



Powering the Gulf's Green Future in Riyadh

INFRABytes

Kashmir Joins Freight Network With First Train to Anantnag

Kashmir has joined India's national freight network as the first-ever goods train arrives at Anantnag, marking a significant milestone in enhancing regional logistics and connectivity by linking the valley with the broader national rail infrastructure.

Purandar Airport Land Acquisition Begins, Mohol Assures Fairness

The Maharashtra government has begun land acquisition for Purandar international airport. Minister Murlidhar Mohol assured farmers of fairness, stressing transparency and stakeholder involvement. He highlighted the airport's urgency and ongoing PM Kisan Samman Nidhi benefits for farmers.

Ghaziabad's Indirapuram Extension Revival Speeds Up Amid Price Surge

Ghaziabad's Indirapuram Extension revival gains momentum as rising property prices boost demand. The project speeds up infrastructure and expands housing to meet growing residential needs in this rapidly appreciating area.

Did you know ?

Japan's Tokyo Bay Aqua-Line is part bridge, part tunnel, spanning 23.7 km with an artificial island in the middle where the two meet.

MENA's Largest Net Zero Congress will be held in Riyadh this October.

Innovation Zero MENA Congress, on 14–15 October 2025 in Riyadh, will unite leaders to advance decarbonisation across sectors. Aligning with Saudi Vision 2030 and net zero goals, it offers a platform for collaboration, innovation, and solutions, addressing sustainability, energy transition, and environmental challenges across the MENA region.



Waratah Super Battery Project

The Waratah Super Battery Project involves construction of a massive 850 MW/1,680 MWh battery energy storage system (with at least 700 MW active and 1,400 MWh usable capacity) to stabilize the electricity grid. Situated at the former Munmorah coal-fired site, it includes a control system, paired generation services, and transmission upgrades. Partial operations began by August 2025 as a "shock absorber," with full commissioning expected by year's end.

It's Time to Rethink Offshore Wind Contracts

Richard Booth, Partner at HFW, urged the offshore wind sector to adapt contracts to mounting geopolitical and security risks beyond traditional commercial allocations. Global disruptions since 2020—from Covid-19 and the war in Ukraine to energy price surges, inflation, and rising tensions—have made threats like cyberattacks, trade wars, and sabotage active realities, limiting the value of standard force majeure clauses. Booth called for broadening force majeure to cover entire supply chains, enabling safe withdrawal of assets and personnel, revising insurance coverage, adjusting liability caps with potential “knock for knock” indemnities, adopting price indexation to counter inflation, and mandating crisis management plans. The approach reflects a shift toward resilience-focused contracting to safeguard clean energy delivery in an era of instability.



Mexico approves Fracking to Boost Output

Mexico has announced a 10-year plan to reverse declining oil and gas output by expanding fracking, marking a major policy shift. State energy giant Pemex, burdened by debt and aging shallow-water fields, aims to tap unconventional resources. Former President López Obrador banned fracking from 2018 to 2024, but successor Claudia Sheinbaum approved it despite prior opposition. Pemex has fracked onshore fields but doesn't report shale output separately. The move seeks to reduce reliance on U.S. natural gas imports, which have surged via new pipelines. Mexico holds an estimated 545 trillion cubic feet of recoverable shale gas, the world's sixth largest, according to U.S. data, and plans to develop basins like Burgos to boost energy security.

Petrobras Aims \$8B Savings via Project Optimisation

Petrobras aims to save \$8 billion over five years by changing contracting strategies for major upstream projects and working more closely with reliable suppliers and technology-driven partners to enhance efficiency. In the first half of 2025, it invested 48.8 billion reais (\$9 billion), nearly 50% more than a year earlier, adding more wells than in all of 2024. This aggressive investment lifted Q2 2025 production by 4.8% to 2.32 million barrels of oil equivalent per day from the prior quarter.

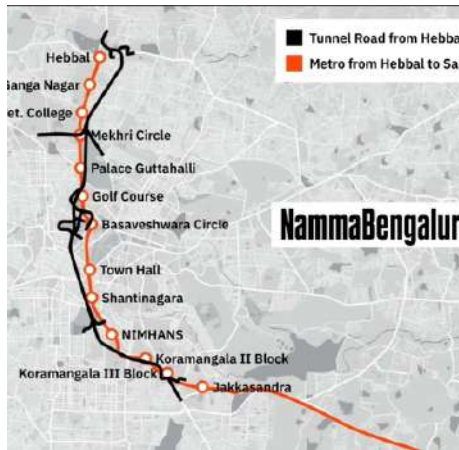
Asian Contractor Wins Major Vietnam FSO Contract

Singapore-based OceanStar Elite has won a significant EPCC contract for a cutting-edge FSO supporting Vietnam's Block B gas development, led by PetroVietnam's PQPOC. Awarded by PTSC South East Asia, a PetroVietnam-Yinson venture, the advanced FSO will store 350,000 barrels, operate efficiently for 25 years, and start in Q3 2027. It's OceanStar's second highly successful FSO collaboration with PTSC-Yinson, while Yinson will lease and operate it for 14 years, extendable by nine.



Siemens, CSCEC win 1,014 MW Iraq plant

Iraq has begun building the first phase of the Second Beiji Gas Power Plant in Salah al-Din Province, with a total capacity of 1,014 megawatts. Implemented by Siemens Energy (Germany) and CSCEC (China), the project involves rehabilitating six Siemens gas units of 169 MW each and developing new transmission infrastructure. This includes a 400-kV load dispatching network linking six lines to the national grid and a 132-kV network with 16 lines for the province. The first two units will start operating within 27 months, with subsequent units coming online every two months to enhance Iraq's power generation capacity.



Adani, L&T, Tata Projects Among Major Bidders in Race to Build Bengaluru's ₹17,698 Crore Tunnel Road Project

Bengaluru is pushing a ₹17,698-crore twin-tube tunnel road project linking Central Silk Board and Hebbal via a 16.75 km, three-lane underground corridor under a modified BOOT model. Split into two packages—Hebbal to Seshadri Road (₹8,770 crore) and Seshadri Road to Silk Board (₹8,928 crore)—the project saw interest from ten firms, including Adani Group, Larsen & Toubro, and Tata Projects, at a pre-bid meeting by B-SMILE. Touted as a flagship project by Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar, it aims to ease core-area traffic in the suburban region; however, it is facing criticism from civic activists and environmentalists, over high cost, ecological impact, feasibility, and accessibility. The tender process is ongoing, with authorities hoping to attract competitive bids for timely execution despite opposition.

Work Starts on Mumbai-Pune-Bengaluru Highway Project

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that construction has begun on a new high-speed, multi-lane Mumbai-Pune-Bengaluru expressway, which will reduce Mumbai-Pune travel time to 90 minutes and Pune-Bengaluru to five hours. The expressway will start from the Atal Tunnel in Mumbai, connect to the proposed Pune Ring Road, and extend toward Bengaluru. Speaking in Pune, Gadkari stressed urgency, noting work had already started without a formal foundation event. In Andhra Pradesh, he inaugurated and laid the foundation for 29 National Highway projects covering 272 km, worth over ₹5,233 crore. Major works include NH-71's 56-km Madanapalle-Pileru stretch and NH-340C's 31-km Kurnool-Mandlem upgrade, both featuring flyovers, bridges, and elevated viaducts. Gadkari also highlighted progress in reducing logistics costs and expressed confidence in India's capability to transform its road infrastructure rapidly and sustainably.



CCI Clears Dalmia Cement's Jaiprakash Acquisition

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has officially granted approval to Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd's acquisition of 100% equity in Jaiprakash Associates Ltd (JAL) under the corporate insolvency resolution process. This clearance enables Dalmia Cement, a subsidiary of Dalmia Bharat Ltd, to proceed with its resolution plan, pending evaluation and voting by the Committee of Creditors. JAL, in insolvency since June 2024, holds assets in cement, real estate, hospitality, and engineering. While several companies, including Adani and Vedanta, showed interest, Dalmia is the only bidder with CCI approval. The acquisition process faces challenges, which is primarily due to ongoing legal disputes, notably concerning JAL's ambitious 1,000-hectare Sports City project in Greater Noida.

Work on ₹1,685 crore Multi-modal Logistics Hub gains Momentum in Pune

The Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) near Pune is progressing, with pre-feasibility studies complete and bidding underway. With an investment of ₹1,684.77 crore, the 334.96-acre facility at Talegaon will integrate road, rail, and air freight, leveraging connectivity to the Pune-Mumbai Expressway, NH-548D, key rail lines, the upcoming Pune International Airport, and nearby industrial hubs



Developed under a PPP by NHLML, MIDC, and RVNL, equity stakes are 57.27%, 26%, and 16.73%, respectively. The MMLP will offer freight aggregation, warehousing, cargo processing, and customs clearance, aiming to cut logistics costs, enhance connectivity, and promote sustainable, low-carbon transport in the Pune region.

DLF aims to cross ₹10,000 cr rental income from commercial assets:

DLF aims to raise annual rental income from commercial assets to over ₹10,000 crore in the medium term, up from ₹6,000 crore currently generated from its 46 million sq ft portfolio of offices and malls. Chairman Rajiv Singh, at the 60th AGM, cited strong 2024-25 performance in housing and rentals, with new completions in Downtown Gurugram and Chennai, plus three retail properties opening soon. Residential sales bookings hit a record ₹21,223 crore, up 44% year-on-year. Singh noted a robust housing pipeline, healthy margins, and strong cash flow potential, adding that India's economic growth positions DLF to seize future opportunities.





KALYAN GIANCHANDANI
MBA-IDM
SCMHRD'27

Designing Tomorrow: AI-Powered Energy Optimization in Infrastructure

As an architecture graduate now pursuing an MBA in Infrastructure Development and Management at SCMHRD, I see design not just as aesthetics, but as a balance of function, longevity, and environmental harmony. In today's dynamic built environment, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is emerging as a key enabler of sustainable infrastructure.

A notable example is Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) partnering with KPMG to integrate Generative AI into its operations. This move aims to set global standards by boosting operational efficiency through adaptive technology. While much of the conversation centers around automation and passenger experience, the real impact lies in AI's ability to optimize energy use — predicting consumption, streamlining systems, and minimizing waste. By managing lighting, HVAC, and more in real time, AI significantly reduces energy consumption, operating costs, and carbon emissions.

From an architectural standpoint, this is a paradigm shift. Traditionally, design focused on shaping static spaces; now, AI allows spaces to adapt — to light, climate, and human activity. Buildings can intelligently adjust energy usage based on conditions without human input. This transforms infrastructure from inert structures into responsive ecosystems.

At SCMHRD, where we're trained to lead large-scale infrastructure projects, such integration is no longer futuristic — it's fundamental. In an era where sustainability and rising energy costs dominate planning priorities, AI-powered solutions are essential. The future of infrastructure lies not in rigid compliance, but in intelligent, self-optimizing systems. It's time to see architecture not just as structure, but as a living system — where design meets data and buildings think for themselves.

DR CHRISTOPHER WRIGHT MANAGING DIRECTOR

Dr. Christopher Wright, who joined Agilia Infrastructure Partners in 2018 after research work at the University of Oxford, was promoted to Director in 2024. He leads the firm's energy sector efforts, including the landmark Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station project—bringing deep expertise in financing, regulatory compliance, and



project delivery through the Regulated Asset Base (RAB) model. Recognized as Future Leader of the Year at the 2025 Partnerships Awards, Dr. Wright leads a cross-disciplinary team of 30, mentors emerging infrastructure professionals, and champions infrastructure projects that are socially responsible and climate-resilient.

In addition to his leadership at Agilia, Dr. Wright actively contributes to industry thought leadership through publications and speaking engagements on sustainable infrastructure financing. His work has influenced policy discussions on low-carbon energy projects, reinforcing his reputation as a driving force in shaping the future of resilient infrastructure.

INFRA Shorts

- Inox Green Energy Services signs comprehensive O&M agreement for 182 MW of operational wind projects across Western India, covering 82 MW upgrades and 100 MW early renewals.
- The Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, an eight-lane 1,386 km highway, is expected to complete by October 2025, halving travel time and enhancing connectivity.
- IRFC refinances ₹25.39 billion for Angul Sukinda Railway project.
- Australia's Adelaide Airport is upgrading with a A\$600 million infrastructure expansion including new check-in halls, gates, and security tech to meet 2050 aviation demands.
- India's Ladakh region has built about 1,670 km of road infrastructure since 2019, significantly improving connectivity and boosting tourism.
- Adani Infrastructure acquired a 34.4% stake in Ahmedabad-based PSP Projects, marking significant corporate activity in India's construction sector in August 2025.

