

## INFRAINSIGHTS

Insights Igniting Curiosity



## InfraShorts

- Mahakumbh Rush: Indian Railways deploys 330 special trains for smooth functioning.
- Cochin Shipyard is planning to boost its capacity with a new Rs 2,000 crore facility at the nearby Cochin Port.
- Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates development project in Chennai to boost port infrastructure.
- Railways sought nuclear energy allocation from NPCIL and the Power Ministry, says the government.

## Budget 2025: Fueling India's growth engine with Innovation, Infrastructure & Sustainability

The Union Budget 2025 introduces key measures to strengthen infrastructure, boost manufacturing, and accelerate green mobility. With a ₹11.1 lakh crore capital expenditure allocation—a 14% increase from last year—the government aims to enhance connectivity through PM Gati Shakti, rail and metro expansions, and multi-modal logistics hubs. Additionally, ₹80,000 crore has been earmarked for PM Awas Yojana, reinforcing the commitment to affordable housing. Lower import duties on raw materials, steel, and auto components will reduce production costs and enhance competitiveness, benefiting domestic manufacturing and MSMEs.

To drive sustainability, the budget targets 100 GW of nuclear energy by 2047, along with a ₹30,000 crore push for solar, wind, and battery storage. Incentives for green hydrogen, biofuels, and EV charging infrastructure will accelerate India's clean energy shift. Meanwhile, tax reforms—including a ₹12 lakh income tax exemption limit and a higher ₹75,000 standard deduction—offer relief to individuals and businesses. With bold reforms and strategic investments, Budget 2025 sets the stage for a self-reliant and sustainable India.

## World's Largest Groundwater Project: MP & Maharashtra to finalize Tapti Recharge Deal

Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra will soon sign an agreement for the Tapti Basin Mega Recharge Project, boosting irrigation and drinking water supply while addressing interstate water-sharing disputes. The project will utilize 31.13 TMC of water, irrigating over 3.5 lakh hectares without village displacement. It features four key water structures, including the Khariya Gutighat Low Diversion Weir, and extensive canal networks. Revised from an earlier 66 TMC reservoir plan to minimize environmental impact, it is set to become the world's largest groundwater recharge project, marking a milestone in India's water resource management.



## Australia invests \$12 million in Regional NSW Airports

The Australian federal government has announced a \$12 million investment to upgrade regional airports across New South Wales under Round 4 of the Regional Airports Program. The funding will improve runway resurfacing, fencing, lighting, and drainage, enhancing safety and capacity.

In Merimbula, the Bega Valley Shire Council will receive \$3.8 million to extend the runway to 1,800m, allowing larger firefighting and military aircraft to operate and boosting tourism and emergency response.

Further north, Moruya Airport will get \$200,000 to reseal runways and upgrade apron lighting, ensuring safe operations for passenger flights.



## BW ESS & Mirai Power to develop 1GW Energy Storage

BW ESS and Mirai Power have signed an agreement to co-develop up to 1GW of battery energy storage projects in southern Germany. With Germany emerging as a BESS growth hub, the partnership aims to tap into the 7GWh storage expansion.

BW ESS Executive Director Roberto Jiménez highlighted their shared vision for unlocking energy storage value, while Mirai Power's Marco Frascati emphasized their mission for a sustainable energy future. The collaboration will drive innovative, large-scale BESS projects, reinforcing Germany's clean energy transition.



## SDCL and Schneider Electric partner for Decentralized Power Solutions

Sustainable Development Capital LLP (SDCL) has partnered with Schneider Electric to provide decentralized power solutions for businesses in the UK and Ireland. This initiative, part of SDCL's energy-as-a-service model, will focus on high-energy users such as data centers, industrial sites, business parks, and universities.

This partnership aims to enhance energy efficiency, reduce carbon footprints, and provide reliable power solutions, supporting businesses.

InfraGlobe



## EU invests €422 million in Clean Transport Infrastructure

The European Commission has allocated €422 million under the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Facility (AFIF) to support 39 innovative projects aimed at expanding alternative fuels infrastructure across the EU. This investment will facilitate the transition to cleaner transport by funding electric recharging stations, high-power megawatt chargers, hydrogen refueling stations, onshore power for ports, and alternative fuels like ammonia and methanol for shipping. Airports will also benefit from electrification initiatives, promoting sustainable mobility and reducing carbon footprints. The funding aligns with the EU's objectives of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing air quality, and strengthening industrial competitiveness for a greener future.

## UAE to boost EV Adoption with 500+ charging stations by 2025

The UAE is accelerating its push for sustainable mobility with plans to install over 500 EV charging stations by the end of 2025. Announced by the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, this initiative, led by Under-Secretary for Energy and Petroleum Affairs Sharif Al Olama, aims to enhance accessibility for electric vehicle owners across cities, highways, and key travel hubs.

Aligned with the UAE Net Zero 2050 strategy, the project strengthens the nation's commitment to clean energy and carbon neutrality. By expanding its EV charging network, the UAE is fostering eco-friendly travel, reducing emissions, and positioning itself as a global leader in green transportation. This development will benefit residents, businesses, and tourists, making EV adoption more practical and convenient. As the country accelerates its green initiatives, the new infrastructure marks a significant step toward a sustainable future.



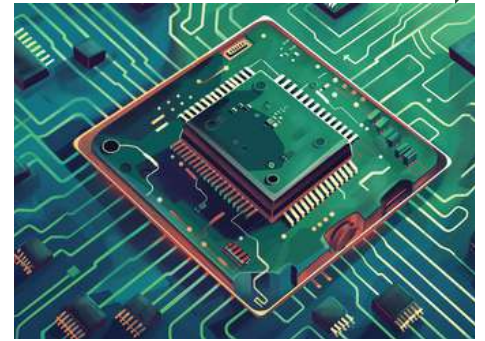
## Pune's Underground Twin Tunnels

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis has directed PMRDA to expedite the construction of 20-km underground twin tunnels connecting Yerawada and Katraj to reduce traffic congestion. The Rs 7,500 crore project will feature two three-lane tunnels with multiple entry-exit points. Additionally, Rs 636.84 crore is approved for the Purandar airport road, Rs 203 crore for industrial cement roads, and Rs 1,526 crore for urban road expansion. CM Fadnavis emphasized integrating advanced technology, enhancing Pune's connectivity, and ensuring roads in new areas are at least 18 meters wide for future growth.

## JSW Group to invest ₹1 trillion in World's Largest Steel Plant in Gadchiroli

JSW Group Chairman Sajjan Jindal announced a ₹1 trillion investment to establish a 25 million tonne steel plant in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district, as reported by PTI. The investment will be spread over seven to eight years, making it one of India's most ambitious steel projects. The announcement was made at the Advantage Vidarbha Conclave in Nagpur, attended by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. Jindal emphasized that the Gadchiroli steel plant will be the "largest in the world" and the "most beautiful, environmentally friendly" steel-making facility. The first phase is expected to be completed within four years, driving employment and economic growth in Vidarbha. India, the world's second-largest crude steel producer after China, produces 125 to 130 million tonnes annually, with the industry contributing significantly to GDP, employment, and infrastructure. The sector accounts for 2% of India's GDP, exporting to Europe, the Middle East, and the US while providing direct employment to over 500,000 people and millions indirectly.

## InfraIndia



## Lam Research invests Rs 10,000 crore in Karnataka

Lam Research will invest over ₹10,000 crore in Karnataka to expand in India. The U.S.-based semiconductor equipment manufacturer signed an MoU to lease land in Whitefield, Bengaluru. This announcement was made at the Global Investors Meet: Invest Karnataka 2025. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw lauded the investment, highlighting the state's growing role in the global semiconductor sector. This move will boost employment and strengthen India's semiconductor manufacturing.

## Bharat Petroleum signs deal with Petrobras to diversify Crude Oil sourcing

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) has signed a strategic term contract with Petrobras, Brazil's national oil company, to import 6 million barrels of optional crude for the 2025-26 financial year. The agreement, announced by BPCL Chairman G. Krishnakumar at the India Energy Week conference on February 12, marks a significant move to diversify India's crude oil sources and strengthen energy ties with Brazil. BPCL currently processes crude at its refineries in Mumbai, Bina, and Kochi, mainly sourcing oil from West Asia. The new contract aims to reduce dependency on any single region and mitigate geopolitical risks. The agreement, valid for one year with an option to extend, ensures a steady supply of Brazilian crude, reinforcing BPCL's strategic growth and long-term goals.

## InfraHub



## NTPC engages Global Firms for Technology collaboration in Nuclear energy sector expansion plans

NTPC is actively exploring global technology partnerships to expand into nuclear energy, engaging with companies like EDF, Rosatom, and GE Vernova Inc. Ongoing discussions may take several months to finalize agreements. Holtec has confirmed initial talks, planning to supply 200 small modular reactors (SMRs) to India by 2047 to enhance clean energy production. NTPC has also partnered with NPCIL to establish Anushakti Vidhyut Nigam Ltd. (ASHVINI) for nuclear projects, including the Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project. Additionally, NTPC is strengthening its nuclear ambitions with NTPC Parmanu Urja Nigam Limited and conducting site studies in Madhya Pradesh to support future developments.



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## Budget 2025: Building a Future-Ready India with Sustainable and Smart Infrastructure

The Union Budget 2025 strengthens India's infrastructure-driven growth by increasing capital expenditure to ₹11 lakh crore. A significant ₹3.5 lakh crore is allocated to transport and logistics, covering highways, railways, ports, and airports. Bharatmala Phase 2 aims to expand expressways, cutting travel time and logistics costs while enhancing economic efficiency. The railway sector receives ₹2.8 lakh crore for high-speed rail, electrification, and station modernization, improving passenger and freight services. Additionally, ₹75,000 crore is dedicated to port modernization and regional airport expansion, boosting trade connectivity, tourism, and regional economic development. Urban infrastructure gets ₹1.8 lakh crore for metro expansion, electric buses, smart cities, and affordable housing under PMAY, ensuring inclusive development and better urban mobility.

The budget prioritizes sustainability by allocating ₹1.2 lakh crore to renewable energy, EV infrastructure, and green hydrogen projects, supporting India's net-zero target by 2070. Incentives for solar and wind power, battery storage subsidies, and financial aid for EV charging stations and hydrogen fuel technology drive clean energy adoption. Another ₹90,000 crore is set aside for digital infrastructure, expanding 5G, AI-driven smart grids, cloud computing, and digital governance to enhance connectivity and efficiency.

To accelerate project execution, ₹1 lakh crore is allocated to Viability Gap Funding (VGF) and infrastructure bonds, encouraging private investment and faster completion of projects. Budget 2025 lays a strong foundation for long-term economic growth, job creation, technological advancements, and a future-ready infrastructure ecosystem.

## Sikkim introduces Ropeway to alleviate Gangtok Traffic

The Sikkim government has announced plans to implement a modern aerial ropeway system in Gangtok to address urban traffic congestion and enhance tourism. This initiative aims to provide an efficient alternative mode of transportation, reducing road traffic and offering scenic views to commuters and tourists alike. By integrating this ropeway system, the government seeks to improve urban mobility, decrease vehicular emissions, and promote sustainable tourism in the region. The project reflects Sikkim's commitment to innovative infrastructure solutions that balance development with environmental conservation.

## India to host Global Road Infrastructure Summit

India is set to host the Global Road Infrastructure Summit and Expo on March 6-7. The event will focus on strengthening governing frameworks for safer infrastructure and integrating road safety into urban planning. IRF President Emeritus K K Kapila emphasized the importance of prioritizing safety in every aspect of road development. The summit aims to bring together experts, policymakers, and industry leaders to discuss advancements in road infrastructure and promote sustainable practices. This initiative underscores India's commitment to enhancing road safety and infrastructure development.

## Vande Bharat Express to connect Delhi and Kashmir

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the Vande Bharat Express to the Kashmir Valley on February 17, fulfilling a seven-decade-long aspiration for rail connectivity to the region. This advanced train will traverse the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), a project renowned for engineering marvels such as India's first cable-stayed Anji Khad Bridge and the world's highest railway arch bridge over the Chenab River. Equipped with climate-resilient technology, the Vande Bharat Express features fully air-conditioned coaches, automatic plug doors, and specialized systems to operate efficiently in sub-zero temperatures. The service is anticipated to significantly boost tourism, horticulture, and education in the Valley, offering a 13-hour journey from Delhi to Srinagar.



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