



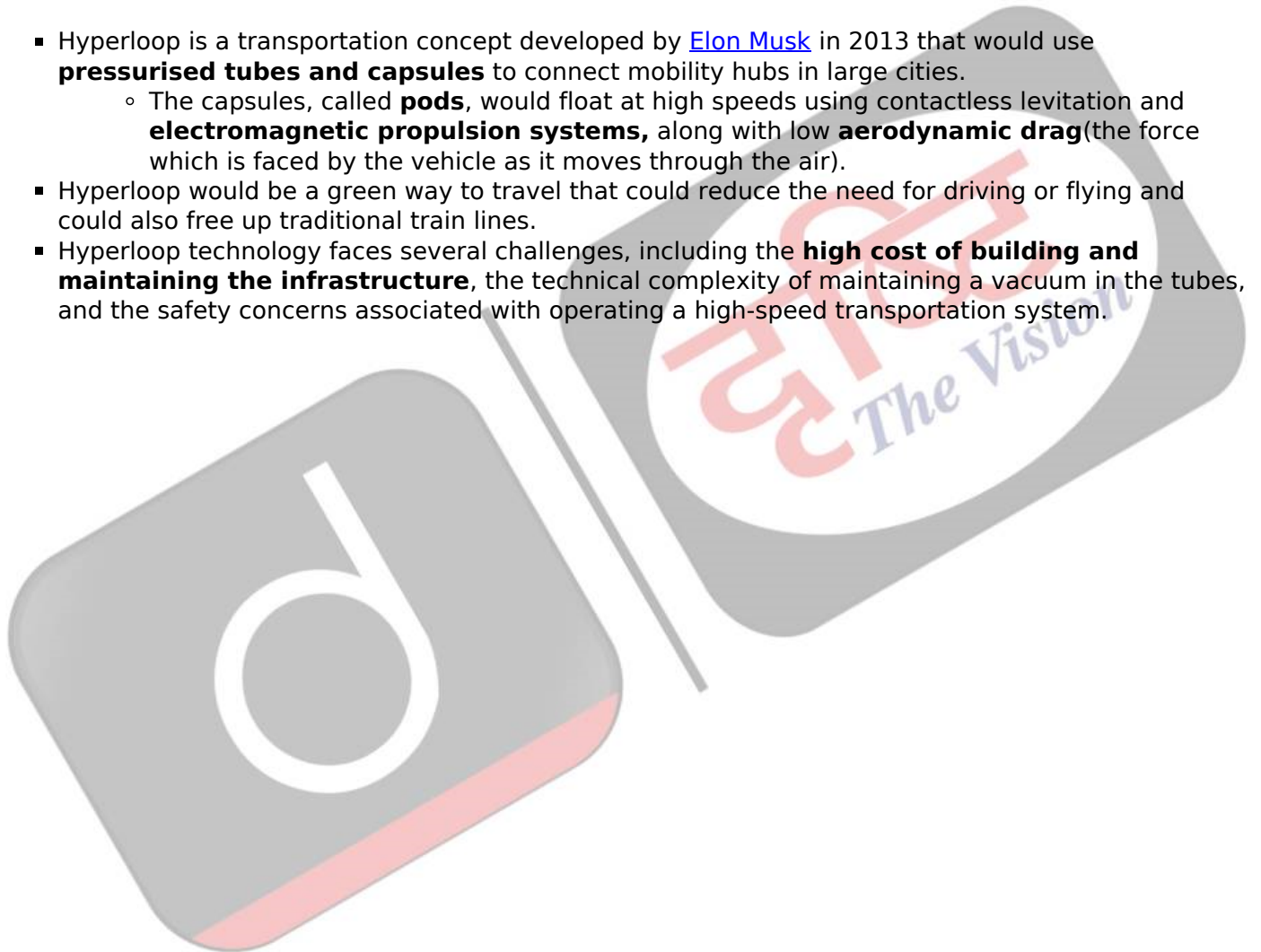
## Hyperloop Technology

[Source: IE](#)

Recently, **hyperloop technology** was highlighted for its energy efficiency and sustainability.

- Hyperloop is a transportation concept developed by [Elon Musk](#) in 2013 that would use **pressurised tubes and capsules** to connect mobility hubs in large cities.
  - The capsules, called **Pods**, would float at high speeds using contactless levitation and **electromagnetic propulsion systems**, along with low **aerodynamic drag** (the force which is faced by the vehicle as it moves through the air).
- Hyperloop would be a green way to travel that could reduce the need for driving or flying and could also free up traditional train lines.
- Hyperloop technology faces several challenges, including the **high cost of building and maintaining the infrastructure**, the technical complexity of maintaining a vacuum in the tubes, and the safety concerns associated with operating a high-speed transportation system.

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# MAGNETIC TRAIN IN VACUUM CAN MOVE AT SPEED OF SOUND

The hyperloop train in its current version was conceptualized by billionaire inventor Elon Musk, who publicized it in 2012, open-sourced it and encouraged others to take the ideas and develop them. Hyperloop One, now called Virgin Hyperloop One, which has entered into an agreement with Maharashtra, is a private company founded in 2014 with the aim of placing hyperloop trains around the world by 2021



In December 2017, Hyperloop One's pod reached a top speed of over 385 kmph on its test track in the Nevada desert, north of Las Vegas. The targeted speed is 1,223 kmph

## THE POD

Hyperloop One's first-generation pod combines a carbon fiber shell around a custom-built levitating chassis

**Aeroshell** Made of carbon fibre panels. The material is much lighter and stronger than steel



**Levitating chassis** Is made of aluminium and houses the propulsion system and magnets for levitation and guidance. Its design is similar to a Formula 1 car. It is built like a shell to be lightweight but strong

## HOW SPEEDS COMPARE

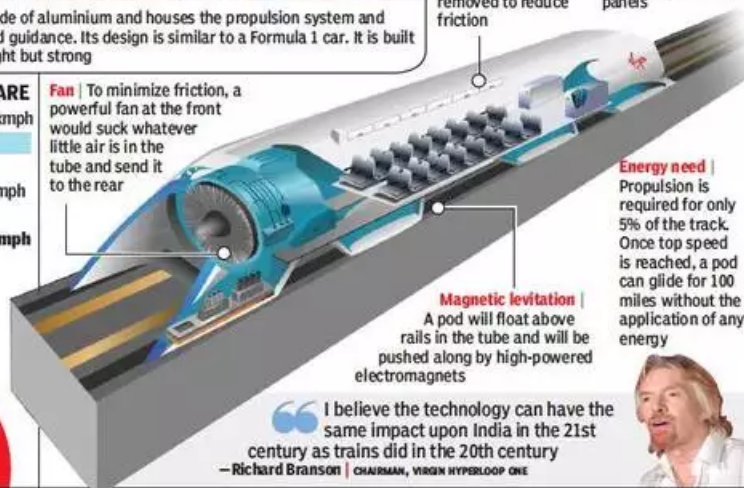
Concorde*	2,180 kmph
Speed of sound	1,235 kmph
Hyperloop	1,223 kmph
Aircraft	780 kmph
Bullet train	450 kmph
*No longer in service	

## JOURNEY TIME

Mumbai to Pune |

**20 minutes**

**Fan** | To minimize friction, a powerful fan at the front would suck whatever little air is in the tube and send it to the rear



**Magnetic levitation** | A pod will float above rails in the tube and will be pushed along by high-powered electromagnets

**Energy need** | Propulsion is required for only 5% of the track. Once top speed is reached, a pod can glide for 100 miles without the application of any energy

“I believe the technology can have the same impact upon India in the 21st century as trains did in the 20th century”  
 — Richard Branson | CHAIRMAN, VIRGIN HYPERLOOP ONE



## Dimensions

Length |

**8.7 m**  
(28.5 ft)

Width |

**2.7 m**  
(8.9 ft)

Height |

**2.4 m**  
(7.9 ft)

## SCALE

Hyperloop tube



Metro tunnel



**Pod** | A pod or several pods will carry passengers through the tube with most of the air removed to reduce friction

**Tube** | A partial vacuum tube will be supported above ground and supplied with energy by solar panels

[Read more...](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/hyperloop-technology>