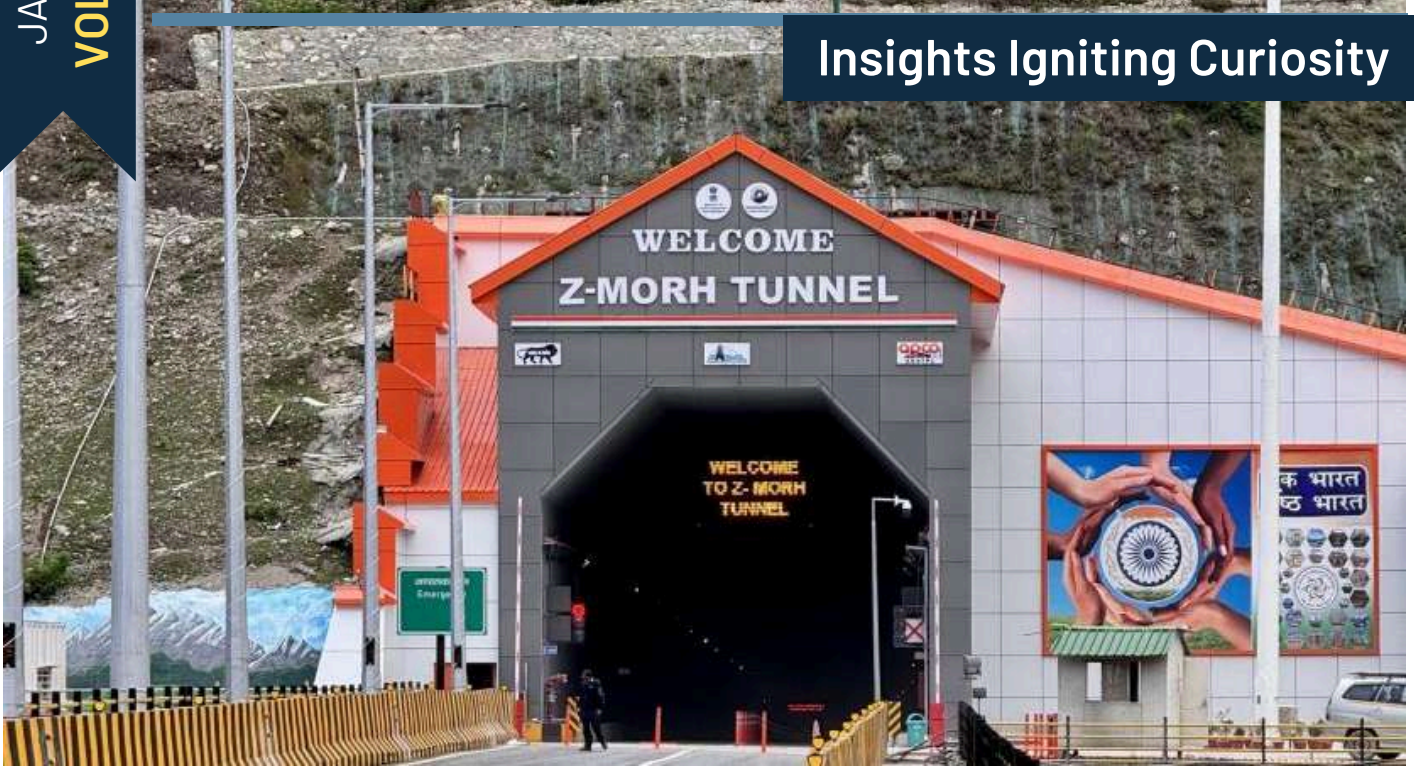


# INFRAINSIGHTS

Insights Igniting Curiosity



## InfraShorts

- Mumbai Metropolitan Region cable car project gets in-principle approval, promising transformative urban transportation upgrades.
- Government plans to mandate airlines to share weather data.
- India is projected to lead global steel demand growth with an 8-9% increase in 2025, according to CRISIL.
- Indian Railways utilized 76% of FY25 budget, prioritizing safety, modernization, and infrastructure upgrades.

## PM Modi inaugurates strategic Z-Morh Tunnel in J&K, boosting year-round connectivity

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated the 6.5 km Z-Morh tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district, ensuring year-round access to the Sonamarg tourist destination. Constructed at ₹2,400 crore along the Srinagar-Leh National Highway, the tunnel represents a major leap in enhancing connectivity to Ladakh and strategic national defence.

The two-lane tunnel, located at 8,650 feet, includes a 7.5-metre-wide emergency escape passage and bypasses avalanche-prone zones, significantly improving safety for commuters. Its strategic location beneath the Thajiwas Glacier provides uninterrupted travel between Gagangir and Sonamarg. National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. is overseeing the project.

This infrastructure, completed in 2023 after construction began in May 2015, features a third lane on approach roads to streamline traffic flow, allowing smooth movement for slow and fast-moving vehicles.

Union Surface Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah joined the PM at the inauguration.

## BP partners with ONGC to boost Oil and Gas output at Mumbai High

BP has signed a decade-long contract as the technical service provider for ONGC's Mumbai High field, India's largest offshore energy site. The partnership aims to boost oil production by 44% and gas output by 89%, countering India's stagnant domestic energy production.

Mumbai High, discovered in 1974, peaked at 471,000 barrels per day in 1985 but dropped to 134,000 bpd by April 2024. Production enhancements, starting in FY26 and reaching full scale by 2027-28, could generate \$10.3 billion in additional revenue. BP will leverage advanced technologies, sharing a percentage of incremental revenue after cost recovery.



## OMV to supply Romanian Black Sea gas to Germany

Austrian energy company OMV will supply natural gas from the Neptun Deep project in Romania's Black Sea to Germany's Uniper, starting in 2027, under a five-year contract delivering 15 TWh annually. The strategic deal, aimed at bolstering European energy security amid reduced Russian imports, follows OMV's termination of its Gazprom contract in 2024. Neptun Deep, holding an estimated 100 bcm of recoverable gas, will make Romania a net gas exporter, nearly doubling its output. The project, jointly owned by OMV Petrom and Romgaz, will begin production in 2025, supporting the EU's long-term energy diversification goals.



## Honda unveils Honda 0 Series prototypes at CES 2025

Honda introduced its Honda 0 Saloon and SUV prototypes at CES 2025, featuring the ASIMO OS, an innovative vehicle operating system. Launching globally in 2026, the models emphasize Honda's "Thin, Light, and Wise" approach with Level 3 automated driving and personalized features. Honda also partnered with Renesas to develop advanced chips and announced plans to expand energy services, including a smart home energy network and improved charging infrastructure, positioning the Honda 0 Series as a leader in sustainable, intelligent mobility.



## Biden implements Offshore Oil and Gas drilling ban ahead of Trump's term

U.S. President Joe Biden has imposed a ban on new offshore oil and gas drilling along most U.S. coastlines, protecting 625 million acres. The ban covers federal waters off the East and West coasts, the Gulf of Mexico, and parts of Alaska's northern Bering Sea. Citing climate goals and the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill, Biden's decision aligns with conservation efforts but faces potential opposition from President-elect Trump and the oil industry.



## Toyota unveils phase 1 of its ambitious futuristic 'Woven City' project

At CES 2025, Toyota Motor Corporation announced the completion of Phase 1 of Woven City, a groundbreaking test course for mobility located in Susono City, Japan. Set to launch in fall 2025, this human-centric, environmentally conscious city will initially accommodate 360 residents, including Toyota staff and their families, alongside innovators like Daikin and NISSIN Foods, to co-create and test future-focused solutions. Recognized with Japan's first LEED for Communities Platinum certification, Woven City aims to redefine mobility, expanding beyond transportation to integrate the movement of people, goods, information, and energy. Toyota plans to expand the city to 2,000 residents, fostering global innovation and collaboration.

## RWE powers Italy's Green Future with 54 MW San Severo wind farm

RWE has successfully commissioned the 54 MW San Severo wind farm in Foggia, Italy, featuring 12 turbines of 4.5 MW each, capable of supplying green electricity to approximately 55,000 households. This milestone caps a highly successful year for RWE in Italy, with ongoing projects including the 53 MW Mondonuovo wind farm, the Bosco solar plant near Palermo, and advanced agri-PV projects Morcone and Acquafredda, scheduled to begin operations in 2025. As part of its commitment to community involvement, RWE raised €200,000 through a funding initiative, allowing local residents to invest between €250 and €5,000 with a guaranteed 9% annual return. With 16 wind farms generating a combined 527 MW, RWE provides green energy to 400,000 Italian homes annually, underscoring its significant role in Italy's renewable energy transition and the nation's target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2040.



## NLC India, APDCL form Solar JV

NLC India Renewables (NIRL), a subsidiary of NLC India, and Assam Power Distribution Company (APDCL) have formed a joint venture (JV) to develop a 1,000 MW solar power project in Assam. The JV will be split with 51% equity from NIRL and 49% from APDCL. NIRL will bring its renewable energy expertise, while APDCL will handle land acquisition, approvals, and infrastructure. The partnership aims to meet Assam's energy needs, promote renewable energy, and enhance the state's sustainability, job creation, and energy security.

## Adani Group's ₹65,000 Cr Chhattisgarh investment

Gautam Adani met Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on January 12 and announced a transformative investment of ₹65,000 crore in the state, aimed at bolstering energy, cement, and social development sectors. During their meeting at the CM's official residence in Raipur, Adani detailed a ₹60,000 crore plan to expand the Adani Group's power plants in Raipur, Korba, and Raigarh, increasing Chhattisgarh's power generation capacity by 6,120 MW. Additionally, ₹5,000 crore will be invested in the development and expansion of cement plants in the state, supporting industrial growth. Further emphasizing the group's commitment to community upliftment, Adani pledged ₹10,000 crore over four years for initiatives in education, healthcare, skill development, and tourism through CSR efforts. The discussions also explored opportunities for collaboration in manufacturing defense equipment, establishing data centers, and creating a Global Capability Centre in the state. This landmark investment is poised to drive Chhattisgarh's industrial, infrastructural, and socio-economic transformation.

## InfraIndia



## JSW Energy to acquire KSK Mahanadi Power for ₹15,985 Crore

JSW Energy has received approval to acquire KSK Mahanadi Power Company Limited (KMPCL) for ₹15,985 crore. The acquisition, subject to regulatory approvals, outbid Adani Power and NTPC. KMPCL owns a 3,600 MW thermal power plant in Chhattisgarh, with 1,800 MW operational and another 1,800 MW under construction. This acquisition boosts JSW Energy's thermal power capacity to 7.5 GW, contributing to a total generation capacity of 28.2 GW. JSW Energy aims for 20 GW capacity by 2030 and a net-zero target by 2050.

## PM Modi Launches ₹2.15 Lakh Crore Infrastructure Projects in Visakhapatnam

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, to inaugurate, dedicate, and lay the foundation for infrastructure projects totaling over ₹2.15 lakh crore. A key highlight was the launch of the NTPC Green Hydrogen Hub Project at Pudimadaka, with an investment of ₹1,85,000 crore. This project, part of India's National Green Hydrogen Mission, will become one of India's largest green hydrogen production facilities, contributing to the country's non-fossil energy capacity goals. Modi also laid the foundation for ₹19,500 crore worth of railway and road projects, including the South Coast Railway headquarters. Additionally, he inaugurated the Bulk Drug Park in Nakkapalli and the Krishnapatnam Industrial Area, which is expected to attract ₹10,500 crore in investments and create around 1 lakh jobs, promoting economic growth in the region.

## InfraHub



## Union Minister Nitin Gadkari unveils revamped Cashless Treatment Scheme for accident victims with enhanced safety

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launched the revamped 'Cashless Treatment' scheme, covering up to ₹1.5 lakh for road accident victims' medical expenses for seven days if reported within 24 hours. Families of hit-and-run victims will receive ₹2 lakh ex-gratia. In 2024, 1.8 lakh road fatalities were reported, including 30,000 from helmet non-use and 10,000 children due to inadequate school infrastructure. The scheme, set to launch nationwide by March 2025, involves coordination with hospitals, police, and the National Health Authority. Additional initiatives include stricter e-rickshaw safety, driver training institutes, ADAS for trucks, and rectification of black spots. Piloted in March 2024, its success in six states led to national rollout for timely accident care.



**Aishwarya Chaprathu**  
MBA-IDM  
SCMHRD'26

## From Roads to Riches: How High-Speed Corridors Boost India's Economy

India's journey toward becoming a \$30 trillion economy by 2047 hinges on transformative infrastructure development, with high-speed highway corridors taking center stage. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has envisioned a 50,000-km high-speed highway network to revolutionize connectivity and logistics, fueling economic growth.

By December 2024, MoRTH operationalized 4,693 km of high-speed corridors, with plans to reach 4,827 km by FY25. Landmark projects like the Delhi-Mumbai and Bengaluru-Chennai Expressways exemplify the strategic vision. These highways promise not just faster travel but also a surge in logistics efficiency, critical for sectors like manufacturing, e-commerce, and agriculture.

Finance plays a pivotal role in this transformation. Toll collections, surpassing ₹70,000 crore in 2024, highlight the potential of sustainable revenue streams. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) and asset monetization further bolster funding, with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) raising ₹40,000 crore in FY24, reducing debt significantly.

However, challenges persist, including meeting the ambitious target of 10,400 km of highway construction in FY25. Innovative financing models, like satellite navigation-based tolling, offer solutions to sustain momentum.

These corridors are not mere roads; they are lifelines for economic activities, fostering trade, creating jobs, and improving accessibility to remote areas. As India accelerates toward its 2047 vision, the synergy between infrastructure and finance will remain a cornerstone of its progress.

## Vande Bharat unveiled for Katra-Srinagar route

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has unveiled a specially designed Vande Bharat Express train for the Katra-Srinagar route in Jammu and Kashmir. This train is equipped with advanced heating systems to prevent freezing of water and bio-toilet tanks, ensuring smooth operations in sub-zero temperatures. It also features heated windshields for clear visibility during harsh winters. The train offers amenities like fully air-conditioned coaches and mobile charging sockets. This development is part of the 111 km Banihal-Katra section, expected to provide a world-class travel experience later this year.

## Delhi-Meerut Rapid Rail connects cities in 35 minutes

The Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) has revolutionized connectivity by reducing travel time between Delhi and Meerut to just 35 minutes. Covering 55 km of the 82 km corridor, the operational section utilizes Namo Bharat trains, India's fastest rapid transit, with speeds reaching 160 km/h. The new system is expected to significantly enhance economic growth and regional development while improving convenience for commuters. This initiative underscores the government's commitment to modernizing urban transportation and promoting seamless intercity connectivity.

## India's first Cable-Stayed Rail Bridge: Anji Khad

The Anji Khad Bridge, India's inaugural cable-stayed rail bridge, is a significant component of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project, enhancing connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir. Spanning 473.25 meters, the bridge is supported by 48 cables anchored to a single pylon rising 331 meters above the riverbed, exemplifying modern engineering prowess. A successful trial run has been conducted, and the bridge is equipped with advanced monitoring systems and earthquake-resistant features to ensure structural integrity and operational safety. The commencement of rail services over the bridge is anticipated by January 2025.



For More Information :

[infrastructure\\_management@scmhrd.edu](mailto:infrastructure_management@scmhrd.edu)

[infrasummit.scmhrd.edu](http://infrasummit.scmhrd.edu)