

PM Modi Flags Off 1st Indigenous Hydrogen Fuel Cell Ferry

Why In News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday virtually launched India's first indigenously-developed and built hydrogen fuel cell ferry, in Kochi, Kerala. The Prime Minister joined the ceremony in virtual mode from Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu.



All You Need To Know

- Participating from Thoothukudi, he launched the **inland waterway vessel**, which is part of the **Harit Nauka initiative**—a pilot project aimed at showcasing the technology for the maritime sector.
- Embracing green hydrogen as a maritime fuel takes centre stage in India's dedication to a sustainable future, targeting net zero emissions by the year 2070.
- Vessel has been built at the **Cochin Shipyard**. The pilot vessel is a 24-metre catamaran which can carry 50 passengers with fully air-conditioned passenger space.
- It will make **urban mobility smooth** and easy, according to a release issued by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).



- The flagging off of the vessel was part of a major programme organised in Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu to mark the laying of the foundation stone for a **₹17,300-crore project** in Thoothukudi.
- These included foundation stone-laying for the outer harbour at the V.O. Chidambaranar Port, dedication of **75 lighthouses across 10 States** and Union territories and dedication of various rail and road network projects.
- Mr. Modi said the **hydrogen cell-powered inland waterway vessel** under the Harit Nauka initiative is a gift of the people of Tamil Nadu for Kashi.
- He said that he witnessed the enthusiasm and affection of the people of Tamil Nadu in Kashi Tamil Sangamam.



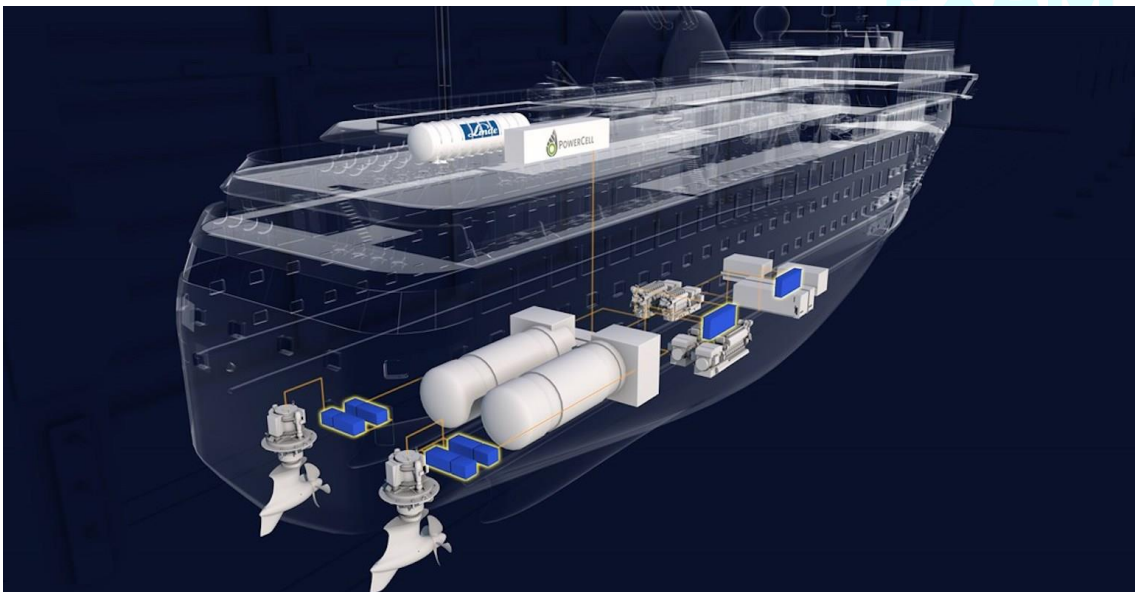
- The vessel built at CSL underscores the pioneering step for embracing clean energy solutions and aligning with the nation's net-zero commitments, he said. The **V.O.Chidambaranar Port** is also the first Green Hydrogen Hub Port of the

country and the projects include a desalination plant, hydrogen production and bunkering facility.

- “Tamil Nadu will go a long way with regard to the alternatives that the world is exploring today”, he said.



- Mr. Modi said the **electrification and doubling of rail lines** will further improve connectivity between South Tamil Nadu and Kerala, while also easing the congestion in Tirunelveli and Nagercoil sectors.
- The **hydrogen fuel vessel** has fully home-grown technology and it can be replicated in other parts of the country for urban mobility application, according to CSL.



Harit Nauka initiative

- The Government of India also aims to foster the confidence of the stakeholders in the maritime sector and usher them towards transitioning to **greener and cleaner fuels** as emphasized under the **Harit Nauka- Inland Vessels Green Transition Guidelines**, published on 8th January 2024.



- The Harit Nauka Guidelines shows MoPSW's commitment to transform the maritime landscape by adopting green vessels & establishing operationalization of the green ecosystem.
- It also aims to embrace **low/zero emission sources** of fuel & attain 100% green vessels in the Indian waters by 2047.