

INFRAINSIGHTS

BRICKS, BYTES AND BUSINESS



Switch open top double decker buses of KSRTC

INFRABytes

Nearly 80% Indian rail tracks now support 110+ kmph speeds

Indian Railways upgraded nearly 80% of tracks for 110+ kmph speeds from 40% in 2014, using 60 kg rails and concrete sleepers. 130+ kmph sections grew five-fold to 23,010 km, boosting Vande Bharat; total network now 105,672 km.

HD Hyundai plans \$2 billion shipyard in Thoothukudi

HD Hyundai will construct a \$2 billion shipyard in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi, partnering with Cochin Shipyard and Mazagon Dock for two facilities worth ₹30,000 crore via MoU at the Investors Summit. It targets 55,000 jobs, leveraging local workforce and port upgrades to boost India's shipbuilding.

Nepal, India to discuss aviation fuel pipeline supply

Nepal and India meet next week in New Delhi for the fifth Joint Working Group on Oil and Gas to discuss aviation turbine fuel supply via the extended Motihari-Amlekhgunj pipeline. Led by Joint Secretary Shivaram Pokhrel, Nepal aims to cut costs; the line already carries diesel, petrol and kerosene.

Did you know ?

South Korea built smart bridges embedded with sensors that detect structural stress in real time, improving safety and reducing maintenance costs

Delhi to reintroduce iconic double-decker buses on new heritage-focused tourist circuit

Delhi Transport Corp. plans to revive iconic double-decker buses on a new tourist route linking landmarks like India Gate, Qutub Minar, Red Fort and Lotus Temple. The air-conditioned, low-floor buses will offer hop-on-hop-off service and guided audio tours to boost tourism. This nostalgic revival from the 1990s era awaits launch details.



Saudi Arabia, Qatar seal pact for 785-km Riyadh-Doha high-speed rail link

Saudi Arabia and Qatar have signed an agreement for a 785-km high-speed rail connecting Riyadh and Doha, slashing travel time to two hours from current road journeys. The project enhances Gulf connectivity, boosts trade and tourism between the two nations, and aligns with Vision 2030 infrastructure goals for regional integration.

AI, energy transition reshape global project finance with private capital surge

Global project finance is entering a new phase as artificial intelligence, data centre build-out and the energy transition drive demand for larger, more complex projects worldwide. Research based on 200 finance professionals shows investment tilting toward long-term, capital-intensive assets in renewables and technology, media and telecoms. Infrastructure is seen as the strongest growth area, followed by clean energy technologies such as wind, renewable natural gas and green hydrogen. With traditional bank and corporate balance sheets under pressure, private equity, infrastructure funds and private credit are emerging as core funding sources. Executing these intricate, cross-border deals is increasingly challenging amid tighter KYC, regulatory and timing constraints.



Cape Town adopts PPP model for major desalination and water reuse expansion

The City of Cape Town has granted in-principle approval for a public-private partnership model to deliver two major water schemes: the Faure New Water Scheme and the Paarden Eiland Desalination Plant. FNWS will treat recycled wastewater to add between 70 million and 100 million litres per day, while PEDP will desalinate seawater to supply 50 million to 70 million litres daily, with both projects targeting first water in financial year 2030/31. Procurement will follow a two-stage competitive tender, with a request for qualifications planned for late 2026 and a request for proposals scheduled for late 2027. The private partner will design, construct, finance and operate the assets, while ownership remains with the city.

North Sea wind farm to host large artificial reef rollout

RWE and TotalEnergies will deploy 66 ARC Marine Reef Cubes at the OranjeWind offshore wind farm in the Dutch North Sea, creating one of Europe's largest artificial reef installations at a wind project. The low-carbon, recycled concrete cubes will surround 11 turbine foundations post-2026 construction, offering about 1,440 square metres of new marine habitat. As a nature-inclusive design, they boost biodiversity for cod and native oysters, proving scalable ecological integration in offshore wind infrastructure.

Finch West LRT opens, boosts Toronto transit network

Toronto's Finch West LRT (Line 6) officially opened on December 7, 2025, after years of delays from its 2019 start, marking the city's first new rapid transit line in over two decades. The 10.3-km line features 18 stops along Finch Avenue West, linking Finch West subway station to Humber College with fully accessible stations and underground termini. It promises 51,000 daily riders, faster service every 5-7 minutes peak, and reduced bus congestion for northwest communities. Fares were waived on opening day amid celebrations.



AfDB, Uganda seek EOI for Busega-Mpigi expressway supervision

The African Development Bank (AfDB) and Uganda's Ministry of Works and Transport have issued an Expression of Interest (EOI) for consultancy services to supervise construction of the 26.7 km four-lane Busega-Mpigi Expressway and the 256 km Kagitumba-Kayonza-Rusomo road corridor. The Busega-Mpigi project, financed by AfDB and European Investment Bank, aims to ease Kampala congestion as part of the Greater Kampala Light Rail programme. The cross-border Kagitumba-Kayonza-Rusomo upgrade will pave sections, widen to two lanes, add drainage and signage to boost Northern Corridor trade with Rwanda and Tanzania under AfDB funding. Services cover design review, supervision, contract management, quality control, safeguards and UNRA capacity building; EOIs due Jan 6, 2026.



Maharashtra government accelerates Pune infrastructure

The Maharashtra government has approved a revised ₹1,209.8-crore sewage treatment plan for 27 villages under the Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA), benefiting about 39.42 lakh residents. The decision was taken at the 13th PMRDA meeting in Nagpur, chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, with Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar present. Fadnavis said the 23 villages merged into Pune Municipal Corporation should now be planned by the civic body and asked officials to assess a Pune Growth Hub plan. He stressed timely completion of township schemes, fire safety planning, and accident prevention. Overall, 220 projects worth ₹32,523 crore have been sanctioned, including river rejuvenation, traffic decongestion, tourism infrastructure, and a proposed Yerawada-Katraj tunnel.

Mumbai metro line 12 hits 100th u-girder milestone

Mumbai Metro Line 12 (Kalyan-Taloja) has achieved a major construction milestone with the installation of its 100th U-girder near the Dombivli MIDC Metro Station on Shilphata Road, marking steady progress on the corridor. Implemented by the MMRDA, the 23.57 km elevated Orange Line is targeted for completion by May 2028 and aims to ease congestion while promoting green, transit-oriented development across fast-growing urban clusters. The corridor will connect Kalyan, Dombivli and Taloja through 19 stations and includes notable engineering features such as a 7 km MSRDC flyover, complex long-span structures, and crossings over major rail and road corridors. Elevated stations, rising 21–23 metres, are designed for efficient passenger flow and seamless multimodal integration. Once operational, Line 12 will provide interchange connectivity with Metro Lines 5 and 14, Navi Mumbai Metro Line 1, and Central Railway at Kalwa, significantly strengthening regional mobility across Mumbai.



Bharatmala projects: India's highway progress

The Centre informed the Lok Sabha that under the Bharatmala Pariyojana, 26,425 km of highways have been awarded nationwide, with 21,351 km constructed as of October 2025. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari highlighted that Uttar Pradesh tops the list with 2,495 km awarded and 2,084 km completed, followed by Rajasthan and Maharashtra. Significant progress has also been made in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. Among northeastern states, Assam, Manipur, and Mizoram show substantial completion, while smaller regions like Goa have achieved full construction. Bharatmala remains India's largest highway development initiative, aiming to boost connectivity and infrastructure across all states and Union Territories.

Haryana allocates rs 1,700 crore to boost urban infrastructure

The Haryana government has approved the release of Rs 1,700 crore to the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) and metropolitan development authorities, announced by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini. The funds aim to support external development works and upgrade civic infrastructure across Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonipat, Panchkula, and Hisar.



Of the Rs 1,700 crore allocation, Rs 700 crore each will be provided to HSVP and Gurugram MDA, Rs 170 crore to Faridabad MDA, Rs 80 crore to Sonipat MDA, Rs 30 crore to Panchkula MDA, and Rs 20 crore to Hisar MDA, supporting urban development across Haryana's major cities.

Tamil Nadu Kulasekarapattinam spaceport FY27

The Union Government has announced that the Kulasekarapattinam spaceport in Tamil Nadu is targeted for commissioning in FY 2026–27, representing a key step in expanding India's small-satellite launch capabilities. Land acquisition for the project is mostly complete, except for a section required to reroute the East-Coast Road. Site development works have been completed, and construction of technical facilities is currently underway, with fabrication of equipment and structures progressing across multiple work centres. With Rs 985.96 crore allocated and Rs 389.58 crore utilised so far, the coastal location will allow safer and more efficient launches for ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) and other light-class missions, complementing operations at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre.





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Power as a Strategic Currency: Navigating the AI Data Center Energy Demand

The rapid ascent of Artificial Intelligence is triggering an unprecedented surge in global electricity demand, transforming power into the new strategic currency of the AI era. Training large models requires staggering energy, projected to nearly double global data center consumption to 980 TWh by 2030. New hyper-scale facilities now demand over 1 Gigawatt (GW) of dedicated power, equivalent to a major nuclear plant, for a single site.

This growth creates a dangerous bottleneck: reliable electricity is now the primary constraint on AI deployment, causing a "power gap" as planned data centers exceed existing grid capacity across global markets. This scarcity elevates power from a simple utility cost to a geopolitical asset, where nations with surplus energy gain a strategic advantage.

With an estimated five-fold increase in data center capacity expected by 2028, and a national commitment to 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, the nation is leveraging its massive renewable energy pipeline. Hyperscalers are actively entering the Indian market, signing green energy deals to ensure sustainable, competitive AI advancement.

To secure their future, tech giants are acting as major energy players, investing in vast Power Purchase Agreements and long-term solutions like Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). This colossal demand is expected to drive up costs for everyone else, with forecasts suggesting an average US electricity bill increase of 8% by 2030. The race for AI dominance is fundamentally reshaping energy markets worldwide.

MR. HARENDRA SINGH

CHAIRMAN & MD,

H.G. INFRA ENGINEERING

Mr. Harendra Singh is the Chairman and Managing Director of H.G. Infra Engineering Ltd. (HGIEL), one of India's rapidly growing infrastructure companies with strong capabilities in highways, bridges, flyovers, and urban development projects. With over three decades of experience in construction and



civil engineering, he has fundamentally transformed HGIEL from a small regional contractor into a respected national player known for high-quality execution and timely project delivery. Under his leadership, the company has built an extensive portfolio across major states. Mr. Singh's strategic vision focuses on operational excellence, adoption of modern technologies, and stringent safety standards, helping the company achieve consistent growth and establish long-term relationships with key public agencies. He has also strengthened the firm's financial position and expanded its presence in EPC and HAM model projects. Recognized for his industry insight and leadership discipline, Mr. Harendra Singh continues to guide HGIEL toward sustainable growth and enhanced value creation for stakeholders.

INFRA Shorts

- GIP commits ₹3000 crores to boost Aditya Birla Renewables' clean-energy capacity and nationwide expansion plans.
- Pre-bid conference outlined requirements and expectations for the Philippines' major North-South Commuter Railway PPP project.
- India plans Global EV Summit to boost investment and strengthen supply chains.
- Six-lane Brahmaputra bridge nears completion, reducing travel time and improving connectivity.
- BHP and GIP sign \$2 billion deal for Western Australia infrastructure.
- O.N.E Amazon highlights biodiversity as essential global infrastructure for resilience.
- EIB renews €100 billion financing target to strengthen Europe's strategic independence and climate-oriented investments.

