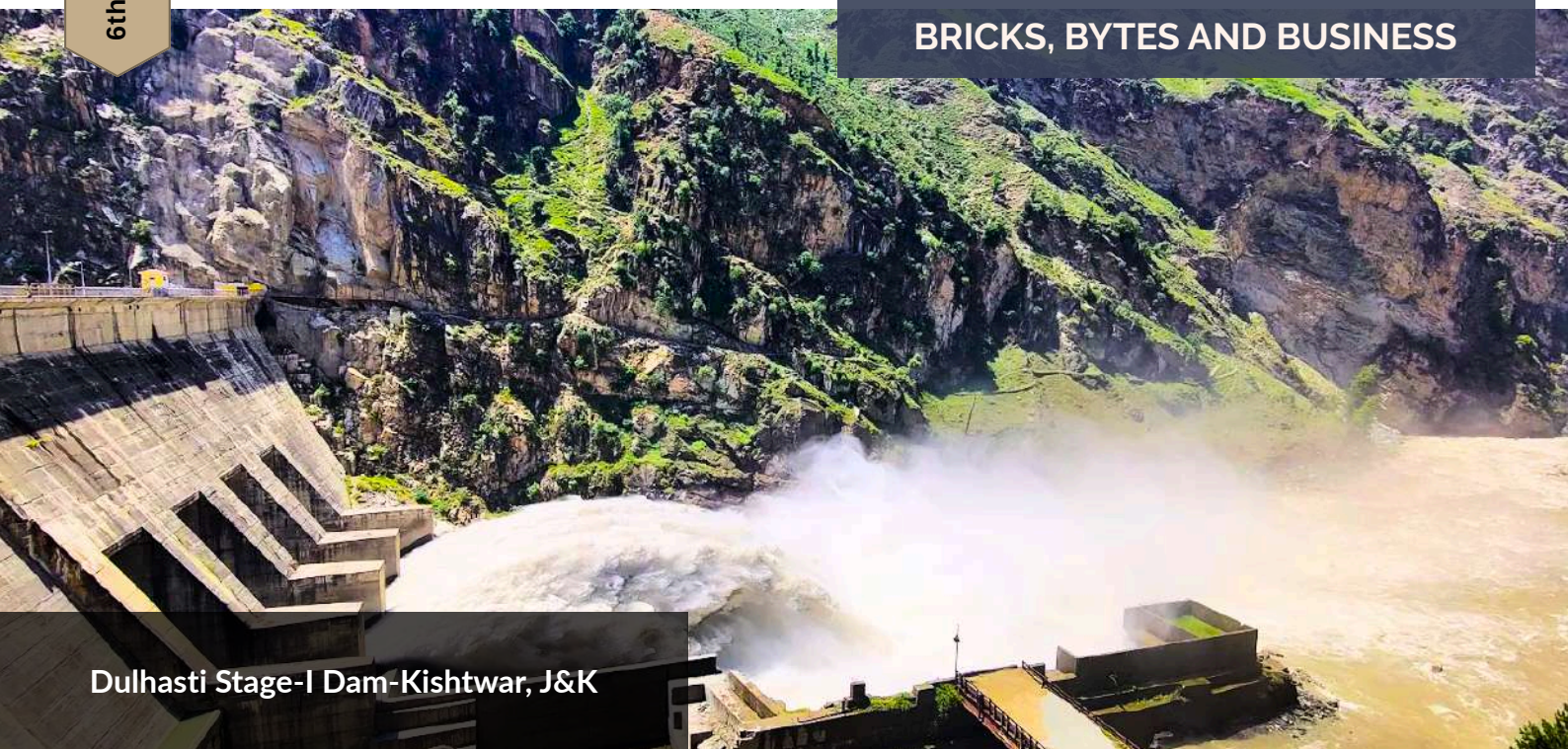


# INFRAINSIGHTS

**BRICKS, BYTES AND BUSINESS****Dulhasti Stage-I Dam-Kishtwar, J&K**

## INFRABytes

### India-New Zealand FTA boosts jobs, exports and incomes

New Zealand PM Christopher Luxon hailed the concluded India-New Zealand FTA, promising more jobs, higher incomes, and exports to 1.4 billion consumers, negotiations launched March 16 wrapped in nine months, eliminating duties on exports

### Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train hits Rs 84,200 cr spend

Over Rs 84,200 crore has been spent so far on India's first Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail corridor, against an estimated total project cost of Rs 1.08 lakh crore. Civil works, viaduct construction, and station developments are progressing steadily across Gujarat and Maharashtra, with key milestones achieved.

### Govt notifies brownfield shipyard expansion rules

Government notified guidelines for brownfield shipyard expansions under Rs 19,989 crore Shipbuilding Development Scheme, mandating 6-year completion, online clearance portal, and independent monitoring agencies. Existing shipyards get up to 25% capital aid (max Rs 1,500 crore) for dry docks.

### Did you know ?

Denmark's 3D-printed pedestrian bridges, made from recycled ocean plastic, enable rapid assembly in days, cut costs by 50%, and embed sensors for real-time monitoring.

### Centre clears 260 megawatt Dulhasti stage-II hydropower project on Chenab river

Centre's environment panel approved the 260 MW Dulhasti Stage-II run-of-river hydropower project on Chenab in J&K's Kishtwar, costing over Rs 3,200 cr. Extension of operational 390 MW Stage-I by NHPC, it uses surplus water via 3.685-km tunnel amid suspended Indus Waters Treaty. Panel mandates Rs 45.64 cr for environment plan.



### India's petrol pump network doubles to over 100,000 outlets since 2015

India's petrol pump network crossed 100,266 outlets by November end, nearly doubling from 50,451 in 2015, making it the world's third-largest after US and China. State-owned firms like IOC (41,664), BPCL (24,605), and HPCL (24,418) dominate over 90% share, expanding into rural (29%) and highway areas amid vehicle boom.

## ACV opens three landmark airport projects, boosting Vietnam's smart, green connectivity ambitions

Airports Corporation of Vietnam has inaugurated three strategic aviation projects at Long Thanh, Noi Bai and Vinh airports, marking a historic upgrade of Vietnam's national airport network infrastructure. Long Thanh International Airport, built to ICAO Level 4F standards, has completed key airside infrastructure including runway and aprons, and handled its first Boeing 787 technical flight, with passenger terminal and landside works targeting commercial operations in early 2026. Noi Bai's expanded T2 terminal lifts annual capacity from 10 to 15 million passengers, introduces a synchronized smart digital ecosystem with biometrics, and adopts distinctive green architecture. Vinh Airport's upgraded runway, lighting systems and enlarged terminal now support 3 million passengers annually.



## Portland airport unveils billion-dollar renovation with enhanced security terminal

Portland International Airport (PDX) has unveiled Phase 1 of its \$2 billion terminal core redevelopment, doubling ticketing space and introducing a revamped TSA security checkpoint for faster screening. The upgraded checkpoint allows three travelers to remove shoes simultaneously, features automated bin returns, advanced imaging tech, and real-time wait time displays with Oregon landscape videos. Designed by ZGF with a nine-acre mass timber roof, the expansion boosts capacity toward 35 million passengers yearly by 2045, incorporating green spaces, natural light, and Pacific Northwest-inspired elements. Further phases through 2026 will add shops, lounges and improved concourse access.

## Google opens largest AI hardware center outside US

Google inaugurated its biggest AI infrastructure hardware engineering center outside the US in Taipei, Taiwan, focusing on systems powering global data centers and billions of devices. The facility leverages Taiwan's chipmaking expertise via TSMC, developing tech deployed worldwide amid geopolitical tensions with China. Google Cloud VP Aamer Mahmood called it an ecosystem investment, while President Lai Ching-te hailed Taiwan as a secure AI hub. This builds on Google's Asia-Pacific data center and subsea cables in Taiwan.

## India airlifts 120-foot Bailey bridge for Sri Lanka aid

India airlifted a 110-tonne, 120-foot dual carriageway Bailey Bridge to Sri Lanka's Kilinochchi district under Operation Sagar Bandhu, aiding Cyclone Ditwah recovery. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar inaugurated it with Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake and FM Vijitha Herath, restoring connectivity in the hardest-hit Northern Province. Operation delivered 1,100 tonnes of relief and 14.5 tonnes of medical aid; PM Modi pledged USD 450 million reconstruction package, including USD 350 million credit line.



## China opens world's longest expressway tunnel

China's 22.13-km Tianshan Shengli Tunnel, now the world's longest expressway tunnel, officially opened to traffic in Xinjiang's central Tianshan Mountains. Crossing 16 fault zones at a maximum depth of 1,112 meters under harsh terrain, it reduces a perilous multi-hour mountain drive to just 20 minutes using advanced indigenous rock-drilling technology. As part of the 325-km G0711 Urumqi-Yili Expressway with a 46.7 billion yuan investment, it shortens Urumqi-Korla travel from 7 to 3 hours. This boosts regional connectivity, trade, tourism, and links to major economic hubs like Beijing-Tianjin, Yangtze Delta, and Greater Bay Area. The project achieved records for length and deepest highway shaft despite extreme cold and seismic challenges.



## 50-Bed critical care facility inaugurated at RIMS Adilabad

A new 50-bed critical care facility has been inaugurated at the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Adilabad, significantly strengthening advanced healthcare access in northern Telangana. Built at a cost of ₹23.75 crore, the facility is designed to provide intensive and emergency care to patients from tribal, rural, and underserved areas, reducing dependence on distant urban hospitals. Equipped with modern critical-care infrastructure, the centre will handle complex medical cases locally and improve survival outcomes. Union minister G Kishan Reddy, who inaugurated the facility, highlighted the importance of parallel investments in healthcare and transport infrastructure for inclusive regional development. He cited ongoing national highway expansions, proposed greenfield road projects, and planned rail connectivity, including the Adilabad-Armour line.

## Ahmedabad plans elevated corridor upgrade

Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has announced a ₹250 crore project to restore the aging Subhash Bridge over the Sabarmati River and construct two-lane elevated corridors on both sides, ultimately creating an eight-lane thoroughfare to handle rising traffic demand. The restoration work is expected to take around nine months, while the elevated corridors may take nearly two years. Built in 1973, the bridge was closed after cracks and structural settlement were detected, prompting expert inspections. Specialists recommended dismantling and replacing the superstructure while strengthening existing piers. The redesigned bridge will use steel composite girders to improve durability, load capacity, and safety. Once completed, the project is expected to ease congestion and significantly improve connectivity between northern and central Ahmedabad. Authorities say the upgrade is critical for future urban mobility planning and growth. Officials believe project will enhance traffic efficiency, safety, and resilience.



## Belagavi flyover project gets approval

The Karnataka government has granted administrative approval for Belagavi city's first flyover project, officially termed an elevated corridor, with an estimated cost of ₹275.5 crore. The Public Works Department will construct the 2.03-kilometre flyover between Hotel Sankam and Dharmaveer Sambhaji Maharaj Chowk to ease severe traffic congestion in busy city areas such as Ashok Circle, Sangoli Rayanna Circle, and Rani Channamma Circle. The original detailed project report proposed a longer corridor, but a shorter alignment was approved. Although no specific budget allocation was made, preliminary surveys and design work have already begun. With approval secured, construction is expected to commence soon, improving urban mobility significantly.

## Delhi cabinet approves E-Waste park and anti-smog measures

The Delhi cabinet has approved the establishment of the city's first e-waste park on 11.5 acres in Holambi Kalan to process about 200,000 tonnes of annual electronic waste sustainably, using a zero-waste, circular model with advanced pollution controls and water recirculation. Cabinet also mandated installation of mist systems (anti-smog guns) on high-rise commercial, office



buildings, and hospitality to combat air pollution. Additionally, ₹100 crore has been allocated to rejuvenate 160 water bodies under government jurisdiction to improve environmental governance. These measures aim to strengthen pollution control and build a cleaner, urban environment

## Bids invited for Nar-Par Girna river linking project

The Water Resources Department (WRD) in Nashik has invited tenders for the first phase of the Nar-Par Girna river-linking project, a ₹7,100 crore scheme aimed at diverting 10.6 TMC of water from west-flowing rivers Nar, Par, Auranga, and Ambika to the water-deficient east-flowing Girna sub-basin. The initial phase, valued at ₹4,116 crore, includes land acquisition, community rehabilitation, and the construction of nine dams to capture surplus water. This water will be lifted and transported via a 37-km tunnel system into the Girna River to support irrigation and drinking water needs in Nashik and Jalgaon districts. The second phase, estimated at ₹2,984 crore, will involve building canals and distribution infrastructure to channel water to the Chankapur Dam, significantly expanding agricultural irrigation across thousands of hectares.





**CHIRAG DHUPAL**  
MBA-IDM  
SCMHRD'27

## When Lean Operations Fail: Lessons and Safeguards for India's Aviation Sector

India's largest airline, \*IndiGo, didn't just suffer an operational hiccup – it exposed a systemic weakness in how Indian aviation scales. Enforcement of revised crew duty norms by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) was predictable. The chaos that followed wasn't. Flights were cancelled, passengers bore losses, and the government had to step in to manage a mess that should never have reached that stage.

If this industry wants to avoid repeating the same embarrassment, a few hard lessons must be acted on not discussed in post-mortems.

First, airlines must stop treating regulatory compliance as a last-minute checklist. Crew norms, safety rules, and fatigue limits are structural constraints, not negotiable variables. Expansion plans must be stress-tested against worst-case compliance scenarios, not optimistic spreadsheets.

Second, lean operations need buffers. Running at 95–98% utilisation may look efficient, but in aviation it is reckless. Strategic crew reserves, standby aircraft, and staggered rostering are costs – but far cheaper than mass cancellations and reputational damage.

Third, regulators and airlines need real-time coordination, not reactive firefighting. Early-warning dashboards on crew availability, schedule risk, and seasonal demand spikes should trigger phased corrections long before passengers feel the impact.

The blunt truth: scale without resilience is bad infrastructure. Until airlines internalise that, consumers will keep paying for management shortcuts.

## MR. AJIT GULABCHAND CHAIRMAN HINDUSTAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY (HCC)

Mr. Ajit Gulabchand is the Chairman of Hindustan Construction Company (HCC), one of India's oldest and most respected infrastructure firms with expertise in large-scale engineering, construction, and infrastructure development. A civil engineer by training, he took charge of HCC in the 1980 and has since been pivotal in steering the company through decades of expansion and diversification. Under his leadership, HCC has delivered numerous landmark projects across sectors including highways, bridges, tunnels, power plants, dams, and metro rail systems, contributing significantly to India's infrastructure growth. Mr. Gulabchand has emphasised technical excellence, quality execution, and financial discipline, establishing HCC as a trusted partner in complex engineering projects. He has played an influential role in advocating for private participation in national infrastructure programmes and public-private partnerships. Beyond corporate growth, his leadership has also emphasised sustainability, safety, and innovation, helping HCC adapt to evolving project demands and technological advancements.



## INFRA Shorts

- NBCC will develop major mixed-use project in South Delhi following long-standing land dispute settlement agreement.
- Prestige Estates plans ₹50 billion housing project on 25-acre land parcel Chennai to boost supply.
- Coal ministry receives 49 bids for 24 coal mines under latest commercial auction round nationwide.
- Dilip Buildcon emerges L-1 bidder for Karnataka transmission project, strengthening power infrastructure development capacity statewide.
- NTPC Green Energy to establish 300 MW solar photovoltaic project expanding renewable capacity across regions.
- Department of Atomic Energy seeks tax breaks, green incentives to accelerate nuclear power investment growth and attract private capital nationwide.
- Concord Control Systems wins ₹56.58 crore Indian Railways order for locomotive safety systems upgrade nationwide, enhancing operational safety and reliability.

