

Solar-Powered Train Launched



Kerala CM P Vijayan Thiruvananthapuram

India's first solar-powered miniature train has been launched at Veli Tourist Village in Kerala, India. The train, which would be an attraction for children especially, was part of a string of projects totally worth Rs 60 crore taken up to elevate the facilities at the panoramic destination to international standards.

The miniature rail has all the features of a fully-equipped rail system, including a tunnel, station, and a ticket office. The train has three bogie carriages that can accommodate around 45 people at a time.

"The eco-friendly solar-powered 2.5 km miniature railway will enable visitors to enjoy the beauty of nature. The Rs10 crore project is the first of its kind in the country," the Chief Minister said in his online address.

Artificial steam spouted by the engine of the train, modelled after a vintage steam locomotive, will stir nostalgic feelings. The station was also designed in a traditional style. The surplus energy generated by the system will be routed to the Kerala State Electricity Board's grid, Vijayan said.