solutions.

Beyond Railings

The opportunity is much larger than protecting stainless-steel railing applications. Stainless steel can play an important role in façades, balustrades, canopies, entrances, staircases, architectural screens, street furniture, airports, metros, railway stations and public spaces. India's infrastructure programme provides another enormous opportunity. CPWD, airports, metro corporations, Railways, municipal bodies, PSUs and EPC contractors represent a vast potential market. Every successful project can become a showcase for the material and inspire the next project.

One Industry. One Platform.

No single company can change architectural perception across India. The stainless-steel ecosystem needs a common platform bringing together producers, processors, fabricators, system manufacturers, architects, consultants, developers, EPC contractors and government stakeholders.

ISSDA can provide that platform. The industry can collectively develop design guides, BIM/CAD resources, standard specifications, independent lifecycle studies, fabrication best practices, project case studies and stronger BIS standards.

“Make Stainless Steel as Easy to Specify as Aluminum”

One Architectural Vision

We should stop presenting stainless steel merely as a grade, tube, sheet or railing. Architects don't buy metals. They create spaces. Our industry must therefore present stainless steel as an architectural solution—one that combines design freedom with durability and long-term value.

The conversation must shift from “What is the initial cost?” to “What value does this material deliver throughout the life of the building?” Lifecycle performance, maintenance, corrosion resistance, service life and recyclability should become part of the specification conversation.

A Digital Platform for Industry Ideas

To turn this vision into action, the industry should create a dedicated “Architectural Vision” portal on ISSDA website www.stainlessindia.org or initiate a new portal. The portal can invite architects, designers, engineers, fabricators, producers, developers and other stakeholders to submit ideas, new applications, project examples, specification opportunities and practical ways to increase stainless-steel use. The best suggestions can be reviewed collectively and converted into industry action.

The Time to Act Is Now

The future of India's built environment is being designed today. Let us not wait until stainless steel has lost applications and then try to win them back. Let us work together to ensure that when an Indian architect thinks about the future, stainless steel is one of the first materials that comes to mind.

ISSDA – Steelora Joining Hands

The journey has already begun. ISSDA is collaborating with industry partner Steelora, a leading architectural solutions company, to promote stainless-steel specifications, develop solutions and create visible success stories in India's infrastructure. We invite more members of the stainless-steel ecosystem to join hands and turn individual initiatives into a collective industry movement.

For more details contact :

Jausline George

Senior Manager

jausline@stainlessindia.org

New Associate Members

1. Aion Steels Pvt. Ltd	8. JSSS Tubes	15. Panchdeep Metal Corporation
2. Allied Moulded Enclosure Pvt. Ltd.	9. Khambhlay Tubes Private Limited	16. Pansar Metal
3. Balaji Engineering Works	10. Khianox Steel Pvt. Ltd.	17. Royal Steel and Tubes
4. Balwant Steel	11. Krishna Steels India LLP	18. Steelix
5. Dhanlaxmi Steel Trade	12. Lohaa World Trade Links Pvt. Ltd.	19. V K International
6. Dhruv Exim	13. Maa Durga SS Industries	
7. Hisar Metal Industries Ltd.	14. Noble Metal	

STAINLESS STEEL. STRONGER CHOICE. SMARTER FUTURE.



BUILDING INDIA'S ARCHITECTURAL FUTURE WITH STEELORA

India's architectural landscape is changing rapidly. Airports, metros, railway stations, commercial buildings, residential towers, smart cities and homes are creating an enormous opportunity for stainless steel. Yet, in important applications—particularly railings and balustrades—aluminium is increasingly becoming the preferred specification. This is more than a material shift. It is a wake-up call for the stainless-steel industry.



India is building the future. Let stainless steel be the strength, elegance and sustainability behind every iconic space.

STAINLESS STEEL vs ALUMINIUM – THE SMARTER CHOICE

	STAINLESS STEEL	ALUMINIUM
	High strength & structural integrity	Lower strength, more prone to denting
	Superior corrosion resistance	Prone to corrosion in coastal & humid areas
	Fire & heat resistant	Low melting point
	Long life with low maintenance	Higher maintenance over time
	100% recyclable & sustainable	Limited recycling cycle

For buildings that must stand the test of time, stainless steel is not just better – it's the intelligent choice.

WE NEED TO MOVE FROM COMPETITION TO COLLABORATION

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India's infrastructure programme provides another enormous opportunity. CPWD, airports, metro corporations, Railways, municipal bodies, PSUs and EPC contractors represent a vast potential market. Every successful project can become a showcase for the material and inspire the next project.

STEELORA – SHAPING STAINLESS IN ARCHITECTURE

Steelora is India's No. 1 Railing Manufacturer and a leading PVD Stainless Steel solution provider.

We deliver premium stainless steel products and finishes for architects, builders, contractors and infrastructure developers across India and around the world.

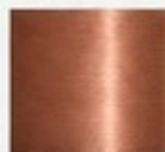
- Architectural Railings
- PVD Stainless Steel Sheets
- Decorative SS Sheets
- SS Benches & Urban Furniture
- Turnkey Solutions for Projects



PVD EXCELLENCE IN EVERY COLOUR

Our advanced PVD plant is equipped with state-of-the-art technology to create a wide range of durable, scratch-resistant and environment-friendly finishes.

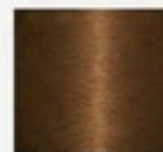
From Rose Gold, Gold, Bronze, Copper to customised shades – we bring colour to stainless steel.



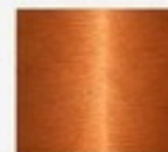
ROSE GOLD



GOLD



BRONZE



COPPER

DELIVERING ACROSS KEY SECTORS

- Residential Buildings
- Commercial Spaces
- Airports & Metro
- Railways
- Hospitals & Institutions
- Smart Cities & Public Spaces



VISION

To be the most trusted global brand in stainless steel solutions, inspiring a future of sustainable and timeless architecture.

MISSION

To provide innovative, high-quality and sustainable stainless steel products and finishes that enhance design, ensure safety and deliver long-term value to our customers and communities.



Delivering Strength. Defining Spaces.
Leading India. Inspiring the World.

WE MAKE STAINLESS IN ARCHITECTURE

From elegant railings to signature finishes, from functional furniture to complete project solutions – Steelora makes stainless steel the material of choice in today's architecture.

Stronger. Smarter. Sustainable.
That's Stainless.



One Industry. One Platform.

No single company can change architectural perceptions across India. The stainless-steel ecosystem needs a common platform. ISSDA can provide that platform by developing common best practices and stronger industry standards.



"Make Stainless Steel" as Easy to Specify as Aluminium



A Digital Platform for Industry Ideas

A dedicated portal on ISSDA website will invite ideas, applications, case studies and specification opportunities to turn insights into action.



The Time to Act is Now

The future is being designed today. Let's ensure stainless steel is one of the first materials that comes to the architect's mind.



ISSDA – Steelora Joining Hands

Together, let's build a stronger architectural future. Let's Build with Stainless Steel. Build for Generations.



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Global Stainless Steel Expo 2027 – ISSDA and Virgo Join Hands

The Indian stainless steel industry has reached a stage where collaboration is becoming just as important as competition. Recognising this need, the Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA) and Virgo Communications & Exhibitions have entered into a strategic partnership to organise the 4th Global Stainless Steel Expo (GSSE 2027), to be held from 16–18 September 2027 in Mumbai.

The partnership reflects a shared vision—to create one strong, globally recognised platform that represents the entire stainless steel value chain and showcases India's growing leadership in the sector.

Over the past decade, India's stainless steel industry has expanded rapidly, with MSMEs emerging as the backbone of the ecosystem. Today, they account for more than half of the industry's footprint, driving innovation, manufacturing, fabrication, and downstream applications. As the industry has grown, so has the need for a single platform that brings everyone together.

Responding to this need, ISSDA has taken the strategic decision to make GSSE its flagship biennial event, replacing multiple parallel exhibitions with one unified global platform. The objective is simple: maximise industry participation, strengthen international visibility, and create greater business opportunities for companies of every size.

GSSE 2027 promises to be much more than an exhibition. It is being designed as a global meeting point for manufacturers, technology providers, fabricators, architects, consultants, policymakers, end-user industries, and international buyers. The event is expected to feature over 250 exhibitors, attract 18,000+ trade visitors, and host international country pavilions, CEO roundtables, technical seminars, workshops, and dedicated B2B meetings.

One of the major highlights will be the participation of leading stainless steel-producing nations through dedicated Country Pavilions, encouraging international collaboration and technology exchange. ISSDA is also working towards organising a Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet with EEPC India, opening new avenues for exports and connecting Indian manufacturers with global markets.



The partnership with Virgo Communications brings together two complementary strengths. While ISSDA represents the collective voice of India's stainless steel industry and drives market development, Virgo contributes over two decades of experience in organising successful international B2B exhibitions and industry events. Together, they aim to position GSSE among the world's leading stainless steel exhibitions.

The timing could not have been better as India is already the world's second-largest producer of stainless steel, with demand expected to grow steadily over the coming years, driven by infrastructure, railways, clean energy, water management, architecture, mobility, and advanced manufacturing. As stainless steel finds new applications across these sectors, platforms like GSSE will play an important role in connecting ideas with opportunities.

The fourth edition of GSSE is being organised with the support of the *Ministry of Steel, Government of India*, reaffirming the Government's commitment to strengthening the domestic stainless steel ecosystem and promoting India's manufacturing capabilities on the global stage.

More than an event, GSSE 2027 represents a collective ambition. It is about bringing the industry together, creating meaningful partnerships, supporting MSMEs, encouraging innovation, and showcasing India's stainless steel story to the world.

With ISSDA and Virgo working together, GSSE 2027 is set to become the industry's definitive global platform—one that reflects the confidence, capability, and future of India's stainless steel sector.

When Stainless Steel Holds Up a Mirror to Civic Behaviour

Sometimes, a city does not need another warning board. It needs a smarter idea. For nearly three decades, a stretch of Mother Teresa Road opposite the KSRTC Suburban Bus Stand in Mysuru had been notorious for public urination. Warning signs, campaigns and railings had failed to solve the problem. The roadside drain had become a persistent source of foul smell and an eyesore for pedestrians.

In May 2026, the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) tried something remarkably simple and unconventional. It installed around 85 metres of five-foot-high, mirror-finish stainless-steel panels along the problematic stretch.

LED lighting was also incorporated to illuminate the installation at night. The idea was straightforward: anyone attempting to urinate there would see their own reflection and become conscious of being visible to passers-by.



The early response was striking. MCC officials reported a 90% reduction in public-urination incidents within 24 hours of installation.



From Mysuru to other cities

What makes the Mysuru experiment particularly interesting is that it did not remain a local curiosity. The idea quickly attracted national attention through news reports and social media, and other municipal corporations began exploring similar behavioural interventions.

In Vijayawada, the Municipal Corporation subsequently installed mirrors at locations prone to public urination, explicitly using the idea of reflection to create self-awareness and discourage the behaviour.

In Rohtak, the Municipal Corporation also turned to mirrors after conventional measures such as warning boards, fines, cleanliness drives and public appeals failed to adequately change behaviour. The city has combined mirrors with surveillance cameras in some public areas, using the idea of making people conscious of their own actions.

The spread of the concept is significant. It suggests that urban design can sometimes influence civic behaviour without relying exclusively on enforcement.

Mysuru's choice was not simply to install conventional glass mirrors. According to the Corporation, alternatives including mirrors, mica glass and acrylic were considered before stainless steel was selected for its durability and cost-effectiveness. The reflective panels were welded to the roadside structure and supported by lighting.



This opens up an interesting possibility for other Indian cities. Thousands of locations around bus stands, railway stations, markets, underpasses, vacant walls and public buildings face similar sanitation challenges. Rather than simply putting up another “Do Not Urinate” sign, municipalities could identify chronic hotspots and test carefully designed reflective stainless-steel installations.

Of course, a mirror cannot replace a clean, accessible public toilet, nor should behavioural deterrence substitute for sanitation infrastructure.

Mysuru has shown that sometimes the most effective civic message is not another sign telling citizens what not to do. It is simply a mirror that makes them stop and think.

And in this case, that mirror is stainless steel.

BUILDING THE FUTURE WITH STRENGTH & PRECISION

Engineered for excellence, our stainless steel tubes and pipes deliver unmatched strength, precision, and reliability for today's demanding industries.



LIGHTWEIGHT, YET INCREDIBLY STRONG

High strength with reduced weight



PRECISION IN FABRICATION

Consistent quality,
superior finish



IDEAL FOR LOAD-BEARING APPLICATIONS

Reliability in demanding
environments



AVAILABLE IN A WIDE RANGE OF SIZES AND GRADES

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